

JANUARY 2022

*Master Plan*  
**FOR AGING**

MPA FIRST ANNUAL REPORT





## *Message From* **GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM**

I am proud to release California's first Annual Master Plan for Aging Progress Report 2022 detailing the efforts that the State - through philanthropic, academic, private and local partnerships - has taken toward becoming the most age- and disability-friendly state in the nation. These efforts confirm that California can advance bold, innovative, and cross-cutting strategies to address issues that we and our families will all confront within our own lifetimes—and do so with a sustained focus on ensuring equity in aging and disability.

After a groundswell of consumer, advocate, and public support for a comprehensive plan to build a California for ALL ages, I activated [Executive Order N-14-19](#), calling for the development of the [Master Plan for Aging](#) (MPA). The MPA's [Together We Engage](#) campaign harnessed the expertise, wisdom, and lived experiences of thousands of voices across the state. Local, state, and national subject matter experts came together to inform my Administration on the best approaches to developing a roadmap for all ages and stages of life. The goal was to not only improve the lives of today's older Californians and people with disabilities, but to build a better system of care and more inclusive communities for tomorrow.

During this engagement process, COVID-19 reached California, magnifying the urgency behind the Master Plan's development. As we and our partners took time to pivot and adapt to serve and protect our clients, consumers, and our own families, the work on the Master Plan persevered. Not only did California meet the moment, but we built momentum to build back better. The pandemic, disproportionately impacting older Californians, people with disabilities, and communities of color, laid bare for all to see persistent and pervasive systemic inequities, ageism, and ableism. Importantly, it also served as a reminder of how much we can accomplish when we come together to protect the most vulnerable among us.

As I reflect upon this past year, we have much to be proud of, such as the [2021-2022 State Budget](#) with unprecedented investments in aging and disability across housing, healthcare, long-term services and supports, the geriatric workforce, Alzheimer's Disease, family caregiving, and more. In October, I proudly signed a [suite of bills](#) championed by our legislative partners in support of

aging and disability and in October I appointed the state's first ever Senior Advisor on Aging, Disability, and Alzheimer's. Since the beginning, we have said that this plan was not written to sit on a shelf, but to serve as a blueprint for action. Over the past year, agencies across my Administration's Cabinet have made good on their commitments to advance over one-hundred initiatives during the first two years of the Master Plan. Through all this, collaboration between and across state and local government partners has flourished and strengthened.

I often say that the future is not something to experience – it is ours to manifest by the decisions and choices we make today. This annual report reflects upon a year of hard work, partnership, and accomplishments, but it is also just the start. For the Master Plan's ten-year vision to succeed, continued engagement will drive the plan forward. Together we will identify and build new models of care; align and leverage resources; and create new opportunities to transform how we age in California. Public and stakeholder engagement always has, and always will, be our guide. I encourage you to renew your commitment or get involved for the first time in this important movement through [mpa.aging.ca.gov](http://mpa.aging.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California



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ACRONYM	AGENCY/DEPARTMENT
BCSH	Business, Consumer Services & Housing Agency
CalEPA	CA Environmental Protection Agency
CalSTA	CA State Transportation Agency
CalVet	CA Department of Veteran Affairs
CalVols	CA Volunteers
CDA	CA Department of Aging
CDCR	CA Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation
CDE	CA Department of Education
CDFA	CA Department of Food & Agriculture
CDI	CA Department of Insurance
CDPH	CA Department of Public Health
CDSS	CA Department of Social Services
CDT	CA Department of Technology
CalHHS	CA Health & Human Services Agency
CNRA	CA Natural Resources Agency
CSD	Department of Community Services and Development
CSL	CA State Library
DCA	Department of Consumer Affairs
DDS	Department of Developmental Services
DGS	Department of General Services
DHCS	Department of Health Care Services
DOR	Department of Rehabilitation
FTB	Franchise Tax Board
GO	Governor's Office
GovOps	Government Operations Agency
HCAI	Department of Health Care Access and Information
HCD	CA Department of Housing & Community Development
LWDA	Labor & Workforce Development Agency
OAG	Office of the Attorney General
ODI	Office of Digital Innovation
CalOES	Office of Emergency Services
SCO	State Controller's Office
SGC	Strategic Growth Council
STO	State Treasurer's Office



## *The Master Plan for Aging:* **RECORD PROGRESS IN RECORD TIME**

Amid a groundswell of advocacy throughout the state, Governor Gavin Newsom called for the creation of a State Master Plan for Aging via [Executive Order N-14-19](#) in June 2019. The Executive Order affirmed the priority of the health and well-being of older Californians, including adults living with a disability, and the need for policies that promote healthy aging. It also called for a “blueprint” for state and local government, the private sector, and philanthropy to prepare for the coming demographic changes to build on California’s leadership in aging, disability, and equity. Together, California can create communities where people of all ages and abilities are engaged, valued, and afforded equitable opportunities to thrive, how and where we choose.

### **Public, Stakeholder & Legislative Engagement**

In the summer of 2019, CalHHS launched the [Together We EngAGE \(TWE\) campaign](#), a statewide effort to gather public and stakeholder input on aging and disability priorities for action. Driven by the [Guiding Principles of CalHHS](#), including *Focus on Equity*, *Actively Listen*, *Use Data to Drive Action*, and *See the Whole Person*, the campaign included public surveys, a nine-part Webinar Wednesday, focused conversations on Ageism, and a series of Legislative Roundtables across the state. More information regarding these activities, including their recordings, are available [online](#). In total, more than 100 organizational letters and over 1000 individual comments were received offering substantive policy recommendations.

### **Stakeholder Committees**

TWE also included the creation of formal stakeholder advisory bodies. The [Stakeholder Advisory Committee](#) (SAC) and its [Long-Term Services & Supports](#) (LTSS) and [Research](#) Subcommittees-- comprised of subject matter experts, providers, and consumers-- were announced in September 2019 and immediately began collaborating to identify strategic priorities and recommendations for the Master Plan.



*We are inspired and motivated by the critical work being done by our partners in the field to advance the Master Plan for Aging in this first year. This blueprint, which is flexible and responsive to shifting social and economic realities, is our strategy for creating a truly age- and disability-friendly state, a California for All.*

MARK GHALY, MD, MPH  
Secretary, CA Health & Human Services Agency

**Equity in Aging:** Recognizing the diversity of California's population — both the strong and varied cultural traditions around aging, as well as the need to address life-long disparities and inequities that are experienced disproportionately by minority racial and ethnic groups, people with disabilities, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ+) communities-- the SAC formed an [Equity Work Group](#) in December 2019 tasked with ensuring that equity is fully “baked in” to the Master Plan. The Equity Work Group developed its own recommendations and equity lens, as well as advised the work of the SAC and its subcommittees.

In March of 2020, the LTSS Subcommittee released its [report with recommendations](#) to the Newsom Administration, with an updated version in May to reflect the devastating impacts of Covid-19. In October of 2020, the remaining stakeholder committees and work groups submitted their [final recommendations](#). In total, over 800 recommendations were submitted to the Administration.

### **Cabinet Work Group on Aging**

The Governor's Cabinet Workgroup on Aging, representing all ten Cabinet departments and other Executive offices, met throughout the Master Plan process to consider public and stakeholder input and to provide expertise and strategic direction to the Governor.

### **Alignment with the Governor's Task Force on Alzheimer's Prevention, Preparedness & Path Forward**

In early 2020, the [Governor's Task Force on Alzheimer's Prevention, Preparedness & Path Forward](#), led by former First Lady Maria Shriver, aligned its efforts with the Master Plan for Aging to build a well-integrated plan for California, including a dementia-friendly workforce, culturally competent diagnoses and treatments, affordable care, and targeted research. The Task Force submitted its report, [Our Path Forward](#), with 10 bold recommendations to the Governor in November 2020.



## One Year of Progress

In January 2021, the Administration released [The Master Plan for Aging](#). Driven by Five Bold Goals and twenty-three accompanying strategies, the MPA calls on all of California's communities to build a California for All Ages: for older Californians currently living through the many different stages of the second half of life; for younger generations who can expect to live longer lives than their elders; and for family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and caregivers supporting older adults and people with disabilities. The MPA's Five Bold Goals for 2030 are:

- [Goal One: Housing for All Ages & Stages](#)
- [Goal Two: Health Reimagined](#)
- [Goal Three: Inclusion & Equity, Not Isolation](#)
- [Goal Four: Caregiving That Works](#)
- [Goal Five: Affording Aging](#)

The MPA now has one year of incredible progress to report to stakeholders, public and private partners, and to the Legislature as required as required by [Senate Bill 288](#) (2019), which was introduced by Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson. The momentum continues with still further action proposed in the Governor's FY 2022-23 state budget released at the start of MPA year two. This report provides comprehensive updates and next steps in three MPA areas: 1) implementation of policies and programs, 2) partnerships, and 3) accountability and transparency for ensuring success in the years to come. Previous updates may be found in the [MPA's mid-year progress report](#).



## *Master Plan for Aging* **IMPLEMENTATION: 2021**

In just one year, California has made historic shifts in its aging and disability network, dramatically improving its capacity to serve older adults and people with disabilities, as well as their families, caregivers, and communities. With the Master Plan for Aging as a powerful guide, the Governor and lawmakers invested billions of new state and federal dollars in vital programs that matter in the lives of older Californians and adults with disabilities. These significant “down-payments” build toward a reimagined system that puts equity at the center of housing and health, expanding home and community care choices by strengthening Medi-Cal to provide more care coordination, community services, and Medicare integration; to expand access to undocumented people over 50; to eliminate the asset test; and significantly boosting the SSI/SSP payment rate. What’s more, California took critical first steps toward creating a “No Wrong Door” system that is easy to navigate and responsive to older adults and people with disabilities.

Whether living at home, in the community or in a long-term care setting, the Governor and Legislature recognized the importance of the direct care workforce as valued partners in access, quality, and choice. Unprecedented levels of funding were dedicated to front-line staff and family caregivers who provide the vast majority of services and supports in California. And, as the state with the highest population living with Alzheimer’s disease, a series of dementia-focused recommendations from the Governor’s Prevention and Preparedness Task Force were immediately adopted to focus on healthy aging, early intervention, public awareness, research, health equity and the critical role of health care providers in high quality dementia care.

**One-hundred thirty-two Initiatives:** The MPA has been jump started by over one-hundred initiatives targeted for implementation during the first two years of this ten-year plan. Each of these initiatives represents key commitments made by Agencies and Departments across the Governor’s Administration. Progress on these initiatives is summarized throughout this report. Over the course of 2022, a renewed public and stakeholder engagement campaign will shape the top priorities and initiatives for 2023-2024.



*We have a role in the legislature to champion this remarkable work. We must use this roadmap to develop sound policies for aging Californians and ensure we champion all budget efforts impacting older Californians and adults with disabilities. The tireless efforts made by the Department of Aging along with countless stakeholders has enlightened us through the Master Plan for Aging. We can be a state where we can thrive as we age.*

ADRIN NAZARIAN  
CA State Assemblymember, 46th District and  
Chair of the Aging & Long-Term Care Committee

**Age & Disability-Friendly Legislation:** Several bills passed by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor take key actions to address aging and improve the lives and well-being of older adults, people with disabilities, families, and caregivers. New policies take effect this year to increase affordable housing, improve access to health care, expand long-term care services and supports, strengthen the direct care workforce, and more. A full summary of these legislative actions is included in this report and can be found on the California Department of Aging's [website](#).

**2021 State Budget Investments in Aging & Disability:** California saw historic investments in the aging and disability population through the 2021-2022 state budget act and the accompanying Medicaid Home and Community-Based Spending Plan. The Governor and Legislature, working in partnership, prioritized equity while laying a foundation for systemic change. Budget actions are highlighted throughout the report and a summary can be found on the California Department of Aging's [website](#).

**Building Strength Through Cabinet and Stakeholder Partnership Across All Sectors:** All ten of the Governor's Cabinet Agencies, along with strong partnerships with the Legislature, local leaders, private sector, federal government, and stakeholders, are collaborating to implement the Master Plan's one hundred and thirty-two 2021-2022 initiatives. These first two years are foundational to achieving the Five Bold Goals for building a California for All Ages by 2030.

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***“Housing, healthcare, social supports, and financial security should be a reality for Californians of ALL ages and abilities. The Master Plan for Aging, with its focus on coordination across state and local agencies, partners, and networks, provides a catalyst for reinventing outdated systems, ensuring that they are integrated, person-centered, and rooted in principles of equity and inclusion.”***

KEVIN PRINDIVILLE  
Executive Director, Justice in Aging and IMPACT Stakeholder Committee  
and Equity in Aging Advisory Committee member



The development of the Master Plan for Aging both at the state and local levels has provided a critical opportunity to identify the unmet needs of the populations we serve. We now better understand the gaps in resources for individuals living with a disability, and there is no denying the exponential growth in the population of those 60 and older, particularly in Ventura County. We are committed to the development and improvement of all programs and services related to optimizing the lives of these communities.

VICTORIA JUMP  
Director, Ventura County Area Agency on Aging

## *Master Plan for Aging:* **LOCAL LEADER PARTNERSHIPS**

### The Local Playbook in Action

The Master Plan for Aging, with its Five Bold Goals and twenty-three supporting strategies is a framework for leaders and advocates throughout the state to advance age- and disability-friendly planning. The MPA Local Playbook was developed to help guide these efforts at the local and regional levels, providing a practical, step-by-step approach for communities to engage local leaders, explore local data, consider innovative models, and select priority initiatives for local implementation.

Local partnerships have flourished in 2021 as cities, counties and regions have come together to build their own communities for all ages and abilities. Since its launch in January 2021, CDA, community-based and philanthropic

organizations, and **more than 20 local and regional communities** have convened **more than 50 informational events and local forums** designed to educate local leaders and the interested public about the Master Plan for Aging. These events, drawing more than **3,000 participants** from across the state, have created a groundswell of interest in identifying and prioritizing key MPA focus areas to address locally. The MPA team participated in several local MPA events, including those hosted by local leadership in the following counties: Contra Costa, Kern, Los Angeles, Nevada, Orange, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Riverside, and Ventura; as well as the counties that comprise the [Diversability Advocacy Network](#): Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity.

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***“California succeeds when communities lead. The Master Plan emphasizes the importance of coordinating with local communities to ensure equitable, inclusive, and age-friendly planning. Local leaders across the state are embracing the MPA Local Playbook and Data Dashboard for Aging to collectively develop action plans based on their own strengths, challenges, and priorities.”***

**SARITA MOHANTY, MD, MBA, MPH**  
President & CEO, The SCAN Foundation  
and IMPACT Stakeholder Committee member

## Many local coalitions and work groups are in the process of developing strategic plans for implementation.

### Some highlights of this local work include:

- The [California Collaborative](#) for Long Term Services and Supports (CCLTSS), with support from The [SCAN Foundation](#), has been a driving force in aligning consensus around LTSS policies and practices. In 2021, the CCLTSS convened 23 local forums on the MPA across the state, bringing together advocates, policymakers and community leaders to discuss how they plan to incorporate the goals of the Master Plan for Aging in their communities.
- The [San Francisco Long-Term Care Coordinating Council](#) has identified homelessness as a major challenge and focused their local event on addressing housing issues. The Council is exploring a zero-tolerance policy for older adults and people with disabilities experiencing homelessness.
- The Los Angeles Aging Advocacy Coalition will focus on the "Caregiving That Works" goal area within LA's [Purposeful Aging age-friendly initiative](#).
- The County of Ventura has drafted its own localized [Master Plan for Aging](#). This Plan was shared for public comment in October 2021. The final version is expected to reflect community priorities for federal, state, and county budget investments in 2021-2022 and beyond.
- The [Hospital to Home Alliance of Ventura County](#) will be focusing on the "Health Reimagined" and "Caregiving That Works" goal areas in the upcoming year. Their [Caregiver Navigator Project](#) is under consideration as a model for expansion.
- In Monterey County, the Monterey Bay Aging and Disability Resource Center Coalition members worked with local legislators to build relationships and begin a discussion around the aging community challenges and needs. Follow-up events are planned with community members to discuss universal design ordinances, as well as affordable housing options for older adults.
- The [Orange County Strategic Plan for Aging](#) Leadership Council and Orange County (OC) Aging Services Collaborative held in-person and virtual events to introduce the Master Plan for Aging and inform the process of developing a local MPA Playbook for the county. Co-hosted by the OC Office on Aging, events included in-person participation from five OC senior centers in San Clemente, Garden Grove, Buena Park, Irvine and Tustin.
- The [Diversability Advocacy Network](#), a regional coalition of consumers, advocates, and service providers serving the northeastern part of the state, initiated a series of public forums to identify and prioritize the most critical needs of these rural communities. The network is now forming a steering committee to help develop, oversee, and implement this work in 2022.

Many more local MPA events are already scheduled for 2022 as communities across the state leverage the Master Plan for Aging's framework and the Local Playbook to identify, prioritize, and address barriers to achieving their vision of equitable, inclusive, and age- and disability-friendly communities. Local organizations and coalitions who are engaged with local age- and disability- friendly planning are encouraged to [share their story](#) with the MPA Local Playbook.

# *Master Plan for Aging:* **OUTCOMES AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

The MPA is an agenda for action. California's Master Plan for Aging is not a "report sitting on a shelf," as veteran advocates warned against at the outset, but instead is focused on outcomes and accountability for an age- and disability-friendly state. Through renewed state leadership, deep stakeholder partnership, continuous public engagement, and the new Data Dashboard for Aging, California is committed to driving progress, identifying challenges, and charting a successful course to 2030.

**Progress Reports:** This is the second MPA progress report, and is the first annual report, as required by the Legislature ([SB 228, Jackson](#)). The [first progress report](#) was released in July 2021. Reports to the Legislature will be released annually and regular updates can be accessed via the [Together We Engage newsletter](#).

**IMPACT Stakeholder Committee:** The Master Plan for Aging's initiative #104 called for the creation of the [Implementing the MPA in California Together \(IMPACT\) Stakeholder Committee](#). This committee advises CalHHS and the Cabinet Workgroup on the implementation of the MPA. The IMPACT Stakeholder Committee's announcement, member biographies and meeting materials and recordings can be accessed [online](#). IMPACT Stakeholder Committee members include:

- **Elizabeth Edgerly**, Executive Director, Alzheimer's Association – Northern California & Northern Nevada Chapter
- **Sharon Nevins**, Director, Department of Aging & Adult Services, San Bernardino County
- **Andy Imparato**, Executive Director, Disability Rights California
- **Kevin Prindiville**, Executive Director, Justice in Aging
- **Nancy McPherson**, State Director, AARP
- **Kiran Savage-Sangwan**, Executive Director, California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
- **Sarita Mohanty**, President & CEO, The SCAN Foundation
- **Fernando Torres-Gil**, Professor of Social Work & Public Policy and Director of the Center for Policy Research on Aging at University of California-Los Angeles
- **Doug Moore**, Executive Director, United Domestic Workers of America



Together We  
**ENGAGE**

Master Plan for Aging

**Equity in Aging Advisory Committee:** The [Equity in Aging Advisory Committee \(EAAC\)](#) advises on the implementation of the MPA, as well as CDA on the planning and implementation of aging and disability programs, services, data collection, and staff development. The EAAC met four times in 2021 focusing on topics such as affordable housing and homelessness, vaccine distribution, the state's COVID-19 dashboard and Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) data collection. Meeting recordings and materials are available at CDA's [Equity in Aging Resource Center](#).

**State & Local Data for Action:** The [Data Dashboard for Aging \(DDA\)](#) will measure progress across the Five Bold Goals over the next ten years, as well as provide local and state data for policy and program planners. This year's data updates include more recent data for the entire [demographics dashboard](#) and for the following indicators: [usual source of care](#), [primary care shortage areas](#), [psychological distress](#), [cognitive decline](#), [community support](#), [California LifeLine program participation](#), [volunteering](#), [Adult Protective Services caseloads](#), [housing cost burden](#), [food insecurity](#), and [CalFresh participation](#). In addition, the Dashboard now includes SOGI demographic data and new indicators for [unintentional falls](#), [income security & poverty](#), and [internet access](#). In the coming months, measures for disability status, unmet needs for Long-Term Services and Supports, and caregiving will be added, integrating the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) into the dashboard.



*We're just getting started on the 10-year blueprint that envisions a new way of serving and supporting older Californians, people with disabilities and caregivers. To deliver on the California for All promise, we need to hear from all voices, perspectives, and lived experiences; we invite you to participate locally, regionally and statewide as, together, we drive implementation of the Master Plan for Aging.*

SUSAN DEMAROIS  
Director, California Department of Aging

## *Next Steps:* **TOGETHER WE EngAGE 2022**

The Master Plan for Aging would not be where it is today without the voices of advocates, stakeholders, and members of the public. Driven by CalHHS's [Guiding Principles and Strategic Priorities](#), the MPA is committed to proactively listening to the voices and stories of individuals and communities across the state to ensure that policies, programs, services, and systems are designed to truly meet the needs of all Californians.

You are invited to share your comments, ideas, and recommendations with the MPA in 2022 via the [Together We EngAGE campaign](#) to inform the Plan's priorities for 2023-2024. The campaign will include an 10-part Webinar Wednesday series focused on the MPA's goals and strategies, public surveys, and targeted Community Town Halls and Legislative Roundtables throughout the state. Visit the [MPA In Action](#) webpage and subscribe to the [Together We EngAGE](#) newsletter for the schedule of events and engagement opportunities. Additionally, the public is always welcome to attend and provide comment at CalHHS's and CDA's stakeholder committees, which meet on a quarterly basis. The schedules and additional information may be found on their webpages:

- [Implementing the Master Plan for Aging in CA Together \(IMPACT\) Stakeholder Committee](#)
- [Equity in Aging Advisory Committee](#)
- [Elder and Disability Justice Coordinating Council](#)
- [Disability and Aging Community Living Advisory Committee](#)
- [Alzheimer's Disease & Related Disorders Advisory Committee](#)

# MPA Progress: HIGHLIGHTS ACROSS GOALS 1-5

To work toward achieving the Five Bold Goals of the Master Plan for Aging, there are 132 initiatives launching during the first two years of the Master Plan. Highlights and updates from MPA partners across the Administration are summarized below.

- [Goal One: Housing for All Ages & Stages](#)
- [Goal Two: Health Reimagined](#)
- [Goal Three: Inclusion & Equity, Not Isolation](#)
- [Goal Four: Caregiving That Works](#)
- [Goal Five: Affording Aging](#)

# 1

## Goal One: Housing for All Ages & Stages

*“We will live where we choose as we age in communities that are age-, disability-, and dementia-friendly and climate- and disaster-ready.”*

### Strategy A: More Housing Options

- **Initiative 1: Identify ways to bolster production of more housing options to age well in all California suburban, rural, and urban communities - such as Accessory Dwelling Units that are affordable - to support aging well, caregiving, and affordable housing. (BCSH)** The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) provides robust technical assistance on Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) to local governments, homeowners, builders, and other interested parties who need information about state laws that enable this housing type. HCD's Annual Progress Report Dashboard shows that ADU permitting and development statewide has increased by many thousands of units in the past few years, showing strong momentum in this area. To support low-income homeowners in developing ADUs, the California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA) will be launching an ADU grant program in 2022. The \$25,000 grant can help reduce the cost burden for homeowners interested in ADUs.





- Initiative 2: Tax credits and other strategies to prioritize the types of housing units that are not being produced by the market, especially those serving people who are Extremely, Very, and Low Income. (BCSH & STO)** The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and the State Treasurer's Office made its first round of [California Debt Limit Allocation Committee \(CDLAC\)](#) awards for housing bond capital. HCD and other state agencies are collaborating with the State Treasurer's office to revise the 2022 regulations for the CDLAC. Discussions about updates to the Regulations continue to prioritize housing for very low- and extremely low-income households and creating housing in areas of opportunity.

*California's aging population deserves to live in safe, dignified, and affordable housing. Our agency is making ambitious short- and long-term investments to address the housing needs of older adults and people with disabilities through rental and mortgage assistance, housing production efforts, and by strengthening housing, health, and social connections.*

LOURDES M. CASTRO RAMIREZ  
Secretary, Business, Consumer Services & Housing Agency

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is establishing the Community Care Expansion (CCE) program which will fund the acquisition, construction, and rehabilitation of adult and senior care facilities that serve applicants and recipients of Social Security Income (SSI) or Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. CDSS is working in close collaboration with the Department of Health Care Services to implement CCE alongside the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program. Together, these two programs will further expand the residential care continuum serving seniors and adults with disabilities to avoid the cycle of homelessness and unnecessary institutionalization. CDSS continues to gather stakeholder feedback, including hosting a listening session in November 2021, and Request for Applications will be released in early 2022.

- Initiative 3: Further facilitate affordable housing production by using monitoring, technical assistance, and enforcement strategies of existing housing production laws. (BCSH)** The Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD) launched its publicly accessible [Annual Performance Report Dashboard](#), which tracks jurisdictions' zoning, entitlement, and production at the Annual Median Income listed in their Housing Element/Housing Assessment.

In October 2021, HCD expanded the Housing Accountability Unit that will play a critical role in ensuring that local leaders fulfill their legal responsibility to plan, zone for, and permit their share of the state's housing needs.



- **Initiative 4: Advance fair housing & equity by conducting outreach, education, surveys, and prosecuting violations of anti-housing discrimination laws. (BCSH)** After publishing guidance on [Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing \(AFFH\)](#) in April 2021, HCD continues providing technical assistance to local governments on this topic. Currently, most cities and counties in California are updating their Housing Elements and including an analysis of AFFH in these documents.

In 2021, California Debt Limit Allocation Committee Regulations were revised to include the Administration's priority of AFFH in housing investments by adding a related incentive. This has produced strong results in expanding access to high resource communities for low-income families with children. Prior to the inclusion of AFFH incentives in the program in 2021, only 12% of units were built in high resource areas and 8% in highest resource areas. After the additional point was included, the number of projects funded in the first year increased to 41% and 30%, respectively.

- **Initiative 5: Review housing planning and data indicators with Strategic Growth Council (SGC) for older adult demographics and characteristics. (SGC, BCSH)** HCD is currently drafting the Statewide Housing Plan (SHP) which will include analysis on seniors and other populations and highlight equity goals. HCD led public outreach and interagency consultation with CDA and other entities, to inform the update to the SHP.
- **Initiative 6: Review current housing program definitions with SGC for inclusion of older adults and advancement of equity. (SGC, BCSH, CalEPA)** In April 2021, CDA provided a presentation on data opportunities to advance housing for older adults to the Strategic Growth Council. CDA also gave a presentation on CDA initiatives and opportunities to the Housing and Transportation Working Group, a working group of 10 departments led by BCSH and CalSTA.

The Department of Housing and Community Development programs create space for several project types, including those that provide support for residents with special needs, those who have experienced homelessness, and seniors. HCD works in partnership with other state housing finance program staff to align program definitions and the state's focus on equity.

- **Initiative 7: Explore increasing the Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program (VHHP). (CalVet)** In November 2021, VHHP released \$125 million for Round 6 funding in support of 16 projects throughout the state. The projects will add 542 units for homeless veterans. In prior Rounds 1-5, VHHP funded 72 projects, creating 3,058 units for homeless veterans. The total award amount for Rounds 1-5 is \$358 million.



- **Initiative 8: Assess the feasibility of expanding the Adult Family Homes model to more aging adults, including with dementia. (CalHHS)** The California Department of Aging, with support from the Department of Developmental Services, has designed and will launch the Adult Family Homes Pilot in 2022. This year's state budget included \$9 million in enhanced federal funding and \$2.6 million in ongoing funding. CDA is actively recruiting for a dedicated staff lead for this program.
- **Initiative 9: Explore opportunities to increase availability of housing options with “housing for health” strategies. (CalHHS)** DHCS is in the early stages of implementation of both [CalAIM](#) and the [California Home & Community Based Services Spending Plan](#), which both were approved by CMS in January 2022. CMS approval distinguishes California as a national leader at the forefront of integrating housing with health and community supports for all Medi-Cal beneficiaries. The CDSS Community Care Expansion is just one of many examples of innovative investments to support the whole person. Others include provisions in the newly approved Medicaid 1915(b) waiver to cover housing transition navigation services, housing deposits and housing tenancy and sustaining services.
- **Initiative 10: Identify innovative models and solutions to enhance technology in housing options for aging well. (GovOps, BCSH)** HCD's Multifamily Housing Program (MHP) issued draft guidelines for public comment in December 2021. The guidelines include broadband access in the proposed general MHP scoring system.
- **Initiative 11: Assess need for housing modifications for aging. (CalHHS)** CDA has maintained its Dignity at Home Program which continues to support Area Agencies on Aging in developing information resources, education, assessments, and other supports on injury prevention. The Falls Prevention initiative has served 2,739 participants as of September 30, 2021. The services supported by the Fall Prevention initiative include, but are not limited to, in-home assessments and home modifications (e.g., grab bars, ramps, etc.). Further, California's Medi-Cal CalAIM waiver approval allows coverage for environmental accessibility adaptations as a community support.



## Strategy B: Transportation Beyond Cars

- **Initiative 12: Promote within existing resources ways to improve community walkability for older adults and people with disabilities. (CalSTA)** CalSTA released its [Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure](#) on July 15, 2021, which prioritizes investments in transit, passenger rail, active transportation, *Complete Streets*, and micromobility to expand mobility options and help meet the State's ambitious climate goals.

Caltrans' new Complete Streets policy states that "[Complete Streets](#)" projects should prioritize underserved communities that have been historically harmed and segmented by the transportation network and should serve "people of all ages and abilities." The document defines "all ages and abilities" as a concept that strives to serve all users -- regardless of age, gender, race, or ability, and inclusive of the mobility needs of children, older adults, and people with disabilities -- by embodying national and international best practices related to traffic calming, speed reduction, universal design, and roadway design to increase user safety and comfort, as well as accessibility for people with disabilities.

- **Initiative 13: Promote within existing resources safer transportation for older adults using multiple transportation modes. (CalSTA)** California's updated [Strategic Highway Safety Plan](#) was released in 2021. It provides a comprehensive framework for reducing roadway fatalities and serious injuries on California's public roads. Priority areas include aging drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists.
- **Initiative 14: Promote within existing resources free bus/transit (including using digital ID solutions to streamline access) and transit rider education. (CalSTA)** In December 2021, the [California Integrated Travel Project](#) (Cal-ITP), in partnership with the California DMV, launched the [Cal-ITP Benefits tool with Monterey-Salinas Transit](#) (MST) as the first supported public transportation agency. Cal-ITP Benefits allows any older adult age 65+ with a California DMV-issued identification card to have their eligibility for MST's Senior fare discount both instantly verified and instantly linked to their contactless-enabled Visa or Mastercard via a secure, mobile-friendly web application. MST is the first public transportation agency in the United States to enable its riders to verify their eligibility for discount transit fares online and to instantly add that discount benefit to a contactless open-loop debit or credit card. Cal-ITP Benefits has already enrolled a number of users in the first week of operation and will soon expand to cover additional California transportation agencies in early 2022. (Note: the tool will not work unless you are over 65.)

**Initiative 15: Promote expansion of bus/transit stops that are age- and disability-friendly. (CalSTA)** See Initiative 12.



- **Initiative 16: Establish person-centered MOU's between transit districts to allow paratransit to cross transit district lines to meet rider needs. (CalSTA)** See Initiative 14.
- **Initiative 17: Encourage innovation in flexible transit options. (CalSTA)** The Department of Rehabilitation and Department of Aging provided feedback on autonomous vehicles strategies, affecting older adults and people with disabilities.
- **Initiative 18: Provide older driver safety education training to meet needs as funds allow. (CalSTA)** The Department of Motor Vehicles operates a Senior Ombudsman Program to provide older driver safety education, as well as alternative transportation/mobility options to California aging drivers. The [DMV's Senior Drivers web page](#) includes information regarding mature driver improvement programs and safety information and resources for not only aging drivers, but also family, caregivers, friends, interested medical personnel, and other stakeholders.

The Federal Transit Administration's Section 5310 program (Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities) provides funding for local operators to conduct travel training and encourage options other than driving. A call for projects will be released in January 2022.

- **Initiative 19: Review community walkability scores and Vehicle Miles Traveled data for opportunities to analyze with aging demographics and to include in Data Dashboard for Aging. (SGC, CalSTA)** Caltrans is actively working to procure and implement use of an accessibility tool for project-level analyses and to enhance decision-making to achieve a variety of state policy objectives—from climate and equity, to health and supporting age-friendly communities. In this context, accessibility refers to the ease by which travelers can reach – or access – desired destinations such as work, shopping and other retail, school, health care, and recreation. Accessibility reflects the number and proximity of destinations, as well as the directness and condition of walking, biking, and transit facilities. As part of mainstreaming accessibility-based analyses in the department, Caltrans will also explore integrating demographic dimensions into these analyses, including but not limited to age, disability, race/ethnicity, educational attainment levels, and median household income.

In addition, Caltrans is planning to include walkability scores and accessibility indicators into its [Equity Index](#) and Toolset.



## Strategy C: Outdoor Spaces for All Ages

- **Initiative 20: Explore targeting public and private park funds to age- and disability-friendly activities for all ages. (CNRA)** California State Parks and the Department of Social Services are collaborating on a [Golden Bear Pass](#) pre-qualification process for CalWORKs recipients, including older adults raising young children, in 2022. Additionally, legislation waived the \$5 application fee for all applicants. These improvements will streamline the application and approval process. This streamlining could potentially be replicated for those adults pre-qualified for a free pass because of SSI/SSP participation or those eligible for a discounted pass because they are older.
- **Initiative 21: Explore targeting new public and private park funds to communities that are more than a 10-minute walk from a park. (CNRA)** California State Parks [announced](#) \$548.3 million in grant funding to deliver new parks to more than 100 communities via [The Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program](#) and to advance the Newsom Administration's "Outdoors for All" initiative to enable all Californians, regardless of zip code or income, to access parks and open space. The grants represent the single-largest investment in state history in expanding access to parks in underserved communities, with new or enhanced parks funded in every region of California.
- **Initiative 23: Promote Blue Zones for dementia-friendly communities, especially in cities and counties with higher proportions of racial groups with disparate rates of dementia. (CalHHS)** The [California Healthy Brain Initiative \(HBI\) Local Health Jurisdictions \(LHJs\) Pilot Program](#), coordinated by the CA Department of Public Health, is currently taking place within six counties to advance cognitive health as an integral component of public health by implementing activities consistent with the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention HBI Road Map](#).

The CA Department of Public Health is developing a proposal for the Dementia Friendly Communities project with an anticipated release date of Fall 2022. Using the CA HBI LHJ Pilot Program as a model, the goal is to locally improve cognitive health through place-based interventions. This will be done through the allocation of grants to California cities or LHJs to address dementia in communities most at-risk for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.



## Strategy D: Emergency Preparedness & Response

- **Initiative 24: Consider improvements in online emergency tools for older, disabled, and at-risk adults and caregivers, in multiple languages, to meet needs. (ODI & CalHHS)** The Governor's Office of Digital Innovation, in collaboration with CalHHS, CalOES, CDSS, and CDA conducted discovery of Sonoma and Butte counties' emergency tools for older, disabled, and at-risk adults and caregivers.
- **Initiative 25: Develop online and other tools to coordinate mutual aid for residents by Residential Living and Nursing Home facilities during emergencies. (CalHHS)** In early 2021, [LeadingAge California](#) facilitated a demonstration of digital tools to coordinate mutual aid for long-term care residents for CDSS, CDPH, CDA and CalOES. These Departments participated in a second demonstration in December 2021 on the California Long Term Care Mutual Aid Plan web-based management platform. CDSS is assembling pros/cons and communicating with CalHHS on next steps. CDSS currently works closely with its licensees, as well as with LeadingAge California and other stakeholder groups to ensure that facilities evacuating during disasters are able to transfer to nearby facilities that have excess capacity.
- **Initiative 26: Continue LISTOS CA "Check in" telephone calls begun during COVID-19, as well as other disaster preparedness work, with isolated and harder to reach older adults, in multiple languages, to meet needs within existing funding. (CalOES)** [CalOES's Listos California's Social Bridging Project](#), concluded after conducting a cumulative total of more than 165,000 wellness conversations with vulnerable Californians in 27 counties during the pandemic, as well as helping more than 8,000 households register for emergency alerts and sending out nearly 30,000 Disaster Ready Guides to help more Californians prepare now for wildfires and other natural disasters.
- **Initiative 27: Conduct after-action analyses of COVID-19, including the impact on older, disabled, and at-risk adults, as one way to identify strategies to prevent future pandemic, emergency, and disaster-related deaths and disparities in deaths by age, ability, income, race, language, and other equity measures. (CalHHS)** As of this writing, California and the entire nation are in the grips of an omicron COVID-19 variant surge 22 months into a global pandemic. CDPH continues to track and provide daily testing, case rate, death and vaccine statistics by age, race, ethnicity and other data points on its public [website](#). It is premature to conduct after-action analyses at this time.



## Strategy E: Climate-Friendly Aging

- **Initiative 28: Gradually factor in climate impact and safety, including disaster resiliency, in new (and rebuilt) Residential Living and other age- and disability-friendly housing, by considering infill opportunities and wildland urban interface issues. (BCSH)** The Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD) continued working on the 2022 CALGreen Code and received approval by the Building Standards Commission. The Code update includes standards related to climate, disaster resiliency, and sustainability to support people of all ages.

HCD's [Multifamily Housing Program](#) (MHP) issued draft guidelines for public comment. The guidelines include several factors in the proposed general MHP scoring system, such as proximity to amenities, infill, and alignment with the [Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities](#) (AHSC) program in sustainable buildings and energy efficiency.

- **Initiative 29: Advocate for the new federal administration to increase support for housing modifications for climate, via weatherization services reaching older adults and people with disabilities, to meet need and as funds available. (CalHHS)** California's Department of Community Services and Development received a \$25M funding augmentation to support weatherization for low-income farmworkers in select counties.
- **Initiative 30: Set targets and develop strategies to include older adults and people with disabilities, of all races and ethnicities, in California Climate Action Corps. (CalVols)** California Volunteers launched the Neighbor 2 Neighbor (N2N) campaign to recruit individuals from diverse communities to provide leadership and engagement opportunities within their neighborhoods. The focus of N2N is organizing climate activity and disaster preparedness with specific focus on including those with access and functional needs and older adults to determine what systems and resources are available to assist during a disaster. Upcoming activities will focus on climate action based on the climate goals of the jurisdiction and community interests. Additionally, in the upcoming year, more Climate Action Corps members will define and manage a larger set of volunteer opportunities to reach older adults, people with disabilities, and diverse communities. For [Operation Feed California](#), various retirement groups were active in volunteering at food banks as part of their club activities. CalVols continues reaching out to specialty groups to engage in all volunteer opportunities.
- **Initiative 32: Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled and overall climate impact by aging and disability services at state and local levels. (CalHHS)** CalHHS is committed to telework policies to reduce emissions without impacting access to public services.



## **Goal Two: Health Reimagined**

*“We will have access to the services we need to live at home in our communities and to optimize our health and quality of life.”*

### **Strategy A: Bridging Health Care with Home**

- **Initiative 33: Advocate with the new federal Administration to create a universal Long-Term Services and Supports benefit (CalHHS)** The State Commissioner of Insurance convenes the [Long-Term Care Insurance Task Force](#) with CDA, DHCS, and stakeholder members from AARP, On-Lok, WISE & Healthy Aging, SEIU, and others to explore the feasibility of developing and implementing a culturally competent statewide insurance program for long-term services and supports.
- **Initiatives 34: Plan and develop innovative models to increase access to long-term services and supports for people receiving Medicare only and for people receiving both Medicare & Medi-Cal (“duals”). (CalHHS)** In August 2021, DHCS announced establishment of its new Office of Medicare Innovation and Integration, which will provide focused leadership and expertise to lead innovative models for Medicare beneficiaries in California, including Medicare-only beneficiaries and individuals dually eligible for Medicare and Medi-Cal.

DHCS, in partnership with [The SCAN Foundation](#), [NORC](#), [Center for Health Care Strategies](#) and [ATI](#), is conducting targeted research and analysis to review potential models to increase access to integrated care for both dual eligible and Medicare-only populations.

- **Initiative 35: Plan and develop innovative models to increase access to long-term services and supports and integrated health care for people receiving both Medicare & Medi-Cal (“duals”) by implementing statewide Managed Long-Term Services and Supports (MLTSS) and Dual Eligible Special Needs Plan (D-SNP) structure, in partnership with stakeholders. (CalHHS)** DHCS continues to plan and implement the CalAIM provisions to enroll all dual eligibles into Medi-Cal managed care, incorporate long-term care into Medi-Cal managed care statewide, and transition Cal MediConnect to a D-SNP aligned enrollment model. DHCS is actively engaged with stakeholders through the CalAIM MLTSS and duals integration workgroup.



- **Initiative 36: Expand access to home and community-based services for people receiving Medi-Cal: via CalAIM, by implementing “In Lieu of Services”<sup>1</sup> and “Enhanced Care Management.” (CalHHS)** DHCS is implementing this CalAIM initiative in 2022. Note that “In Lieu of Services” has been renamed to “Community Supports.” Information about the various Community Supports and proposed start dates is [available online](#).
- **Initiative 37: Consider home and community alternatives to short-term nursing home stays for participants in Medi-Cal managed care through utilization of combination of the home health benefit, in lieu of services, and proposed expanded telehealth benefit, including remote patient monitoring. (CalHHS)** DHCS is implementing this initiative in 2022 through a combination of CalAIM, home health, and telehealth programs authorized for Medi-Cal managed care plans. DHCS Medi-Cal began covering remote patient monitoring, effective July 1, 2021, pending approval by CMS.
- **Initiative 38: Explore options within existing authority and new state plan authority for community health workers to conduct isolation checks/home visits for older and other adults, to meet need and as funds available. (CalHHS)** DHCS is in the process of developing policy guidance for Medi-Cal community health workers in California. DHCS is working with stakeholders to develop a Medicaid State Plan Amendment for Community Health Workers; exploration is underway to determine if isolation checks would be federally allowable.
- **Initiative 39: Explore opportunities to increase stability for IHSS beneficiaries through back-up provider systems and registries. (CalHHS)** CDSS continues to work with stakeholders to establish and sustain a back-up provider system for IHSS recipients.
- **Initiative 40: Apply for federal funding to assess and plan for home and community-based services in all counties, with diversity of providers, via the anticipated federal planning grant to develop a Medi-Cal Home and Community Based Services Roadmap, in partnership with Stakeholder process beginning 2020. (CalHHS)** In July 2021, CMS approved DHCS’ [Money Follows the Person Supplemental Funding Opportunity](#) application to conduct a statewide Gap Analysis and Multiyear Roadmap of its Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) and Managed Medi-Cal Long-Term Supports and Services (MLTSS) programs and networks. DHCS is currently in the process of procuring a contractor for this effort.

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<sup>1</sup>

Including: Housing Transition Navigation Services, Housing Deposits, Housing Tenancy and Sustaining Services, Short-term Post Hospitalization Housing, Recuperative Care, Respite, Day Habilitation Programs, Nursing Facility Transition/ Diversion to Assisted Living Facilities of Home, Personal Care and Homemaker Services, Home Modifications, Medically Tailored Meals, Sobering Centers, and Asthma Remediation.



- **Initiative 41: Assess need and opportunities to expand community-based aging and disability networks' "business acumen" for health partnerships. (CalHHS)** CDA hosted a three-part [Leadership in Aging webinar series](#) in collaboration with the CA Association for Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) which will hire a consultant to assist with expanding and improving health and managed care partnerships in 2022.
- **Initiative 42: Assess need and opportunities to modernize regulatory and licensing barriers for CBAS and MSSP.** CDA meets regularly with CBAS and MSSP providers to strategize on their critical role during the COVID-19 pandemic and to explore streamlined oversight as participant and community needs evolve.
- **Initiative 43: Reformulate an LTSS aging and disability stakeholder group to advise on long-term services and supports for all older adults and people with disabilities, drawing on stakeholders with experience on MPA LTSS Subcommittee and Olmstead Advisory, as well as new members, with increased diversity and continued participation by older adults, people with disabilities, and care providers. (CalHHS)** [The Disability & Aging Community Living Advisory Committee](#), announced in Spring 2021, advances community living, inclusion, and integration in California. It ensures the involvement of people with disabilities, older adults, and other partners and stakeholders in advising CalHHS on community living policy and programs – including, but not limited to, long term services and supports, employment opportunities, transportation, and housing. This committee builds on the foundational work of the state's Olmstead Committee. Membership can be viewed [here](#). The [first meeting was held on April 30th and the committee continues to meet quarterly](#).

## Strategy B: Health Care as We Age

- **Initiative 44: Modernize Medicare counseling services (HICAP) to serve more beneficiaries, continually improving cultural competency and language access, within existing resources. (CalHHS)** CDA's support from philanthropy partners has produced the report, [Modernizing California's Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program \(HICAP\): Strategy Recommendations](#). This report explores strategies CDA can consider to modernize HICAP. CDA is looking at opportunities to strengthen the HICAP program across the network, internally, and across programs.
- **Initiative 45: Assess opportunities to modernize enrollment process for Medicare Savings programs. (CalHHS)** DHCS is partnering with CMS on beneficiary outreach for Medicare Savings programs, and is reviewing local outreach partnership opportunities.



- **Initiative 46: Consistent with AB 80 (2020) when the DOF projects that the budget can accommodate the associated costs over a multiyear period, prioritize for inclusion in the budget the expansion of Medi-Cal to older adults who are undocumented. (CalHHS)** The 2021-2022 state budget invested \$68 million (one-time) and \$1 billion dollars (ongoing) to expand access to full-scope Medi-Cal benefits for adults aged 50 and over regardless of immigration status (no sooner than May 1<sup>st</sup>). Coverage will include access to In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) if the person has need for the services, as well as all other covered benefits. An additional 235,000 Californians will have access to health care.
- **Initiative 47: Include older adult behavioral health needs and geri-expertise in Behavioral Health Task Force planning, beginning with CDA joining the Task Force. (CalHHS)** CDA was added to [CalHHS's Behavioral Health Task Force](#), joining MPA Stakeholder Advisory Committee member Dr. LeOndra Clark Harvey.
- **Initiative 49: Highlight to Medi-Cal plans and providers the value of palliative care to improve patient outcomes and support patient and family choices for care. (CalHHS)** DHCS is reviewing opportunities to implement in 2022.
- **Initiative 50: Identify ways to promote care wishes – such as Advanced Planning Directives and Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment – for all ages. (CalHHS)** The 2021-2022 state budget includes a \$10 million investment to establish a statewide electronic registry for Physicians Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST). The Emergency Medical Services Authority, in collaboration with the Department of Technology and Office of Systems Integration has been advancing the development of the ePOLST registry.

### Strategy C: Lifelong Healthy Aging

- **Initiative 51: Share a series of public health/public education tools, with culturally competent and equity-targeted approaches, that promote brain health and address other healthy aging priorities. (CalHHS)** CDPH is developing the Request for Proposal for an Alzheimer's and related dementias (ADRDs) Public Awareness Campaign with an anticipated proposal release date of Spring 2022. The campaign will: 1) Focus on educating the public, 2) Focus on signs and symptoms of ADRDs. 3) Target populations at risk, and 3) Be multilingual, multi-cultural, and intergenerational.

CDPH's Office of Communications has developed an [Alzheimer's Awareness Social Media Toolkit](#).

Embedded in the six Healthy Brain Initiative locations (Los Angeles, Placer, Sacramento, San Diego, Santa Clara, and Shasta counties) are robust public awareness and community engagement strategies targeting diverse populations.



- **Initiative 52: Continue to seek federal funding for a friendship warmline for older adults to address isolation and loneliness needs, and partner with state departments who host crisis lines and access lines. (CalHHS)** CDA continues to maintain the Friendship Line, California's behavioral health warmline, which is an accredited 24-hour toll-free phone line to provide emotional support for people aged 60 years and older, and adults living with disabilities. Altogether, 152,378 calls have been answered from April 2020 – December 2021. This program is currently extended through October 2022, and CDA expects to extend the program with additional funding supports.
- **Initiative 53: Build in older adult focus to existing Suicide Prevention Programs. (CalHHS)** The California Department of Public Health's CDC-funded [Comprehensive Suicide Prevention Program](#) focuses on strategies that will impact older adults. One of the program's three chosen strategies is to focus on reducing access to lethal means (including firearms and medications). According to the program's "[Overview of Homicide and Suicide Deaths in CA Data Brief](#)," firearm suicide rates generally increase with age and firearms are the leading mechanism for suicides among all ages 50 and above. Additionally, CDPH's Comprehensive Suicide Prevention Program and Healthy Aging Initiative released an "[Older Adult Suicide in California, 2018](#)" data fact sheet.
- **Initiative 54: Diversify and align with aging demographics the pipeline of residents in clinical geriatrics, primary care, and geriatric psychiatry, including dementia care, through career incentive strategies such as workforce shortage and loan forgiveness programs. (CalHHS)** The Office of Health Care Access and Information awarded over \$700,000 in loan repayment awards to forty primary care providers serving the older adult population.

## Strategy D: Geriatric Care Expansion

- **Initiative 57: Support expansion of geriatric emergency department certifications statewide. (CalHHS)** Private, philanthropic partner West Health Institute has convened key stakeholders including California Hospital Association, American College of Emergency Medicine and UC San Diego Health system to advance a statewide initiative of Geriatric Emergency Departments (GED) in CA. Implementation planning is underway, including identification of subject matter experts, contractual mechanisms, and training resources. Upcoming priorities are to roadmap integration of GEDs with key MPA areas of focus, such as dementia awareness, geriatric workforce, and HCBS resource connection and toolkits.



- Initiative 58: Assess opportunities for advance practice providers trained in geriatrics to fill gaps in geriatrics and primary care and Initiative 59: Consider opportunities for gerontologists and geriatric social workers to participate in inter- disciplinary teams. (CalHHS)** The 2021-2022 state budget invested \$8M for the Office of Health Care Access and Information to grow and diversify the pipeline for the geriatric medicine workforce.
- Initiative 59: Consider opportunities for gerontologists and geriatric social workers to participate in inter- disciplinary teams. (CalHHS)** DHCS is reviewing opportunities to implement in 2022 or 2023 as part of [CalAIM Population Health Management](#).
- Initiative 61: Continue COVID-19 ad hoc geriatrics advisory group and broaden scope and participants in 2021 to include geriatric care expansion initiatives. (CalHHS)** An ad hoc geriatrics advisory group, consisting of leading geriatric medicine experts from UCSF and USC continues to meet and has briefed CalHHS, LWDA, and CalVet leadership on opportunities to innovate in skilled nursing homes emerging from COVID-19 pandemic.

### Strategy E: Dementia in Focus

- Initiative 62: Continue California's leadership commitment to target clinical research into Alzheimer's on gender and racial disparities. (CalHHS)** CDPH is developing the Request for Application for solicitation to allocate and administer research grants in connection to Alzheimer's disease and related dementias with a focus on women, communities of color, and populations historically underrepresented in research including the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning (LGBTQ+) community. The proposal has an anticipated release date of Spring 2022.

*California is strategically positioned to lead the nation in the fight against Alzheimer's Disease. The Master Plan and the Governor's Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease Prevention, Preparedness & Path Forward are advancing a bold set of recommendations to help people with Alzheimer's and dementia, as well as their families and caregivers. Over the past year, we've seen incredible multi-pronged investments in public awareness campaigns, research, dementia-friendly communities, early intervention, geriatric training, Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Centers, and more.*

MARIA SHRIVER

Chair, Governor's Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease Prevention, Preparedness & Path Forward



- Initiative 63: Develop plan for an equity-focused dementia-prevention public health campaign, to meet needs as funds are available. (CalHHS)** CDPH includes campaign activities in six local health jurisdictions to advance equity in cognitive health. Activities include a health education curricula on brain health and cognitive aging that is linguistically and culturally tailored for Latino and African American communities; a healthcare provider curriculum focused on brain health/ dementia risk reduction and early diagnosis and treatment with emphasis working with priority populations (e.g., African American, Latino); a Caregiver Handbook with an enhanced dementia chapter containing dementia resources and tips, translated in multiple languages and disseminated through community partners; and more.

A key cornerstone of this work is CDPH's 2021 [Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Facts & Figures in California report](#) with county-by-county statistics and a special focus on race, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation.

See **Initiative 51** for additional related activities.

- Initiative 64: Promote screening, diagnosis, and care planning by health care providers for patients and families with Alzheimer's and related dementias, through hub and spoke training model of health care providers; direct caregiver training opportunities; and consideration of how dementia standards of care could be further incorporated in Medi-Cal and Medicare managed care. (CalHHS)** CDPH continues to promote the Assessment of Cognitive

Complaints Toolkit for Alzheimer's Disease (ACCT-AD) that was developed by the California Alzheimer's Disease Centers to provide primary care providers with the tools necessary to recognize normal cognition, diagnose Alzheimer's disease, and identify other cognitive problems requiring specialty referral. The ACCT-AD includes the following companion pieces: the [ACCT-AD Manual](#), [ACCT-AD Provider Wellness Visit/Screening Tool Pocket Guide](#) and the [ACCT-AD Provider Wellness Visit/Screening Tool Flow Sheet](#). The pocket guide and flow sheet are the take-along tools for providers to use to help screen for Alzheimer's disease and other related dementias during patient wellness visits.

DHCS will launch Dementia Aware, which is part of the Home- and Community-Based Services Spending Plan, to further work on the establishment of a statewide standard for dementia screening through an equity-focused, culturally competent provider training. DHCS continues to solicit input from stakeholders on this initiative. DHCS is working to implement a new Medi-Cal benefit for cognitive health assessments, under [Senate Bill 48 \(Limón\)](#).

- Initiative 65: Seek stakeholder feedback on models of care coordination for IHSS participants with dementia or cognitive impairment. (CalHHS)** DSS, with funding to offer specialized upskilling for IHSS workers, will focus on dementia training. CDPH also plays a leadership role in seeking stakeholder feedback (e.g., California Alzheimer's Disease Centers) and evaluating information collected regarding models of care coordination for IHSS participants with dementia or cognitive impairment.



- **Initiative 66: Assess options to increase Adult Day Services, especially for people with dementia (CalHHS)** The 2021-2022 state budget allocated \$5 million to CDA to re-establish and modernize the community-based Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Centers model of care. CDA and stakeholders meet regularly to develop a pilot program, which will launch in 2022.
- **Initiative 67: Strategically plan and lead the growing number of California's pioneering Alzheimer's and all dementia initiatives with renewed leadership and partnership for the CalHHS Alzheimer's Advisory Committee beginning 2021. (CalHHS)** The CalHHS Alzheimer's Advisory Committee began the new year selecting a new chair, welcoming new members, and working on several priorities outlined in the MPA and by the Governor's Task Force of Alzheimer's Disease Prevention, Preparedness and Path Forward. CalHHS departments serving people with Alzheimer's are also participating in a new cross-Department work group, coordinated by CalHHS and CDPH.

### Strategy F: Nursing Home Innovation

- **Initiative 69: Continue to expand transparency on state data on nursing homes, including quality, staffing, financing, both in COVID-19 and ongoing. (CalHHS)** [The Home and Community-Based Services Spending Plan](#) includes resources to develop a Long Term Services & Supports Data Dashboard, which will include statewide nursing home and HCBS utilization, quality, demographic, and cost data.
- **Initiative 72: Begin planning for growing skilled nursing and mental health needs in veterans' homes, per the Veterans Home Master Plan of Jan 2020. (CalVet)** Construction will soon begin on a new skilled nursing facility at the Yountville Veterans Home. In addition, CalVet is continuing to explore other opportunities to best serve aging veterans' skilled nursing and mental health needs.
- **Initiative 74: Develop approach for patient representatives for residents of skilled nursing facilities without capacity, representatives, or written care wishes. (CalHHS)** The 2021-2022 State Budget included funding for the creation of a Long-Term Care Office of the Patient Representative. The Office will provide representation on skilled nursing facilities' (SNF) and intermediate care facilities' (ICF) medical decision-making interdisciplinary teams on behalf of patients who lack capacity to make their own health care decisions, who do not have a legally authorized decision-maker, and who do not have a family member or friend who can act as a patient representative. CDA hired an executive to lead the implementation of the Office of the Long-Term Care Patient Representative Program beginning in January 2022.

# 3



## Goal Three Equity & Inclusion, Not Isolation

*“We will have lifelong opportunities for work, volunteering, engagement, and leadership and will be protected from isolation, discrimination, abuse, neglect, and exploitation.”*

### Strategy A: Inclusion & Equity in Aging

- **Initiative 75: Continue to expand culturally and linguistically competent communications to older adults, people with disabilities, and families. (CalHHS)** The 2021-22 state budget invested \$10 million in CalHHS for ongoing General Fund for Language Access and Cultural Competency Orientations and Translations for regional center consumers and their families. CalHHS has been expanding and improving culturally and linguistically competent communication. Examples include the following:
  - The Department of Rehabilitation (DOR), in partnership with the California Public Utilities Commission’s Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program (DDTP), administers the Voice Options program which provides eligible Californians who are unable to speak, or who have difficulty speaking, with a free iPad speech-generating device.
  - CDSS is implementing electronic forms and signatures for the IHSS program and translating forms into all Medi-Cal threshold languages; DDS formed a Language Access & Cultural Competency Orientation and Translation Workgroup to identify language access and program priorities and projects.
  - CDA launched a COVID Vaccination outreach campaign utilizing media channels that target older adults, people with disabilities, and minorities with materials and communications in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean. Three ethnic press briefings were conducted targeting over 80 ethnic media outlets.

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COVID-19 has exacerbated long standing social inequities. The Master Plan presents an opportunity to redouble our efforts and transform our systems to combat racism, ableism, and ageism. All people, regardless of age, race, ability, gender, sexual orientation or income, should have access to the resources, services and supports that empower them to live a life with dignity, optimal health, and a strong sense of purpose.

CHERYL BROWN

Former CA State Assemblymember, 47th District  
and Equity in Aging Advisory Committee member

3

- **Initiative 77: Continue new “Equity in Aging” Provider Peer-to-Peer Training for aging networks. (CalHHS)** CDA hosted nine monthly *Ensuring Equity in Aging* webinar series on culturally informed programs and policy in 2021. The monthly webinars, by and for human services providers, can be accessed at CDA’s Equity in Aging Resource Center. Webinars have addressed culturally informed programs and policy with and for Tribal and Black Elders; Asian American & Pacific Islander, Latino, rural, and LGBTQ+ Older Adults; and people with disabilities. Together We EngAGE’s 2022 “Webinar Wednesday” series will continue to highlight opportunities for advancing equity in aging and disability.
- **Initiative 78: Produce report on CARES funding to Older American Act programs on impact and equity. (CalHHS)** CDA is working to gather data on CARES Act funding and plans to produce a report illustrating the impact of these funds on older adults, as well as highlighting demographic data to show how funds were targeted to impacted communities.



# 3



- **Initiative 79: Set and work towards diversity, equity, and inclusion goals for representation in aging and disability departments and related State boards, such as CDA, DOR, Commission on Aging, and more. (CalHHS)** Departments across CalHHS are advancing equity and inclusion. Highlights of this work includes the following:
  - CalHHS is currently recruiting for the Agency's first Chief Equity Officer.
  - The CA Department of Aging concluded its participation in Capitol Cohort on Race and Equity and will develop a Racial Equity Action Plan in Q2 2022.
  - CDA also appointed a departmental equity lead who will participate in a CalHHS Equity Workgroup to advance Agency-wide equity strategies and equity plans at each CalHHS department.
  - The Department of Rehabilitation continues to analyze DOR boards and commissions to ensure they represent the diversity in the state. DOR has a 2022 Strategic goal DEI initiative to "Inspire Organizational Culture Change for Consumers and Staff".
  - Department of Developmental Services is establishing a Chief Equity Officer. There are 68 active grants approved through DDS' Service Access and Equity Grant program, 13 of which are focused on developing self-advocate and family leadership to increase participation on stakeholder workgroups, boards, and other groups.
  - In December 2021, DHCS released its [Comprehensive Quality Strategy 2022](#), which includes a robust Health Equity Roadmap.
  - In February 2021, the Governor appointed Dr. Rohan Radhakrishna as Deputy Director of the [Office of Health Equity](#) at CDPH, providing leadership to reduce health and mental health disparities experienced by vulnerable communities in California.
- **Initiative 80: Convene a stakeholder Equity in Aging Advisory group. (CalHHS)** The Equity in Aging Advisory Committee (EAAC) began meeting quarterly in March 2021 and recruited 6 new members expanding the diversity and expertise across the group. The EAAC will continue to meet quarterly in 2022 to advise the MPA and CDA on implementation activities.

# 3

## Strategy B: Closing the Digital Divide

- **Initiative 81: Execute the State Broadband Council's new Strategic Plan, including older adults and using an equity lens, per Executive Order in August 2020, within existing resources. (GovOps & CalHHS)**

CDA has twice presented to the California Broadband Council on older adults and broadband access; progress on digital device deployments; digital education and literacy efforts; and low-cost internet plan options for older adults. Additionally, CDA is working with the California Department of Technology on a digital resource hub that can provide tools and resources to users and providers of digital devices.

Governor Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill 156 into law in July 2021, investing \$6 billion for broadband infrastructure for middle-mile and last-mile projects. This investment is part of a statewide plan to expand broadband infrastructure, increase affordability and enhance access to broadband for all Californians. The CPUC's California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) "Last-mile" grants are working on rules that are expected to be finalized at the end of the first quarter of 2022. At that time, CPUC anticipates accepting applications for the last-mile Infrastructure projects. Future projects could include Adoption, Public Housing, or other CASF sub-accounts, subject to available funding.

- **Initiative 82: Seek private donations and use existing funds to distribute personal technology devices to OAA program participants. (GovOps & CalHHS)** In January 2021, CDA received a donation from Google of 8,573 smart speaker devices. These devices were distributed to local Area Agencies on Aging and Multipurpose Senior Services Program sites to distribute to low-income older adults throughout

California. These devices can help recipients make phone calls, search for information, set up calendar reminders, and listen to music or audio books.

CDA also received two additional federal funding allocations through the 2021-22 Budget to continue to bridge the digital divide for older adults. The first is \$17 million in additional federal funding through the Home and Community Based (HCBS) spending plan to purchase additional devices, service plans, training for older adults served by various state HCBS programs. The second is \$50 million to provide funding to the counties to purchase devices, infrastructure, service plans and training for older adults in their jurisdictions.

CDA is in the process of distributing 4,000 iPads with two-year plans and dedicated training and technical assistance to low-income older adults who live alone. As part of the initiative, CDA has evaluation efforts to identify opportunities for innovation and learnings from this effort. CDA is in planning for the next phase of work which includes the HCBS spending plan as it relates to Digital Connection initiative.

Additionally, the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman (OSLTCO) initiated the [Electronic Companion Pets Project-Ombudsman](#) in response to the negative impact COVID-19 has had on residents living in LTC facilities. The project is a person-centered approach to increasing engagement and enhancing meaningful interactions during and post COVID-19 pandemic. Electronic companion pets are designed to enhance meaningful interactions among residents living in LTC facilities, which are congregate living models, but may be experienced as lonely and socially isolated settings.



# 3



- **Initiative 83: Develop plan to launch digital literacy support for older adults and for providers. (GovOps & CalHHS)** As part of CDA's Digital Divide and upcoming Digital Connections efforts, CDA is identifying partners and resources which would supplement the provision of devices to program participants and will seek additional opportunities for digital literacy support.

## Strategy C: Opportunities to Work

- **Initiative 84: Consistent with the goals of the Future of Work Commission, explore ways to promote flexible work models, especially as people age, experience disability, or after retirement. (GovOPS & LWDA)** As the State of California responded to the pandemic, with the implementation of emergency telework, the Administration quickly realized the benefits of this new work model and the potential for remote work becoming the "new normal." As a result of the positive impact of emergency telework, the State offered ongoing guidance and support for state departments and employees and CalHR, DGS, CDT, and GovOps recently released an updated statewide Telework Policy (State Administrative Manual, Section 181 - effective 10.2021). The updated policy provides a framework for state departments to use when developing department specific remote work policies; the new statewide framework reflects updated goals, provides uniform expectations, and directs departments to establish a policy based on their business needs, and ensures that it is mutually beneficial to the both the state and employees.
- **Initiative 85: Execute State Workforce Plan's recent inclusion of older adults and CDA's employment program/Title V with local California Workforce Development Boards (CWDB) and begin mapping job training and apprenticeship opportunities available to older adults and people with disabilities to match available jobs, through all LWDA and CalHHS channels. (LWDA & CalHHS)** CDA and CWDB met in Fall 2021 as part of the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act State Plan Modification process to revisit and update the CWDB/CDA Partnership Agreement. The identified partnership goal is to develop a best practices joint webinar featuring examples of model partnerships and "lessons learned" from National Senior Community Service Employment Program grantees. The CWDB and CDA staff will continue meeting to develop a timeline and proposed format for further collaborative efforts.



- **Initiative 86: Provide assistive technology equipment and devices available to workers with disabilities, to meet need and advance equity, within existing resources (LWDA & CalHHS).** DOR administers the Assistive Technology (AT) Act funding to provide core state level AT activities, including state financing, reutilization, device loans, device demonstrations, and state leadership activities including AT training and information and assistance. Additionally, Independent Living Centers are required to provide AT services and supports.
- **Initiative 87: Provide re-entry services to older adults that increase employment and engagement and address inequity, to meet need and advance equity, within existing resources. (LWDA & CDCR)** Older adults receive special priority of service in all CA Workforce Development Board (CWDB) programs. For older adults re-entering society from incarceration, CWDB administers two state-funded grants that offer enhanced services to this population: the Prison to Employment Initiative (P2E) and the Breaking Barriers to Employment Initiative (BBEI).
  - P2E provides supportive services (e.g., food, clothing, and transportation assistance), occupational training, and job search assistance to formerly incarcerated and justice-involved individuals across the state, with older individuals among the categories of individuals who receive priority of service.
  - BBEI provides similar services as P2E, but it is administered through partnerships between community-based organizations with strong ties to the population and local workforce development boards.

Additionally, the public-private partnership [Returning Home Well](#), provides re-entry homelessness prevention services for adults, one-quarter of whom are estimated to be age 50 and over. The initiative aims to reduce COVID-19 transmission by expediting early releases from California's overcrowded prisons. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and a network of 200 community-based service providers offer housing, wrap-around services, and financial assistance to those released.

- **Initiative 88: Engage the diversity of Californians, including older adults and people with disabilities of all races and ethnicities, in #CaliforniansForAll, AmeriCorps, and all California Volunteers programs. (CalVols)** Investments in the state budget to California Volunteers will be used to ensure the Service Corps and Volunteer Cadre is reflective of the talents, experience, and skills brought to bear with multigenerational, inclusive, and diverse membership. Furthermore, the investments will include providing service corps and volunteer commitments with community organizations and marginalized communities across the state with special emphasis on age, race, ethnicity, and disability. The investment includes amplifying and centering the work through all of California Volunteers communication channels.



- Initiative 89: Scope opportunity for new intergenerational volunteerism partnerships in schools, with philanthropic partners. (CalHHS & CDE)** DDS continues to operate the [Foster Grandparent & Senior Companion Programs](#). Volunteers remain physically and mentally active and they report that the quality of their lives is greatly improved. In addition, the toddlers, children, and adults with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities receive guidance which empowers them to achieve their physical, emotional, and social goals.
- Initiative 90: Promote and adapt “village models” for older adult volunteerism and services, building on the strengths of California’s diverse communities. (CalHHS)** CDA is in active discussions with the peer-to-peer Village Movement CA to assess the feasibility of expanding to underserved communities with a focus on racially and ethnically diverse older adults and seniors who are economically disadvantaged.

### Strategy D: Opportunities to Volunteer and Engage Across Generations

- Initiative 91: Launch an elder story project, in partnership with libraries and aging services, and engage the diversity of California elders. (CalHHS & CSL)** In partnership with the California State Library and UC-Berkeley, CDA launched [CalChronicles](#) in May. [CalChronicles](#) collects and shares stories from older adults that shine a light on the invaluable experiences and contributions of older Californians.

### Strategy E: Protection from Abuse, Neglect, Exploitation

- Initiative 93: Create a statewide California Elder Justice Coordinating Council to increase coordination and develop recommendations to prevent and address elder abuse, neglect, exploitation, and fraud. (CalHHS, OAG)** An inter-agency elder justice workgroup began developing the Council in 2021. The workgroup decided to expand the scope of the Council to be more inclusive of people with disabilities. The [Elder & Disability Justice Coordinating Council](#) (EDJCC) members were announced in November 2021 by CDA Director DeMarois. Twenty stakeholders representing advocates, service providers, consumers, and law enforcement have been appointed to the committee, along with representatives of State departments and agencies. CDA will chair the Council, with the first quarterly meeting scheduled for January 28, 2022.
- Initiative 94: Review roles of Licensing, Long Term Care Ombudsmen (LTCO), and Adult Protective Services and the experiences in other states to prevent and address abuse and neglect in long-term care facilities. (CalHHS)** The interagency CA Elder & Disability Justice Coordinating Council will prioritize this initiative in 2022. A new State LTCO, Blanca Castro, was appointed in January 2022.



- Initiative 95: Assess Adult Protective Services' capacity, age of people served, and services provided, especially for complex cases, given growing and changing needs. (CalHHS)** CDSS APS is currently working to create a 5-year operational plan required by the federal Administration for Community Living that will address the program's evolving needs. Additionally, CDSS is working with counties on implementation of the APS expansion mandated by AB 135 (Budget Act of 2021), \$70 million ongoing to expand APS for individuals 60 years or older, as well as implementation and support to counties around additional federal COVID-19 and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.
- Initiative 96: Assess needs and capacities of local Public Guardians, Public Conservators and Public Administrators, given growing and changing needs. (CalHHS)** The interagency CA Elder & Disability Justice Coordinating Council will prioritize this initiative in 2022.
- Initiative 97: Assess needs and capacities of Legal Services for Older Adults, given growing and changing needs. (CalHHS)** CDA Chief Counsel will convene a series of meetings/listening sessions with AAA partners, legal services providers and internal leadership in the first half of 2022 to assess legal assistance needs from AAAs (and their clients) and providers' capacity to meet those needs. These listening sessions will then help to inform next steps of hosting a forum or similar joint convening to potentially explore a new approach to legal services.

### Strategy F: Leadership in Aging

- Initiative 98: Build out No Wrong Door/"One Door" statewide for public information and assistance on aging, disability, and dementia, via upgraded web portal, statewide network of local ADRCs with shared training, tools, and technology, and continually improving cultural competency and language access. (CalHHS)** The planned expansion for a statewide "No Wrong Door" for older adult, disabled adult, and family assistance and care planning is moving ahead with a new strategic direction, informed by the ADRC Advisory Council and proposed new state budget investments. This multi-year effort includes critical infrastructure and technology investments to build a public navigation and assistance portal that is reflective of and responsive to the needs of all users.

CDA approved nine additional ADRCs with 'designated' status (an increase from six ADRCs in the prior reporting period) and seven new ADRCs with 'emerging' status. These ADRCs provide coverage to serve approximately half the state's population.

The Department of Rehabilitation, a partner in the expansion, supports the ADRC Advisory Committee, assists with approval of Emerging and State Designated ADRCs, and provides technical assistance to ILCs as an ADRC core partner.



*California is leading the nation in building an age-, disability, and dementia friendly State for all adults and families - thanks to a Master Plan for Aging developed with deep community engagement; a growing network of leaders and partners from all sectors investing in and implementing comprehensive initiatives; and the Governor's commitment to transformative changes in housing, health, caregiving, equity, and affordability for all Californians.*

KIM MCCOY WADE  
Senior Advisor on Aging, Disability & Alzheimer's,  
Office of Governor Gavin Newsom

# 3



- **Initiative 99: Create a Governor's Office Leadership Position on Aging, Disability, and Alzheimer's. (GO)** Former CDA Director and MPA leader, Kim McCoy Wade, was appointed in October 2021 to serve as Senior Advisor for Aging, Disability, and Alzheimer's to advance cross-Cabinet initiatives and partnerships between government, the private sector, and philanthropy, such as closing the digital divide, transportation options beyond driving, and caregiving workforce solutions, for Californians of all ages.
- **Initiative 100: Begin process for California to become an AARP-Certified Age-Friendly State within existing resources. (GO & CalHHS)** California has officially joined [AARP's Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities!](#) On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, California became the 8<sup>th</sup> state to join the nationwide Network. Over 50 cities in California have already exhibited bold leadership, paving the way by joining the Age-Friendly Network. [AB-1118 \(Rubio 2019\)](#) called on California to consider joining AARP's Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. On March 23, 2021, AARP kicked off deeper partnership by hosting an "Age-Friendly Mini-Rounds" for CDA to hear from local CA communities regarding their experiences in becoming an AARP Age-Friendly Community. Learn more here: [press release](#).
- **Initiative 101: Revisit California's Area Aging on Agency local leadership structures - including local area map, funding formulas, and designations - via California's Federal Older Americans Act State Plan 2021-2024, to meet growing and changing needs and continue to advance equity. (CalHHS)** To strengthen the structure and leadership of the Aging network, CDA conducted the following activities for its Hubs and Spokes Initiative:
  - Convened four regional townhalls, three Leadership in Aging seminars, and one townhall dedicated to the needs of older adults and individuals with disabilities.
  - Distributed a survey and received public and stakeholder input via letter and e-mail.
  - Created a webpage dedicated to the initiative.
  - Contracted with a consultant to develop a feedback report, which will be released in Quarter 1 of 2022 and help inform next steps for the Aging network

# 3



- **Initiative 102: Facilitate a nation-leading research partnership on aging with California's universities. (CalHHS)** Comprised of experts from across academic and research institutes, the Research Partnership Committee will be announced in Q1 of 2022. Many of these leaders participated in the MPA's Research Subcommittee and have been key architects of the MPA Data Dashboard.
- **Initiative 103: Seek opportunities to include aging in development of international partnership agreements between California and other nations engaged in planning and leading around aging. (GO)** The Governor's Office of Business & Economic Development (GO-Biz) and CDA are consulting informally with two nations' consulates in California on innovation and leadership in aging.
- **Initiative 104: Launch "Implementing MPA in California Together (IMPACT)" Committee to oversee implementation 2021-2022 and produce MPA annual report, with results and recommended updates, within existing resources. (CalHHS)** On July 1<sup>st</sup>, CalHHS announced the nine stakeholder members of the Implementing the [Master Plan for Aging in California Together \(IMPACT\) Stakeholder Committee](#). The IMPACT committee will advise CalHHS and the Cabinet Work Group for Aging on MPA implementation, focusing on accountability, outcomes, and continuous improvement towards the MPA's five bold goals for 2030. The first IMPACT Stakeholder meeting took place on July 14, 2021 and the Committee continues to meet quarterly.
- **Initiative 105: Consider stakeholder recommendations and opportunities to broaden into Master Plan for Aging and Disability. (GO & CalHHS)** The Governor's Office has met with stakeholders from within the disability community to explore ways that the MPA can be leveraged or emulated to elevate the policy, program, and service planning for adults with disabilities. In addition, disability stakeholder leadership is represented at core committees implementing the MPA, including IMPACT, DACLAC, Elder Justice and Disability Coordinating Council, Equity in Aging, and Alzheimer's Advisory Committee.
- **Initiative 106: Continually improve Data Dashboard for Aging (DDA), to advance equity – specifically, expand data collection and quality by age, race, ethnicity, language, citizenship status, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, family status, disability, dementia/cognitive status, income. (CalHHS)** CDA, in partnership with CA Department of Public Health and the West Health Institute, continues to update the DDA. This year's data updates include more recent data for the entire [demographics dashboard](#) and for the following indicators: [usual source of care](#), [primary care shortage areas](#), [psychological distress](#), [cognitive decline](#), [community support](#), [California LifeLine program participation](#), [volunteering](#), [Adult Protective Services caseloads](#), [housing cost burden](#), [food insecurity](#), and [CalFresh participation](#). In addition, the Dashboard now includes sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) demographic data and new indicators for [unintentional falls](#), [income security & poverty](#), and [internet access](#). In the coming months, measures for disability status, unmet needs for Long-Term Services and Supports, and caregiving will be added.



*The Master Plan for Aging makes clear that bold actions are required to ensure that our state's direct care workers, who are essential to the wellbeing of older adults and people with disabilities, have access to good jobs with wages, resources, and training reflective of their high value. Through new investments and cross-agency collaboration, we will strengthen and grow the sector, thus improving the health of those receiving care, as well as the livelihoods of those who devote their career to caring for others.*

NATALIE PALUGYAI  
Secretary, CA Labor & Workforce Development Agency

# 4

## Goal Four: Caregiving That Works

*"We will be prepared for and supported through the rewards and challenges of caring for aging loved ones."*

### Strategy A: Family & Friends Caregiving Support

- **Initiative 109: Develop options to include family caregivers in home and community assessments. (CalHHS)** DHCS is reviewing options to implement this initiative in various programs. For example, DHCS is currently engaged in a workgroup to update the Assisted Living Waiver (ALW) Individual Service Plan which will include increased input/participation from family caregivers in the assessment and care planning process.
- **Initiative 110: Consistent with CalAIM, expand respite care for family caregivers. (CalHHS)** DHCS is implementing CalAIM Community Supports in 2022, which includes respite care. This builds off the statewide network of Caregiver Resource Centers, federal Older American Act investments in caregiver supports administered through the state's Area Agency on Aging network, and \$2.8M in new CDA dollars dedicated to caregivers in the 2021-2022 state budget.

### Strategy B: Good Caregiving Jobs Creation

- **Initiative 111: Convene a Direct Care Workforce Solutions Table to address workforce supply challenges and opportunities in skilled nursing facilities. (LWDA, CalHHS)** LWDA and CDA have taken the lead in convening a joint CalHHS/LWDA Direct Care Workforce (DCW) working group, which has prioritized the creation of a comprehensive inventory of each department's current and recently funded programs related to the direct care workforce, facilitating the mapping of existing DCW training and career pathways. This information will be used internally for strategic planning and will be presented to external stakeholders for input on February 1, 2022, as an essential first step toward identifying short- and long-term opportunities to improve direct care work and address the direct care workforce shortage.



# 4



- **Initiatives 112: Consider expanding online training platforms for direct care workers – including opportunities for dementia training for IHSS family caregivers and more. (CalHHS, LWDA)** LWDA is collaborating with CalHHS to facilitate implementation of Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Direct Care Worker investments in IHSS, non-IHSS HCBS, CNAs and unpaid family caregiver training that emphasize stipends, training, accessibility, wrap-around services, team-centered approaches, and dementia specialization. LWDA is also supporting homecare cooperatives to expand access to high-road direct care jobs.

The current year budget includes funding for the IHSS Career Pathway Initiatives, which will incentivize, support, and fund career pathways for IHSS providers, allowing these workers to build on their experience to obtain a higher-level job in the home care and/or health care industry.

- **Initiative 113: Diversify pipeline for direct care workers in home and community settings by testing and scaling emerging models to meet need as funding allows. (LWDA)** Through the High Road Training Partnerships, Worker Equity Initiative, and Social Entrepreneurs for Economic Development grants, LWDA is supporting various initiatives to raise the floor for direct care jobs. In partnership with philanthropy and community-based organizations, LWDA is exploring additional means to support scalable, high-road DCW models.

## Strategy C: Virtual Care Expansion

- **Initiative 114: Identify innovative models and solutions to enhance telehealth access for Californians of all ages, races, and ethnicities, in alignment with State Broadband Council's new Strategy per August 2020 Executive Order, within existing resources. (CalHHS & GovOps)** DHCS is implementing Medi-Cal telehealth policies in alignment with the Governor's Executive Order on broadband access.

CDA will explore telehealth resources and trainings for consumers and families to make available on its digital divide webpage as potential training offerings to users that are part of its Digital Divide and Digital Connections projects, in partnership with CalHHS departments.

- **Initiative 115: Expand telehealth access to multiple Medi-Cal delivery systems, incorporating lessons from COVID-19 and including virtual communication, remote patient monitoring, provider education, beneficiary education, family caregivers, and language access considerations, within existing resources. (CalHHS)** DHCS is continuing COVID-19 public health emergency flexibilities for telehealth in Medi-Cal through December 31, 2022, pursuant to Assembly Bill 133. DHCS intends for most flexibilities to continue on a permanent basis after 2022, subject to federal approval. DHCS also convened a stakeholder group on billing and utilization management protocols for telehealth modalities to increase access and equity and reduce disparities in the Medi-Cal program. [The Medi-Cal Telehealth Advisory Workgroup Report is available online.](#)

# 5

## Goal Five: Affording Aging

*"We will have economic security for as long as we live."*



### Strategy A: End Homelessness for Older Adults

- **Initiative 117: Building on the success of Homekey, further develop the network of housing needed to end homelessness, prevent older and other at-risk individuals from falling into homelessness, and provide expanded supports at housing placements. (BCSH, CalHHS)**

Building on the 2020 Homekey Program, The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) launched the second round of Homekey awards in 2021. With this program, HCD will continue to fund housing developments that serve individuals experiencing homelessness, or who are at risk of homelessness. HCD expanded the program to encourage a range of project types (including hotel and motel conversions, purchase of existing multi-family buildings, and modular construction) that expedite housing development. In the last quarter of 2021, HCD has made Homekey awards totaling \$218 million resulting in 825 homes for people exiting homelessness.

CDSS is establishing the Community Care Expansion (CCE) program which will fund the acquisition, construction, and rehabilitation of adult and senior care facilities that serve applicants and recipients of Social Security Income (SSI) or Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. See Initiative for additional information.



Older adults are the fastest growing age group of those experiencing homelessness in California. In 2020, over 100,000 individuals with disabling conditions and over 14,000 over the age of 65 touched the homeless system. With the number of homeless Americans expected to triple over the next decade, California is advancing solutions to blunt this trend. The Governor and Legislature enacted the 2021-22 budget which included an historic and significant \$12 billion of new investments to address housing and homelessness. Among these investments, CDSS received \$1.49 billion to administer four programs focused on older adults and people with disabilities: Home Safe, the Housing Disability and Advocacy Program, Project Roomkey, and Community Care Expansion.

KIM JOHNSON  
Director, CA Department of Social Services

# 5

- Initiative 118: Expand older homelessness programs, such as HomeSafe (APS) and Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP/SSI), to meet needs as funds allow. California and exceeding the statewide goal of 15,000 rooms. (CalHHS)** The Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP) provides outreach, case management, benefits advocacy, and housing supports to individuals who are likely eligible for disability benefits and who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Since HDAP's inception in FY 2017-18, over 2,200 people have been permanently housed, over 4,300 disability applications have been submitted, and over 1,400 applications have been approved. In FY 21-22, \$175M was appropriated for HDAP. Grantees accepted funds in December 2021, expanding the program to 57 counties and 2 tribal grantees (up from 42 counties and 2 tribal grantees).

The Home Safe Program supports the safety and housing stability of people involved in Adult Protective Services (APS), or those in the process of APS intake, by providing homelessness assistance and prevention. Since the Home Safe program inception to June 2021, over 2,500 people have received assistance through the program, including over 2,100 instances of temporary housing being provided to clients and more than 1,200 rental payments made. Additionally, over 600 people have been connected to the local Coordinated Entry System (CES). In FY 21-22, \$92.5M was appropriated for Home Safe. Grantees accepted funds in December 2021, expanding the program from 25 to 58 county grantees.



# 5



- **Initiative 119: Assess IHSS plus Housing models. (CalHHS)** CDSS has explored the issue, which helped in the development of the Community Care Expansion program.
- **Initiative 125: Continue to promote CalABLE. (STO)** CalABLE, California's savings and investment program for individuals with disabilities, just completed its third year of successful operation. The Program launched in December of 2018 and is the California version of the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act, which passed into law in 2014. CalABLE protects the cash assets of people whose disabilities began before age 26 from being counted as a resource for means-tested benefits programs like SSI and Medi-Cal. It allows tax and penalty-free savings, and full access to those funds to pay for the everyday expenses of living life with a disability. In its third year of operation, CalABLE has amassed 6,473 accounts with more than \$60 million in assets under management. This represents a 74-percent increase in new accounts over the past 12 months, and a 118-percent increase in assets under management. This growth has propelled CalABLE as the fastest growing ABLE program in the nation. Compared to all other ABLE programs, CalABLE ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in active accounts (up from 6<sup>th</sup> in 2020) and 5<sup>th</sup> in assets under management (up from 7<sup>th</sup> in 2020).
- **Initiative 126: Review CalABLE participation data for equity and consider reforms to expand access and impact, such as expanded eligibility. (STO)** CalABLE is exploring equity and access as opportunities for growth. The program is currently working to expand account enrollment among the state's Hispanic community by bolstering direct outreach to the Hispanic community, specifically targeting Spanish-speaking populations. Enrollment data for CalABLE reveals that 16% of CalABLE account holders self-identify as Hispanic. This is far below the estimated 34.9-percent Hispanic population of the state. In 2021, the program added *CalABLE 101 en Español*, a prerecorded presentation in Spanish to the CalABLE YouTube channel. The program's Spanish language YouTube videos have been viewed more than 4500 times. The program is seeking to add an additional FTE who will focus directly on field outreach to the Hispanic community and provide client navigation support to individuals who may have difficulties interacting with their CalABLE accounts. The estimated timeline to bring on this outreach specialist will be in Q2 of 2022.

In 2021 CalABLE expanded accessibility options for attendees to virtual presentations as well as visitors to [www.calable.ca.gov](http://www.calable.ca.gov). Additionally, the CalABLE website was enhanced considerably to meet the highest standards for visual impairment accessibility for use with screen readers.

# 5



## Strategy B: Income Security as We Age

- **Initiative 127: Continue to promote the California Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), the only EITC in nation available to people 65 and over. (CalHHS)** CDA joined the Department of Community Services & Development's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Outreach Coalition and promoted the state EITC, the only EITC in the nation available to older adults, through the Department's communication channels.

The Golden State Stimulus, as enacted by the Legislature and the Governor, included vital support for older adults who receive SSI to supplement low incomes; work and claim the state EITC (California is the only state where workers 65 and over are eligible); or participate in CalWorks, as primary caregivers to young children. CDA estimates that over 1 million adults aged 60 and older qualified for this payment.

- **Initiative 128: Review CalEITC participation data by older adults for equity and consider reforms to expand access and impact. (CalHHS & FTB)** CDA, in partnership with Franchise Tax Board, identified that approximately 437,000 older adults (age 60 plus) participate in the EITC.

## Strategy C: Protection from Poverty & Hunger

- **Initiative 129: Consistent with the Budget Act of 2018, begin to bring older adult basic income up to meet Elder Economic Index and Federal Poverty Level, to meet need as funding available. (CalHHS)** The 2021-2022 Budget includes a 24-percent grant increase to the Supplemental Security Payment (SSP) portion of the [Supplemental Security Income/Supplement Security Payment in January 2022 and January 2024](#).
- **Initiative 130: Map and identify opportunities – at federal, state, and local level - to address older Californians' needs for nutrition. (CalHHS)** California's Association of Area Agencies on Aging engaged a consultant to perform comprehensive food insecurity research and produce a report in December 2021. One result was a [data dashboard and a report](#) led by consultant in consultation with various stakeholders including CDSS CalFresh & Nutrition Branch. CDA is reviewing data findings and recommendations to identify the resource needed for next steps. CDA is developing a plan to implement the nutrition supports and initiatives under the proposed Home and Community Based Spending Plan.

# 5



- **Initiative 131: Continue to streamline older and disabled adult enrollment, renewal, and online shopping in CalFresh, as allowable. (CalHHS)** CDSS continues to work with USDA to increase Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) with online retailers. As of November 2021, Instacart has expanded its vendors to include SaveMart, FoodMaxx, Lucky Supermarkets, Food 4 Less, and Rancho San Miguel. Information regarding EBT online purchasing can be found on [CDSS's website](#).
- **Initiative 132: Seek federal funds to expand the senior food box program (Commodity Supplemental Food Program) statewide. (CalHHS)** CDSS received waiver approval to continue the [Elderly Simplified Application Project \(ESAP\) Demonstration](#) Project effective October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2026. The approval includes four main strategies: 1) Waiving the recertification interview requirement; 2) Making use of data matching to reduce client-provided verifications; 3) Extending the certification period to 36 months, including for ESAP cases processed by the Social Security Administration; 4) Waiving the requirement to contact the household at least once every 12 months, thereby eliminating the need to send and collect a SAR 7 Eligibility Status Report.

For the waiver of the periodic report/SAR 7 requirement, automation is anticipated to be completed by January 1, 2022 which will make March 1, 2022 as the anticipated effective date for implementation of the waiver of the period report/SAR 7 requirement. Detailed policy guidance can be found in [ACL 20-145](#).

Additionally, CDSS is in the early stages of implementing the following: the Statewide Restaurant Meals Program; ESAP Simplified Application (AB 135, Section 77); and Telephonic Application (AB 135, Section 78).

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

California's Master Plan for Aging spans multiple policy and program areas, requiring coordination across government, academia, health care, community-based organizations, and philanthropy to improve the delivery of programs and services that are centered on the needs of older Californians and people with disabilities. We thank the countless stakeholder organizations, advocates, state and local elected leaders, and partners across the Administration for their ongoing efforts and commitment to advance the MPA. We are especially grateful to the many stakeholder committee members, past and present, whose tireless advocacy on behalf of older adults and people with disabilities continues to inspire and motivate our work.

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And, finally, we thank the public for the ongoing support, participation, and input that inspires the work of the MPA to ensure that we are truly building a California for All Ages.

**Together, we're just getting started.**