



BUDGET FACT SHEET

Reduce Senior Homelessness: Expand and Enhance Adult Protective Services

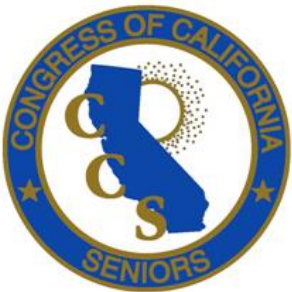
Purpose:

Adult Protective Services (APS) plays a critical role in protecting older and dependent adults in California from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. This role is growing as communities increasingly rely upon APS to address the complex needs of older adults, including those who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness or those with cognitive impairments. The APS program will need additional state investment to support those individuals who require longer-term and more intensive assistance in order to remain safe in their homes and communities.

Proposed Solution:

The County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) is requesting a total of \$100 million GF to:

1. **Provide long-term case management, including for those who are homeless and have cognitive impairments and allow APS to serve highly vulnerable adults aged 60-65 (\$65 million GF).** While not all older adults served in APS will require longer-term case management, those that have more complex needs do require more attention than staffing, including social workers and public health nurses. Lowering the age served would align the APS program with programs administered through Area Agencies on Aging and allow for earlier interventions.
2. **Build Upon the APS Home Safe Program (\$25 million GF).** APS Home Safe launched in 25 counties in July 2019 as a pilot program and is demonstrating success in preventing homelessness among APS consumers. APS Home Safe should be expanded to other interested counties and modified to assist victims of abuse and neglect who have become homeless or who need longer-term housing support as a bridge to other housing programs.
3. **Encourage Collaborative, Multi-Disciplinary Best-Practices Across the State (\$10 million GF).** FAST and Forensic Centers are considered best practices in APS. They allow for a collaborative and targeted, rapid-response approach to the most complex cases. Currently, only a few counties have either model, but those that do see great success in interceding and stopping financial abuse and stabilizing victims who require a cross-systems response.



Background:

APS was established in California as a statewide 24/7 emergency response program in 1998 by the Legislature (AB 2199, Chapter 946). APS serves individuals over 65 and dependent adults ages 18-64 who are disabled, who are unable to meet their own needs or are victims of abuse, neglect and exploitation. Law enforcement, doctors, and other mandated reporters in the community rely on APS services to protect older and dependent adults from further abuse. The APS Program is an effective program, responding to 190,715 reports of abuse in 2017-18, which represents a 58 percent increase in reports since 2011-12.

APS is Currently Facing Unprecedented Growth, and Seeing More Homeless and Cognitively Impaired Individuals:

Additional funding is necessary to bring the APS program up to speed since its inception over two decades ago. The original program design did not contemplate the sheer number of older adults with complex issues who would need its services, nor the magnitude of the housing crisis that California is facing. By 2030, one in five Californians will be age 65 or older.ⁱ Between 2018 and 2025, an estimated 29.2% of those over 65 are projected to have Alzheimer's.ⁱⁱ The number of older adults in California with disabilities will increase from 1 million in 2015 to nearly 3 million in 2060.ⁱⁱⁱ Additionally, California's aging population is also increasingly homeless. According to Dr. Margot Kushel, Director of the UCSF Center for Vulnerable Populations, approximately 50 percent of homeless individuals are over age 50, and half of those became homeless after age 50.

In California and nationally, APS programs are largely supported through state funds, since there is no funding at the federal level to operate APS. Even with modest growth funding through Realignment and recent targeted state investments in training and the Home Safe Program, county APS programs are struggling to keep up with the growth in reports that mirrors the growth in the older adult population. Coupled with the more complex needs of victims who are homeless or cognitively impaired, APS programs are not currently resourced to provide the intensive and longer-term case management those individuals need.

Investment in the APS Program is Necessary to Address the Increasingly Complex Needs of the Growing Older Adult Population:

The APS program has a long history of working with California's most vulnerable older and dependent adults and understands their needs and is connected to other systems and partners familiar with serving this unique population. With the requested resources and strategies outlined in this proposal, the APS program will be able to expand to meet the needs of the growing aging population, and to enhance case management to address the increasing cases of both senior homelessness and those with cognitive impairments.

For More Information:

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ⁱ <https://www.ppic.org/publication/planning-for-californias-growing-senior-population/>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.alz.org/media/Documents/california-alzheimers-facts-figures-2018.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://lao.ca.gov/reports/2016/3509/disability-long-term-outlook-112816.pdf>