

# JUSTICE IN AGING

FIGHTING SENIOR POVERTY THROUGH LAW

## California's Aging Landscape The 2020 Budget, Legislation, and the Master Plan for Aging

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September 22, 2020

# JUSTICE IN AGING

FIGHTING SENIOR POVERTY THROUGH LAW

Justice in Aging is a national organization that uses the power of law to fight senior poverty by securing access to affordable health care, economic security, and the courts for older adults with limited resources.

Since 1972 we've focused our efforts primarily on fighting for people who have been marginalized and excluded from justice, such as women, people of color, LGBTQ individuals, and people with limited English proficiency.

Want to receive Justice in Aging trainings and materials?

## ***Join Our Network!***

Go to [justiceinaging.org](https://justiceinaging.org) and hit "Subscribe."

Send an email to [info@justiceinaging.org](mailto:info@justiceinaging.org).



Open a text and text the message "4justice" to the number 51555.

# To achieve Justice in Aging, we must:

- Acknowledge systemic racism and discrimination
- Address the enduring negative effects of racism and differential treatment
- Promote access and equity in economic security, health care, and the courts for our nation's low-income older adults
- Recruit, support, and retain a diverse staff and board, including race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and presentation, sexual orientation, disability, age, economic class

# Agenda

- Overview of California Budget
  - Health and LTSS
  - Other Aging Programs
- Federal Action and Legislation
- Master Plan for Aging



# CA Budget: Health & LTSS Programs

# HCBS Programs

- Governor's Proposal: Eliminate CBAS & MSSP and reduce IHSS by 7%

## **Final Budget:**

- **CBAS Preserved for 36,000**, federal funding not required
- **MSSP Preserved for 10,000**, federal funding not required
- **Full funding** for IHSS hours for 630,000 people

# Health Programs

- Governor's Proposal: Significantly reduce eligibility and benefits in Medi-Cal

## **Final Budget:**

- Fund expansion of **Medi-Cal A&D income limit to 138%**
- **Preserve AB 1088 Fix** (stops beneficiaries yo-yoing between free & SOC Medi-Cal)

# Health Programs (cont'd)

Final Budget:

- **Preserve limited Medi-Cal Estate Recovery rule**
- **Preserve optional Medi-Cal benefits**
- **Preserve full adult dental benefits**

# Health Program (cont'd)

- **No expansion** of Medi-Cal benefits to undocumented seniors 65 and older
- **Delay implementation** of the CalAIM initiative and instead seek extension of the current 1115 waiver

# What It All Means?

- Many wins!
- Amazing advocacy from community
- Preserving California's HCBS infrastructure during COVID
- More work to do to:
  - Ensure implementation of A&D and AB1088
  - Expand Medi-Cal for undocumented seniors



CA Budget: SSI and Aging

# Economic Security: SSI/SSP

- Governor's Proposal: Reduce the state supplement (SSP) to the SSI grant by the federal cost of living adjustment (COLA)
- Final Budget: **Include COLA** in SSI/SSP grant

# Aging Programs

- Governor's Proposal: Cut funding to numerous aging programs

**Full funding preserved** in final budget for:

- **Caregiver Resource Centers**
- **Senior Nutrition Programs**
- **LTC Ombudsman**
- **Aging and Disability Resource Centers**

# What It All Means?

- Many wins!
- Amazing advocacy from community
- More work to do to:
  - Still need to restore SSI/SSP cuts from Great Recession

# Potential Danger Ahead

- We are not out of the woods!
- Need more revenue
  - Federal
  - State
- Need to stay vigilant
  - These cuts could come back
  - Need to stand-up for older adults



# Federal Legislation & Action

# Positive Federal Action in 2020

- Legislation
  - CARES Act
  - Families First Protection Act
- Administrative Action
  - Medicaid flexibilities granted to states
  - Direct SSA payments

# What is still needed?

- Make racial equity an affirmative goal
- Require CDC to collect comprehensive & intersectional data
- Provide targeted support for Medicaid
- Increased access to HCBS
- Expand access to stimulus payments
- Expand housing & homelessness prevention
- Increase SNAP benefits
- Enhance funding for Senior Legal Services

# Will there be more federal action?

- We don't know!
- House has passed the HEROES Act
- Senate has not taken it up
- Not close to a deal, but could change



# Master Plan for Aging

# Master Plan for Aging Background

- June 2019: Newsom issued Executive Order
- Sept. 2019: Four major goals established
- Fall 2019: Equity Work Group established
- Fall 2019/Winter 2020: Lots of meetings
- May 2020: LTSS Subcommittee report submitted to Governor (Goal 1) and Equity Tool created and released
- Reports on Goals 2, 3, & 4 due Oct. 1, 2020
- Final MPA from Governor due December 2020

# Four Main Goals

- Goal 1: Services and Supports
- Goal 2: Livable Communities & Purpose
- Goal 3: Health & Well-Being
- Goal 4: Economic Security & Safety

# Cross-Cutting Priorities

- Ageism and Equity
- Research and Data
- Dementia-Friendly

# Implementation & Beyond

- Governor creates the Master Plan for Aging
- Don't want it to sit on a shelf
- Advocacy needed to make change happen
- Recession and competing priorities will make this a challenge



# Questions?

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