

Updated Frequently Asked Questions (CA2030/SB1249) – December 31, 2025

Statewide Services

Question	Answers
<p>Would the team consider hosting office hours to address questions on Statewide Services?</p> <p>I am interested in obtaining additional guidance and gaining insight on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will the process look like for completing attestation of quarterly submissions? • Will AAAs be able to view the non-public Dashboard starting Q2 of SFY 25-26? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Will AAAs have opportunity for comment on Dashboards prior to the Dashboard transitioning to Public-Facing? • What will the Corrective Action Plan consist of, and at what point will AAAs payments will be withheld? 	<p>The Statewide Services information presented in the August 18, 2025, webinar (to view, visit aging.ca.gov/CA2030) identified a timeline for the development of improved reporting requirements, public-facing dashboards, performance measures, and recognition and enforcement strategies. The starting place for fiscal year 2025-2026 is to establish a baseline to build upon by reaffirming timely and accurate reporting with verification from the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) director or designated assistant director of timely, quality data submission. An updated Reporting Program Memo will be issued November 2025 to guide each AAA through the updated reporting processes.</p> <p>Dashboards of reporting timeliness and current service delivery will begin release to AAAs early 2026 through June 2026. As these release, AAA directors will be able to ask questions and assist with improving data quality. The activities in this first fiscal year will help inform the work that is planned for the next fiscal year and beyond, which will include the further development of reporting improvements, performance measures, and increasing accountability. As each new milestone occurs, CDA will communicate with AAAs and answer questions. Technical assistance will be provided one-on-one, and if needed, through webinars or office hours.</p>
<p>How will the state ensure that AAAs, especially those in rural or underfunded areas, have the resources to provide mandated core services? How will the state ensure that rural and hard-to-reach areas receive equitable access to these services?</p>	<p>CDA is not mandating any services that are not already required and funded by the Older Americans Act (OAA) or the Older Californians Act (OCA) at this time.</p>

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<p>Will AAAs still have control over how to allocate funds to address specific local needs, or will they be forced to prioritize state-mandated services over locally critical programs? How will AAA services match up with local area plan needs?</p>	<p>The local area planning process will continue every four years with annual updates as required by the OAA providing the AAA with the ability to align local needs with existing OAA and OCA requirements into their final plan. This is similar to current practice.</p>
<p>Will funding for core services come from existing AAAs funds, or will there be additional state funding to cover the costs of expanding or maintaining these services? How does the state plan to address resource gaps, particularly in areas where volunteers are not readily available to support core services?</p>	<p>CDA is not mandating any services or changes that are not already required and funded by the OAA or the OCA. Additionally, the local area planning process will continue every four years with annual updates as required by the OAA. While some AAAs may use volunteers to provide core services, there is no requirement to do so.</p>
<p>Will the state require that core services be provided equally across all parts of a PSA, or will it be enough for these services to exist somewhere within the PSA? Are there additional expectations, or is the state simply formalizing existing services under a new mandate?</p>	<p>CDA is not mandating any services or changes that are not already required by the OAA or the OCA. Additionally, the local area planning process will continue every four years with annual updates as required by the OAA.</p> <p>The Statewide Services information presented during the August 2025 webinar identified a timeline for the development of improved reporting requirements, dashboards, the additional of performance measures, and development of recognition and enforcement strategies. This is the current starting place for this work.</p>
<p>Will PSA's or regions still have autonomy to prioritize local needs, or will they be forced to allocate resources to state-mandated core services, even if those services are not the most pressing local needs? Will AAAs have flexibility in determining which core services they provide based on local needs, or will the state mandate the same core services across all regions, regardless of local capacity and needs?</p>	<p>CDA is not mandating any services or changes that are not already required and funded by the OAA or the OCA. Additionally, the local area planning process will continue every four years with annual updates as required by the OAA.</p> <p>CDA selected core services that are needed statewide, not subject to local needs: Information & Assistance, Nutrition, and Caregiver Supports.</p>

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<p>Is the state considering implementing cost-sharing policies or a fee-for-service model for core services? If so, how will these models be developed to ensure that PSAs can still serve low-income populations while also addressing the needs of those who may be able to contribute financially?</p>	<p>This is not under consideration at this time.</p>
<p>How will CDA ensure that the public dashboards provide necessary context and avoid being misinterpreted as “public shaming”?</p>	<p>All dashboards will use AAA-provided and validated data and will have the appropriate information and descriptors to help the reader understand the context of the data presented.</p>
<p>Will services be implemented by the state between now and 2029?</p>	<p>CDA does not have a plan to directly implement services between now and 2029. The intent with any transition is for seamless service delivery between AAA entities. CDA has the authority to enter emergency contracts if there is a lapse, ensuring that local contracted providers continue to deliver services to clients in the interim, and assist with overseeing daily operations. There could theoretically be an instance where CDA staff might temporarily step in to conduct daily AAA operations, either virtually or in person, on a very limited basis, out of necessity. CDA staff could step in to assess needs and connect individuals to available resources in their community to meet urgent needs and address or assist with emergency situations. The first priority is to designate a new AAA to assume all contractual and service delivery obligations.</p>

Designation Process

<p>How will the state ensure that the process for redesignation, funding formula updates, and core service mandates happens in a clear and coordinated manner?</p>	<p>Slide 31 of the slide deck that accompanied the August 18, 2025, CA 2030 Webinar 5 displayed an overlay of the sequencing of the key activities associated with the three initiatives over the next five years. CDA will</p>
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	<p>manage the initiatives according to this sequencing and this timeline. Updates will be provided to C4A and the AAA network as the initiatives progress.</p>
<p>How will the state address geographic and population disparities in PSA designations, especially for rural or less populated areas? Will there be adjustments for PSAs that cover large geographic areas with sparse populations?</p>	<p>CDA will not be initiating any PSA boundaries changes. CDA will evaluate any PSA boundary change applications from eligible applicants according to the criteria set forth in CCR 7200(a)(b)(c) as well as the new criteria stated on slide 13 of the August 18, 2025, webinar slide deck.</p>
<p>How will the state balance the need for equitable population distribution with the unique challenges of serving rural or geographically large PSAs?</p>	<p>CDA will not be initiating any PSA boundaries changes. CDA will evaluate any PSA boundary change applications from eligible applicants according to the criteria CCR 7200(a)(b)(c) as well as the new criteria stated on slide 13 of the August 18, 2025, webinar slide deck. Please note the CDA Director’s ability to make exceptions to the 100,000-population threshold on 3rd bullet of the slide deck.</p>
<p>If PSAs are combined into larger regions, what will be the process for transitioning services and contracts? Will there be a plan to ensure service continuity, and what will be the role of existing service providers? What plans are in place to ensure service continuity if PSAs are merged or boundaries are redrawn?</p>	<p>PSA boundaries will not be changed until a new PSA applicant is successful, a AAA provider is designated, and plans are in place to ensure continuity of services to clients. Existing AAA provider(s) would work with the new AAA provider on a transition plan, including transition of operational functions and addressing local contract needs. CDA will be available to provide any technical assistance needed. Per slide 16 of the August 18, 2025, slide deck, CDA anticipates that existing AAA provider(s) and the new AAA provider will have one year to complete transition activities.</p>
<p>What happens to existing service providers in regions where PSAs are consolidated? Will they be able to continue operating during the transition period? If PSAs are merged, how will current services, contracts, and partnerships be managed during the transition?</p>	<p>Slide 16 of the August 18, 2025, slide deck anticipates that the existing AAA provider(s) and the new provider will have a one-year transition period. During the transition period, the current provider(s) will retain the AAA designation status and continue to provide services. During this period the new AAA provider would work with the existing provider(s) on a transition plan so that the new provider can provide services at the end of the transition period. During the transition period, the new provider would</p>

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	procure service contracts so that there is continuity of services at the transition date.
What does success look like to the Department in terms of Mapping?	CDA will not be initiating PSA boundary changes. CDA will evaluate any PSA boundary change applications from eligible applicants according to the criteria CCR 7200(a)(b)(c) as well as the new criteria stated on slide 13 of the August 18, 2025, webinar slide deck.
What happens if services are no longer available in the local geography if a new AAA doesn't offer the service?	In reviewing AAA applications, CDA would ensure that a new AAA provider would maintain continuity of services meaning that current service recipients would receive the same types of services at the same service levels or higher.
Will ACL regulations be the sole reference for designation and de-designation criteria or will the Department potentially tweak or add to those criteria? If so, what kinds of tweaks/additions might be made?	CDA does not have the authority to modify OAA regulations. CDA will be making changes to the California Code of Regulations AAA and PSA designation regulations, which flow from the OAA statute and regulations, for the AAA and PSA designation changes described in the August 18, 2025, webinar slide deck.
Since designation and mapping changes have a direct impact on funding streams, will the department be open to seeking additional funding for scenarios where additional funding would be necessary to maintain services at the level that they are provided now? Alternatively, will funding constraints lessen the chances of initiating changes that cannot be adequately funded?	CDA will not be initiating any PSA boundary changes. When considering AAA and PSA designation changes, CDA will be evaluating applications to ensure continuity of services to existing clients.

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<p>Will the Department communicate directly with local government entities to inform them about the ability to apply to become a AAA?</p>	<p>CDA does not intend to provide notice directly to local government entities regarding open windows for PSA boundary changes and to be a AAA provider. However, CDA will provide public notice of the ability for eligible entities to apply to be a AAA provider and make PSA boundary changes, though methods such as postings on the Department website, public webinars and through social media. In addition, CDA will communicate all changes and opportunities to its partners, including the California State Association of Counties and the County Welfare Directors Association.</p>
<p>What is your (CDA's) intent and what do you hope to accomplish with the boundary changes? Can you provide the membership of your vision of what the future network will look like and how this is different from today and how more consumers will be served and core services provided given the existing resource constraint?</p>	<p>CDA will not be initiating PSA boundary changes. CDA will evaluate any PSA boundary change applications from eligible applicants according to the criteria CCR 7200(a)(b)(c) as well as the new criteria stated on slide 13 of the August 18, 2025, webinar slide deck.</p>
<p>How will the department communicate with consumers regarding changes in service delivery system and services offered?</p>	<p>In reviewing AAA applications, CDA would ensure that a new AAA provider would maintain continuity of services meaning that current service recipients would receive the same types of services at the same service levels or higher. AAA providers will be expected to communicate with their communities and their networks.</p>
<p>Does the California Department of Aging (CDA) interpret the 2024 ACL Final Rule to permit the initiation of a de-designation and re-designation process for Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs)</p>	<p>Current OAA regulations define processes and criteria for states to consider when designating and de-designating AAAs. The 2024 OAA Final Rule¹ requires states to develop policies and procedures to create greater clarity and specificity regarding certain steps of the application and designation processes.</p>
<p>What happens if a county decides to turn their AAA over to the state between now and 2029?</p>	<p>If a county decides to turn their AAA over to the state, CDA will ensure continuity of services by: 1) issuing a public, competitive Request for Application (RFA) to secure a replacement AAA, 2) exploring the need, if</p>

¹ https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/oam/2024/OAA_FinalRuleOverview2024.pdf

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	warranted, for emergency contracts with existing contracted providers, and 3) providing technical assistance to support fiscal and programmatic transition to the new entity.
What happens if a nearby county isn't interested in taking over a specific county?	If a single county decides to turn their AAA over to the state, there is no requirement or obligation for a nearby county to take over another county's AAA. The AAA is assigned to a specific Planning Service Area (AAA) – in this case a single county, and CDA would seek to replace the AAA in that specific county, not adjoining counties. If the county has opted out, the remaining options are: 1) a nonprofit AAA applicant or 2) a newly formed Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) which would first require a change in PSA boundaries approved by CDA. The JPA option is the only time an adjacent county could come into play.

Funding Formula

Based on the new factors proposed in the implementation webinar, I am requesting an updated factors spreadsheet formula that shows the new race/ethnicity factor as well as the ability to view changes by county.	CDA will provide updates to the entire network once finalized.
Supervisor Rossman heard from Passages and County HHSA Director with concerns over SB 1249 implementation and potential for loss of funding up to 30%.	At this time, no funding formula changes have been finalized. CDA continues to work with the network on refinements and will provide any updates to the network once finalized.
What measures will be in place to ensure that no PSA faces drastic cuts in funding due to changes in the formula? How will these rules be structured to ensure that no PSA is unfairly disadvantaged by changes to the funding formula?	CDA also notes increased administrative base funding and potential for Carry Over funds as part of each PSA's full funding picture.

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<p>If PSAs are merged or consolidated, how will the state address base administrative funding? Will administrative costs be adjusted for larger PSAs?</p>	<p>All PSAs will receive an additional \$100k annually, bringing administrative base funding for each PSA up to \$250k. Remaining administration funding will be allocated based on the final factors and weights.</p>
<p>Is the state expecting counties to increase their local share of costs for PSA funding? If so, how will this affect less resourced counties that cannot contribute additional funding? How will the state ensure that counties with lower revenues aren't unfairly disadvantaged in the funding formula? Will there be adjustments or exceptions for counties that cannot afford to increase their local share of costs? How will the state account for disparities between counties with varying revenue and tax bases?</p>	<p>PSAs will be responsible for contributing match at the same OAA percentage amounts that are currently required. Match requirements will not change.</p> <p>CDA is committed to a public, transparent process that will clearly explain each PSAs proposed funding allocation. CDA will provide regular TA as the formula iterates.</p>
<p>Will PSAs have time to adjust their area plans in response to any funding changes, and how will the state support this transition?</p>	<p>Any changes to the Intrastate Funding Formula must be approved by the California State Legislature and the federal Administration for Community Living over the next 2-3 years. All AAAs can adjust based on changes in local needs during the Area Plan process and the annual Area Plan Updates.</p>
<p>How will current AAAs be involved in the decision-making process regarding both PSA redesignation and funding formula changes? Will there be opportunities for feedback and adjustments before final decisions are made? Will there be an opportunity to review and provide input on the state's final recommendations for PSA boundaries?</p>	<p>There will be several opportunities for feedback through the legislative review, public comment, and approval process.</p>

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<p>How will the funding formula account for the higher costs of providing services in rural areas? How will the state ensure that rural AAAs receive adequate funding to cover the unique challenges of service provision, such as transportation and staffing shortages?</p>	<p>The factors and weights utilized include a 60+ geographically isolated factor which intends to concentrate funding towards individuals in rural areas. Further, the department is updating the income factor to include 200% federal poverty level (FPL), which is more representative of the current cost of living in California.</p>
<p>How is the state planning to increase the overall funding pool for AAAs to account for growing service demand and the aging population? If the funding pool remains unchanged, how will the state ensure that AAAs can continue to meet rising service demands without reducing the quality or availability of services?</p>	<p>Statewide coverage will remain unchanged. While there may be a different composition of the AAA and PSA networks, the statewide coverage will remain consistent. Local area plans will continue to focus on individuals in the community with the greatest social and economic needs.</p> <p>Future budget requests will follow the regular budget process and remain confidential until posted and shared by the Governor.</p>
<p>Will CDA model various weights and measures to illustrate how the changes would impact the AAAs in a spreadsheet format using existing PSA maps, and once again after any change has been identified but before the change is implemented?</p>	<p>Yes, a calculator tool was shared with the network that allowed for modeling.</p>
<p>How will the state ensure funding so AAAs can deliver a competent level of core services? How is it going to account for it in the funding formula?</p>	<p>CDA will use a hold harmless funding level tied to Fiscal Year 21-22. This hold harmless will provide a consistent base funding amount for all PSAs.</p>
<p>What funding formula or combination of formulas has the State identified that it views would work well in California? Why do you think this is a formula that would make sense for our State?</p>	<p>CDA will use a simplified funding formula that includes five factors equally weighted. These factors have been agreed upon by the network as key areas (age, disability, income, diversity and geographic isolation) that funding should be concentrated and meet federal OAA requirements.</p>

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<p>How is CDA defining equity in the context of resource allocation—by geography, distribution, or another measure?</p>	<p>Equity is defined using the factors of 60+ population, 60+ income (200% FPL), 60+ geographically isolated, 60+ minority, and 60+ with a disability. These factors intend to provide funding for the State’s older adults and caregivers in greatest social and economic need.</p>
<p>What financial or structural supports are under consideration for AAAs projected to face significant revenue losses?</p>	<p>The department will use the FY 21/22 hold harmless to ensure a consistent base level of funding for all PSAs.</p>

Contracting

<p>What is the Department thinking it will do regarding supervision and approval of contracts AAAs enter into that do not involve OAA or OCA funding? Would an attestation that the non OOA/OCA contracts will not negatively impact OAA/OCA provided services be sufficient to achieve the Department's expectations about monitoring those contracts?</p>	<p>CDA will continue to follow guidance from ACL on all contracted arrangements.</p>
<p>What are the types of contracts that the Department is seeking approval to enter into directly? It’s not clear from the legislative language what the nature of those contracts would be.</p>	<p>SB 1249 updates the Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act to better address the needs of California’s rapidly growing older adult population through updates to the existing Area on Aging network. The term contracts is used in the legislation to represent the agreements between CDA and each AAA to deliver agreed upon services to their communities.</p>

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General

<p>How will CDA ensure balanced communication so that AAAs are not perceived as being in competition with each other in ways that erode trust?</p>	<p>CDA is committed to public, transparent, regular communication with the AAA network. Visit CA2030 page for updates and all past webinars, reports and materials.</p>
<p>Can CDA clarify the specific timelines for when draft regulatory packages will go to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL/ALJ) for review, and when public comment will open?</p>	<p>CDA has identified nine areas that require regulatory changes. Each of the items will follow all state administrative requirements for public notice, public comment, and final adoption. The first of the nine areas is expected to flow before the end of 2025, and the final is expected to be released by early 2027.</p>
<p>Since ACL has been disbanded, where will you be submitting changes to the federal government for approval? Our local AAA is a non-profit and has stated that its fiscal information beyond the 990 forms is confidential and the public are not allowed to see any specific budgets. With the early 2025-26 numbers that they will be submitting in a non-public format, how are they to be verified as actual and not estimates? Will there be any way for that dashboard to be able to be seen by the public?</p>	<p>CDA has established contacts with the current ACL staff and will continue to work with this team.</p> <p>Dashboards contemplated under Statewide Services will reflect a high-level view of OAA funding used by category. Dashboards will be available for public review on the CDA website and updated at least twice a year as contract closeouts are completed and new financial information becomes available.</p>
<p>When and how will CDA provide training and technical assistance to AAAs in need of support?</p>	<p>CDA will continue to provide one-on-one TA, network-wide written guidance, periodic webinars and office hour convenings as needed to support the network through this transition. All questions should be directed to CA2030@aging.ca.gov for inclusion in future FAQs.</p>
<p>If an ADRC is in place, how will it be impacted?</p>	<p>Aging and Disability Resource Connections (ADRCs) are a formal partnership between a local AAA and a local Independent Living Center (ILC). The ADRC's designation or emerging designation status is tied directly to the partner entities; if either the AAA or the ILC ceases to exist, the ADRC partnership would lose its designation or emerging designation status. The local area could potentially resume ADRC functions with the</p>

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	new entity, subject to funding, conditions and approvals. Until a new AAA or ILC entity is designated, CDA cannot commit to local ADRC interest and leadership on behalf of an unknown partner.
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