



## 2019 BUDGET PRIORITIES

- Senior Nutrition Programs
- Long Term Care Ombudsman Program
- In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)
- SSI/SSP
- Multi-Purpose Senior Services Program (MSSP)
- Adult Protective Services (APS) Training/Budget Request
- California Aging & Disability Alliance

### SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAMS

We seek your support to include an additional **\$17.5 million** in the 2019-2020 state budget to increase funding for senior nutrition programs. This funding would serve an additional 12,000 older Californians and provide an extra 1.2 million meals per year. As a reminder there has not been an increase in this funding for a decade, even as the cost of a meal has been increasing at an annual average of \$0.29. This budget proposal is an important step in reversing this trend and meeting the most basic food needs of older adults.

Over the last ten years, the percentage of the population age 60 and older that faces food insecurity has increased by 45% (Ziliak & Gunderson, 2015). Among California seniors, studies show that one out of six are dealing with the threat of hunger. California has the eleventh highest rate of senior food insecurity in the nation (United Health Foundation, 2015). California is home to some 7.8 million older adults (California State Plan on Aging 2017-2021). The percent of older Californians facing the threat of hunger is 16.33 %. That means that nearly 1.274 million Californians over the age of 60 are considered food insecure.

A budget augmentation to senior nutrition programs will send a clear message that California prioritizes promoting health and well-being for all ages.

For the above reasons, we respectfully urge your support for an additional \$17.5 million in the 2019-2020 state budget to increase funding for senior nutrition programs.

## LONG TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

The state and federally mandated purpose of the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program is to ensure the highest possible quality of life and care for residents of long term care facilities. Through a combination of paid staff and well-trained certified volunteers, the Ombudsman organizations provide regular, unannounced in-person visits and resident advocacy. They identify and resolve complaints, in addition to ensuring that facilities are free from health and safety issues. They are advocates that work to preserve personal and civil rights of residents, particularly the 60% of residents without family members visiting to observe care and resolve or report problems.

We support ASM Wood's request for an annual commitment of **\$5.2 million** to support the more than 300,000 Californians living in licensed long-term care (LTC) facilities. The request will provide \$3.7 million for an additional 150,000 hours of unannounced facility visits by paid staff and volunteers and another \$1.5 million to perform an additional 8,000 investigations of the thousands of complaints that come in to them each year.

## IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS)

The In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program provides personal care services for approximately 560,000 qualified low-income individuals who are blind, aged (over 65) or who have disabilities. Services include feeding, bathing, bowel and bladder care, meal preparation and clean-up, laundry and paramedical care.

The budget proposes **\$12.7 billion** for services and administration. The 2018-19 budget provided \$11.5 billion for the program. Overall, the increased costs for IHSS in 2019-20 are due to higher projected caseload, an increase in paid hours per case and the increase in the hourly minimum wage from \$12.00 to \$13.00, effective January 1, 2020. The average monthly cost of services per IHSS client is estimated to be approximately \$1,647 for 2019-20. This estimate averages 564,330 consumers will be authorized for an average of 110.1 hours per month.

We urge your support for \$12.7 billion for services and administration in the 2019-2020 state budget to increase funding for the program.

We also request your support of trailer bill language to permanently restore the 7% that the IHSS request include asking for adoption of the trailer bill language **to permanently restore the 7% IHSS cut.**

A legal settlement in *Oster v. Lightbourne* and *Dominguez v. Schwarzenegger*, resulted in an eight percent reduction to authorized IHSS hours, effective July 1, 2013.

Beginning in July 1, 2014, the reduction in authorized service hours was changed to 7 percent. The 2015 Budget Act approved one-time General Fund resources, and related budget bill language, to offset the 7 percent across-the-board reduction in service hours.

Starting in 2016, the 7 percent restoration was funded using a portion of the revenues from a restructuring of the existing Managed Care Organization (MCO) tax. The 2018-19 Governor's Budget used \$300 million General Fund to restore the 7 percent across-the-board reduction. Since 2016-17, the state has imposed this MCO tax that, when

combined with a package of associated tax changes, generates a net General Fund benefit of about \$1.5 billion by drawing additional federal funds for the state.

Under current law, as mentioned, the General Fund has supported the restoration of IHSS service hours, which were previously reduced by the 7 percent, so long as the MCO tax is in place.

While the Governor's budget does not assume the renewal of the MCO tax once it expires at the end of 2018-19, it does propose the continued use of General Fund for the 7 percent restoration in 2019-20. The cost of the 7 percent restoration is estimated to be \$342.3 million General Fund in 2019-20. While the Administration is not proposing to eliminate the current statutory language that ties the 7 percent restoration to the existence of the MCO tax, the understanding is that it intends for the restoration of IHSS service hours to be ongoing.

### **SSI/SSP**

The Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Payment (SSI/SSP) programs provide cash assistance to around 1.3 million Californians, who are aged 65 or older (46 percent), are blind (one percent), or have disabilities (53 percent), and in each case meet federal income and resource limits. A qualified SSI recipient is automatically qualified for SSP. SSI grants are 100 percent federally funded. The state pays SSP, which augments the federal benefit.

The Governor's proposed 2019-20 budget does not propose any increase in the SSI/SSP grant amount. It keeps in place the \$77 a month in cuts made in 2009 and which have still not been restored. CA4SSI are asking for an increase of \$106 a month and a 2020 cost of living increase so that grants for individual SSI recipients are 100 percent of the federal poverty level.

We urge your support for this monthly increase as well as a 2020 cost of living increase.

### **MULTIPURPOSE SENIOR SERVICES PROGRAM (MSSP)**

Local Multipurpose Senior Service Program (MSSP) sites provide social and health care management for frail elderly clients who are certifiable for placement in a nursing facility but who wish to remain in the community. The goal of the program is to arrange for and monitor the use of community services to prevent or delay premature institutional placement of these frail clients. The services must be provided at a cost lower than that for nursing facility care.

Clients eligible for the program must be 65 years of age or older, live within a site's service area, be able to be served within MSSP's cost limitations, be appropriate for care management services, currently eligible for Medi-Cal, and certified or certifiable for placement in a nursing facility. MSSP site staff make this certification determination based upon Medi-Cal criteria for placement.

The state's Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP) serves almost 12,000 frail seniors who wish to remain in their homes. The majority of MSSP clients live alone, subsist on approximately \$1,000 per month, and have complex needs that require

medical and social services support. This program provides assistance such as home-delivered meals, Paratransit services, assistance with hygiene and daily activities, counseling and adult day care.

We support Senator Wood's request for a one time funding request of **\$25 million** for this program. Significant cuts were made to this critical program during the recession years and those cuts have yet to be restored. This one time funding will save people from having to go into a nursing home and save money because data shows that MSSP client costs are half that of patients in nursing homes.

### **ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES (APS) TRAINING/BUDGET**

Each of California's 58 counties has an Adult Protective Services (APS) agency to aid adults aged 65 years and older and dependent adults who are unable to meet their needs, or are victims of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. The APS Program provides 24/7 emergency response to reports of abuse and neglect of elders and dependent adults who live in private homes, apartments, hotels or hospitals and health clinics when the alleged abuser is not a staff member.

AS reports have risen significantly since 2000-01. Between 2014 and 2018, APS received 710,898 reports. During that same time, 623,127 cases were opened and 551,461 cases were resolved.

In 2016 \$3 million in funding was approved for APS training. This funding expires at the end of the fiscal year.

We support the request for **\$5.75 million** over three years to provide additional resources for APS social worked training.

### **LONG-TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORT**

California confronts many challenges in how to finance, develop, and organize long-term services and support (LTSS) services. For individuals and families, the unanticipated costs can lead to impoverishment, lack of care options, and intense psychological stress. When informal networks of care are not available, individuals and families pay out-of-pocket for LTSS, such as home care aides, assisted living communities, and nursing homes, to help fill the gap. But these services bring high costs, not only to the individuals directly involved, but also to taxpayers and the government with more individuals being forced to spend down to qualify for an already overburdened Medi-Cal LTSS system.

California currently has almost 8 million persons who are either older adults or persons with mobility, sensory, intellectual/developmental, and mental health disabilities. This population will grow significantly over the next decade, primarily due to the aging of the baby boomers and longer life expectancies made possible by medical advances. By 2030, more than one million older adults in California will require some assistance with self-care.

Despite this, LTSS are not covered adequately by Medicare, and most Californians cannot afford to purchase private long-term care insurance. Paying out-of-pocket for LTSS is highly expensive, creates a significant financial and social burden for families, and is simply impossible for many Californians.

Most caregiving is provided by family members, primarily women, without compensation. This impacts their ability to participate in the workforce and save for retirement and ultimately contributes to the feminization of poverty. Nearly two-thirds of individuals age 65 and over living in poverty are women.

We support the appropriation of **\$1 million** for the purposes of contracting with a qualified entity for a feasibility study and actuarial analysis of long-term services and supports financing and services options to help Californians meet needs for long-term services and supports (LTSS).



## CSL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

May 2019

Bill #	AUTHOR	SUMMARY	CSL AUTHOR	STATUS	POSITION
AB 50	Kalra	<b>Medi-Cal: Assisted Living Waiver program</b> This bill would require the Department of Health Care Services to submit in 2019, to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services a request for renewal of the Assisted Living program with specified amendments	Rolfe (2018)	Assembly-From committee: Amend, and do pass as amended and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 15. Noes 0.) (April 23).	Sponsor
AB 387	Gabriel	<b>Physician and surgeons: prescriptions.</b> This bill would require physicians and surgeons to include the purpose for which the medication is prescribed to be included on the prescription label, unless the patient requests the information be omitted.	Gould AP 18	Assembly- Re-referred to Com. on APPR.	Sponsor
AB 480	Salas	<b>Mental health: older adults.</b> This bill would establish within the State Department of Health Care Services an Older Adult Mental Health Services Administrator to oversee mental health services for older adults	Krohn AP 13	Assembly- From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 15. Noes 0.) (April 23). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.	Sponsor
AB 797	Grayson	<b>Mandated reporters: financial abuse of elder or dependent adults.</b> This bill would amend the definition of "Mandated Reporters of Suspected Financial Abuse of an Elder or Dependent Adult" to include the officers and employees of businesses licensed under the Money Transmission Act for making wire or money transfers and that would increase penalties, including providing for full reimbursement of losses, for officers or employees of these businesses who fail to report as required	Molnar SP 10	Assembly- Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.	Sponsor
AB 970	Salas	<b>California Department of Aging: grants: transportation.</b> This bill would authorize the use of moneys in the electric program investment charge to fund grant programs in counties to provide transportation to nonemergency medical services for the senior and disabled populations located in rural, desert, and mountain areas	Warren AP 2	Assembly-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 14. Noes 1.) (April 22). Re-referred	Sponsor

Bill #	AUTHOR	SUMMARY	CSL AUTHOR	STATUS	POSITION
		through the use of energy renewable vehicles.		to Com. on APPR.	
SB 280	Jackson	<b>Older Adults and persons with disabilities: Fall Prevention</b> This measure would amend the CA Buildings Standards Law to ensure that specific falls prevention structural features designed to prevent falls and facilitate Aging in Place are built into new housing using funds generated by the Act.	Rolfe AP 7	Senate-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 11. Noes 0.) (April 22). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.	Sponsor
SB 309	S Rubio	<b>Personal income tax: California Senior Citizen Advocacy Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund.</b> This bill would require the Ca Sr Citizen Advocacy Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund to remain indefinitely on the personal income tax form. By depositing additional moneys into a continuously appropriated fund The bill would make an appropriation.	Pointer	Senate-From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR. Set for hearing April 29	Sponsor
SB 695	Portantino	<b>Land use planning: housing element:</b> This bill would, for the purpose of meeting housing element goals under the Planning and Zoning Law, classify housing units participating in a home-sharing arrangement in which at least one of the occupants is an elderly person who qualifies as a person of low or moderate income, as defined, as very low income households. This would also incentivize local authorities to meet affordable housing goals and that would hold local authorities accountable when they fail to do so.	Rolfe AP 8	Senate-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 6. Noes 0.) (April 22). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.	Sponsor
SB 725	S. Rubio	<b>Veterans rental housing.</b> This bill would establish a rental housing assistance program and would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to coordinate access to affordable housing with existing State and Federal Veterans services and provide detailed information about the assistance in a specified resource publication.	Kagan SP 7	Senate-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 7. Noes 0.) (April 23). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.	Sponsor
	B Rubio	CSL Funding request of \$425,000 General Fund	Pointer	Budget Request	Sponsor
HR 1788	Hill, (HR)	This bill would amend title XVIII of Social Security Act to limit the penalty for late enrollment under Part B of Medicare Program to 15% & twice the period of no enrollment & exclude periods of COBRA, retiree, & VA coverage from such late enrollment fee	Love SFP 2	Assigned to Energy & Commerce Committee & Ways & Means Committee	Sponsor

## CSL SUPPORT BILLS

Bill #	AUTHOR	SUMMARY	STATUS	POSITION
AB 251	Patterson	<b>Personal income taxes: credit: family caregiver.</b> The bill would make specified findings detailing the goals, purposes, and objectives of the above-described tax credit, performance indicators for determining whether the credit meets those goals, purposes, and objectives, and data collection requirements.	Assembly In committee: Set, first hearing. Referred to APPR. suspense file.	Support
AB 568	Reyes	<b>Caregiver resource centers: volunteer workforce.</b> This bill creates the California Care Corps for the purpose of expanding the caregiver workforce for Californians experiencing Alzheimer's or related dementia (PWDs).	Assembly-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 7. Noes 0.) (April 23). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.	Support
AB 911	Rodriguez	<b>Office of Emergency Services: 911 Emergency Communication System.</b> This bill would require the office, by January 1, 2022, to establish a statewide 911 Emergency Communication System, as described. The bill would require the system to enable all Californians, including older adults, individuals with disabilities, and other at-risk persons, to voluntarily share specified information about themselves, via a secure internet website, to be transmitted to first responders during an emergency, as provided.	Assembly-Re-referred to Com. on G.O.	Support
AB 1128	Petrie-Norris	<b>Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly.</b> This bill would require a PACE center to maintain a license both as a primary care clinic and an adult day health center, and to either maintain a license as a home health agency or contract with a licensed home health agency for the provision of home health services.	Assembly-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. with recommendation: To Consent Calendar. (Ayes 15. Noes 0.) (April 23). Re-referred to Com. on APPR..	Support
AB 1382	Aguiar-Curry	<b>Master Plan for Aging</b> This bill responds to needs of an aging California by providing recommendations to establish and scale the workforce demands for home care workers, increase geriatric-related competencies in health care, and build off of recommendations outlined by the California Task Force for Family Caregiving.	Assembly From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 7. Noes 0.) (April 23). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.	Support
SB 214	Dodd	<b>Medi-Cal: California Community Transitions program.</b> Existing federal law establishes the Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration, which is designed to achieve various objectives with respect to institutional and home and community-	Senate-referred to Com. on HEALTH.	Support



Bill #	AUTHOR	SUMMARY	STATUS	POSITION
		based long-term care services provided under State Medicaid programs. This measure would extend funding for the Calif. Community Transitions which expires this year	Set for hearing May 1.	
SB 228	Jackson	<b>Master Plan on Aging</b> This bill states the Legislature's intent to develop a Master Plan for an Aging California that empowers all Californians to age with dignity, choice and independence.	Senate From committee: Do pass as amended and re-refer to Com. on APPR. with recommendation: To consent calendar. (Ayes 6. Noes 0.) (April 22)	
SB 248	Glazer	<b>Taxation: renters' credit.</b> This bill, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2019, for spouses filing joint returns, heads of household, and surviving spouses with those adjusted gross incomes, who have no dependents, would allow a credit equal to \$220. The bill, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2019, for other individuals with those adjusted gross incomes, who have no dependents, would allow a credit equal to \$217. The bill, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2019, for spouses filing joint returns, heads of household, surviving spouses, and for other individuals, with those adjusted gross incomes, who have one or more dependents, would allow a credit equal to \$434.	Senate- From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on GOV. & F. Set for hearing May 1.	Support
SB274	Dodd	<b>Mobilehome parks: tenancies</b> This bill would amend Sections 798.34 and 798.74 of, and to add Section 798.62 to, the Civil Code, relating to mobilehome residency.	Senate Committee on Jud Set for hearing April 30.	Support
SB 314	Dodd	<b>Elders and dependent adults: abandonment.</b> This bill adds "abandonment" to the list of actions included in the Elder Abuse and Dependent Adult Civil Protection Act's enhanced civil remedies	In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.	Support
SB 338	Hueso	<b>Elder and dependent adult abuse: law enforcement policies.</b> This bill pulls together all California laws specifically protecting seniors and people with disabilities, including broader major laws that specifically affect these vulnerable populations.	Senate- Read second time. Ordered to third reading.	Support

**Budget Support**

Budget Request	CCoA CEJC CWDA CSAP G & C	Increase funding for APS and PA/PG/PC		Support
Budget Request	Ombudsm an	Augment program funding through a \$5.2 million increase in General Funds for the Local Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.		Support

California Senior Legislature

[www.4csl.org](http://www.4csl.org)

SK testimony AB 480

There currently isn't any state leadership or oversight on how mental health services are provided to older adults. This is why AB 480 is an essential Bill moving forward.

It should be noted that there was an administrative position in place from 2007 to 2011 to bridge the Dept of Mental health and the D of Aging. Much was accomplished and the aging services network was mobilized in counties across the state offering evidence based depression management as well as early intervention programs. It is sad that due to budget shortfalls impacting many programs, the governor redirected this funding to counties for mental health prevention services. And this is where we ran into issues.

Oversight & accountability for MHSA funds and programs is an imperative for both the Dept of Health Care Svs and the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission. ~~They do not have the expertise nor a mandate to provide oversight and accountability~~

A state level position would be responsible for ensuring the mental health plans submitted are reviewed and ensure that the funding requested was actually used to fund the plans submitted....This is vitally important. If a plan implemented creates an innovative problem solved, it should be something to be shared with other county organizations for consideration.

It is also important to recognize that half of counties in CA report that they have an administrative unit for these services. Those that do, have a robust program. Others, however, tend to believe that older adults are "adults who are old" and they do not recognize the complex medical issues that also need to be taken into consideration in mental health planning, programs and service delivery.

Many counties do not purposely reach out to older adults to offer necessary special mental health programs.

In the past, the Dept of Mental Health had whole teams working on children's issues...no specialists for older adults. While children's issues continue to be important, older adults need to be treated equally. Plus training is insufficient.

~~Finally, the staff position(s) created by this bill definitely needs to be a behavioral health resource to the proposal aging czar~~

357 words