

# MASTER PLAN FOR AGING PROGRESS REPORT

JULY 2021



The Master Plan for Aging (MPA) launched in January 2021 and now has six months of progress to report, thanks to all the public, partner, and stakeholder engagement and commitment to an age-, disability- and Alzheimer’s- friendly California.

All ten of the Governor’s Cabinet Agencies, along with strong partnerships with the Legislature, local leaders, private sector, federal government, and stakeholders, are collaborating to implement the Master Plan’s one hundred and thirty-two 2021-2022 initiatives. These two years are foundational to achieving the 5 bold goals for 2030 for a California for All Ages.

This report recaps the launch and provides several updates and next steps in three areas: MPA implementation, partnerships, and accountability for success.

## ***2021-2022 State Budget Investments in Age-Friendly California***

The 2021-2022 State Budget season has seen several major proposals addressing aging and MPA-related investments in the [Governor’s January Budget proposal](#), as well as the [May Revision](#). The legislature has also put forward several bold budget proposals on aging, disability, and caregiving.

The 2021-2022 State Budget was enacted on June 30th and includes myriad key investments to address aging and improve the lives and well-being of older adults, families, and caregivers. Major budget investments for affordable housing and access to health care have aging layered in, and there are also several new aging and disability-focused initiatives: including a “No Wrong Door” statewide system (initiative 98); a Home and Community Based Services Spending Plan/American Rescue Plan (submitted in July), and so much more.

***More Updates on 2021-2022 Investments in Aging will be provided in August 2021***

## **1. The Master Plan for Aging LAUNCH: January 2021**

California’s Master Plan for Aging can be found on the [MPA’s website](#), which includes a printable version of the plan ([full color PDF](#) and [simple text versions](#)), the [Local Playbook](#), and a link to the [Data Dashboard for Aging](#).

MPA Briefing & Summit: After over a year of collaboration with our state partners and stakeholder and public engagement, CHHS Secretary Ghaly and CDA Director McCoy Wade officially launched the Master Plan for Aging

via a [press briefing on January 6th](#), which included remarks from key MPA Stakeholders and legislative leaders. This event was followed a week later by a public [Virtual MPA Summit](#) highlighting the Five Bold Goals for 2030 where we were joined by Secretary Su of the Labor & Workforce Development Agency; Secretary Castro Ramirez of the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency; and several key legislative leaders and stakeholder partners.

We'd like to thank the following stakeholders, partners, and legislators for joining the MPA Launch press briefing and virtual summit: Deputy Cabinet Secretary Richard Figueroa; BCSH Secretary Lourdes Castro-Ramirez, LWDA Secretary Julie Su, CHSS Deputy Secretary Marko Mijic, State Medicaid Director and CHHS Chief Deputy of Health Care Programs Jacey Cooper, Department of Social Services Director Kim Johnson, State Senators Scott Weiner and Melissa Hurtado, Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula, Liz Fuller (Assembly Aging and Long-Term Care Committee), AARP Associate State Director Rafi Nazarians, Health Plan of San Mateo CEO Maya Altman, ALZ Association Director of Diversity & Inclusion Edie Yau, and USC's Family Caregiver Resource Center Director Donna Benton.

## 2. Master Plan for Aging LOCAL LEADER PARTNERSHIPS

### *The Local Playbook in Action*

Communities across California are taking action to build age-, disability-, and dementia friendly policies, programs, and environments. The MPA Local Playbook offers local government, community-based organizations, philanthropy, and other leaders a step-by-step guide to implementing a master plan locally. Two key local leadership in aging and public health networks were briefed on the Playbook this quarter:

- The SCAN Foundation hosted a Local Playbook Convening for all 21 of their Long-Term Support Services regional coalitions. CDA presented the Playbook and the Data Dashboard and AARP shared insights into age-friendly action planning.
- CDA led a Local Playbook workshop with the California Department of Public Health and local health departments to drive action in communities throughout California.
- SAC Members Shireen McSpadden, San Francisco County, and Kevin Prindiville, Justice in Aging, along with CDA Director McCoy Wade presented the Playbook to the [California State Association of Counties](#), while highlighting the important role of local leadership. CDA will continue to co-host Local Playbook virtual events throughout the state with partners.
- Local presentations have been made by the MPA team to a range of communities, including Kern, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito, Nevada, and the northern counties that comprise the Diversability Advocacy Network.

### 3. Master Plan for Aging INITIATIVE IMPLEMENTATION

#### *Building Strength Through Cabinet and Stakeholder Partnership Across All Sectors*

Many agencies, departments, stakeholders, local leaders and legislators began digging into implementation the first half of 2021. CDA provided briefings for stakeholder groups ranging from government partners including the State Board of Food & Agriculture with CDFA Secretary Ross; the State Broadband Council; CDSS Housing and Homelessness Programs; CA Parks & Recreation Society; the Strategic Growth Council; the CA Commission on Aging; and Area Agency on Aging leadership; as well as with stakeholder partners including LeadingAge California; CalPACE; UCLA Ziman Center for Real Estate; Public Advocates, Guardians, Conservators; American Association of University Women; Santa Clara Senior Services; Arc California as well as multiple smaller meetings with philanthropy, legislative leaders, and across the Administration.

**COVID-19 Response & Vaccine Rollout:** COVID-19 response and vaccine roll-out continue to remain the priority for older adults, people with disabilities, and families. Vaccinations in nursing homes, residential living, all adults 65 and over, and then people with high-risk medical and disability aged 16, to now expanded eligibility to all ages 16 and over rolled out during this period. At long last, deaths from COVID-19 began to decline. The response, recovery, and re-build into a more equitable California for all ages will be the focus of 2021.

#### *Age-Friendly State Legislation*

Stakeholders and State Legislators are proposing a range of policies to improve the lives of older Californians, people with disabilities, and families. Many stakeholders, including [Justice in Aging](#), have proposed legislation based on, or related to, the Master Plan.

#### *Aging Intersections and Philanthropy*

Philanthropies that supported MPA development are now expanding their partnerships to both support specific MPA initiatives and to engage more funders in their respective foundation priorities' intersection with aging and equity, in partnership with Philanthropy California. The Governor's Office co-convened a briefing with and for philanthropy in July 2021.

### MPA Progress: Highlights Across GOALS 1-5

There are more than 100 initiatives launching during the first two years of the plan, to work toward achieving the MPA's five bold goals for 2030. Highlights and updates from several dozen of these initiatives are below.

#### **Goal One: Housing for All Ages & Stages**

##### *Strategy A: More Housing Options*

- **Initiative 2:** The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and the State Treasurer's Office

made its first round of [California Debt Limit Allocation Committee](#) (CDLAC) awards for housing bond capital. The 2020-2021 regulations have increased the set aside for very low and extremely low income housing.

- **Initiative 3:** HCD launched its publicly accessible [Annual Performance Report Dashboard](#), which tracks jurisdictions' zoning, entitlement and production at the Annual Median Income listed in their Housing Element/Housing Assessment. This provides an important tool to hold jurisdictions accountable to meeting their housing production goals and meeting the housing needs of their communities.
- **Initiative 4:** HCD published public guidance on [Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing](#). Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing seeks to combat housing discrimination, eliminate racial bias, undo historic patterns of segregation, and lift barriers that restrict access in order to foster inclusive communities and achieve racial equity, fair housing choice, and opportunity for all Californians. The Department of Fair Employment and Housing is in the process of creating a harassment prevention guide to help housing providers comply with Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing and therefore promote safe, affordable homes and vibrant, inclusive, sustainable communities for all Californians.
- **Initiatives 5 & 6:** In April, CDA provided a presentation on data opportunities to advance housing for older adults to the Strategic Growth Council. CDA also gave a presentation on CDA initiatives and opportunities to the Housing and Transportation Working Group, a working group of 10 departments led by BCSH and CalSTA.
- **Initiative 11:** CDA continues its Dignity at Home Program and will provide grants to local AAAs for information and education on injury prevention; referrals to related resources and services; and home environmental assessments and assessments of individual injury prevention needs, including instructions on behavioral, physical, and environmental aspects of injury prevention.
- **Across Multiple Initiatives:** CDA, in collaboration with an affordable housing consultant, is developing a person-centered comprehensive briefing paper, to serve as a Housing & Services Continuum for Older Adults & Adults with Disabilities "California Crosswalk" to identify the spectrum of housing needs as we age to guide leaders in policy and program planning, ensuring that Californians can age where we choose.

### ***Strategy B: Transportation Beyond Cars***

- **Initiative 12:** CalSTA will release its [Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure](#) on July 15, 2021, which prioritizes investments in transit, passenger rail, active transportation, Complete Streets, and micromobility to expand mobility options and help meet the State's ambitious climate goals.
- **Initiative 13:** California's updated [Strategic Highway Safety Plan](#) was released. It provides a comprehensive framework for reducing roadway fatalities and serious injuries on California's public roads. Priority areas include aging drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists.
- **Initiative 14:** [California Integrated Travel Project](#): A statewide solution to make travel simpler and cost-effective for all Californians by integrating transit fare collection, verifying eligibility for fare discounts, and providing up-to-date vehicle arrival information across the hundreds of transit providers in California.

### **Strategy C: Outdoor Spaces for All Ages**

- **Initiative 23:** The [California Healthy Brain Initiative \(HBI\) Local Health Jurisdictions \(LHJs\) Pilot Program](#), coordinated by the CA Department of Public Health, is currently taking place within six LHJs to advance cognitive health as an integral component of public health by implementing activities consistent with the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention HBI Road Map](#). Examples of activities within the six jurisdictions include family caregiver training with the Family Caregiver Alliance; policy and protocol development to be adopted by first responders, elected officials, and stakeholders in support of the aging population; first responder and paraprofessional trainings; development of clinician tools for brain health, cognitive impairment, and early detection/diagnosis patient education; and more. Pilot project details can be [accessed here](#).
- **Initiative 23:** The California Department of Parks and Recreation announced \$19 million in available grant funding through the [Outdoor Equity Grants Program](#). Competitive applications will provide activities that a) take place in the community and at natural area destinations; b) are both education and promote self-discovery nature exploration, c) include youth, older adults, and families; and d) serve a high number of participants with various activity days over multiple years.

### **Strategy D: Emergency Preparedness & Response**

- **Initiative 24:** The GO's Office of Digital Innovation, in collaboration with CHHS, CalOES, CDSS, and CDA conducted discovery of Sonoma and Butte counties' emergency tools for older, disabled, and at-risk adults and caregivers.
- **Initiative 25:** [LeadingAge California](#) facilitated a demonstration of digital tools to coordinate mutual aid for long-term care residents for CDSS, CDPH, and CDA.
- **Initiative 26:** [Listos California's Social Bridging Project](#) concluded after conducting a cumulative total of more than 165,000 wellness conversations with vulnerable Californians in 27 counties during the pandemic, as well as helping more than 8,000 households to register for emergency alerts and sent out nearly 30,000 Disaster Ready Guides to help more Californians prepare now for wildfires and other natural disasters.

### **Strategy E: Climate-Friendly Aging**

- **Initiative 28:** HCD submitted the updated [CalGreen Building Codes](#), inclusive of more standards related to climate, disaster resiliency and sustainability.
- **Initiative 32:** CDA has begun planning to reduce staff Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) to below pre-COVID levels after the State re-opens June 15th, without impacting public access to quality services.

## **Goal Two: Health Reimagined**

### **Strategy A: Bridging Health Care with Home**

- **Initiative 33:** The State Commissioner of Insurance convened the [Long-Term Care Insurance Task Force](#) with

CDA, DHCS, and stakeholder members from AARP, On-Lok, WISE & Healthy Aging, SEIU, and more to explore the feasibility of developing and implementing a culturally competent statewide insurance program for long-term care services and supports.

- **Initiatives 34 & 35:** In March, DHCS and the SCAN Foundation convened a planning meeting with national experts and CDA to discuss the promise and potential of California’s Office of Medicare Innovation and Integration (OMII), particularly to address the needs of California’s dual eligible (Medi-Cal/Medicare) and Medicare-only populations.
- **Initiative 35:** DHCS has hosted stakeholder discussions and posted documents for feedback on integrated care for beneficiaries dually eligible for Medicare and Medi-Cal, through the [Cal MediConnect](#) demonstration and upcoming 2023 transition to a Dual Eligible Special Needs Plan aligned enrollment structure.
- **Initiative 36:** Under the [CalAIM Initiative](#), DHCS has released documents for stakeholder feedback and held webinars on the new [Enhanced Care Management and In Lieu of Services \(ILOS\)](#) that will launch in 2022. ILOS include Nursing Facility Transition/Diversion to Assisted Living Facilities, Community Transition Services/Nursing Facility Transition to a Home, Housing Services, Respite, Medically Tailored Meals or medically supportive food, Home Modifications, and Supplemental Personal Care/Homemaker Services.
- **Initiative 40:** DHCS has incorporated stakeholder feedback into its upcoming [Money Follows the Person Supplemental Planning Grant](#) request for federal funding to accelerate LTSS system transformation design and implementation, as well as expand Home and Community Based Service (HCBS) capacity. The proposal includes a gap analysis and multi-year roadmap to identify and close existing gaps in programs and provider networks.
- **Initiative 40:** DHCS collaborated with stakeholders to review over 50 recommendations for changes to the [Home and Community Based Alternatives Waiver Renewal](#). DHCS will release the revised waiver in summer 2021 for a 30-day public comment period. The renewed five-year waiver would start in 2022.
- **Initiative 43:** [The Disability & Aging Community Living Advisory Committee](#), announced earlier this spring, will advance community living, inclusion, and integration in California. It will ensure the involvement of people with disabilities, older adults, and other partners and stakeholders in advising the California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS) on community living policy and programs – including but not limited to long term services and supports, transportation and housing, and employment opportunities. This committee will build on the work of the Olmstead Committee. Membership can be [viewed here](#). Meetings will be held quarterly, with the [first meeting held on April 30th](#) and the second meeting scheduled for August 26th.
- **Initiative 44:** CDA has, in partnership with philanthropy, begun a strategic planning process for the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP), to increase information and assistance with Medicare, and by the end of the year, CDA will hire three positions to develop, implement, and lead HICAP modernization efforts.

### **Strategy B: Health Care as We Age**

- **Initiative 47:** CDA was added to the [Governor’s Behavioral Health Task Force](#), joining MPA Stakeholder Advisory Committee member Dr. LeOndra Clark Harvey.

### ***Strategy C: Lifelong Healthy Aging***

- **Initiative 51:** The “California Healthy Brain Initiative - Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs) Pilot Program” includes health education promotions and campaign activities currently taking place by six LHJs to advance cognitive health as an integral component of public health. Examples include creating health education curricula on brain health and cognitive aging that is linguistically and culturally tailored for Latino and African American communities and developing healthcare provider curriculum focused on brain health/ dementia risk reduction and early diagnosis and treatment with emphasis working with priority populations (e.g., African American, Latino).
- **Initiative 52:** Between January 1 – May 16, 2021, the [Friendship Line CA](#) behavioral health warmline answered 30,308 calls from older adults experiencing loneliness or mental duress and continues to field these calls.
- **Initiative 53:** CDPH and CDA are exploring opportunities to collaborate, as new suicide prevention programs develop.

### ***Strategy D: Geriatric Care Expansion***

- **Initiative 57:** West Health has convened key stakeholders including California Hospital Association, American College of Emergency Medicine, UC San Diego Health system to advance a statewide initiative of Geriatric Emergency Departments (GED) in CA. Implementation planning is underway, including identification of subject matter experts, contractual mechanisms, and training resources. Upcoming priorities are to roadmap integration of GEDs with key MPA areas of focus, such as dementia awareness, geriatric workforce, and HCBS resource connection and toolkits.
- **Initiative 61:** An ad hoc geriatrics advisory group, consisting of leading geriatric medicine experts from UCSF and USC, has briefed CHHS, LWDA, and CalVet leadership on opportunities to innovate in skilled nursing homes emerging from COVID-19 pandemic.

### ***Strategy E: Dementia in Focus***

- **Initiative 62:** CDPH funds 19 research grants to advance knowledge regarding Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias, with a focus on women and communities of color, either in the academic or research field and to clinical implementation, including new treatment methodologies, or detection and diagnosis innovations. Categories of research include caregiving, prevention, early diagnosis and detection, long-term services and support systems/health services, and populations suffering from health disparities.
- **Initiative 63:** CDPH’s [California Healthy Brain Initiative Local Health Jurisdictions \(LHJ\) Pilot Program](#) includes campaign activities in six LHJs to advance equity in cognitive health. Example activities include a health education curricula on brain health and cognitive aging that is linguistically and culturally tailored for Latino and African American communities; a healthcare provider curriculum focused on brain health/ dementia risk reduction and early diagnosis and treatment with emphasis working with priority populations (e.g., African American, Latino); a Caregiver Handbook with an enhanced dementia chapter containing dementia resources and tips, translated in multiple languages and disseminated through community partners; and more.

- **Initiative 64:** CDPH continues to promote the [Assessment of Cognitive Complaints Toolkit \(ACCT-AD\)](#) that was developed by the California Alzheimer’s Disease Centers to provide primary care providers with the tools necessary to recognize normal cognition, diagnose Alzheimer’s disease, and identify other cognitive problems requiring specialty referral. The ACCT-AD includes the following companion pieces: the [ACCT-AD Manual](#), [ACCT-AD Provider Wellness Visit/Screening Tool Pocket Guide](#) and the [ACCT-AD Provider Wellness Visit/Screening Tool Flow Sheet](#). The pocket guide and flow sheet are the take along tools for providers to use to help screen for Alzheimer’s disease and other related dementias during patient wellness visits.
- **Initiative 65:** CDPH is seeking stakeholder feedback (e.g. California Alzheimer’s Disease Centers) and evaluating information collected regarding models of care coordination for IHSS participants with dementia or cognitive impairment.
- **Initiative 67:** The CHHS Alzheimer’s Advisory Committee began the new year selecting a new chair, welcoming new members, and working on several priorities outlined in the MPA and by the Governor’s Task Force of Alzheimer’s Disease Prevention, Preparedness. CHHS Departments serving people with Alzheimer’s are also participating in a new cross-Department work group, coordinated by CHHS and CDPH.

### ***Strategy F: Nursing Home Innovation***

- **Initiative 74:** The 2021-2022 State Budget proposals includes funding for the creation of a Long-Term Care Office of the Patient Representative. The Office will provide representation on skilled nursing facilities’ (SNF) and intermediate care facilities’ (ICF) medical decision-making interdisciplinary teams to patients who lack capacity to make their own health care decisions, who do not have a legally authorized decision-maker, and who do not have family member or friend who can act as a patient representative.

## **Goal Three: Equity & Inclusion, Not Isolation**

### ***Strategy A: Inclusion & Equity in Aging***

- **Initiative 77:** CDA has hosted nine monthly [Ensuring Equity in Aging webinar series](#) on culturally informed programs and policy. The monthly webinars, by and for human services providers, can be accessed at CDA’s [Equity in Aging Resource Center](#). Webinars have addressed culturally informed programs and policy with and for Tribal and Black Elders; Asian American & Pacific Islander, Latino, rural, LGBT older adults; and people with disabilities.
- **Initiative 79:** CDA is participating in the 2020-2021 Capitol Cohort on Race and Equity. Members have attended 12 racial equity trainings and are developing a Racial Equity Training Tool, which will inform CDA’s Racial Equity Action Plan, which is due Fall 2021.
- **Initiative 80:** The newly re-formed [The Equity in Aging Advisory Committee \(EAAC\)](#) has met twice (3/16 & 6/16) and is in the process of recruiting new members, in particular, representing Tribal, LGBTQ, and immigrant & refugee communities.



## ***Strategy B: Closing the Digital Divide***

- **Initiative 81:** The federal administration has launched the [Emergency Broadband Benefit](#) to help low-income households to afford internet service during the CV-19 pandemic and CDA and other state departments and partners are promoting.
- **Initiative 81:** CDA has twice presented to the California Broadband Council on older adults and broadband access; progress on digital device deployments; digital education and literacy efforts; and low-cost internet plan options for older adults.
- **Initiative 82:** CDA has distributed over 8,500 smart speakers (donated by Google) to low-income older adults at risk of isolation via the Area Agencies on Aging and the Multipurpose Senior Service Sites. Additionally, CDA is in the process of distributing 4,000 iPads with two-year plans and dedicated training and technical assistance to low-income older adults who live alone. Additionally, CDA will provide guidance to Long Term Care Ombudsman on purchase and distribution of digital pets to LTC residents.

## ***Strategy D: Opportunities to Volunteer and Engage Across Generations***

- **Initiative 91:** In partnership with the California State Library and UC-Berkeley, CDA launched [CalChronicles](#) in May. CalChronicles collects and shares stories from older adults that shine a light on the invaluable experiences and contributions of older Californians.

## ***Strategy E: Protection from Abuse, Neglect, Exploitation***

- **Initiative 93:** The Elder Justice Coordinating Council (EJCC) will work to increase coordination and develop recommendations to prevent and address elder abuse, neglect, exploitation, and fraud, including consideration of particular COVID-19 risks. An inter-agency elder justice workgroup has been formed, and began meeting in June, with stakeholder presentations, to inform the development of the EJCC.
- **Initiative 95:** CA Department of Social Services' Adult Protective Services (APS) has dispersed federal funds to support APS efforts around COVID response and administration of an Administration for Community Living grant to enhance APS statewide through training initiatives.
- **Initiative 97:** CDA is undertaking new planning with stakeholders for state Legal Assistance Developer, as federally required.

## ***Strategy F: Leadership in Aging***

- **Initiative 98:** The planned expansion for a statewide "No Wrong Door" for older adult, people with disabilities, and family assistance and care planning is moving ahead with new strategic plan, informed by the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) Advisory Committee, and proposed new state budget investments.
- **Initiative 99:** The proposed 2021-2022 State Budget includes the appointment of a Senior Advisor on Aging, Disability, and Alzheimer's to advance cross-Cabinet initiatives and partnerships between government, the private sector, and philanthropy, such as closing the digital divide, transportation options beyond driving, and

caregiving workforce solutions, for Californians of all ages.

- **Initiative 100:** California has officially joined [AARP's Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities!](#) California is the 8th state to join the Network. Over 50 cities in California have already exhibited bold leadership, paving the way by joining the Age-Friendly Network. [AB-1118 \(Rubio 2019\)](#) called on California to consider joining AARP's Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. On March 23rd, AARP kicked off deeper partnership by hosting an "Age-Friendly Mini-Rounds" for CDA to hear from local CA communities regarding their experiences in becoming an AARP Age-Friendly Community. Check out the [press release](#).
- **Initiative 101:** The kick-off convening for stakeholder engagement in strengthening and aligning California's network of "[Aging Hubs & Spokes](#)", including CDA/Area Agencies in Aging networks took place on July 8th.
- **Initiative 102:** Putting Evidence into Practice: In May, in coordination with CDA, partners from CITRIS and the Banatao Institute at the University of California and the West Health Institute convened leaders from multiple institutions across California for an initial workshop to explore key purposes, functions, and outcomes of a research partnership on aging to measure outcomes of the Master Plan for Aging 2021-2022 initiatives and drive continuous innovation and improvement.
- **Initiative 103:** The Governor's Office of Business & Economic Development (GO-Biz) and CDA are consulting with two nations' consulates in California on innovation and leadership in aging.
- **Initiative 104:** On July 1st, CHHS announced the nine stakeholder members of the Implementing the [Master Plan for Aging in California Together \(IMPACT\) Stakeholder Committee](#). The IMPACT committee will advise CHHS and the Cabinet Work Group for Aging on the MPA implementation, focusing on accountability, outcomes, and continuous improvement towards the MPA's five bold goals for 2030. The first IMPACT Stakeholder meeting will take place July 14th.
- **Initiative 106:** CDA, in partnership with CA Department of Public Health and the West Health Institute, continue to update the [Data Dashboard for Aging \(DDA\)](#). Recent data enhancements and updates, include [internet access](#), [California LifeLine program participation](#), and [Adult Protective Services caseloads](#). In the coming months, updates will continue, as well as the addition of indicators relating to housing cost burden, economic security, and unmet needs for Long-Term Services and Supports. Please check the DDA regularly for updates.

## Goal Four: Caregiving That Works

### *Strategy B: Good Caregiving Jobs Creation*

- **Initiative 111:** The Labor & Workforce Development Agency (LWDA), in partnership with CHHS, has regularly engaged key stakeholders toward the goal of convening a Direct Care Workforce Solutions Table (DCWST). As envisioned, the stakeholders and experts comprising the Direct Care Workforce Solutions Table will identify short- and long-term opportunities to improve direct care work and address the direct care workforce shortage.
- **Initiatives 112 & 113:** Currently, LWDA is laying the groundwork for pilots and demonstration projects in a variety of care settings, including, for example, a high-road direct care worker pipeline, scaling successful programs

that offer a wraparound, restorative approach to recruiting and retaining low-income women with addressable barriers into the care sector. CDPH is currently gathering and evaluating available information regarding online training platforms available for direct care workers.

### **Strategy C: Virtual Care Expansion**

- **Initiative 115:** DHCS is proposing to implement broad changes with the [DHCS Telehealth Proposal](#) to continue to allow additional Medi-Cal covered benefits and services to be provided via telehealth modalities across all delivery systems, when clinically appropriate. Guidance about [telehealth flexibilities](#) that are available to providers during the COVID-19 public health emergency are available online.

## **Goal Five: Affording Aging**

### **Strategy A: End Homelessness for Older Adults**

- **Initiative 117:** Project Roomkey, which primarily serves unhoused older adults and individuals with high COVID-19 risks, expanded financial and technical assistance support for re-housing efforts. CA Department of Social Service's Housing & Homelessness Branch is providing technical assistance to help grantees better connect Project Roomkey clients with the Housing & Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP), which can provide longer-term housing supports as well as disability benefits advocacy.
- **Initiative 117:** Project Homekey, which builds on the success of Project Roomkey, is the next phase in the state's response to protecting Californians experiencing homelessness who are at high risk for serious illness from COVID-19. Under Project Homekey, local entities partner with the state to purchase and rehabilitate housing and convert them into interim or permanent, long-term housing.

### **Strategy B: Income Security as We Age**

- **Initiative 127:** CDA joined CSD's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Outreach Coalition and promoted the state EITC, the only EITC in nation available to older adults, this spring through the Department's communication channels.
- **Initiative 128:** CDA, in partnership with Franchise Tax Board, identified that approximately 437,000 older adults (age 60 plus) participate in the EITC.

The Golden State Stimulus, as enacted by the Legislature and the Governor, included vital support for older adults who receive SSI to supplement low-incomes; work and claim the state EITC (California is the only state where workers 65 and over are eligible); or participate in CalWorks, as primary caregivers to young children. CDA estimates that over 1 million adults aged 60 and older qualified for this payment.

## **Strategy C: Protection from Poverty & Hunger**

- **Initiative 130:** More than 27 million meals were provided by the Older Adult programs in 2020, a 51 percent increase over the prior year; and 2021 began with 8,442,847 meals (January – March), as unprecedented need for food and home delivered meals in particular continues.
- **Initiative 130:** CalOES and state partners worked alongside local governments to provide Great Plates, a free meal delivery services to older vulnerable Californians during the pandemic, through June 2020. As of April 27, 40 local administrators from various counties and cities across California served over 32 million meals to high-risk older adults through free home delivery. In addition, the program is currently contracting with more than 618 restaurants and food providers and currently supporting over 7,627 jobs throughout the state. Among the currently contracted food providers, over half (60%) identify as a minority owned food provider.
- **Initiative 130:** CA Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has continued to work with partners at CDSS and the State Treasurer’s Office to serve older adults through the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program. Because of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, CDFA is working with CDSS to distribute boxes of farm fresh produce through their food bank distribution network to give seniors an alternative way to take part in the program.
- **Initiative 131:** CA Department of Social Services (CDSS) implemented Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) online purchasing to allow CalFresh recipients to order groceries online for delivery in 2020, and now, CDSS is working with USDA to grow the number and variety of approved EBT online retailers. Currently, groceries can be purchased online at Albertsons, Aldi through Instacart, Amazon, Safeway, and Walmart.
- **Initiative 131:** CDSS submitted a request to United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service to extend and expand California’s Elderly Simplified Application Project (ESAP) Demonstration Project. CDSS will continue with four main strategies, including: a) Waiving the recertification interview requirement; b) Making use of data matching to reduce client-provided verifications; c) Extending the certification period to 36 months, including for ESAP cases processed by the Social Security Administration; d) Waiving the requirement to contact the household at least once every 12 months, thereby eliminating the need to send and collect a SAR 7 Eligibility Status Report.
- **Initiative 132:** California received USDA approval to increase our Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) caseload by an additional 2,200 retroactive to January 1, 2021 and our total assigned caseload is now 106,239 per month. CSFP service in 31 counties which are served by the 10 local agencies.

## **4. Master Plan for Aging ACCOUNTABILITY**

Progress Reports: This is the first MPA progress report. Reports will be released bi-annually and regular updates can be accessed via the [Together We Engage newsletter](#).

IMPACT Stakeholder Committee: Master Plan for the Aging’s initiative #104 called for the creation of the Implementing the MPA in California Together (IMPACT) Stakeholder Committee. This committee will advise the Administration and the Cabinet Workgroup on Aging on the implementation of the MPA. The IMPACT announcement, membership, and meeting details can be [accessed here](#).

[State & Local Data for Action- Check Out the Data Dashboard for Aging \(DDA\)](#): The [Data Dashboard for Aging \(DDA\)](#) will measure progress across the Five Bold Goals over the next ten years, as well as provide local and state data for policy and program planners. Since the MPA launch, CDA has hosted a series of Data Dashboard for Aging demonstrations, including a demonstration for legislative staff in February, Regional Coalitions on Aging in March, and state and local public health departments in April. CDA also solicited feedback on the DDA and ideas for on-going improvement from Area Agencies on Aging in April and May. [The website](#) now offers tutorial videos and improved navigation tools to assist users with finding the data they need. Recent data updates include [internet access](#), [California LifeLine program participation](#), [Adult Protective Services caseloads](#), [economic security](#), and [housing cost burden](#). In the coming months, measures for unmet needs for Long-Term Services and Supports and sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) demographic data will be added. Additionally, all [California Health Interview Survey](#) data will be updated thanks to a partnership with UCLA.

Stay Engaged! We cannot thank our partners, stakeholders, and members of the public enough for the continued engagement and partnership in ensuring that California builds a state for ALL Ages. To receive ongoing MPA updates, please sign up for the [Together We Engage](#) newsletter.



## CONTACT US



[www.aging.ca.gov](http://www.aging.ca.gov)



[engage@aging.ca.gov](mailto:engage@aging.ca.gov)



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