



2018 ISSUE BRIEF KEY POINTS

Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Financing in California

- Long-term services and supports (LTSS) provides older adults and people access to needed services that support assistance with various tasks of daily living.
- The demand for LTSS is increasing significantly with 70% of baby boomers expected to use some form of LTSS in their lifetime.
- Currently, the lack of affordable private insurance coverage options have created an environment where individuals and families are exhausting all of their assets to pay for LTSS.
- This crisis inordinately affects middle-class Americans, increases health care costs, strains public budgets, derails retirement savings and reduces investment in future generations.
- California lacks meaningful data that shows who is currently accessing LTSS, who is relying on unpaid caregiving and where the holes are in our current system.

We support appropriating \$1 million to the California Health and Human Services Agency to help collect more data on LTSS utilization, so that California can better understand the level of current need.

Housing is Healthcare

- In California, 54% of adults 65 and older are living below 200 percent of the federal poverty threshold. The average age of a homeless person in California is 55, and this number is increasing - in ten years, it will be 62.
- With little funding, the state has been unable to keep pace with the demand for affordable housing. Among those most in need of affordable housing are seniors. Nationally, of 3.9 million very low-income rental households aged 62 and over who were eligible for housing assistance in 2011, just 1.4 million were able to secure aid.
- Older adults have a special set of housing needs that must be considered when drafting housing policy. Housing is healthcare, especially for older adults. The prevalence of chronic conditions and frailty increases with age. In many cases, deteriorating physical and cognitive functioning impede the ability of these seniors to live independently in the community. Without a safe, stable place to live, it is difficult for seniors to receive proper and effective preventative care and treatment for chronic conditions.
- Affordable housing properties linked with health and supportive services have proven to help significantly in meeting the varied needs of lower-income seniors while also helping address multiple public policy priorities.
- California's Assisted Living Waiver (ALW) helps keep seniors in their homes and out of costly higher levels of care by allowing Medi-Cal eligible individuals to receive residential assisted living services. However, as of October 2017, there were over 2,000 individuals on the waitlist for the program, which has only 3,744 total slots.

LeadingAge CA supports the Governor's budget request to increase the number of slots in the ALW Program by 2,000. However, more is needed to meet existing waitlists and consumer need.

2018 ISSUE BRIEF KEY POINTS (CONTINUED)

RCFE Disaster Preparedness

- 2017 was a record year for natural disasters with unprecedented levels of damage caused by floods, fires and other weather events.
- The California wildfires burned more than 9.8 million acres, destroyed over 15,000 homes and businesses, caused 44 deaths and caused \$18 billion in damages.
- 2017 underscored how critical it is for healthcare providers to have sufficient emergency and disaster plans in place.

We support legislation (AB ___) that would require Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE) to provide annual training and implement various drills for staff on their current disaster plans.

CNA Workforce

- Every state across the country is experiencing a significant shortage of, and a growing demand for, qualified workers who are capable of managing, supervising and providing high-quality services and supports for older adults.
- California's healthcare industry employed approximately 1.4 million people in 2015, with only 20% of those individuals currently working in long-term care.
- The certified nursing assistant (CNA) workforce is particularly undermanned in the healthcare workforce, with several contributing factors leading to the current shortage of front-line staff in long-term care facilities.
- Last year, California mandated an increase in the number of direct care services hours in skilled nursing facilities from 3.2 to 3.5 nursing hours per patient day. It also specified that certified nursing assistants must provide a minimum of 2.4 hours per patient day.
- Skilled nursing facilities will face a significant challenge in meeting the new staffing requirements, as there is currently not enough qualified certified nursing assistants to meet the need set forth in this bill.

Support the current budget proposal that includes \$4.5 million for the expansion of training slots for existing certified nursing assistant workforce training and development programs.



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