



C4A 2024 Legislative Priorities

WHO WE ARE

The California Association of Area Agencies on Aging represents Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) in California. AAAs are established under the Older Americans Act as the backbone of the aging social service delivery network. We work with community partners and statewide allies to educate the public and government about aging and disability related policy and funding issues, and to advocate for solutions to those issues.

OUR VALUES

We believe that systems and services should be equitable and inclusive of all, with special attention given to populations who have been historically marginalized and disenfranchised. Our policies and actions intend to enhance the independence and living experience of older Californians and those living with disabilities.

ADRC Annual Allocation Increase

Aging and Disability Resource Connections (ADRCs) were established to provide trusted information sources that older adults and people living with disabilities can use to access the full range of long-term services, supports, and benefit options. Currently, there are 17 designated and 8 emerging (i.e., in development) ADRCs. \$10 million has been allocated annually for designated and emerging ADRCs; there is no additional funding available to support AAAs or Independent Living Centers in the process of applying for emerging status or seeking to expand their existing ADRC operations. For ADRCs to continue development as a critical aspect of the Master Plan on Aging's statewide "No Wrong Door" strategy, the allocation must be increased.

C4A requests the existing allocation be raised over two years, with an additional \$26 million allocated during FY 24-25 and \$52 million in FY 25-26 and annually thereafter.

State Support for Caregiver Local Match

The California Department of Aging administers the Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP), funded by the federal Older Americans Act through contracts with the AAAs. AAAs provide caregiver support services directly or through partnerships with other public or private agencies. When FCSP was established in 2001, the state passed the full 25% local match requirements to local programs. Meeting the match is difficult for smaller and rural AAAs, who struggle to find qualified providers who can provide the match. General Funding of \$4.728 million per year would provide the state match to the federal funds, relieving the burden and ensuring that the local match requirement would not prevent localities from providing the program.

C4A requests that the State provide the 25% state match (\$4.728 million) for FCSP in FY24-25 and annually thereafter and make an additional investment of \$10.8 million to engage in outreach and support of rural and difficult to reach family caregivers that are currently not supported by the program.

Increasing the Operating Base Allocated to the AAAs

AAAs receive a base allocation of \$150k per year to support operating expenses, significantly under funding AAA fixed costs. **We believe that it is time to raise the allocation** to cover, at a minimum, the salary and benefits costs of an AAA Director, Finance Manager, and Planner, which is estimated to be **\$500k** at the low end. In addition, **we believe provision for a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) should be built into the allocation** to account for inflation. Finally, **AAAs that serve larger populations should receive an add on to their allocation based on the size of the population they serve**, through a population step-up methodology. **C4A requests \$30m annually, consisting of \$16.5m in increased base funds and \$13.5m to be allocated through a population served-based methodology.**

Genuine Modernization of the Older Californians Act

Passed in 1980 and amended in 1997, the Older Californians Act (OCA) augments the Older Americans Act (OAA) in important respects, providing funding for programs that build on the OAA. Many of those programs have evolved or been discontinued, and new programs have been established that are not included in OCA. **We will work to introduce legislation amending the Act to reflect current and potential programming.**