

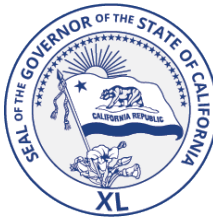


JANUARY 2025

Master Plan **FOR AGING**

**FOURTH MPA
ANNUAL REPORT**





Message From **GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM**

California is boldly embracing the opportunity and challenge to make life better as we age. I made a commitment in my first State of the State in 2019 to develop a California Master Plan for Aging, in honor of my late parents. I did so knowing that people from 50 to 100 years old are becoming a larger share of our families and communities. Californians are living longer, more varied lives. Change is here, change is necessary — and California is leading the way.

In just four years, we have delivered real results for families on what matters most in the second half of life. At the same time, we know we have much more to do to make sure California truly is the golden state for our golden years — in every community, for every income. I'm grateful to the thousands of Californians who are continuing to catalyze change in how we live, work, and care for each other throughout our lives. California's priorities and progress are clear:

Making care more affordable at every stage of life

Our state's groundbreaking transformation of Medi-Cal to offer more "Medi-Cal at Home" services now reaches more older adults with lower incomes and covers more home and community care, like meals and personal care, through CalAIM. To reach all families, a federal partnership to create "Medicare at Home" is needed. California will continue to lead on care, with transformed health care and behavioral health care, paid family leave, and good caregiving jobs.

Building California communities for our 100-year lives

We are future-proofing California communities by building easier and more accessible public transit, developing and incentivizing more affordable housing options, expanding high-speed internet for all, and improving disaster readiness that saves lives — all super-charged by recent federal infrastructure investments.

California communities are built on a shared value of inclusion — embracing all ages, through intergenerational volunteering, age-friendly workplaces, life-long learning opportunities, grandparent support, and accessible state parks, libraries, arts, and sports. In California, we reject ageism, ableism, discrimination, and hate.

Protecting our most vulnerable elders' safety and security

Safety will always be paramount. California continues to upgrade our protections for older adults from risks such as disasters, scams, elder abuse, exploitation, and wandering with dementia to meet the needs we hear from families and law enforcement. We have patched holes in our state safety net — from basic income (SSI/SSP), groceries (CalFresh) and meals, Earned Income Tax Credit for 65+, and retirement accounts (CalSavers and CalABLE) — but recent increases in homelessness among older adults make it clear further action is still needed by federal, state, and local leaders to give elder adults housing security.

In my last two years as Governor at the helm of the Master Plan for Aging — before I hand it to the next Governor to lead through 2030 — I am committed to continuing the important work of making it easier for families to get the information and help they need to take care of their parents and aging loved ones, and to plan for all the stages of growing older. In partnership, my Administration is committed to delivering that and more to the people of California.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom
Governor of California



Message From
**CALIFORNIA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
SECRETARY KIM JOHNSON**

It is an honor to lead California's Master Plan for Aging (MPA) on behalf of Governor Newsom and his Cabinet. Our state's whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach is producing historic results for millions of Californians and their families. Community partners are at the center of this state and national movement — consumers, advocates, providers, researchers, funders, and subject matter experts are counting on all of us to deliver on our 10-year blueprint by 2030 when one in four Californians will be aged 60 or older.

Reflecting on 2024, I want to extend my deep gratitude to our valued partners in this effort. At the local level, we have 30 cities, counties, and regions collaborating to develop their own community-driven aging and disability plans. At the state level, close to 1,000 key allies joined together in this important work for the successful California for ALL Ages & Abilities: MPA Day of Action — an event made possible with philanthropic foundation support that featured inspiring words from legislative leaders and government officials. And this past year, we formed several strategic partnerships with federal agencies on critical topics including preventing and ending older adult homelessness, aligning aging and disability, strengthening the direct care workforce, and supporting family caregivers.

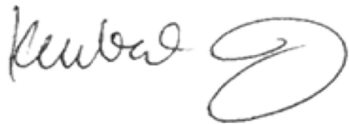
Culminating our fourth year of California's MPA, we can be proud of all that we have achieved together to date in support of older adults, people with disabilities, and family caregivers including:

- Medi-Cal expansion to all low-income Californians aged 50 and older has resulted in over 364,000 additional older adults now receiving health care coverage through Medi-Cal.

- More than 80,000 direct care workers and family caregivers, including In-Home Supportive Services, have received free skills training and career instruction with over \$76 million in incentives and stipend payments made directly to the workers.
- California has invested over \$570 million in Community Care Expansion funds to acquire, construct, and/or rehabilitate 61 adult and senior housing projects serving low-income residents, in addition to \$247 million in funds awarded to 34 counties to preserve licensed care facilities at risk of closure, avoiding displacement of low-income residents.
- In response to a series of climate-fueled disasters, state partners developed an Emergency Preparedness Guide tailored to older adults, people with disabilities, and individuals with access and functional needs with information available in English and five threshold languages.
- For the first time in our state's history, we conducted a quality of life survey of LGBTQIA+ midlife and older adults with more than 4,000 respondents — 86% of whom reported their quality of life as “good to excellent.”

In the year ahead, we will continue our forward momentum while we do everything we can to further the remarkable progress we've made to date to support older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kim Johnson", followed by a large, stylized circular flourish.

Kim Johnson
CalHHS Secretary



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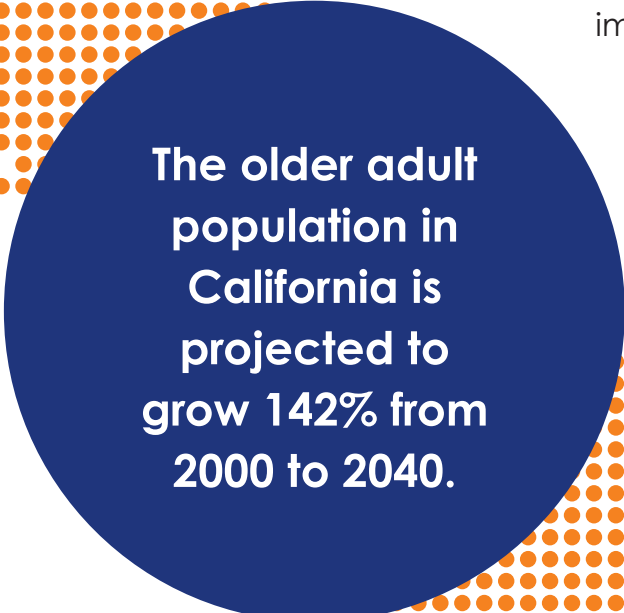
..... *Introduction*

By 2040, California's older adult population is projected to reach 11.4 million (28% of the state's total population) with significant racial and ethnic demographic shifts already underway. [California's Master Plan for Aging](#) (MPA) is a bold blueprint for transformational change and a statement of our values as a state that prioritizes the needs of our diverse and growing aging population. Since the MPA's launch in January 2021, the Newsom Administration and the Legislature have committed billions of dollars in unprecedented investments to advance the MPA.

Embracing a Whole-of-Government Framework

The MPA is both a whole-of-government effort, as evidenced by the strong leadership provided through the Governor's MPA Cabinet Workgroup, and a whole-of-community dialogue rooted in the active engagement of local, state, and private partners.

With a vision to build a state where people of all ages and abilities can thrive, California is making significant progress in planning for and implementing solutions to equitably finance, deliver, and organize services to meet the needs of older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers in culturally responsive ways.



**The older adult
population in
California is
projected to
grow 142% from
2000 to 2040.**



Goal 1: Housing for All Ages and Stages

We will live where we choose as we age in communities that are age-, disability-, and dementia-friendly and climate- and disaster-ready.



Goal 2: Health Reimagined

We will have access to the services we need to live at home in our communities and to optimize our health and quality of life.



Goal 3: Inclusion and Equity, Not Isolation

We will have lifelong opportunities for work, volunteering, engagement, and leadership and will be protected from isolation, discrimination, abuse, neglect, and exploitation.



Goal 4: Caregiving that Works

We will be prepared for and supported through the rewards and challenges of caring for aging loved ones.

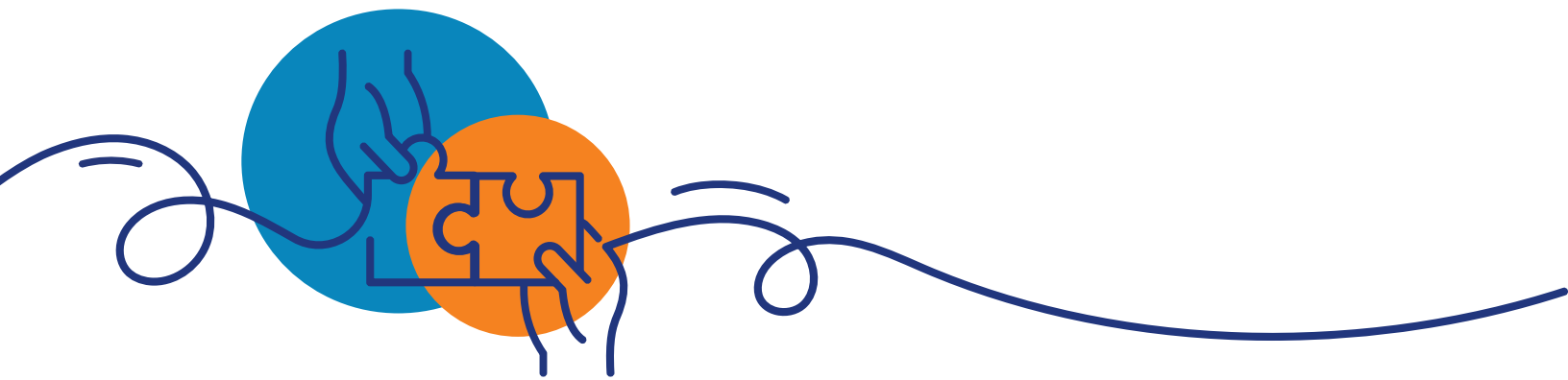


Goal 5: Affording Aging

We will have economic security for as long as we live.

This past year, California's aging and disability networks celebrated several key milestones, honoring the strong foundation on which the MPA is built:

- The [California Department of Aging](#) (CDA) and the [California Commission on Aging](#) (CCoA) celebrated 50 years of advocacy, assistance, and program delivery for millions of older Californians.
- The [California Caregiver Resource Centers](#) (CRCs) celebrated 40 years of providing support, education, and training to family caregivers.
- The [In-Home Supportive Services program](#) (IHSS) administered by the [California Department of Social Services](#) (CDSS) celebrated 50 years of providing vital in-home assistance to older adults and people with disabilities.
- The nation recognized the 25th anniversary of the landmark [Olmstead v. L.C. U.S. Supreme Court decision](#), which ruled the unjustified isolation and segregation of people with disabilities is a form of unlawful discrimination and ensures that people with disabilities receive services in the most integrated setting.



As the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#) (U.S. HHS) takes steps to develop a [National Plan on Aging](#), California has been called upon to share its state-level MPA strategies, successes, and lessons learned with federal partners. California remains committed to aligning opportunities with the National Plan within and across sectors to address the top priorities for older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers.

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“California is at the forefront, helping to move the nation in the right direction as the older adult population quickly grows. With the state's Master Plan for Aging, California has put forth a transformational plan of action that creates communities where people of all ages and abilities are valued and cared for. Congratulations to my home state for pushing the envelope and prioritizing care, programs, and services for older adults.”

Xavier Becerra, JD, Secretary

United States Department of Health and Human Services



Image courtesy of HCD

Driving Progress

The MPA is dynamic, flexible, and focused on outcomes and accountability across the Five Bold Goals.



Goal 1 – Housing for All Ages & Stages

More housing is being built across California, with new accountability and more streamlining to increase availability — especially affordable housing for all. Targeted efforts to boost housing options for older adults and people with disabilities include the continued dramatic expansion of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and the following actions in 2024:

Expanding Tax Credits to Develop More Affordable Senior Housing

To expand access to affordable housing for older adults, the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee (CTCAC) revised regulations in the low-income housing tax credit program to increase the goal for senior housing from 15% to 20%.

Expanding Assisted Living and Other Housing and Care Options

The [Community Care Expansion \(CCE\) Program](#), administered by CDSS, funds the acquisition, construction, and rehabilitation of adult and senior care facilities that serve applicants and recipients of [Supplemental Security Income](#)

[\(SSI\)](#), [State Supplementary Payments \(SSP\)](#), or [Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants \(CAPI\)](#) who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. By preserving and creating new housing with care and supportive services, CCE ensures that communities across California have the capacity to address the housing and care needs of older adults and individuals with disabilities who are underserved and living on a fixed income.

- CCE has invested \$570 million across 61 projects to create more assisted living and other residential housing and care options, adding over 3,000 new beds/units. Of this funding, over \$243 million was awarded to 29 projects to provide 1,512 beds in licensed residential adult and senior care facilities.
- In October 2024, a new 97-unit affordable and permanent supportive [CCE housing](#) project broke ground in Oakland's Chinatown.
- The CCE program complements the [CCE Preservation Program](#), which already awarded \$247 million to support licensed adult and senior care facilities serving low-income populations.
- In total, CCE anticipates building or preserving 7,000 beds/units to support older adults and people with disabilities who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. CCE program outcomes and results are available on the [CCE Data Dashboard](#).

Expanding Affordable Housing Opportunities

- The California [Department of Developmental Services](#) (DDS), in partnership with the Regional Center of the East Bay, opened its first [affordable housing apartment complex](#) for families and people with disabilities. The complex offers 63 units, with 12 units set aside for individuals and/or families of individuals supported by the regional center.
- In November 2024, [Governor Newsom announced that California Native American Tribes](#) will receive more than \$91 million to address housing and homelessness — \$71 million from the first-ever awards from the state's [Homekey Tribal Program](#), and \$20 million through the state's [Tribal Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program](#). Both programs are administered by the [California Department of Housing and Community Development](#) (HCD).

New Transitional Rent Support

In December 2024, California received federal approval from the [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services](#) (CMS) to provide up to six months of transitional

rent services for eligible Medi-Cal members who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness. Transitional rent is part of [California's BH-CONNECT](#) (Behavioral Health Community-Based Organized Networks of Equitable Care and Treatment) demonstration and is crucial in stabilizing individuals during vulnerable periods, significantly reducing the risk of returning to institutional care or experiencing homelessness. Transitional rent will serve as a bridge to permanent housing. For Medi-Cal members with significant behavioral health needs, the Behavioral Health Transformation funding dedicated to housing interventions will provide permanent rental subsidies and housing following Transitional Rent, providing seamless continuity and supporting Medi-Cal members in achieving long-term housing stability.

Strengthening Housing Supports to Prevent Homelessness and Rapidly Rehouse

The [Housing and Disability Advocacy Program](#) (HDAP), administered by CDSS, operates in 56 counties and 17 tribal agencies. HDAP serves individuals who are likely eligible for disability benefits and who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness, with special emphasis on those experiencing chronic homelessness. HDAP offers outreach, case management, benefits advocacy, and housing supports to meet individualized needs of program participants.

- From 2017 through June 2024, HDAP served 30,258 individuals. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24, 50% of participants exited to permanent housing (as compared to 35% of exits to permanent housing by local homeless programs).
- In FY 2023-24, 78% (1,161) of disposed applications were approved.
- \$100 million from HDAP one-time funds under the Budget Act of 2022 were reappropriated and set to expire June 30, 2026.
- The Budget Act of 2024 included the annual ongoing appropriation of \$25 million for HDAP in FY 2024-25 and eliminated the match requirement for this funding.

The [Home Safe Program](#), administered by CDSS, operates in 58 counties and 23 tribal agencies. Home Safe supports the safety and housing stability of older adults or dependent adults who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness due to abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or financial exploitation and who are served by or in the intake process for Adult Protective Services (APS), and those who have come to the attention of a tribe or tribal grantee due to potential abuse or neglect. Access to Home Safe through APS or tribal social services can provide urgent resources for older adults in crisis and connections to longer-term

supports to meet their housing needs. Home Safe offers housing-related financial assistance — including rental assistance, security deposits, utility payments, moving costs, and hotel/motel vouchers — and wraparound supportive services, including housing navigation, case management, and referrals for legal services.

- From 2018 to June 2024, the program served 15,615 individuals.
- In FY 2023-24, 61% of Home Safe participants exited to permanent housing and 76% of participants with data six months post-program exit retained their housing.
- After scaling up operations using the historic one-time funding appropriated in Budget Act 2021 and 2022, in FY 2022-23, Home Safe served 40% of the APS population with identified housing needs.
- The Budget Act of 2024 reappropriated one-time funding, with final Home Safe funds set to expire June 30, 2026, and extended the waiver of match requirements through the extended expenditure period.

The [Veterans Support to Self-Reliance Pilot Program](#) (VSSR) administered by the [California Department of Veterans Affairs](#) (CalVet) is testing various models through local grants to provide enhanced on-site supportive services for veterans 55 and older who are aging with high levels of care and who reside in permanent supportive housing. Expanded on-site support includes skilled nursing, occupational therapy, peer specialists, assistance with activities of daily living, and transportation services. Currently, VSSR is serving 420 veterans.

The [Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program](#) (BHBH), administered by the [Department of Health Care Services](#) (DHCS), awarded nearly \$133 million to 10 county behavioral health agencies to provide temporary and safe housing to individuals who have serious mental health or substance use disorder treatment needs. With this funding, counties will expand rental assistance programs, establish housing to address the needs of people exiting incarceration, and expand interim housing.

Enhancing Data Sharing to Prevent Homelessness

The [California Interagency Council on Homelessness](#) (Cal ICH), co-chaired by the Secretaries of the [Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency](#) (BCSH) and [California Health & Human Services Agency](#) (CalHHS), develops policies and identifies resources to prevent and end homelessness through implementation of the [Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness](#) (presented for Council review in December 2024). As part of this initiative, CDSS, in partnership with

Cal ICH, CalHHS, DHCS, and the [Center for Data Insights and Innovation](#) (CDII), executed the first-ever interagency agreement for the exchange and utilization of statewide [Homeless Data Integration System](#) (HDIS) and CalHHS program data. This agreement paves the way to facilitate sharing and linking critical client data, which will help inform system improvements and better connect individuals with services to prevent homelessness.

Partnering with Local, State, and Federal Leaders to End Homelessness

Developing partnerships across state, local, and federal agencies is key to advancing system change, as noted in the following efforts:

All INside

California, under the leadership of BCSH, was one of only seven participants nationwide in the [All INside Initiative](#). This first-of-its-kind initiative was part of the [federal government's strategic, multi-year, interagency plan](#) to prevent and end homelessness with a focus on unhoused veterans, youth, and older adults. Through this opportunity, California received technical assistance from the federal government to 1) accelerate locally driven strategies and enact system-level changes to reduce unsheltered homelessness; 2) identify opportunities for regulatory relief and flexibilities; 3) navigate federal funding streams; and 4) establish peer connections.

Expanding Access to Housing-Related Services and Supports

In February 2024, the U.S. HHS and the [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#) (HUD) selected California to participate in the [Housing and Services Partnership Accelerator program](#). The program supported states in developing or expanding innovative housing-related supports and services for Medicaid-eligible older adults and people with disabilities who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. DHCS served as the lead state entity, in partnership with CDA, [California Department of Rehabilitation](#) (DOR), BCSH, and HCD.

Building Safe Walking and Biking Routes

In December 2024, the [California Transportation Commission](#) (CTC) awarded over \$100 million to 13 projects across the state that are building safer walking and biking paths as part of the [2025 Active Transportation Program](#). The funded projects contribute to healthier communities, connect neighborhoods, and improve the quality of life for Californians.

Supporting Integrated Accessible Transportation

The [California Department of Transportation](#) (Caltrans), through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5310 Program (Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities) awarded \$51.7 million to more than 100 California nonprofit organizations and public agencies to support mobility options in rural, small urban areas and 14 large, urbanized areas. The program's goals include 1) improve mobility for older adults and individuals with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation services; 2) expand available transportation mobility options; and 3) provide financial assistance for transportation services planned, designed, and carried out to meet special transportation needs. The FTA approved the grant funding in September 2024 and Caltrans is working with agencies to start issuing the funding agreements.

The Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) is administered by the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) and supports efforts to fund improvements that modernize California's intercity rail, bus, ferry, and rail transit systems, enhance mobility options, and improve service. In 2023, California invested nearly \$3.5 billion in state funding to expand transit and passenger rail service throughout the state. In October 2024, more than \$1.3 billion in TIRCP funding was announced for 27 projects statewide. The projects have a combined \$10.28 billion of total project cost, leveraging significant local, state, and federal funding as match. The projects are expected to reduce greenhouse emissions by more than 4.3 million metric tons — equivalent to taking more than 1.3 million gas-powered cars off the road.

As of August 30, 2024, CalSTA approved more than \$2.2 billion to support public transportation as part of the first wave of [funding pursuant to Senate Bill \(SB\) 125 \(2023\)](#) from the transit recovery package in the FY 2023-24 state budget. As part of SB 125, a total of \$5.1 billion will be distributed among regional transportation planning agencies yearly through FY 2027-28.

Preparing for Emergencies and Disasters

The [Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#) (Cal OES), CDA, and DOR developed and disseminated the state's first-ever [Emergency Preparedness Guide: A Guide for Older Adults, Individuals with Disabilities, and People with Access and Functional Needs](#). The Guide is specifically designed to help older adults and people with disabilities prepare for emergencies to ensure they stay

safe before, during, and after disasters and other emergency events. The Guide is available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Tagalog. A statewide [webinar](#) and media tour were held to promote the resource and personal preparedness planning.

The governor announced [ready.ca.gov](#) — a new one-stop shop for Californians to prepare for emergencies and extreme weather. The new website is part of [Listos California](#), a state effort that connects communities with resources before, during, and after emergencies. Resources include life-saving tips and information for older adults, people with chronic health conditions, and individuals with disabilities regarding wildfires, extreme heat, floods, earthquakes, power outages, and more.



Goal 2 – Health Reimagined

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“Enhanced Care Management and Community Supports are cornerstones of Medi-Cal's transformative efforts to empower older adults and people with disabilities to remain in their homes or preferred settings, supported by comprehensive, person-centered care. Through these innovative programs, California is closing health equity gaps and expanding access to tailored support services. Additionally, our state is boldly addressing the behavioral health needs of older adults by reimagining the behavioral health care system to deliver equitable, accessible, and capacity-driven solutions for all.”

Michelle Baass, Director
California Department of Health Care Services

California is transforming health care to be more affordable, cover more home- and community-based services, and deliver mental health for all. Efforts with significant impact on older adults and people with disabilities in 2024 include:

Expanding Health Care and Coverage

New Services in the Home and Community (CalAIM)

Older adults and people with disabilities with the lowest incomes in California are covered by Medi-Cal health insurance. Medi-Cal is being transformed to improve health and well-being. The [California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal](#) (CalAIM) program provides a whole-person approach to care for California's Medi-Cal beneficiaries. CalAIM's [Enhanced Care Management](#) (ECM) and [Community Supports](#) (CS) play a critical role in supporting Medi-Cal members with complex medical and health-related social needs.

- Through [CalAIM's PATH CITED](#) (Providing Access and Transforming Health Capacity and Infrastructure Transition, Expansion, and Development) initiative funding, DHCS awarded [\\$146.6 million to 133 community providers](#) throughout California, building local capacity and infrastructure to scale ECM and CS services statewide. DHCS continues to improve access to ECM by standardizing referrals and expediting the authorization process.
- [Current reporting data](#) indicate that 17,797 individuals aged 65 and older (13% of the total ECM members) utilized ECM services in the last 12 months, and 29,601 individuals aged 65 and older (23% of the total CS members) have utilized CS services in the last 12 months.

Free Medicare Part A (Inpatient) for People with Medicare and Medi-Cal

On January 1, 2025, [California became a Medicare Part A buy-in state](#). This means that eligible Medi-Cal members will receive Medicare Part A services for free if they are enrolled in Medicare Part B and they qualify for the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary program (QMB). For these members, Medicare, instead of Medi-Cal, will provide primary coverage for hospitalizations and other inpatient benefits. Under this new buy-in agreement with CMS:

- California will eliminate the conditional enrollment requirements for Medicare Part A at the Social Security Administration.
- California can enroll eligible QMB members in Medicare Part A year-round without any late enrollment penalties.
- All eligible full-scope Medi-Cal members receiving SSI/SSP will be automatically enrolled in Medicare Part A if they are enrolled in Medicare Part B and qualify for the QMB program.

- Non-SSI/SSP individuals can apply and enroll in the QMB program once enrolled in Medicare Part B at their county office. Once QMB-enrolled, DHCS will automatically enroll them in the Medicare Part A buy-in and pay their Part A premium.

Improving Health Care Affordability

In support of California's leading efforts to reduce health care costs, the [Office of Health Care Affordability Board](#) approved a [statewide health care spending target](#) of 3% to be phased in over time. This effort aims to make consumer premiums, deductibles, and copays more affordable. Additionally, the board approved [benchmarks for primary care investment](#), aiming to reach a 15% investment over time. This effort builds upon California's leadership in building a high-quality, equitable health system and controlling costs.

[California's CalRx®](#) program is making medications more affordable for all Californians. The CalRx® Biosimilar Insulin Initiative continues to move forward to bring this lifesaving and life-sustaining drug to market. Additionally, in 2024 California secured approval to purchase an over-the-counter naloxone nasal spray at almost half price. This effort makes naloxone more accessible and affordable, especially for low-income, uninsured, or underinsured individuals.

Transforming Behavioral Health in California

[Proposition 1](#) (2024) was passed by California voters in March 2024 to modernize California's behavioral health delivery system by improving accountability, increasing transparency, and expanding system capacity.

- Proposition 1 (2024) includes up to \$6.4 billion in bonds to build new supportive housing and community-based treatment settings with DHCS releasing the first Request for Application announcing the availability of \$3.3 billion in competitive [Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program](#) (BHCIP) grant funding in July 2024.
- California has secured [federal and state funding](#) to revolutionize behavioral health care for Medi-Cal members. In December 2024, [DHCS announced](#) that CMS approved the [BH-CONNECT](#) demonstration. This transformative initiative establishes a robust continuum of evidence-based community services for people with significant behavioral health needs, including providing up to six months of transitional rent for qualified members, funding new training for providers and counties, and addressing disparities and filling service gaps through targeted funding and innovative programs. By

expanding community-based services and integrating evidence-based practices, BH-CONNECT aims to reduce costly emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and institutional stays. BH-CONNECT is a pillar of [Governor Newsom's Mental Health for All initiative](#) and is aligned with Behavioral Health Transformation efforts underway to modernize California's behavioral health system, expand access to evidence-based service models, and address the housing needs of Californians with behavioral health conditions.

- In November 2024, HCD, in collaboration with CalVet, announced the availability of approximately \$2.145 billion of [Homekey+](#) funding to support the development of permanent supportive housing for veterans and individuals with mental health or substance use disorder challenges who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness.
- The [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#) offers 24/7 call, text, and chat access to trained crisis counselors who can help people experiencing suicidal, substance use, and/or mental health crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress. CalHHS convened the [988-Crisis Policy Advisory Group](#) [[Assembly Bill \(AB\) 988 \(Chapter 747, Statutes of 2022\)](#)] to advise on the development of recommendations for a five-year implementation plan for a comprehensive 988 system to connect individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis to support. In 2024, the workgroup drafted a [Five-Year Implementation Plan](#) for public comment.

Helping People Live in the Community, Not Institutions

Since 2022, the [Community Living Fund](#) (CLF) Program administered through DOR serves as a bridge program that expedites the provision of goods or services not available through other means to individuals either transitioning to the community or at risk of institutionalization. Since 2022, CLF has served 1,386 individuals with 175 individuals transitioning from institutional settings to community-based living and 1,177 receiving diversion services to prevent institutionalization. Of those served, 92% rate their quality of life as improved after receiving services and 94% are confident that they can maintain living in their community of choice.

The [California Community Transitions Project](#) (CCT), administered by DHCS, supports eligible Medi-Cal beneficiaries who have been receiving services in skilled nursing or other inpatient health care facilities for 60 days or longer to transition to a community setting. Since 2021, CCT has supported 3,230 individuals

to transition to the community including 2,152 aged 65 and older and 1,078 individuals under 65.

Improving Health and Safety through Adult Day Centers

The Governor's 2022-23 Budget included \$61.4 million for CDA to administer the [Bridge to Recovery](#) (BTR) grant program, which supports Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) centers, licensed Adult Day Programs (ADP), and the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) centers in developing capacity to respond to public health emergencies. CDA has awarded 708 grants totaling \$55.8 million. Grantees are using resources for a range of needs including infection prevention and mitigation measures, workforce shortages, vehicles to provide transportation, and other improvements to ensure safe access to in-person congregate services.

Advancing Health Equity to Thrive as We Age

California continues to prioritize equity throughout the MPA, with the following accomplishments in 2024:

Justice-Involved Reentry Initiative

California is the first state in the nation to receive federal approval for offering a targeted set of Medi-Cal services to eligible adults returning to the community after incarceration. To help individuals successfully return to their communities, California is establishing pre-release Medi-Cal enrollment strategies to ensure continuity of coverage upon release including access to services and supports in the community.

Protecting Nursing Home Residents

Governor Newsom signed [Senate Bill \(SB\) 1354](#) (Chapter 339, Statutes of 2024) into law, making it unlawful for long-term care facilities participating in the Medi-Cal program to discriminate against Medi-Cal beneficiaries, including admission practices and discharge attempts.

Culturally-Focused Care

California received [federal approval](#) to cover culturally-based traditional healer and natural helper services for substance use disorder treatment through Medi-Cal. This [benefit approval](#) supports American Indian and Alaska Native Medi-Cal members by integrating culturally centered care into the health care system.



Goal 3 – Inclusion and Equity, Not Isolation

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“The diversity of California is our strength. Our collective commitment to make our state a better place, a healthier place, is what binds us together. The California Health & Human Services Agency, in collaboration with public and private partners, are tackling priority issues with the Master Plan for Aging to improve health and social outcomes of communities who have historically been left behind and continue to face inequities.”

Daniel Torres, Chief Equity Officer

California Health & Human Services Agency

California’s values are rooted in inclusion and opportunity for all people — including all ages and all abilities. Every older adult and person with a disability has a very different life journey, including opportunities as well as experiences of hardship, loss, and discrimination. All Californians deserve to be included, supported, and protected throughout their lives. Key actions toward advancing California’s values in 2024 include:

Releasing California’s First LGBTQIA+ Older Adult Statewide Survey

CDA initiated and funded the first LGBTQIA+ statewide survey on the health, well-being, and economic status of midlife and older LGBTQIA+ adults. This survey aimed to identify the needs of LGBTQIA+ older adults to help inform the development of affirming programs and services. The collaborative survey was led by a team from the [Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society and the Banatao Institute \(CITRIS\)](#) and the [Center for the Advanced Study of Aging Services at the University of California, Berkeley, Openhouse](#), and the [University of California, San Francisco, Department of Community Health Systems](#). The survey was available in Chinese, English,

Spanish, and Tagalog to facilitate participation across LGBTQIA+ communities in California. The [full survey report](#) is now available.

- Findings indicate that race/ethnicity and gender identity intersect to compound inequities.
- Most survey respondents (86%) gave high ratings to their quality of life, while 14% rated their quality of life as fair or poor. People of color and transgender respondents had higher numbers rating their quality of life as fair or poor.
- Among the over 4,000 survey respondents, common themes that illuminate some of the challenges LGBTQIA+ older adults face included: barriers to access; lack of social support, especially when caregiving; and ongoing mistrust in providers and authorities.

Supporting Social Connections

Friendship Line

CDA received funding in FYs 2023-24 and 2024-25 to continue supporting [Friendship Line California](#), a free crisis intervention hotline and warmline for non-emergency emotional support calls for people aged 60 and older and adults with disabilities. In 2024, language access was expanded to include emotional support in English, Spanish, Korean, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Cantonese, and Mandarin. From January through November 2024, the Friendship Line engaged in 117,673 calls.

Neighbor-to-Neighbor

[California Volunteers](#) awarded 10 grants to local communities across the state to encourage neighborhood social connections and volunteer stewardship through its [Neighbor-to-Neighbor](#) program. The program focuses on addressing the loneliness epidemic, disaster preparedness, climate action, and local needs.

Preventing Financial Abuse

In August 2024, CDSS launched HelpVul, an online banking financial abuse reporting tool that addresses suspected abuse of vulnerable adults by harnessing secure technology to directly connect APS program financial services and law enforcement. The APS program is providing technical assistance and training to county partners on how to integrate HelpVul into their APS reporting processes.

Closing the Digital Divide

CDA led the following programs to enhance access to digital technology and reduce isolation and loneliness among older adults and people with disabilities:

Digital Connections (DC)

CDA partnered with local Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), the Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP), Community-Based Adult Services Centers (CBAS), and PACE programs to provide over 16,000 iPads — including internet service plans, technical support, and digital literacy training — to eligible older adults and people with disabilities.

Access to Technology (ATT)

CDA provided grants to 41 counties to purchase digital devices and internet service plans, and to provide training to older adults and people with disabilities, with the goal of increasing and improving digital infrastructure in the community. More than 73,000 older adults and adults with disabilities across the state benefited from ATT program services.

Evaluation findings

[NORC at the University of Chicago](#) evaluated the DC and ATT projects, finding that the resources helped to reduce social isolation and loneliness with impactful lessons learned for future processes and programs.

Enhancing the Capacity of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program to Protect the Rights of Residents of Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities

In 2022, the [Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman](#) (LTCO) secured a \$1.9 million grant from the federal [Administration for Community Living](#) (ACL) to design, develop, and implement a statewide volunteer recruitment campaign scheduled for launch in 2025. Additionally, the Legislature and Administration included a \$6.25 million increase from the Licensing and Certification Fund and State Health Facilities Citations Penalties Account special funds through the 2024-25 enacted budget to build capacity in the 35 local LTCO programs. These funds are earmarked to increase paid certified LTCO staff focused on meeting the growing complexity and demand for advocacy by residents in long-term care (LTC) facilities.



Goal 4 – Caregiving that Works



"Caregiving is almost a universal experience, and at the same time, caregivers are diverse along many dimensions. California is ahead of the curve in meeting the diverse needs of caregivers, with the MPA Goal 4: 'Caregiving that Works.' This goal reflects a commitment to equity and appreciates the forces that shape both expectations and resources, with investments in statewide services and supports for family caregivers that promote tailoring to assure access and inclusion for all."

Heather M. Young, Ph.D., RN, FAAN

Professor, Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing

University of California, Davis

CA Aging and Disability Research Partnership (CADRP) Member

All of us will either need care for ourselves or care for our loved ones — or both — at some point in our lives, according to former First Lady Rosalynn Carter (1927-2023). California is leading the nation in supporting both family caregivers and paid care workers — but much more remains to be done to support this essential workforce and career pathway. Progress in 2024 includes:

Strengthening the Direct Care Workforce

California GROWs (CalGrows)

[CalGrows](#) (Growing a Resilient, Outstanding Workforce in the Home and Community) was a Direct Care Workforce Training and Stipends Program administered by CDA that provided incentives, support, and career pathways for the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) workforce, contributing to high-quality care statewide. California has seen remarkable outcomes made

possible by CalGrows:

- 33,429 unique learners with 220,646 courses completed
- Over \$35.9 million paid out in stipends and incentives to direct care workers
- 700 trainings offered in 10 languages

CalGrows ended in September 2024 but training content remains accessible through the [CalGrows website](#).

In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Career Pathways Program

The IHSS Career Pathways Program, administered by CDSS, provided education and training opportunities to IHSS and Waiver Personal Care Services (WPCS) providers in the areas of health and safety, adult education, cognitive and behavioral health, complex physical needs, and transitioning to home and community-based living. The program delivered the following results:

- 58,505 unique learners
- \$41.3 million paid out in incentives to providers
- 27,030 trainings offered in eight languages

The IHSS Career Pathways program ended in September 2024.

Minimum Wage Increase for Direct Service Professionals

With the enactment of [Senate Bill \(SB\) 3](#), the California minimum wage increased to \$16.50 per hour, effective January 1, 2025, for all employers. As a result, [Regional Center vendors may be eligible for a rate adjustment](#) to pay direct services professionals the new minimum wage.

Launching California's Caregiver Equity Roadmap

In partnership with the [University of California, Davis Family Caregiving Institute](#) and the 11 CRCs, CDA developed a caregiver equity roadmap to improve the quality of services and support for family caregivers across the state.

Leading a National Strategy for Family Caregivers

In 2024, CDA was awarded nearly \$500,000 from the federal ACL to advance the [2022 National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers](#). With this funding, CDA is launching Cal CARES (California Caregiver Awareness, Resources, Education & Support) with a focus on underserved and underrepresented communities to improve outreach to caregivers, navigation of caregiver resources, and access to caregiver education and training opportunities.

Supporting Paid Family Leave for Family Caregivers

Governor Newsom signed two bills into law that further California's nation-leading support of family caregivers: [AB 2123](#) (Chapter 949, Statutes of 2024) and [SB 1090](#) (Chapter 876, Statutes of 2024). AB 2123 allows workers to access Paid Family Leave without having to use accrued vacation time first, and SB 1090 allows workers to apply for Paid Family Leave and State Disability Insurance benefits up to 30 days before they are on leave.



Goal 5 – Affording Aging

Affordability is among the greatest challenges to older adults and people with disabilities — especially for those living on fixed incomes. Californians need enough income to cover their basic needs throughout their longer lives, as well as access to affordable housing (MPA Goal 1) and access to health care (MPA Goal 2), to be truly secure. Progress in 2024 includes:

Increasing Income Security

1.1 million older Californians and people with disabilities with the lowest income receive SSI/SSP to provide a basic income. The [State Supplementary Payment](#) (SSP) amount was increased by 9.2% on January 1, 2024. This increase resulted in total SSI and SSP grants increasing to a maximum of \$1,182.92 for an individual and \$2,022.83 for a couple. The [Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants](#) (CAPI), California's state equivalent to SSI/SSP, increased CAPI payments by the same rate. On January 1, 2025, the annual federal cost of living that applies to all federal Social Security payments including SSI (but not SSP) increased monthly amounts by 2.5%.

Expanding Access to Retirement Savings

In 2024, [CalSavers](#), California's retirement savings program designed to ensure all Californians have access to a workplace retirement savings account, reached

\$1 billion in assets under management. From the pilot in 2019 through July 2024, CalSavers saw 89.5% of employers respond to the call to action to register for the savings program, with over 50,000 employers facilitating over 519,000 savers fund accounts.

Growing Financial Stability for People with Disabilities

The [CalABLE \(California Achieving a Better Life Experience\) Savings Plan](#) gives Californians the ability to save for disability-related expenses by putting money in tax-advantaged investments, while protecting their eligibility for means-tested public benefits programs. CalABLE helps remove barriers to savings, provides financial tools, and safeguards assets for people with disabilities. In 2024, CalABLE made major growth with over 12,300 savings accounts reaching nearly \$162 million in assets under management.

Providing Nutritious Groceries and Meals and Supports

Older adults and people with disabilities with the lowest income receive CalFresh food benefits to buy groceries each month. Additionally, in 2024, millions of older adults and people with disabilities received [home and community meals](#), nutrition education, and nutrition risk screening through California's aging network.

- CDSS developed an [updated, interactive listing](#) of adult day programs offering nutritious meals at low or no cost through its [Child and Adult Care Food Program](#) (CACFP). CACFP participants can improve the quality of day center care and make nutrition more affordable and accessible.
- CDA invested over \$31.4 million locally through the federal American Rescue Plan Act to improve infrastructure supporting older adult access to nutrition services. This includes expanded home-delivered meal capacity, upgrades in commercial kitchen equipment, new electric delivery vehicles, and reconfigured sites and furnishing.
- Governor Newsom signed [SB 1254](#) (Chapter 465, Statutes of 2024) into law, providing streamlined assistance to individuals applying for CalFresh benefits before their release from state prison or county jail to better prepare for reentry to the community.
- At the federal level, ACL released the 2024 final rule to update [Older Americans Act regulations](#) (OAA), providing the most substantial update to the OAA since 1988. Updates will offer additional flexibility within senior nutrition programs and allow continued program innovation in California.



Leading with Equity So All Californians Thrive

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Addressing the complex challenges facing older adults and people with disabilities requires cross-sector collaboration, with community voices driving policies and programs. The recommendation of the Equity Advisory Committee on Aging and Disability to establish an Aging & Disability Lived Experience Advisory Board is a vital step in achieving this goal. This effort is supported by a public-private partnership and reflects California's commitment to a whole-of-society approach that prioritizes equity.”

Rigo J. Saborio

Chief Executive Officer, Archstone Foundation
Equity Advisory Committee on Aging and Disability (EACAD) Member

Improving Language Access in Public Information and Services

In May 2023, CalHHS adopted its first comprehensive agency-wide [Language Access Policy](#) (LAP) to ensure that CalHHS and its departments provide meaningful access to information, programs, benefits, and services to people with limited English proficiency (LEP).

Utilizing Data to Support Equity

CDA is partnering with the [UCLA Center for Health Policy Research](#) to implement several strategies to improve the functionality and efficiency of the [California Elder Economic Security Standard™ Index](#) (CEI). The CEI is a health equity tool that enables policy makers at the state and local levels to assess the cost of living for older adults in California. These data are available by year, county, family type, and several demographic indicators (housing type, gender, age, race, and ethnicity). Through this academic partnership, CDA aims to develop resources for AAAs and others interested in understanding the economic security of older adults in their communities.

Launching a Medi-Cal Health Equity Roadmap to Build a Stronger, More inclusive Health Care System

DHCS, in partnership with the [California Health Care Foundation](#), launched the [Health Equity Roadmap Initiative](#). The Initiative is part of California's broader health equity strategy to create a more equitable, person-centered Medi-Cal health care delivery system for underserved groups and communities.

Eliminating Barriers Based on Age and Ageism

With a commitment to equity principles, California is making strides against ageism. In September 2024, the [California Department of Motor Vehicles](#) (DMV) announced that drivers aged 70 and older whose licenses expire in 2024 and beyond will [no longer be required to take a written knowledge test](#) beginning October 1, 2024.



Dementia in Focus

Alzheimer's Prevention and Preparedness Accomplishments

Guided by Governor Newsom's [Alzheimer's Prevention and Preparedness Task Force](#), California has made critical progress in implementing all 10 key recommendations set forth in 2020 to address Alzheimer's and dementia. California's groundbreaking efforts are a national benchmark, with a focus on equity by supporting populations and communities at the highest risk. In 2024, Governor Newsom [signed a package of 12 legislative bills](#) to help California's law enforcement, doctors, health care providers, and local aging services better serve the growing number of older adults and families impacted by Alzheimer's and dementia.

Modernizing the Alzheimer's Community Care Model

Seven licensed Alzheimer's Day Programs and ADHC centers across California participated in the [Cal-COMPASS](#) (California Community Program for Alzheimer's Services and Supports) Pilot Program. From November 2022 through September 2024, the seven Cal-COMPASS organizations served 962 individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders. The organizations improved their capacity, services, and structures to further sustain their specialized services. Cal-COMPASS partners launched a learning community that developed guidelines and resources to promote the standardization and expansion of dementia-capable adult day services in California.

Promoting Dementia Care Aware to Health Care Providers

[Dementia Care Aware](#), a program led by the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), improves the early detection of dementia by strengthening the ability of the primary care workforce to detect and care for people living with dementia, especially in underserved populations. The program provides training on the [Cognitive Health Assessment](#) (CHA), a quick five-to-10-minute screening for dementia. Since its launch in 2022, Dementia Care Aware has trained over 5,600 providers on the CHA and offers resources to support assessment and care planning. With continued support from [West Health](#) and the [Archstone Foundation](#), California continues to be a leader in provider trainings and supporting health care teams and caregivers to drive long-term system improvements.

Supporting Healthy Brain Initiatives Across California

The [Healthy Brain Initiative](#) (HBI) of the [California Department of Public Health](#) (CDPH) funds 13 local health jurisdictions to implement the activities outlined in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) [Healthy Brain Initiative: State and Local Road Map for Public Health, 2023-27](#). These public health activities focus on surveillance, data collection, information and education, mobilizing public and private partnerships, and ensuring a competent workforce to improve health outcomes. CDPH, under the CDC's Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant, will expand California's HBI work to include tribal and rural communities building off the recently released [Healthy Brain Initiative: Road Map for American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples](#). Additionally, [Sacramento County](#), with CDPH funding and support, finished preliminary work to explore becoming Blue Zones® certified by completing an [in-depth readiness assessment](#).

Raising Alzheimer's Awareness and Education

CDPH launched an \$8.5 million multi-pronged, equity-focused public awareness media campaign titled [Take on Alzheimer's](#) to promote facts about Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and encourage education, awareness, and conversations with loved ones and health care providers. The campaign included several resources, including a [media and outreach toolkit](#) for partners with materials in multiple languages — English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese,

Hmong, Korean, Tagalog, Punjabi, Japanese, Khmer, Hindi, and Tongan. CDPH partnered with UCSF to develop and release a [digital brain health toolkit](#) designed to help people 55 and older understand their brain health and support standards of dementia care among health providers.

Updating Dementia Care Regulations with Person-Centered Principles

The [Dementia Care in Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly \(RCFEs\) and Miscellaneous Regulation Changes package](#) of CDSS was approved in October 2024 and went into effect January 1, 2025. The updated regulations support person-centered care for residents and help to preserve their ability to remain in RCFEs, allowing residents to age in place in the least restrictive environment regardless of diagnosis. To support care for all residents, regulation updates reflect care standards across several domains, including Plan of Operation, Planned Activities, Personal Accommodations and Services, Storage Space and Access, Pre-Admission Appraisal and Reappraisals.



CA for ALL Ages &
Abilities: 2024 Master
Plan for Aging Day
of Action

Convening Our Constituents

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“The genius of the Master Plan for Aging is the unwavering commitment to the lived experience of the community members it seeks to serve. The goals and priorities are not static but shaped by stakeholders across sectors. This ensures the lived experience of older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers are always at the forefront, and contemplated system changes are not theoretical but tested through the lived experiences of our represented communities.”

Bertha S. Hayden, Directing Attorney

Bet Tzedek

Elder and Disability Justice Coordinating Council (EDJCC) Member

Elevating the Voices of Diverse Community Partners and Stakeholders to Inform the MPA

Input from community partners and the public is central to informing MPA development and implementation. [Six standing advisory committees](#) address issues related to home and community living, elder and disability justice, equity, Alzheimer's and dementia, research, and MPA oversight. To increase direct representation from individuals currently interacting with systems of care,

California is establishing an Aging and Disability Lived Experience Advisory Board (AD-LEAB). By elevating lived experience and community input through an equity-informed approach, AD-LEAB will help inform the implementation of the MPA.

Partnering to Host the MPA Day of Action to Address the Top Issues Impacting Older Adults, People with Disabilities, and Caregivers

CDA, with support from philanthropic partners, hosted the second [CA for ALL Ages & Abilities: 2024 MPA Day of Action](#) in October 2024. The MPA Day of Action brought together consumers, stakeholders, community partners, philanthropic organizations, state and federal leaders, and legislative partners to highlight the accomplishments of the MPA and reaffirm California's collective commitment to building a state for all ages and abilities. This year's event, with more than 1,000 in-person and online participants, elevated stakeholder recommendations to inform development of the 2025-26 MPA Initiatives. A keynote presentation was delivered by U.S. HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra with in-person participation from Senate President pro Tempore Mike McGuire, Assemblymember Corey Jackson, and Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry.

Engaging to Improve Medicare/Medi-Cal Policy and Services

To help guide the implementation of CalAIM with a focus on improving integration and person-centered care, DHCS convenes the [CalAIM Managed Long-Term Services and Supports \(MLTSS\) and Duals Integration Workgroup](#). The Workgroup provides an opportunity for federal, state, and local partners to share information, discuss, and give feedback about policy, operations, and strategy for MLTSS and duals integration topics.

Learning from IHSS Consumers on their Satisfaction with Care and Services

In July 2024, CDSS released its analysis of the [2023 IHSS Consumer Satisfaction Survey](#), with a total of 73,446 IHSS recipients responding. The majority of respondents indicated satisfaction with their care, an understanding of their roles and responsibilities in the program, and satisfaction with the services they receive from their respective counties. Key findings also noted program challenges related to finding and hiring care providers that meet individual needs, and others.



CA for ALL Ages & Abilities: 2024 Master Plan for Aging Day of Action



Strengthening Our Communities

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“Through our Inland Empire master plan for aging focus groups, we are listening and learning about what our community needs, how they want to be reached, and how they want to be treated. The success and impact of our local plan relies on community input and shared leadership. Together, we are joining forces with providers and consumers to advocate our community's priorities to state leaders. We are building a network of champions!”

Carmen Estrada, Executive Director
Inland Caregiver Resource Center

Increasing Public Awareness of Key Resources for Aging Well in California

CDA developed and maintains an [online Aging Resource Guide](#), offering information on a variety of programs and services designed to support older adults, people with disabilities, and family caregivers, including housing,

emergency preparedness, abuse protection, healthy eating, caregiver support, and more. The Guide is available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Tagalog.

Supporting Local Planning Efforts for Age- and Disability-Friendly Communities

The [Local Aging & Disability Action Planning](#) (LADAP) grant program administered by CDA supports 21 grantees representing 30 communities in planning for and addressing the needs of California's older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers. LADAP elevates the importance of tailoring state MPA implementation to diverse regions of the state, considering the unique geographies, demographics, and service barriers, and serves as a structure to facilitate communication and coordination between state and local MPA efforts. Additionally, LADAP is gaining national recognition as a pioneering initiative, highlighting the feasibility and importance of investing in building local capacity and multisector partnerships to create inclusive communities.

Preparing California's Aging Network

In collaboration with the California Commission on Aging and the state Legislature, CDA, together with its local partners (AAAs and counties), reached agreement on SB 1249 (Roth) (Chapter 337, Statutes of 2024) to advance the key provisions of the department's "California 2030" stakeholder initiative. Signed into law by Governor Newsom, SB 1249 prepares the aging network for changing demographics by requiring new accountability measures and public transparency in three critical areas: 1) Core programs delivered to older adults and family caregivers statewide; 2) Planning Service Area (PSA) and AAA designation criteria; and 3) equitable Intrastate Funding Formula (IFF). Implementation of SB 1249 coincides with adoption of the Administration for Community Living's Older Americans Act (OAA) final rule set for October 2025.



Aligning Aging and Disability

Bridging Aging and Disability to Leverage Resources and Care

Together, CDA and DDS co-lead the Disability and Aging Community of Practice to better align aging and disability systems to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) as they age, as well as their caregivers. In 2024, the project team drafted a Common Terminology resource to convey the importance of plain language principles; added aging-related questions to the DDS Statewide Individual Program Plan Template Service Coordinator Guide; and promoted best practices in aging-related community projects across Regional Centers. Additionally, DDS has an [Aging Resources webpage](#) with helpful information and tools to guide people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are aging, as well as engage and support their caregivers and loved ones.

Strengthening the Developmental Services System for Accessibility, Quality, and Equity for All Consumers

In 2024, under the leadership of the CalHHS Agency, California embarked on development of a [Master Plan for Developmental Services](#) focused on equitable, consistent, and accessible services for all Californians with developmental disabilities. The Plan is informed by a [stakeholder committee](#) that represents a diverse group of individuals with varying backgrounds and experiences. With

a commitment to equity, the Plan will reflect the needs and priorities gleaned from community roundtables held across the state. The Plan will be released in March 2025.

Expanding Aging and Disability Resources to More Californians

The [Aging and Disability Resource Connection](#) (ADRC) network supports older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers in accessing information and navigating the long-term services and supports system. The ADRC network has expanded to 24 Designated ADRCs and two Emerging ADRC partnerships spanning 31 counties statewide. In partnership with three vendors, CDA administers training for over 700 local partner organization staff to develop knowledge and skills and attain certification for topic areas such as information and assistance, care transitions, person-centered counseling, and more.

Building an Accessible Tomorrow to Support Older Adults and People with Disabilities

In September 2024, state partners joined local partners at the first-ever [Government and Disability Summit](#) hosted by Ventura County. The event explored innovative solutions for disability inclusion, fostered collaborations toward accessible communities, empowered people with disabilities to share their experiences, and discussed accessibility principles and practices with a focus on emergency preparedness.



Advancing Home and Community Care Choices

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“Older Californians and people with disabilities deserve the opportunity to live in the communities of their choice, supported by the services they need to live with dignity and independence. California must eliminate the financial and administrative obstacles that keep so many people from accessing home and community-based services.”

Hagar Dickman, Director, California Long-Term Services and Supports Advocacy

Justice in Aging

Disability and Aging Community Living Advisory Committee (DACLAC) Member

Providing Critical Services and Supports

California's [Long-Term Services and Supports system](#) (LTSS) provides a wide array of services that support older adults, people with disabilities, and family caregivers at home, in the community, and in congregate settings. The MPA aims to achieve LTSS system reform through a coordinated and multipronged approach that addresses access to services and supports, streamlined navigation tools, a well-supported workforce, financing, and affordability.

Streamlining Navigation of Services and Supports

Many Californians have difficulty finding the information they need to make informed choices. In response, the MPA is driving solutions to streamline access to information by planning for statewide adoption of a consumer contact center and consumer-facing web portal. This effort includes a multiyear, cross-agency State Leadership Council to plan for a “No Wrong Door” system.

Improving Access to Services and Supports

Many individuals in need of services and supports are unable to access services for various reasons, including lack of local program availability, long waitlists, or other factors. Through the MPA, California is developing a two-part Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Gap Analysis and Multiyear Roadmap that will develop a path forward to building out California's HCBS infrastructure. This endeavor, which is being jointly led by DHCS and CDA, in partnership with other CalHHS departments, includes a gap analysis and roadmap for Medi-Cal HCBS as well as Non-Medi-Cal HCBS. The gap analysis is scheduled to be released in 2025 with the roadmap to follow.

Building a Qualified Workforce to Support Older Adults and People with Disabilities

Ensuring that California has the workforce needed to care for our aging population is a critical goal of the MPA. Since the launch of the MPA, the Administration and Legislature have invested unprecedented resources to meet the growing needs of the direct care workforce through training and incentive programs, as well as other initiatives that build the workforce pipeline to increase the number of direct care and specialized workers available to care for a growing aging population.

Exploring Financing Options for Older Adults and People with Disabilities

Many Californians confront challenges in how to pay for LTSS. Medicare does not pay for LTSS, and most Californians cannot afford to purchase private long-term care insurance. Through the MPA, the Administration and Legislature invested \$5 million for CDA to lead a cross-agency initiative to support data analysis and research focused on LTSS financing options for older adults and people with disabilities, including exploring options for Medicare coverage of home and community-based services.



Holding Ourselves Accountable

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“In the last four years we have seen California invest billions of dollars to strengthen existing programs and launch new services to support older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers. We’ve seen expansions in health care coverage, reforms to bridge clinical care with community living, and a renewed emphasis on behavioral health for older adults. California’s commitment to equity is evident by the progress we have made to date and remains a core value of our future Master Plan for Aging work.”

Fernando Torres-Gil, MSW, Ph.D. Professor, Social Welfare and Public Policy

Director, Center for Policy Research on Aging

University of California, Los Angeles

Implementing the MPA in CA Together (IMPACT) Advisory Committee Member

Through data and tools, including the [MPA Data Dashboard for Aging](#) and the [MPA Implementation Tracker](#), California continues its commitment to driving progress through data-informed decision-making.

Updating the Data Dashboard for Aging (DDA) with User-Friendly Features

CDA continues to update and publish new content to the DDA. With numerous usability improvements, the DDA is evolving to serve as a valuable data resource to inform the public, stakeholders, and policymakers alike.

- The improved demographic profile of older adults provides consumers with a range of informative, high-quality demographic data about older adults at the county level.
- The Population Projection dashboard allows consumers to better understand older adult population and racial/ethnic shifts at the state and county level.
- The Key Outcomes dashboards provide a transparent method to track priority MPA topics.

Sharing Local Data on Older Adults to Support Community-Tailored Solutions

CDA developed [County Profiles of Older Adults](#) and posted the profile collection on the MPA DDA. Each county profile combines data from multiple sources to provide an overview of the quantity, characteristics, and needs of older adults in each county, including the age distribution and race/ethnicity for adults aged 60 and over, projected populations shifts, and social and economic needs.

Developing MPA Key Outcomes to Measure the Impact of the MPA

CDA worked with the California Aging and Disability Research Partnership (CADRP) to develop four MPA key outcome measures on priority topics that affect older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers — 1) reducing homelessness among older adults; 2) reducing older adult psychological distress; 3) reducing burdens faced by family and friend caregivers; and 4) tracking the supply of the direct care workforce. Additionally, CDA developed Key Outcomes dashboards to track MPA-related impacts. The dashboards include equity related scores, geographic data, and potential drivers of these key issues.

Establishing Equity Scores to Inform the MPA

CDA's new equity score debuted with the launch of the Key Outcomes dashboards, with broader implementation on the horizon. The equity score quantifies equity across population groups and will help inform MPA implementation efforts.

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“It is critical to include diverse forms of data to ensure that we fully represent the experiences of all older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers. Qualitative data can elicit information about the complexities of our lived experiences, while also allowing us to examine how communities understand important aspects of their lives and what they need to thrive. It can humanize the numbers in quantitative data to move policies forward and provide rich stories about the challenges, resilience, and contributions of our diverse communities. By elevating these voices, MPA-related research remains relevant, accessible, and impactful.”

Angela Perone, Ph.D., JD, MSW, MA Assistant Professor and Director,
Center for the Advanced Study of Aging Services, School of Social Welfare
University of California, Berkeley
CA Aging and Disability Research Partnership (CADRP) Member

..... *What's Ahead in 2025*



Ushering in 2025, we are just five years away from the bellwether year — 2030, when one in four Californians will be age 60 or older. Many regions across California will see their older adult populations more than double, and with this, we'll witness the rapid growth of individuals aged 85 and older. With the Master Plan for Aging as our north star, California is pre-positioning now to respond in new and different ways to historic demographic shifts already underway. We continue to lead with California values: putting under-represented populations at the forefront of our planning, prioritizing home and community living as a choice for all ages and abilities, and breaking down silos wherever they impede access to person-centered care. In the year ahead, our values will no doubt be tested. Fortunately, in California we have an unwavering commitment to stakeholder engagement, community collaboration, and collective action. These qualities are what inspired the creation of the Master Plan for Aging, and this leadership is what we will continue to rely on to sustain it.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan DeMarois".

Susan DeMarois
Director, California Department of Aging

..... *Acknowledgements*

California's MPA is a whole-of-society effort. Building a California for ALL ages and abilities depends on the voices of older adults, people with disabilities, caregivers, providers, and subject matter experts from across our diverse state. Stakeholder engagement remains a foundational component of the MPA's past, present, and future success. The Administration is grateful to the over 100 stakeholders who volunteer their time, experience, and expertise serving on a [MPA Stakeholder Advisory Committee](#):

- [Alzheimer's Disease and Related Conditions Advisory Committee](#) (ADRCAC)
- [CA Aging and Disability Research Partnership](#) (CADRP)
- [Disability and Aging Community Living Advisory Committee](#) (DACLAC)
- [Equity Advisory Committee on Aging and Disability](#) (EACAD)
- [CA Elder and Disability Justice Coordinating Council](#) (EDJCC)
- [Implementing the MPA In California Together Committee](#) (IMPACT)

Further, the Administration is thankful for the support from several philanthropic partners who have collectively invested nearly \$5 million to advance the Five Bold Goals of the MPA since 2021. California's MPA is a national model of the strength and value of partnerships between government and philanthropic organizations to create meaningful and sustainable social change.

In 2024, the following philanthropic organizations supported a range of MPA-related initiatives:

- [Archstone Foundation](#)
- [California Health Care Foundation](#)
- [Gary and Mary West Foundation](#)
- [May & Stanley Smith Charitable Trust](#)
- [Metta Fund](#)
- [The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation](#)
- [The SCAN Foundation](#)
- [WITH Foundation](#)

..... *Acronym Guide*

ACRONYM	NAME
AAA	Area Agency on Aging
ACL	Administration for Community Living
ADHC	Adult Day Health Care
AD-LEAB	Aging and Disability Lived Experience Advisory Board
ADP	Adult Day Programs
ADRC	Aging and Disability Resource Connection
ADRCAC	Alzheimer's Disease and Related Conditions Advisory Committee
APS	Adult Protective Services
ATT	Access to Technology
BCSH	Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency
BHBH	Behavioral Health Bridge Housing
BHCIP	Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program
BH-CONNECT	Behavioral Health Community-Based Organized Networks of Equitable Care and Treatment
BTR	Bridge to Recovery
CACFP	Child and Adult Care Food Program
CADRP	California Aging and Disability Research Partnership
CalABLE	California Achieving a Better Life Experience
CalAIM	California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal
Cal CARES	California Caregiver Awareness, Resources, Education & Support
Cal-COMPASS	California Community Program for Alzheimer's Services and Supports
CalGrows	California Growing a Resilient Outstanding Workforce
CalHHS	California Health & Human Services Agency
Cal ICH	California Interagency Council on Homelessness
Cal OES	California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CalVet	California Department of Veterans Affairs
CAPI	Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants
CBAS	Community-Based Adult Services
CCE	Community Care Expansion
CCoA	California Commission on Aging
CCT	California Community Transitions

ACRONYM	NAME
CDA	California Department of Aging
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDII	Center for Data Insights and Innovation
CDPH	California Department of Public Health
CDSS	California Department of Social Services
CEI	California Elder Index
CHA	Cognitive Health Assessment
CITRIS	Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society and the Banatao Institute
CLF	Community Living Fund
CMS	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
CRC	Caregiver Resource Center
CS	Community Supports
CTC	California Transportation Commission
DDS	Department of Developmental Services
DHCS	Department of Health Care Services
DMV	California Department of Motor Vehicles
DOR	Department of Rehabilitation
DACLAC	Disability and Aging Community Living Advisory Committee
DC	Digital Connections
DCA	Dementia Care Aware
DDA	Data Dashboard for Aging
EACAD	Equity Advisory Committee on Aging and Disability
ECM	Enhanced Care Management
EDJCC	California Elder and Disability Justice Coordinating Council
FCI	Family Caregiving Institute
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
HBI	Healthy Brain Initiative
HCBS	Home and Community-Based Services
HCD	California Department of Housing and Community Development
HDAP	Housing and Disability Advocacy Program
HDIS	Homeless Data Integration System
HUD	United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
I/DD	Intellectual and Developmental Disability
IHSS	In-Home Supportive Services

ACRONYM	NAME
IMPACT	Implementing the MPA In California Together Committee
LADAP	Local Aging & Disability Action Planning
LAP	Language Access Policy
LEP	Limited English Proficiency
LWDA	Labor & Workforce Development Agency
LTC	Long-Term Care
LTCO	Long-Term Care Ombudsman
LTSS	Long-Term Services and Supports
MLTSS	Managed Long-Term Services and Supports
OAA	Older Americans Act
PACE	Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly
PATH CITED	Providing Access and Transforming Health Capacity and Infrastructure Transition, Expansion, and Development
PHHS	Preventive Health and Health Services
QMB	Qualified Medicare Beneficiary
RCFE	Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
SSP	State Supplementary Payment
UCLA	University of California, Los Angeles
UCSF	University of California, San Francisco
U.S. HHS	United States Department of Health and Human Services
VSSR	Veterans Support to Self-Reliance
WPCS	Waiver Personal Care Services

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