



May 15, 2022

The Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman, Ph.D.
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. 3



RE: ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATORS/GUARDIANS/ CONSERVATORS: SUPPORT \$4.6 MILLION ANNUAL STATE FUNDING FOR TRAINING



Dear Chairs and Members of the Budget Subcommittees,



Our Coalition of the undersigned respectfully urges your support of the budget proposal by the California Elder Justice Coalition (CEJC), California Commission on Aging (CCoA), County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA) and California Association of Public Administrators/Public Guardians/Public Conservators (CAPAGPC) to build upon the existing, and effective, APS Training Program. *Specifically, we support investing \$4.6 million State General Funds (GF) on an annual basis to continue and build upon the existing statewide training of social work staff in the APS program and to County Public Administrators/Guardians/Conservators (PA/PG/PC).* Without this investment, the current training program will be dismantled, leaving the APS and PA/PG/PC workforce unprepared to protect abused and neglected older adults and persons with disabilities.



APS training was initially expanded in 2016 with a one-time, \$3 million GF augmentation to enhance the state's training of Adult Protective Service (APS) workers. The funding was leveraged to draw down another \$3 million federal funds for a total of \$6 million to support development of an expanded APS curriculum, online training modules, and creation of a certification process for workers who complete the full complement of 23 core competencies. The training program was re-authorized and expanded in 2019 by \$5.7 million to expand training delivery and incorporate training for PA/PG/PC. Unfortunately, this funding will be exhausted by the end of this 2021-22 fiscal-year.



This investment comes at a critical time, as California's population of older adults continues to dramatically increase. As of 2020 one in five Californians—about 8 million residents—are aged sixty years or older. That ratio will climb to one in four by 2030. The oldest and potentially most vulnerable population of 85 and



older will grow by 143 percent between 1990 and 2020. After 2020, the growth rates will rise even faster, especially between 2030 and 2040 when baby boomers begin turning 85. The APS and PA/PG/PC programs are critical safety net programs for older adults and are recognized by the State's Master Plan on Aging (MPA) in a continuum of care to promote healthy aging and equitable access to community-based services.

Recognizing this tremendous growth in the aging population, the Legislature and Governor approved AB 135 (Statutes of 2021) as part of the Fiscal Year 2021-22 State Budget, which expanded the APS program to serve older adults ages 60 and above (changed from 65 years of age) and included funding to build capacity to provide longer-term case management services to assist clients with more severe needs. The 2021-22 State Budget Act also expanded the APS Home Safe program, so that APS staff can also assist victims of elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect who are also facing the additional challenges of homelessness or risk of homelessness.

California must be prepared for this "aging wave" in all aspects, including our safety net programs such as APS and PA/PG/PC, which serves those who are most vulnerable to premature death due to abuse and neglect. APS workers provide front-line response 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and must be properly trained to conduct investigations on complex cases, engage victims in their own safety planning, and help victims and their families navigate and access services from other systems. While APS are first responders to reports of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, PA/PG/PC protect the rights and assets of Californians with severe dementias, mental illnesses, and disabilities.

APS crosses multiple systems to protect and serve victims of abuse and neglect, working with law enforcement, legal aid programs, the judiciary, long-term care services and many others, and thus is a central component of the state's elder justice system. PA/PG/PC often work jointly with APS to protect older adults and help them remain in their own homes and communities. A trained and skilled workforce for both APS and PA/PG/PC is essential to protecting this vulnerable population and results in significant savings to the state in terms of avoidance of nursing home care and hospitalizations.

We believe this proposal provides a critical investment in APS and PA/PG/PC services to meet growing needs in our local communities, and for this reason we support this request to maintain and increase our investment in APS and PA/PG/PC training.

Sincerely,

Karol Swartzlander, Executive Director
California Commission on Aging (CCoA)

Lisa Nerenberg, Executive Director
California Elder Justice Coalition

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