



Talking Points

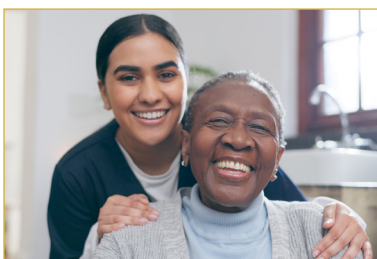
The MPA is underway with positive results, but we are racing against the clock to meet the unprecedented growing need for LTSS.

The need is staggering:

- **1 in 4 Californians live with a disability.** The number of older disabled Californians is set to increase by 160% in 2060 ([source](#)).
- **Older adults who turned 65 in 2023** have a 70% chance of needing long-term care in their remaining years. One in 5 of those adults will need long-term care for more than 5 years ([source](#)).
- **The number of people living with Alzheimer's Disease** in California will more than double by 2040 ([source](#)).
- **The number of older adults living alone** (1.3 million today) and without family support is fast growing ([source](#)).

To strengthen LTSS at this critical juncture, we ask for your support for continued implementation of the MPA around three priority areas:

- » Expanding access to LTSS to meet the unprecedented, growing need
- » Addressing the caregiver shortage with critical supports and training for paid and unpaid caregivers
- » Providing more options for affordable, accessible, and stable housing with LTSS



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Access to LTSS

California has made progress in LTSS systems change with the launch of the state MPA. Despite these gains, those who need care today are negatively affected by significant system gaps and the challenges of navigating the highly complex system of long-term care. Continued action is urgently needed to build an equitable, accessible, cost-effective system of LTSS that can meet the unprecedented growing needs of older and disabled adults, especially those who are falling through the gaps in care and into homelessness or repeated emergency and crisis response.

We **SUPPORT** The Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) request to increase the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) Annual Allocation over two years, with an additional \$26 million allocated during FY 24–25 and \$52 million in FY 25–26 and annually thereafter.

- ADRC's offer a single, more coordinated and trusted information path for older adults and people living with disabilities which is essential for accessing the full range of long-term services, supports and benefit options.
- They assist a wide range of individuals, including family caregivers at all levels of income to get the help they need, as well as assistance in utilizing resources which may delay or prevent "spend-down" to Medicaid or unnecessary institutionalization.
- **The allocation increase will ensure ADRC's continued development as a foundational component of the Master Plan for Aging's "No Wrong Door" strategy.**

Sponsor: CA Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Status: Senator Hurtado is championing in the Senate. Heard in Senate Budget Subcommittee earlier this year.

[C4A Fact Sheet](#)

We **SUPPORT** **AB 2428 (Calderon)** Medi-Cal: Community-Based Adult Services.

AB 2428 requires Medi-Cal managed care plans to reimburse Community-Based Adult Services (CBAS) providers at a rate equal to or greater than the amount paid for the service by the Medi-Cal fee-for-service delivery system.

- CBAS is a community-based health program that provides daytime services to more than 35,000 low-income, multicultural, and ethnically diverse seniors living with chronic medical, cognitive, mental health conditions, and/or disabilities, as well as much-needed respite for caregivers.
- Between May 2022 and April 2023, five Adult Day Centers have closed, resulting in additional counties (Marin and San Joaquin) having no centers. Without adequate reimbursement, more centers will be forced to close.
- **The Master Plan for Aging and all of us at the Collaborative consider CBAS to be an essential component of the state's system of long-term services and supports.**

Sponsor: CA Association of Adult Day Services

Status: Referred to Appropriations 4/10/24

[AB 2428 Fact Sheet](#)

[AB 2428 Support Letter Sample](#)

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Critical Support for Caregivers

California is in the midst of a caregiver crisis at a time of unprecedented need. We are just now beginning to build momentum to address this crisis through MPA initiatives that support caregiver training and career ladder opportunities. Low wages and lack of comprehensive benefits continue to be a challenge.

We **SUPPORT** the SEIU/UDW request to extend the **IHSS Career Pathways Program** (CPP) through December 2024 using existing federal funds. We also support a \$65 million general fund request to ensure statewide caregiver training through June 30, 2025, allowing hundreds of thousands more IHSS caregivers statewide to access critical training and support, and improve care for medically fragile older adults and people living with disabilities.

- In less than two years, CA has built a first-of-its-kind statewide training infrastructure which has been met with overwhelming demand and is now offering over 1,500 online and in person training sessions a month – providing home care workers with essential caregiving skills, including Alzheimer's and related dementias, at this time of unprecedented need for care.
- CPP provides a broad array of online and in-person training and career opportunities to the more than 650,000 IHSS home care providers who provide care for more than 750,000 residents statewide.
- **We know this is a difficult budget year, but CA cannot afford to lose this highly successful program and millions of dollars of infrastructure investment born out of the MPA and the Governor's Alzheimer's Task Force, if this program is not extended now.**

Sponsors: SEIU, UDW, Homebridge, Center for Caregiver Advancement, CA IHSS Consumer Alliance

Status: request made to Assembly and Senate Budget Committees and the Administration

[Budget Request Letter](#)

[Legislative Leave-Behind – IHSSCPP](#)

[CPP Backgrounder](#)

We OPPOSE the Governor's budget proposal to delay the rate implementation for developmental services from July 1, 2024–July 1, 2025.

- The delay will cut a total of \$1 billion from 150,000 disability care workers, impacting the ability to provide critical services for individuals with developmental disabilities.
- **This delay will increase staff turnover and vacancies, leaving thousands of children and adults with disabilities without critical services at home and in residential facilities at a time when waitlists for care are growing.**

Sponsor: Disability advocates across the board stand in opposition to this budget proposal

Read more at [Sac Bee](#)

We SUPPORT AB 518 (Wicks) Paid family leave: eligibility: care for designated persons.

- Aging adults rely on a wide network of relationships for caregiving that are not recognized in the current California Paid Family Leave (PFL) program. Many caregivers are partners, neighbors, or friends. Among Americans who provide care to an adult age 65 or older, more than 23 percent provide care for a friend, neighbor, or other unrelated person.
- Currently, PFL is available to care for a seriously ill parent, parent-in-law, child, spouse, registered domestic partner, sibling, grandparent or grandchild. **AB 518 would add a "designated person" to that list, allowing claimants to receive PFL benefits while caring for seriously ill chosen or extended family members.**

Sponsors: CA Employment Lawyers Association,, CA Work & Family Coalition, Equal Rights

Advocates, Legal Aid at Work

Status: 5/31/23 2-year bill, crossed over

[Senate Floor Analysis, 9/10/23](#)

[AB 518 Letter of Support Template](#)

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Housing Stabilization

Older adults are disproportionately impacted by the housing crisis. From 2017 to 2021, the number of Californians 55 and older seeking homelessness services increased at double the rate of the general population. Two bills will address the urgent need for housing stability and curbing homelessness.

We **SUPPORT SB 37 (Caballero)** Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities Housing Stability Act. SB 37 advances the Master Plan for Aging's goal of preventing and ending homelessness among older adults by enabling thousands of extremely low-income older adults and people with disabilities who are currently homeless or at risk of homelessness to afford rental housing through rent subsidies.

- **By investing state funds in a rental assistance pilot program targeted to severely rent-burdened and other precariously housed older adults and persons with disabilities, we can keep people in the housing they already have and get people into housing that meets their needs. In a 2021 San Diego senior homelessness survey, over 50% of older adults said that an additional \$300/month would be enough to make a difference in their ability to stay housed.**
- This bill has an accompanying budget ask for one-time funds of \$25 million that would fund a pilot housing stabilization program for older adults and persons with disabilities who are at imminent risk of, or currently experiencing, homelessness.

Sponsors: Justice in Aging, LeadingAge CA, Corporation for Supportive Housing, State Council on Developmental Disabilities, United Way of Greater Los Angeles

Status: Ordered to the Assembly January 29, 2024

[SB 37 Fact Sheet](#)

[SB 37 Sample Letter of Support](#)

[SB37 Budget Request Letter](#)

We **SUPPORT AB 2498 (Zbur & Quirk-Silva)** Housing: California Housing Security Act. Aims to establish the California Housing Security Act, which would provide housing subsidies to eligible individuals who are at risk of homelessness or are already experiencing homelessness. The bill would also establish a two-year pilot program in four counties to test the effectiveness of the program.

- **This bill is important for addressing and preventing older adult homelessness which is growing at an alarming rate.**
- Nearly 50% of the homeless in CA are age 60+ and 41% of older adults had their first incident of homelessness at age 50 or older ([source](#)).
- From 2017 to 2021, California's overall senior population grew by 7% but the number of people 55 and over who sought homelessness services increased 84% — more than any other age group ([Source](#)).
- 43% of people experiencing homelessness are living with a disability ([source](#)).

Sponsors: Corporation for Supportive Housing, Justice in Aging, LeadingAge California, State Council on Developmental Disabilities, United Way of Greater Los Angeles

Status: Referred to Assembly Appropriations April 29, 2024.