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**Ventura County Designated as *Seventh* ARDC in California**

Sacramento – On November 3, 2016, the California Department of Aging (CDA) and the California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) designated Ventura County's Aging and Disability Resource Center as the seventh Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) in the State. Ventura County's ADRC is a cooperative partnership between the county's Area Agency on Aging (AAA), the Independent Living Center (ILC), and several community partners. Additionally, six ADRCs are designated in the following counties: Alameda, Nevada, Orange, Riverside, San Francisco and San Diego.

The ADRC initiative is a collaborative effort led by the federal Administration for Community Living (ACL) and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). In many communities, multiple agencies administer long-term services and supports (LTSS) which could have complex, fragmented assessment and eligibility functions. ADRCs build on the strength of existing community agencies to provide a single, more coordinated system of information and access - to help minimize confusion, enhance individual choice, and support informed decision making.

The ADRC initiative seeks to streamline access to LTSS for older adults, persons with disabilities, family caregivers, veterans and LTSS providers. Currently, fifty-two states and territories across the country are operating, or are in the process of implementing the core elements of an ADRC.

CDA administers programs that serve older adults, adults with disabilities, family caregivers, and residents in long-term care facilities throughout the State. The Department administers funds allocated under the federal Older Americans Act, the Older Californians Act, and through the Medi-Cal program.

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