

## Master Plan for Aging Recommendation Form

*To submit your recommendation, fill out as many of the fields below as possible. It is fine to leave some blank. Recommendations can be submitted at [engage@aqing.ca.gov](mailto:engage@aqing.ca.gov). Initial recommendations are requested to be submitted by December 13, but they may be submitted after this date as well.*

**Issue Statement:** Re-institute funding for the Older Californians Act that takes into account the current older adult population as well as the projected number of older adults in the State.

**MPA Framework Goal:** This recommendation addresses each of the overarching goals.

**MPA Framework Objective:** This recommendation addresses the majority of the recommendations with the possible exception of goal 2.1.

### **Recommendation:**

- The Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act lays out the framework for aging services in California, taking the lead from the Older Americans Act.
- The services funded and provided by California's Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) are documented in the W&I code section – Division 8.5 - and include a broad array of services for seniors including home modifications, senior nutrition (congregate and home delivered meals), legal services, day programs (including those for persons with Alzheimer's), health insurance and counseling, MSSP, Outreach and Education funding as well as the Ombudsman program, Linkages, Elder Abuse prevention, Foster Grandparents and others.
- The funding for these programs has been sharply reduced and some funding (e.g., for the Linkages program, serving those in need of case management but ineligible for other programs) has been completely eliminated.
- Years of work at the State and local level has resulted in a continuing refinement and identification of needed programs. At the local level, AAAs are required to engage in listening sessions and prepare a four year area plan specifying how the funding will be used and prioritized.
- These programs, like Older Americans Act programs, are not means-tested and can be utilized by low, middle and high income individuals in need, though they are targeted for those in the greatest social and economic need.
- Some programs (e.g, senior nutrition) are used by many in need and at risk of food insecurity or outright hunger. In our region (San Diego), much of the senior nutrition funding goes to support persons at risk of homelessness or who are currently homeless.

**Target Population and Numbers:** The full population of California seniors are eligible for these programs and may access them at varying times in their lives (e.g., use of HICAP to determine which Medicare or CalMediconnect plan to select, legal services in order to prepare wills or trusts, volunteer programs to allow for individuals to give back, and later use of care management when an individual is no longer able to navigate the service system on their own).

**Detailed Recommendation:**

- Identify/refine a funding formula that takes into account the current usage of the programs (now primarily funded by the Older Americans Act) by those 60+, forecasts the future need and maintains funding as a priority.
- Continue to review the additional services needed and include them in future legislation to further enhance the Older Californians Act.
- Continue the focus on allowing for local prioritization of the available resources taking into account the needs of older adults within that jurisdiction.

**Evidence that supports the recommendation:** There are numerous studies showing the benefits of core Older Californians Act services (e.g., care management, volunteer programs, senior nutrition). Links for two such studies below.

<https://nutritionandaging.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Malnutrition-Issue-Brief-final-3-2017.pdf>

<https://www.ahrq.gov/patient-safety/settings/long-term-care/resource/hcbs/medicaidmgmt/mm8.html>

**Examples of local, state or national initiatives that can be used as an example of a best practice:** [Provide any available links and sources.]

- **Local:**
- **State:** California is a best practice state given the passage of the Act as prior legislators saw the need, identified the services, and at one time, funded them.
- **National:**
- **Other:**

**Implementation:**

- **State Agencies/Departments:**
  - The Governor’s office, as part of the Master Plan for Aging, would need to communicate the importance of these programs and place funding in the budget build for California.
  - The Department on Aging, with help from Finance, would need to develop a funding formula for the services taking into account our current population and anticipated growth.
- **State Legislature:** The legislature would need to approve funding for these services and would likely play a role in identifying other needs that could become part of the Act.

- **Local Government:** Local AAAs would retain the ability to prioritize the service delivery system as part of the Area Plan development and would deliver or contract for the services.
- **Federal Government:** Funding would need to continue to flow from the Older Americans Act, which would also need to increase, again given the growth in population during the coming years.
- **Private Sector:**
- **Community-Based Organizations:** There will remain opportunities for contractors to assist with providing services.
- **Philanthropy:** Donors will retain the ability to provide additional funding to support key programs (e.g., meals for low income individuals).
- **Other:**

**Person-Centered Metrics:** The CA Department on Aging collects a significant amount of data already from AAAs documenting the use of the current funding. More work will be needed to develop outcome measurements that track benefits associated with increased funding.

**Evaluations:** [How will we know that the recommended action is successful once it has been implemented?]

- **Short-term (by 2020):**
- **Mid-term (by 2025):** The numbers of individuals accessing and using the Older CA Act programs will increase and key outcomes will be met.
- **Long-term (by 2030):**

**Data Sources:** Data is currently captured by CDA documenting the use of Older CA Act programs. This is part of the regular reporting completed by AAAs and is available by program.

**Prioritization:** High.

**Name of person(s)/organization submitting recommendation:** Ellen Schmeding – member of LTSS Subcommittee and Chief Operating Officer/St. Paul’s Senior Services and Commissioner from the CA Commission on Aging.

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**Date of submission:** 12/13/19

