

## Master Plan for Aging Recommendation Form

### Standardized Assessment Tool and Protocol

**Issue Statement:** California's home- and community-based programs operate with separate eligibility determination and assessment processes, creating inefficiencies in the administration of programs and difficulties for consumers in accessing necessary programs and services. Individual assessments are conducted at the program level, with no data sharing or assurances that individuals will be connected to the range of necessary services and supports to address identified need beyond what the individual program can provide. As a result, many older adults are not connected to a comprehensive set of services to address a range of needs at the right time, leaving individuals at-risk of unnecessary institutionalization. While the state endeavored to develop a universal assessment tool authorized through the Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI), it abandoned this commitment with the termination of the CCI. Without a standardized assessment tool and process, California cannot achieve a truly person-centered framework for service delivery.

#### MPA Framework Goal:

- **Goal 1:** Services and Supports: We will be able to live where we choose as we age and have the help we and our families need to do so.
- **Goal 2:** Livable Communities and Purpose: We will live in and be engaged in communities that are age-friendly, dementia- friendly, and disability-friendly.
- **Goal 3:** Health and Well-Being: We will maintain our health and well-being as we age.

**Outcome:** Older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers know where and how to access LTSS information and supports through coordinated service delivery at the local level that responds to their range of needs.

**Recommendation:** Develop and implement a standardized assessment tool and protocol.

**Target Population and Numbers:** Older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers

**Detailed Recommendation:** The new Department of Community Living should design and implement a standardized assessment tool that identifies an individual's functional and social support needs, goals, and preferences as part of the process. A standardized assessment tool and protocol can streamline access to the range of supports needed to age with dignity and independence. Data collected through a standardized assessment could also inform state planning and resource allocation based on identified population needs and trends. The tool should be developed and implemented in alignment with current efforts to develop a standardized assessment tool and protocol for caregivers. It should also be fully incorporated into the development and implementation of a No Wrong Door System (see other recommendation on No Wrong Door system).

### Examples of local, state or national initiatives that can be used as an example of a best practice:

- Washington Care Assessment Reporting Evaluation: CARE assessment tool, accessed at: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/home-and-community-services/comprehensive-assessment-reporting-evaluation-care>
- California Legislative Analyst's Office 2015 Report on Universal Assessment, accessed at: <https://lao.ca.gov/reports/2015/hhs/uat/uat-012215.pdf>
- California Caregiver Assessment: Per the [Budget Act of 2019-20](#), (see also [this link](#)) the Caregiver Resource Centers received \$10 million annually for three years to, among other purposes, plan for and develop a digitally-based standardized assessment for caregivers.
- Assessment Approaches of Three HCBS Programs in CA (2013) accessed at: <https://www.thescanfoundation.org/publications/current-assessment-approaches-and-domains-used-by-three-hcbs-programs-in-california/>

### Implementation:

- **State Agencies/Departments:** Under the leadership of the California Health and Human Services Agency, the new Department of Community Living would work with Departments of Social Services, Rehabilitation, Public Health and Health Care Services, as well as stakeholders representing consumers, providers and advocates, to outline a framework and pilot of the assessment tool and protocol.
- **State Legislature:** The Legislature would provide statutory authority for parameters establishing the assessment tool and protocol.
- **Local Government:** Local governments would provide input and feedback to the state in developing and piloting the assessment tool and protocol.
- **Federal Government:** Not applicable
- **Private Sector:** Private sector partners would provide input to the state in developing and piloting the assessment tool and protocol.
- **Community-Based Organizations:** CBOs would provide input to the state in developing and piloting the assessment tool and protocol.
- **Philanthropy:** Philanthropic partners could provide resources to assist in development of assessment tool and protocol.

**Person-Centered Metrics:** Development and implementation of a standardized assessment tool and process.

### Evaluation:

- **Short-term (by 2020):** State commits to developing and adopting a standardized assessment tool and protocol.
- **Mid-term (by 2025):** Standardized assessment tool and protocol is piloted in up to five counties.
- **Long-term (by 2030):** Standardized assessment tool and protocol is the standard throughout the state

**Data Sources:** See above.

**Potential Costs/Savings:** Unknown.

**Prioritization:** High

**Name of person(s)/organization submitting recommendation:** Sarah Steenhausen,  
The SCAN Foundation

**Email for person(s)/organization submitting recommendation:**  
[ssteenhausen@thescanfoundation.org](mailto:ssteenhausen@thescanfoundation.org)

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