



April 21, 2021

To: The Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3

Honorable Members
Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3

The Honorable Dr. Joaquin Arambula
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1

Honorable Members
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1

From: Cathy Senderling-McDonald, Executive Director

**RE: CWDA COMMENTS ON VARIOUS ADULT PROGRAMS
BUDGET PROPOSALS**

As part of the annual budget process, the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) typically comments or takes positions on budget proposals from the Administration or advocates that are of policy interest to our members or that have an effect on county operations. Because of the unprecedented impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the annual state budget hearing process, we have been unable to provide our feedback through public testimony as we usually would. Therefore, we are providing this feedback on several budget proposals in the adults policy area in writing here.

IHSS Residual Proposal

CWDA opposes the Administration's proposal to automate IHSS termination for recipients who are discontinued from the Medi-Cal program. This proposal would negatively impact IHSS consumers, who must already qualify as aged, blind or disabled to receive IHSS and face additional challenges in getting back onto Medi-Cal than the general Medi-Cal population. Many IHSS consumers who fall off Medi-Cal do not understand how that impacts their IHSS eligibility, and to automatically terminate their IHSS benefits does not give the consumer the ability to correct any non-compliance once they receive their Medi-Cal termination notice. During the time that their Medi-Cal is terminated, these individuals still need the benefits IHSS provides. For some, this critical care makes a significant difference in their health, well-being, and ability to remain in their own home. Additionally, we note that

state statute and guidance are unclear in their interpretations of eligibility for IHSS Residual cases; CWDA agrees with the LAO recommendation that the Legislature clarify IHSS Residual eligibility rules.

AAA Increase in Administrative Funding

CWDA is supportive of the California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A's) request for \$3.3 million General Fund (GF) ongoing to provide an increase in the baseline funding for Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs). Many of our members are also AAAs, and counties work closely with their AAAs in serving older adults. Increasing baseline funding for AAAs would ultimately strengthen services for older adults.

CWDA is also supportive of C4A's request for \$35 million GF in 2021-22, \$50 million GF in 2022-23, and \$75 million GF in 2023-24 and ongoing to expand the senior nutrition program.

Master Plan on Aging – Aging Disability Resource Centers Expansion

CWDA is supportive of the Administration's proposal for providing a half-year augmentation of \$5 million General Fund (GF) in 2021-22, and a half year augmentation of \$5 million GF in 2022-23 for the expansion of Aging Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) and the establishment of a "No Wrong Door System". CWDA is also supportive of C4A's request to augment this expansion with funding of \$10 million GF in 2021-22, \$15 million GF in 2022-23, and \$53 GF million ongoing. Supporting the expansion of ADRCs aligns with CWDA's comments submitted on the Master Plan on Aging. CWDA sees ADRC expansion as a critical component in helping older adults and their families navigate a complex system, and counties health and human services agencies often work closely with their local ADRCs in their efforts to aid older adults.

Thank you for your consideration of our feedback. We are happy to provide more information about our comments on any of these issues at your request.

cc: Chris Woods, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore
Mareva Brown, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore
Jason Sisney, Office of the Speaker of the Assembly
Gail Gronert, Office of the Speaker of the Assembly
Renita Polk, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
Nicole Vazquez, Assembly Committee on Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Rebecca Hamilton, Senate Republican Fiscal Office
Joe Shinstock, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office
Eric Dietz, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office
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Karen Jones, Office of Assembly Member Arambula
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