SENIORS COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, July 20, 2023

10 a.m. – 12 Noon

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81931049538

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AGENDA

10 a.m.  1. Welcome, Call to Order and Introductions

2. Additions & Deletions to the Agenda

3. Receive Announcements from Board Members

4. Comments from Members of the Public on Items Not on the Agenda

5. CONSENT AGENDA
   Approve minutes of June 2023 Board Meeting

10:15 6. Committee Reports
   1. Finance Committee – Check Signers for County Bank
2. Nominating & Board Development
3. Advocacy Committee
   a. Live Oak Senior Center
   b. CORE Update
   c. California Senior Legislature Report
4. Executive Committee

10:45  7. Personnel Policy Updates –
       1. Cell Phone Reimbursement Policy
       2. Travel/Lodging Reimbursement Policy Revision


11:00  9. Executive Director’s Report
       1. Falls Prevention Program Update
       2. Audits and Program Monitoring
       3. Master Plan for Aging
       4. State & Community Activities

11:20  10. Program Reports (written)
       1. Area Agency on Aging & ADRC
       2. Project SCOUT
       3. Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Program

11:40  11. Miscellaneous Correspondence & Other Items

11:55  12. Adjourn

Next Meeting:

Thursday August 17, 2023  10 a.m. – 12 Noon
Questions, Clarifications or Additional Information:

If you have a question or wish clarification or additional information about any agenda item or attached materials, please telephone Seniors Council Executive Director Clay Kempf at 688-0400 ext. 115 before the meeting. If you get voicemail, please leave a detailed message so that a response can be made.

Distribution of Materials:

If you have information to share with members of the Board, a table or other suitable space will be provided on which you may make it available. It is the wish of the Executive Committee that meetings not be disrupted by distribution of paperwork or other items.

Accessibility:

This organization attempts to make meeting content understandable in languages other than English. All Meeting rooms are accessible for people with disabilities. If you wish to discuss reasonable modifications or accommodations for language or disability, please contact the Seniors Council office at 688-0400 at least 48 hours before the meeting.

Seniors Council Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Seniors Council to enable older persons to function with independence and dignity in their homes and in the community to their fullest capacity.

Area Agency on Aging Mission

To provide leadership in addressing issues that relate to older Californians; to develop community-based systems of care that provide services which support independence within California’s interdependent society, and which protect the quality of life of older persons and persons with functional impairment; and to promote citizen involvement in the planning and delivery of services.
SENIORS COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
(Held by Zoom in accordance with COVID-19 social distancing requirements)

June 15, 2023

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:
Wayne Norton (President); Pam Arnsberger (Vice President); Jane Schwickerath (Treasurer); Gwen Yeo (Secretary); Tami Aviles; Mickie Luna; Barbara Kaiser; Mark Trabing; Antonio Rivas

BOARD MEMBERS excused: Barbara Canfield; Creighton Mendivil; Steven Matzie; Cathy Cress

STAFF PRESENT:
Clay Kempf (Seniors Council Executive Director); Britt Bassoni (Seniors Council ADRC Director); Hilary Minugh (Seniors Council Fiscal Specialist); Leanne Oliveira (Seniors Council ADRC Coordinator); Patty Talbott (Seniors Council AAA Administrator); Zach Johnson (Seniors Council Administrative Services Officer); Cathy Colvard (Seniors Council Fiscal Officer)

OTHERS PRESENT:
Tarah Hudelson (Gray Bears)

1. Welcome, Call to Order and Introductions
Call to order at 10:07 AM.

2. Additions & Deletions to the Agenda
None.

3. Receive Announcements from Board Members
None.

4. Comments from Members of the Public on Items Not on the Agenda
Mark visited park in Watsonville, impressed by senior program presentation.

5. CONSENT AGENDA
MOTION, to approve minutes of May 2023 Board Meeting, Yeo/Arnsberger, PASSED. Barbara Kaiser abstains.
6. **Future Board Meetings – Virtual, In-person, Hybrid?**

Wayne asked about space concerns. Clay: it would be a little tight, can fit maybe 12 people in conference room, with additional space via remote access (hybrid). Pam reports Exec. Committee is in favor of hybrid. Gwen asked about sound quality – quality should be as good as this call, Clay said. Tami asked where meeting is held – held at Aptos office. Mickie said she prefers virtual due to distance, Mark concurred, but would like to visit office occasionally. Wayne said he prefers in-person meetings. Added that it would be good for Santa Cruz members to travel to San Benito sometimes. Jane said she prefers virtual/hybrid. Mark asked if this also applied to Committee meetings, Wayne said they can make their own decisions. Zach said it would be helpful to continue recording via Zoom in any case. Pam asked where meeting might be, Wayne said TBD but would need AV capabilities. Clay clarified that Exec. Committee recommendation is to move to hybrid meetings. Gwen asked if we can establish annual in-person, Jane suggested December.

**MOTION**, to hold regular Board meetings in hybrid format at Seniors Council office, with an annual in-person meeting at a location TBD, **Yeo/Luna, PASSED**.

7. **Committee Reports**

**Finance Committee** – Jane read the committee report into the record. Key points: met Thursday 6/8 to discuss reserves; standing is healthy, with room for growth; program budgets are mostly balanced; Barbara Kaiser will be next Treasurer; next meeting September 10.

Gwen noted we are overspent on translations, asked about activities. Clay responded this is mix of newsletter and live translation; cost was down in previous years due to COVID and current budget reflects historical levels. Hilary added that ADRC Resource Directory translation project was also significant cost, plus additional print translation for virtual meetings. Budget will be presented at next Finance Committee meeting. Gwen also asked about overspending on advertising and promotion. Clay replied this was due to difficulty hiring recently; Hilary added that ADRC has done a lot of outreach via print and radio. Britt elaborated on details of this outreach.

Wayne asked about Companion for Life year-to-date performance. Hilary explained details of how two-year grants are being spent, and CFL is under budget on projected income. Mickie asked Britt about referral for translation, said that Jovenes and others in San Benito would be happy to help. Mickie also passed on some feedback that she has received on the Directory. Antonio asked about cost of translation, Hilary replied translation is hourly rate, 2-hour/$250 minimum, Unique Interpreting Services. Hilary: normal cost is less, this was a unique year. Antonio suggested exploring lower cost options in the future. Clay noted we have ~15 years’ experience with this interpreter at steady rate and costs have always been appropriate for quality of work. Jane, per Britt’s chat, noted that live translation is not equivalent to written translation in terms of skill.

1. **Agency-wide Budget Update** – page 7.1-1 through 7.1-4; top half is Finance Committee recommendation for wage adjustments, with applied 4.2% to all existing positions. Wayne agreed with importance of taking advantage of surplus when available. **MOTION**, to approve salary schedule recommendations of the Finance Committee, Schwickerath/Arnsberger, **PASSED**.

**Nominating & Board Development** – Pam updated on committee activities, ED evaluation progress.

**Advocacy Committee** – Main goal was to increase engagement with community and elected officials, now shifting to increase investment.

1. **Live Oak Senior Center** – Clay recapped current situation and recent meetings. Temporary deal may be in the works, to: extend lease for 2 years, have CB make necessary repairs ($125,000), and agencies take over maintenance and custodial costs. No response from
LOSD yet on reopening meal site. Vote will be on June 28th, just before deadline. Board President more inclined to compromise than Superintendent.

2. **CORE Updates** – Board letter to express: census data showing SC County has fastest-growing 65+ population in the state, which increases concerns about funding cuts. Advocacy Committee will send separate letter. Pam will sign as Board President. Wayne noted that politicians throughout SC County have become comfortable not funding older adult programs, and we should be diligent in raising these issues to them. Pam and Antonio agreed and elaborated on communication needs. Antonio said everybody on Board should actively remind electeds of issues and push concerns to County Supervisors. Tami asked about creating an identifying item, i.e. name tag showing Seniors Council for public speaking. Jane said we can educate Supervisors on history and context. Wayne emphasized importance of informal and ongoing aspect of relationships, as many electeds make up their mind before day of vote.

3. **California Senior Legislature Report**

   **Executive Committee**

8. **Funding Allocations – Update**

   Clay: expanding volunteer outreach and engaging community in SB County, more to come. Also exploring disaster preparedness opportunities.

   Pam asked about timeline for Solutions Summits, if they will happen this year. Grant begins in July. Waiting until 2024 would avoid splitting workgroups over holiday break and losing momentum. Candidate forums also being discussed.

   **Nutrition Infrastructure**

   **OARR & ARPA**

   **2022-23 State Budget Augmentations**

9. **Executive Director’s Report**

   **Audits and Program Monitoring**

   **Master Plan for Aging** – Clay discussed SC County needs assessment vs state-wide survey. Our needs assessments have always targeted at-risk populations, who we want to hear from. State survey is more random, by design. Some flexibility to dispense extra surveys. Antonio attended meeting in Capitola regarding community needs, will attend more in near future. Gwen asked about comparing and integrating the two needs assessments. Patty said data will be delivered broken out by County, but not ZIP code, via POLCO’s national survey model. Gwen asked how County is determining questions; input received from steering committee. Jane asked about mandate for LGBTQ+ outreach in surveys; state-level will meet AAA requirements. Wayne suggested funds for training for first responders about assisted living/SNFs, other special situations.

   **State & Community Activities** – discussed in MPA above.

   **California Senior Legislature** – Mickie reported that on June 22 they will meet John Pointer to discuss proposals. Discussed lack of senior housing with Antonio. Trending topic: “Together we Engage”. Fact sheets have been very helpful in communication with public and elected officials. Conversation with college graduates; maybe a target for outreach?

   Antonio said he was not able to submit proposal, can’t until October, but will work with Mickie in the meantime. Asked for any suggestions for CSL work for the upcoming year. Wayne proposed including regular Senior Legislature reports in future packets. Mickie suggested viewing the CSL
website for news, will bring major updates for future meetings. Clay seconded their comments and praised everyone’s efforts. Jane said Chuck Molnar can also communicate needs to State.

10. **Program Reports (written)** —
   - **Falls Prevention** – Clay discussed viability of program given funding timelines, challenges it faces due to competition. Jane noted that our partner/provider has offered to take over monitoring so seniors will not lose service.
   - **Area Agency on Aging & ADRC** – Wayne asked about Collaborative Consulting recommendations, Britt replied that it was a general overview of AAAs and statewide developments. ADRC working with Alliance for Health to expand Medi-Cal to SB County.
   - **Project SCOUT**
   - **Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Program**

11. **Miscellaneous Correspondence & Other Items**
    Pam congratulated and thanked Wayne for his term as President.

12. **Adjourn**
    The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 PM.

Next Meeting: July 20, 2023 10 a.m. – 12 Noon
Minutes prepared by: Zachary Johnson
Date: 7-14-23

To: Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council  
   Seniors Council Board of Directors

From: Clay Kempf, Executive Director

RE: Advocacy Committee Report

This month’s Advocacy Committee focused on regular updates to our standing items, including Live Oak Senior Center and Senior Program Funding on the local and state level, both of which will be reported on during our July meetings.

The more dynamic part of the meeting, however, was discussion of our Advocacy Priorities for the coming 12 months (and beyond). A number of ideas had been shared at our June meeting, and we spent the bulk of this month expanding on those ideas and formalizing them into our new priorities. Informally, we titled this our:

Senior Action Plan for 2023  
(aka Campaign to Elevate the Investment in Older Adults)

A. Candidate Forum  
B. Visits to Elected Officials & Regular “State of Aging” updates  
C. Solutions Summits  
D. Sharing of Facts about Seniors & Senior Funding Trends

Item details will continue as our focal points during future Advocacy Committee meetings. They are included here to serve as discussion topics for both the Advisory Council and Board meetings. Staff will provide regular updates as detailed plans are developed. For today’s meeting, and overview of each point will be provided as part of the meeting presentation.
THE ADVOCATE
Volume 4, Issue 1

May 2023

2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The first half of the 2023 Legislative Session has concluded. The May revise has been submitted and can be found at this link: California Budget. We are now waiting for the Legislature’s submission of the 2023-24 budget to the Governor by June 15th.

Other key events to date include:

- The first annual report of the Master Plan for Aging was introduced on January 21st. You can find the report at this link 1st Annual MPA Progress Report.

- Senior Rally Day was held on May 2nd. This year’s focus was on inclusivity. Over 600 Californians registered for the event and heard presentations from legislators, the California Dept of Aging and the California Collaborative on LTSS. Finally, a panel of subject matter experts discussed ageism.

- The California Senior Legislature (CSL) issued a press release on November 1, 2022 that identified our 2023 CSL Legislative Priorities. Seven of those legislative priorities were authored by legislators prior to the February 17, 2023 deadline. Each of these proposals are identified on page 2 and their status can be found on pages 3-9. Two (SB 657 and AB 559) of the seven CSL proposals remain active bills at this time.

- Justice in Aging has compiled a summary of legislative bills that impact seniors by MPA goal. The current status of each these bills is identified on pages 3-9. ◆

THE ADVOCATE is published quarterly and distributed to members of CSL and Friends of CSL, Area Agencies on Aging and key senior stakeholders throughout the state.

ABOUT CSL

The California Senior Legislature (CSL) is a volunteer body that was established under California law in 1980. Over its 39 year history the organization has been responsible for more than 210 bills signed into law to help seniors.

CSL

MISSION OF CSL

Helping to preserve and enhance the quality of life of older Californians and their families.

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CSL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The CSL press release on November 1, 2022 announced our 2023 CSL priorities. Those proposals that became bills by the February 17, 2023 deadline are presented below:

**AB 478: Wildfires: Insurance ASM Connolly**
(SP-6/Senior Senator Jan Lemucchi, Bakersfield, CA)
This bill prohibits an insurer from canceling or refusing to renew a policy of residential property insurance based solely on the fact that the insured property is located in a high or very high fire hazard severity zone, as identified by the state fire Marshall, if the insured is 65 years or age or older. Additionally, caps increases to no more than 25 percent with ability to pay over 3 years with the insurance premium.

**AB 559: Personal income tax: California Senior Citizen Advocacy Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund ASM Boerner**
(Senior Senator John Pointer, Laguna Niguel, CA)
This bill requires the Franchise Tax Board to revise the return for taxable years 2017 to 2030, inclusive, to allow a taxpayer to designate an amount in excess of personal income tax liability to be deposited into the California Senior Citizen Advocacy Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund, and would extend the repeal date for these provisions to January 1, 2032.

**AB 582: Personal Income Tax:Tax Credits:Fire Resistant Home Improvements ASM Connolly**
(SP-6/Senior Senator Jan Lemucchi, Bakersfield, CA)
This bill would create a credit for home hardening costs incurred by seniors who reside in high fire severity zones.

**AB 1036: Health care coverage: emergency medical transport ASM Bryan**
(AP-8/Senior Assembly Member Robin Clough, Santa Clarita, CA)
This bill would, if a physician has certified that an emergency medical condition exists, require a health service plan, disability insurance policy, and Medi-Cal managed care plan, to provide coverage for emergency medical transport, consistent with an individual’s plan or policy.

**SB 431: Grandparents: caregivers support Sen Nguyen**
(AP-1/Senior Assembly Member Mark Cox, Yucaipa, CA)
This bill requires the California Department of Aging, in consultation with the Department of Justice and the State Department of Social Services, to conduct a study to examine the issues faced by grandparents who are 60 years of age or older and are primary caregivers for their grandchildren, and requires the California Department of Aging to report the findings of the study to the Legislature.

**SB:657: Homelessness Staff Services Training Sen Caballero**
(AP-6/Senior Assembly Member Susan Mallet, San Diego, CA)
This bill would require the council to coordinate with the California continuums of care and the area agencies on aging to partner in their shared regions to provide gerontological training for homelessness services staff and to ensure that homelessness service providers are well trained and well equipped to assist vulnerable older adults with accessing resources to gain a permanent housing solution.

**SRC 46 (Nguyen) Ageism**
(SP-3/Senior Senator Karen Gorback, Thousand Oaks, CA)
This measure would declare May 1, 2023, to May 7, 2023, inclusive, as “Ageism Awareness Week.”

Continued on Page 9
LEGISLATIVE BILLS RELATED TO
THE MASTER PLAN FOR AGING

This year Justice in Aging has again compiled a summary of legislative bills that have been introduced that directly affect older adults as well as people with disabilities and that align with the goals of the MPA.

Those bills placed in either the Assembly or Senate Appropriations Suspense File or did not get passed by the bills house of origin by June 2nd have been highlighted in red font. Those bills supported by CSL are noted below as well.

GOAL 1: HOUSING FOR ALL AGES AND STAGES

AB 478 (Connolly): Wildfire Insurance (2 year bill)
California Senior Legislature

This bill would prohibit an insurer from canceling or refusing to renew a policy of residential property insurance based solely on the fact that the insured property is located in a high 2023 or very high fire hazard severity zone, as identified by the State Fire Marshal, if the insured is 65 years of age or older.

AB 540 (Wicks): Social Service Transportation Improvement Act (2 year bill)
Choice in Aging Supported by California Senior Legislature

This bill would support coordinated transportation services agencies, creating a pathway for revolutionizing service delivery and access to affordable, available, and accessible transportation for elders and people with disabilities.

AB 582 (Connolly): Senior Wildfire Tax Credit
California Senior Legislature

This bill would create a credit for home hardening costs incurred by seniors who reside in high fire severity zones.

AB 1085 (Maienschein): Housing Support Services as Medi-Cal benefit
Western Center on Law and Poverty, Corporation for Supportive Housing

This bill would require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to seek federal approval to make housing support services a Medi-Cal benefit.

AB 839 (Addis): Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly: Financing
LeadingAge California

This bill would modernize and update the CHFFA and Cal-Mortgage statues to allow nonprofit RCFEs, regardless of their connection to a SNF, to utilize the programs.

Continued on Page 4
LEGISLATIVE BILLS RELATED TO THE MASTER PLAN FOR AGING (CONT'D)

SB 17 (Caballero): Senior Housing: Tax Credits

LeadingAge California

Supported by California Senior Legislature

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would create new opportunities for the development of affordable senior housing. Additionally, this bill ties the 15% senior goal in the 9% Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) to the American Community Survey (ACS) census data, so that funding for affordable senior housing will increase in proportion to the size of the senior population.

SB 37 (Caballero): Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities Housing Stability Act

Justice in Aging, Corporation for Supportive Housing, LeadingAge California, State Council on Developmental Disabilities, United Way of Greater LA

Supported by California Senior Legislature

This bill would create rental stabilization subsidies that would enable thousands of older adults and people with disabilities annually to access or keep their housing. The subsidies would be made available to severely low-income Calif.

SB 656 (Nguyen): Governor’s Military Council

Existing law established the Governor’s Military Council. Existing law repeals the law on January 1, 2026. This bill would extend the repeal date to January 1, 2029.

SB 657 (Caballero): Senior Housing

California Senior Legislature

This bill would require the council to coordinate with the California continuums of care and the area agencies on aging to partner in their shared regions to provide gerontological training for homelessness services staff and to ensure that homelessness service providers are well trained and well equipped to assist vulnerable older adults with accessing resources to gain a permanent housing solution. The bill would be implemented contingent on an appropriation for those purposes in the budget act.

GOAL 2: HEALTH REIMAGINED

AB 48 (Aguilar-Curry): Nursing Facility Resident Informed Consent Protection Act of 2023

California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform (CANHR)

Supported by California Senior Legislature

This bill would codify and expand existing informed consent rules to ensure nursing home residents are given important information about drugs that are prescribed for them and an opportunity to consent or withhold consent.

Continued on Page 5
GOAL 2: HEALTH REIMAGINED (cont’d)

AB 336 (Cervantes): Contractors: Workers’ Compensation Insurance

This bill would provide funding and resources, as well as reduce barriers, to address significant workforce shortages in county human services programs.

AB 486 (Kalra): Nursing Home Citations: Appeal Process

Disability Rights California Supported by California Senior Legislature

This bill would provide a more consistent framework for the appeals process across regulatory citations for long-term care facilities in California. This would reduce the burden on our superior court system and save judicial resources and taxpayer money. Furthermore, it would streamline and improve a process that is designed to hold negligent facilities (i.e., nursing homes) accountable.

AB 1036 (Bryan): Health Care Coverage: Emergency Medical Transport

California Senior Legislature

This bill would, if a physician has certified that emergency medical condition existed, require a health care service plan, disability insurance policy, and Medi-Cal managed care plan, to provide coverage for emergency medical transport, consistent with an individual’s plan or policy.

AB 1157 (Ortega and Wilson): Rehabilitative and Habilitative Services: Durable Medical Equipment and Services

Western Center on Law & Poverty, National Health Law Program (NHeLP)

This bill would clarify that durable medical equipment is a covered essential health benefit in California regulated health plans when prescribed by a doctor for rehabilitative or habilitative purposes. It will remove limitations such as annual caps on durable medical equipment coverage.

AB 1309 (Gómez Reyes): Long-Term Health Care Facilities: Admission Contracts.

California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform (CANHR) Supported by California Senior Legislature

This bill would require nursing homes to include the same level of detail on written notices to justify a resident eviction that is required of Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFEs), allowing residents to better defend against inappropriate and unsafe evictions on appeal.

AB 1417 (Wood): Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse: Mandated Reporting

California Long Term Care Ombudsman Association

Supported by California Senior Legislature

Continued on Page 6
LEGISLATIVE BILLS RELATED TO
THE MASTER PLAN FOR AGING (CONT'D)

GOAL 2: HEALTH RE-IMAGINED (cont’d)

This bill will require mandated reporters to follow a single, simplified reporting process. This bill will also require reports of abuse or neglect to be reported sooner than under the current system (e.g., 24 hours vs. 2 working days); and ensure that criminal acts are reported to law enforcement first. By making the process easier to follow and requiring 2023 Legislative Bills and Budget Requests Related to the Master Plan for Aging | 5 reports to be submitted in a timely manner, the bill will ensure that residents of long-term care facilities have the same protections against elder abuse as persons who reside in their own homes.

SB 311 (Eggman): Medicare Part A Buy-In

Justice in Aging

Supported by California Senior Legislature

This bill would require the Department of Health Care Services to submit a State Plan Amendment for California to become a Part A Buy-In State. This would benefit low-income older Californians and persons with disabilities, who rely on Medicare and Medi-Cal but struggle to pay costly Medicare Part A premiums, by simplifying the enrollment process for financial assistance.

GOAL 3: INCLUSION & EQUITY, NOT ISOLATION

AB 21 (Gipson): Peace Officers: Training

Alzheimer’s Association

Supported by California Senior Legislature

This bill would advance an Alzheimer’s content training for peace officers. This includes a budget request being worked out with the author. Last year, a similar bill cost $13.5 million. 2023 Legislative Bills and Budget Requests Related to the Master Plan for Aging |

AB 385 (Ta): Alzheimer’s Disease: Public Awareness Campaign

Supported by California Senior Legislature

This bill would require the CA Department of Public Health to implement a public awareness campaign with education for unpaid caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer’s Disease.

AB 386 (Nguyen): California Right to Financial Privacy Act

County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA)

Supported by California Senior Legislature

This bill would improve Adult Protective Services (APS) financial abuse investigations and better protect the assets of California’s growing population of older and dependent adults by: (1) simplifying criteria to access financial records, (2) extending the time frame of accessible records, and (3) expanding the information APS can receive.

Continued on Page 7
LEGISLATIVE BILLS RELATED TO
THE MASTER PLAN FOR AGING (CONT'D)

GOAL 3: INCLUSION & EQUITY, NOT ISOLATION (cont’d)

AB 387 (Aguiar-Curry): Alzheimer’s Disease

Alzheimer’s Association  Supported by California Senior Legislature

This bill would update the state’s Alzheimer’s and Related Disorders Advisory Committee to add new members, conform term lengths, remove stigmatizing language, and uplift diversity.

AB 449 (Ting): Hate Crimes: Law Enforcement Policies

California Alliance for Retired Americans

This bill would make adoption of a hate crimes policy by a local law enforcement agency mandatory. The bill would require those policies to include the supplemental hate crime report in the model policy framework developed by the commission and a schedule of hate crime or related trainings the agency conducts. By imposing requirements on local agencies, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

AB 751 (Schiavo): Elder Abuse

California Alliance for Retired Americans  Supported by California Senior Legislature

The bill would codify existing law requiring most local law enforcement agencies to adopt a detailed, specific policy providing much better protection to the 8.5 million older adult Californians and to the 9 million California children and adults with disabilities.

AB 820 (Reyes) State Boards and Commissions: Seniors

California Commission on Aging (CCoA)  Supported by California Senior Legislature

This bill would ensure that aging and disability are part of all equity initiatives and that equity metrics are clearly communicated to the appropriate audiences. Additionally, it would allow opportunities to review and strengthen state and local government leadership and partnership structures.

AB 979 (Alvarez): Long-Term Care: Family Councils

California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform (CANHR)  Supported by California Senior Legislature

This bill would modernize existing family council laws, so that members can continue to meet, communicate, and operate during a public health emergency; ensure facilities are more responsive to concerns; discourage operators from undermining family council activities; and clarify that control of the family council membership and participation in meetings lies with the family council itself.

Continued on Page 8
GOAL 3: INCLUSION & EQUITY, NOT ISOLATION (cont’d)

SB 278 (Dodd): Elder Abuse

Consumer Attorneys of California, California Low Income Consumer Coalition and Elder Law & Advocacy-San Diego
Supported by California Senior Legislature

This bill would clarify existing elder financial exploitation laws to ensure that older adult victims of financial scams can hold banks and other entities accountable for assisting in their financial exploitation.

SB 639 (Limón): Alzheimer’s Disease

Alzheimer’s Association
Supported by California Senior Legislature

This bill would update the state Alzheimer's Disease Centers to include Dementia Care Aware, which will improve our state systems that help people receive a timely and accurate diagnosis.

SCR 46 (Nguyen): Ageism Awareness Week

California Senior Legislature

This measure would declare May 1, 2023 to May 7, 2023, inclusive, as Ageism Awareness Week.

GOAL 4: CAREGIVING THAT WORKS

AB 518 (Wicks): Paid Family Leave

This bill would expand the definition of “family member” and “family care leave” which will allow family caregivers to take paid family leave to care for individuals related by blood or whose association with the caregiver is the equivalent of a family relationship.


Would add family caregiver status, defined as “a person who is a contributor to the care of one or more family members (including chosen family),” as a protected class under the existing CA Fair Employment and Housing Act.

AB 575 (Papan): Paid Family Leave

This bill would remove unnecessary barriers for individuals seeking to access their paid family benefits by making improvements to California’s Paid Family Leave program.
LEGISLATIVE BILLS RELATED TO THE MASTER PLAN FOR AGING (CONT'D)

GOAL 4: CAREGIVING THAT WORKS (cont’d)

AB 1672 (Haney): In-Home Supportive Services Employer-Employee Relations Act

SEIU 2015

Supported by California Senior Legislature

This bill would allow In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) providers and employers to negotiate their contracts and wages at a state level instead of at the county level.

SB 431 (Nguyen): Grandparents: Caregivers Support

California Senior Legislature

This bill would require the California Department of Aging, in consultation with the Department of Justice and the State Department of Social Services, to conduct a study to examine the issues faced by grandparents who are 60 years of age or older and are primary caregivers for their grandchildren, and require the California Department of Aging to report the findings of the study to the Legislature.

SB 616 (Gonzalez): Paid Sick Days: Accrual and Use

This bill would raise the minimum amount of paid sick time to 56 hours or 7 days. Paid sick leave can be used for a family member’s preventative care or diagnosis, or the care or treatment of an existing health condition.

GOAL 5: AFFORDING AGING

AB 559 (Boerner): Personal income tax: California Senior Citizen Advocacy Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund

California Senior Legislature

This bill requires the Franchise Tax Board to revise the return for taxable years 2017 to 2030, inclusive, to allow a taxpayer to designate an amount in excess of personal income tax liability to be deposited into the California Senior Citizen Advocacy Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund, and would extend the repeal date for these provisions to January 1, 2032.

◆
VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION PROGRAM

The 2022 Tax Filing Season is underway and one may support CSL by donating to Code 438, Senior Citizen Advocacy Voluntary Contribution Fund. The Voluntary Contribution Fund Form can be found on page 4 of the Form 540 or page 3 of the Form 540EZ. The CSL website (4CSSL.org) also provides further information.

DONATE TO CODE 438

The California Senior Legislature has been working to improve the lives of California’s six million seniors since 1981. This nonpartisan organization has sponsored over 200 new laws helping seniors with financial abuse, health care, the Silver Alert program, and more.

The California Senior Legislature is entirely dependent on tax deductible donations from people like you. Support the California Senior Legislature this tax season. Donate to Code 438.

CALIFORNIA STATE VOLUNTARY TAX CONTRIBUTION FORM

Prevention of Animal Homelessness and Cruelty Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund................................. 431 00
California Senior Citizen Advocacy Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund ........................................... 438 00

Native California Wildlife Rehabilitation Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund 439 00

Add code 400 through code 440. This is your total contribution............................................................... 110 00

Donate to Code 438.
Tell your tax preparer to check Code 438 on your state income tax return.
For more information, visit 4CSSL.org or call 916-552-8056.

FRIENDS OF CSL

Become a Friend of the CSL

Your FREE membership will keep you apprised of news and updates within this critically important organization via monthly issues of the Friends of CSL e-newsletter. We encourage you to join us in our efforts to reach and collaborate with our growing and increasingly important constituency of Californians. To enroll, potential members are directed to Get Involved on the navigation bar of 4CSSL.org. They are then asked to click on Friends of CSL and provide their email address, city and first and last name.
DRAFT Personal Cell Phone Reimbursement Policy

Amend as Section IV.H.1 of Personnel Rules and Policies

Employees who use a personal cell phone for activities related to duties assigned by Seniors Council are eligible for reimbursement. Employees must comply with the following requirements in order to be eligible:

- Device must be compatible with modern text and email services, and the employee’s work email account (name@seniorscouncil.org) must be connected to the device through an appropriate app.
- Device must be available for making and receiving calls, text, and emails during the employee’s normal working hours (i.e. switched on and in range of a reliable data connection).
- Device must be available to receive calls, texts, and emails via contact information that will be made publicly available (i.e. business cards, directory, etc.).
- Any personal usage during normal working hours must not interfere with employee’s ability to make and receive work-related calls and emails.

Employees who wish to receive this reimbursement must submit a written request (Form SRF_01 is available via the Seniors Council Shared Drive or upon request to HR) to their supervisor along with the most recent copy of the bill for the phone line for which they wish to be reimbursed (new lines must include date service was established). The supervisor will review the request and will either deny or forward it to the Executive Director for final approval. If approved by the Executive Director, reimbursement for personal cell phones or devices used for Seniors Council activities in accordance with the above will be a $55 monthly stipend. If the total bill for the requested line is less than $55, the amount on the bill shall be issued as the monthly stipend.

Employees who receive cell phone bill reimbursement may be required to submit copies of their total monthly bill, either regularly or upon request, at the supervisor’s discretion. If the employee wishes to discontinue using their personal device for work purposes, they must notify their supervisor immediately; in such a case the stipend for the current billing period will be pro-rated. The stipend may be cancelled at any time at the supervisor’s discretion if employee is not satisfying the requirements above.

While cell phones are a necessary convenience of the business world, the Seniors Council requires that employees follow all applicable state and federal laws and regulations for their own and others’ safety. Use of a cell phone or other device while driving is not permissible unless using a hands-free mode or car adapter. Employees will refrain from using any hands-on functions of the cell phone or device until they have pulled over and stopped in a safe location.

This policy does not cover phones or devices purchased by the Seniors Council to be used by an employee solely for work purposes outside the office. See Agency-Issued Cell Phone Policy (IV.H.2) for relevant information.

The Seniors Council reserves the right to amend or alter the terms of this policy.
DRAFT Agency-Issued Cell Phone Policy

Amend as Section IV.H.2 of Personnel Rules and Policies

Employees whose jobs routinely require them to make calls while away from work or require them to be accessible for work-related matters while out of the office may be eligible for an agency-issued cell phone. This policy applies to those who are issued phones exclusively for Seniors Council purposes, separate from any personal phone line(s). Employees who are issued a cell phone by the Seniors Council accept the following terms and responsibilities:

- Cell phones issued by the Seniors Council are Agency property and their use is revocable at any time. Employee agrees to comply with requests to make their Agency-issued phone(s) available for any reason, including upgrades, replacement, or inspection.

- Issued cell phones are intended to be used for business purposes. Employee understands that they are required to reimburse the Agency for any costs or charges relating to personal use of the phone.

- Employee understands that if they are no longer employed by the Agency for any reason, they must turn in the phone immediately.

Additionally, any agency-issued cell phone must be treated with care appropriate for electrical devices. The employee is solely responsible for security of the phone and any information stored thereon, and may not loan the cell phone to anyone else. Employees must not use the agency-issued cell phone for personal purposes, including but not limited to installing third-party apps and/or using the cell phone’s camera features. Employees must immediately report any lost, damaged, or stolen cell phone to their supervisor. Employees agree to abide by all local, state, and federal regulations regarding use of cell phones while driving. Employees who are issued a cell phone by the Seniors Council must complete Form SFR_02 “Agency-Issued Cell Phone Use Agreement” and file with their supervisor before receiving the device.

The Seniors Council reserves the right to amend or alter the terms of this policy.
Cell Phone Use Agreement (For Agency-Issued Phones)

EMPLOYEE: ____________________________________________

The Seniors Council may issue cell phones to employees whose jobs require them to make calls while away from work or require them to be accessible for work-related matters. This policy applies to this receiving agency-issued cell phones.

As a user of the Seniors Council-issued cell phone, I accept the following responsibilities:

- Cell phones issued by the Seniors Council are Agency property and their use is revocable at any time. I agree to comply with requests to make my Agency-issued phone(s) available for any reason, including upgrades, replacement, or inspection.
- This phone is intended to be used for business purposes. I understand that I am required to reimburse the Agency for any costs or charges relating to personal use of the phone.
- I understand that if I am no longer employed by the Agency for any reason, I must turn in the phone immediately.

Care of Equipment:

- Proper care is to be given to the phone at all times, including care appropriate for any electrical device.
- The phone is not to be loaned to anyone. No other individuals, including children, are allowed to use this cell phone.
- I understand that I am responsible for the security of the phone and the information stored on it. I agree that I will not store confidential Agency information on a cell phone.
- I agree to keep my cell phone with me and never leave it unattended in a car.
- If my cell phone is lost or stolen, I will notify my supervisor immediately.
- The cell phone is not intended to be used as a personal camera. Any pictures or videos on the cell phone will be considered the property of the Seniors Council.
- I will not install any applications that may interfere with the cell phone’s ability to function.
- I will report any problems/issues I encounter while using the phone to the Seniors Council.
- Any modifications I make in the phone’s settings will be for usability or cosmetic reasons only.
• I understand that I will not be held responsible for problems resulting from regular work-related use; however, I understand that I am personally responsible for any damage, theft, or loss of the cell phone and/or related equipment and accessories due to negligence.

**Use of Phone While Driving**

• All employees are expected to follow all applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations regarding the use of cellphones at all times.
• Employees whose job responsibilities include regular or occasional driving and who are issued a cell phone for business use are expected to refrain from using their phone while driving unless a hands-free device is in use. Employees are not required to use cell phones while driving and do so at their own risk. Safe driving practices must always take priority.
• Employees who are charged with traffic violations resulting from the use of their phone while driving will be solely responsible for all liabilities that result from such actions.

I understand that it is a violation of the terms and conditions set forth in the Agency Cell Phone Use Agreement will result in termination of my use of the Seniors Council’s cell phone, and may result in further discipline up to and including termination of contract and/or legal action.

By signing below, I agree to the terms outlined in the Cell Phone Use Agreement.

**SERIAL NO. AND MODEL:** ________________________________

**Condition:** ______ EXCELLENT ______ FAIR ______ GOOD

**ACCESSORIES:** ______ CHARGER CORD ______ OTHER (specify):______________________________

**Signed out to (print name):** ________________________________

**Signed:** ________________________________

**Date:** ________________________________

**EQUIPMENT SIGN-IN**

**Condition:** ______ EXCELLENT ______ FAIR ______ GOOD

**ACCESSORIES:** ______ CHARGER CORD ______ OTHER (specify):______________________________

**Signed in by (print name):** ________________________________

**Date:** ________________________________

7, 1-4

Form updated 6/22/23
DRAFT Cell Phone Stipend Request Form

I hereby request that my work-related usage of my personal cell phone be reimbursed per the policies of the Seniors Council of Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties. I agree to follow all stipulations of the Personal Cell Phone Reimbursement Policy. I understand that the stipend is not a guarantee and may be revoked at any time if I violate company policy. I further agree to provide, on request, an up-to-date copy of the billing record for the associated phone.

Submission and/or approval of this form shall not alter the at-will employment agreement between myself and the Seniors Council.

Phone # for request: ______________________________

Employee name (print): ______________________________

Employee Signature: ______________________________

Date: ______________________________

Supervisor name (print): ______________________________

Supervisor Signature: ______________________________

Date: ______________________________

ATTACH A COPY OF YOUR MOST RECENT BILL FOR THIS CELL PHONE TO THIS FORM

7.1-5

Form updated 6/28/23
Amend as IV.1.5-7

5. Meals

It is the policy of the Seniors Council to reimburse employees and volunteers for meals purchased at a senior center, restaurant, or other food establishment while on agency business. Such compensation may be less than, but may not exceed, limits established by the Board of Directors. These limits shall be based on the most current Meals & Incidents (M&I) rate information available from the United States General Services Administration’s Per Diem Information website (https://www.gsa.gov/travel/plan-book/per-diem-rates). USGSA rates are set by fiscal year, effective October 1 each year. Reimbursement will be calculated based on the destination of travel. If there are multiple destinations in a single trip each day will be calculated separately based on destination for that day.

A claim for reimbursement for meals need not include receipts. When an individual is traveling on agency business for an entire day, the meal reimbursement may be made without providing a breakdown of the three meals. Breakfast is eligible for reimbursement when the individual has traveled overnight or when departure occurs before 7:30 AM. Dinner is eligible for reimbursement when the return trip arrival occurs after 7:00 PM.

6. Incidents

Incidentals intended to be covered in the per diem rate include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following items:

- Parking meters (no receipt necessary)
- Snacks (no receipt necessary)
- Laundry (for extended trips)
- Bridge tolls (no receipt necessary)
- Toll Roads (no receipt necessary)
- Tips or gratuities (no receipt necessary)

Personal telephone calls placed from a hotel or motel room will not be reimbursed; however, business calls made from the lodging will be reimbursed. If the employee requires Internet access for business purposes while staying at a motel or hotel where Internet access is only available for a fee, that fee will be reimbursed.

7. Lodging

All lodging reimbursements require a receipt from a commercial lodging establishment such as a hotel, motel, bed and breakfast inn, etc. No lodging will be reimbursed without a valid receipt. Employees may not claim lodging within 50 miles of their primary residence.

Lodging reimbursement rates shall be based on the most current daily lodging rates (excluding taxes) information available from the United States General Services Administration’s Per Diem Information website (https://www.gsa.gov/travel/plan-book/per-diem-rates). USGSA rates are set by fiscal year,
effective October 1 each year. Reimbursement will be calculated based on the destination of travel. If there are multiple destinations in a single trip each day will be calculated separately based on destination for that day.

Excess lodging may be approved in certain instances: where no lodging is available at the agency maximum rate as defined above; when the lodging is associated with an agency-approved conference or meeting; or where it is otherwise not cost-effective.
June 22, 2023

Agency Code: PSA 13
Project Code: SAR-22-08

Clay Kempf, Director
Seniors Council of Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties
234 Santa Cruz Avenue
Aptos, California 95003

Re: Single Audit Reporting Package – Fiscal Year 2021/22

Dear Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Director Kempf,

The California Department of Aging (CDA) obtained the single audit reporting package on March 31, 2023. The CDA audit staff reviewed the report as it pertains to the Planning and Service Area 13 (PSA).

The CDA review was conducted in accordance with oversight responsibilities established by the Single Audit Act (Act) and provisions adopted pursuant to Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 200, Subpart F – Audit Requirements. The CDA audit staff relied upon the opinions, statements, and financial information presented in the audit as conducted by the independent audit firm of Walters & Kondrasheff, Certified Public Accountants.

The CDA audit staff identified no matters of concern. However, please be aware that the single audit reporting package may become subject to further examination during the next CDA fiscal compliance audit.
If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact the CDA Audits and Risk Management (ARM) Branch at (916) 419-7516 or CDA.Audits.Team@aging.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Jackson, CPA
Audit Chief, Audits and Risk Management Branch

cc: via email:
  Mark Beckley, Deputy Director (A), Home and Community Living Division, CDA
  Jena Sachs, Bureau Chief, External Provider Audits Bureau, CDA
As discussed previously, NWD systems provide information and assistance not only to individuals needing either public or private resources, but also to professionals seeking assistance on behalf of their clients and to individuals planning for their future long-term care needs. NWD systems also serve as the entry point to publicly administered long-term supports, including those funded under Medicaid, the Older Americans Act, Veterans Health Administration, and state revenue programs. Because of these charges, ADRCs are expected to work closely with a multitude of different public and non-profit community services providers and develop information-sharing and referral protocols to best and most seamlessly meet the needs of consumers.

NWD approaches to successfully performing these required functions are helpful and educative, and detail best practices, but there are also challenges to accomplishing these goals, and this is where we are at currently with our ADRC project in San Benito County . . . . What exactly is the right balance between maintaining an organization’s own identity, processes, and overall approach to consumer service, and also aligning the same with a local and Statewide network that may require some internal system and even cultural change? How do we get all racers across the finish line in the best and most efficient way possible, while still respecting each individual’s different style and approach to running? How do organizations fund, maintain, and operate their own service supports such as I&R/A and Care Management, and when is it appropriate or necessary to refer to the ADRC for these supports given whatever limits that organization might have, and given a desire to best collectively serve the needs of consumers entering services through various organizations, agencies, and partners?

The answers to these questions are not simple, and at a very minimum require planning, agreement, coordination, and mutual respect and understanding. Some local organizations are resourced so as to be able to dedicate time and energies to such efforts, and other struggle with their own mandates, reporting requirements, and the need to demonstrate positive outcomes. They simply do not have the time to invest in systems work, or perhaps don’t understand well how they “fit” within the larger context of community services providers and advocates. To address these challenges, ADRC staff continue to build relationships, develop trust, and demonstrate the skills, abilities, and commitment needed to foster effective collaborations and yield better outcomes. Leanne Oliveira has invested both time and energies in establishing more robust relationships with local providers, through telephone calls, presentations, and the hard work of problem-solving through a detailed understanding of consumer needs, goal-setting, and the development of individual action plans to address these needs and associated goals. ADRC staff continue to learn and build skills in the aging and disability services sphere, making them a more valuable resource to local partners and consumers. And, ADRC staff continue to solicit feedback from both in an effort to continually improve and adapt to evolving needs.

The ADRC and fellow member organizations represented as a part of the San Benito County Aging and Long Term Care Commission participated in outreach and services and supports awareness tabling at the Hollister Farmers Market on June 21st. ADRC staff have been pleased with their participation and the participation of Aging and Long Term Care Commission membership partners from Seniors Council, Jovenes de Antaño, Central Coast Center for Independent Living, Senior Network Service’s HICAP Program, the Alzheimer’s Association, Health Project Center’s Del Mar Caregiver Resource Center, San Benito County HHSA, the Advocacy Inc.’s Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, and Senior Legal
Services at this community event, and have had numerous opportunities to share information with community members, and to discuss and arrange for follow-up calls and visits with consumers seeking their assistance. It is encouraging to have such great participation from all partners, especially from those that do not or cannot maintain physical office or meeting space in San Benito County.

ADRC Staff participated in the June 14th virtual meeting of the Digital Literacy and Outcome Area Working Group. The California Department of Technology is creating a digital equity plan and has been soliciting on-going input from government agencies, nonprofits, experts, practitioners, funders, researchers, community organizers and California residents. Local working groups are being asked to help uncover actionable solutions to create digital equity for all Californians, and California Department of Technology organizers are especially interested in learning about barriers to accessing reliable and affordable internet, devices, and digital literacy training for both individuals and organizations. The Digital Literacy and Inclusion Outcome Area Working Group Meetings convene subject matter experts and practitioners to develop strategies that align with State Digital Equity Plan Development Process (SDEP) priorities, through the lens of the digital equity barriers of eight covered populations, including:
1. Individuals living in covered households with income at or below 150% Federal Poverty Level 2. Aging individuals (60+) 3. Incarcerated individuals 4. Veterans 5. Individuals with disabilities 6. Individuals with language barriers including individuals who are English learners and have low levels of literacy 7. Members of a racial or ethnic minority group 8. Individuals who primarily reside in rural areas. For more information, please contact Britt at brittb@seniorscouncil.org or go visit California’s Broadband for All to register and participate in your respective local planning process.

All of the CHAT Project iPads, as well as all but six (6) of the Digital Connections iPad devices with broadband data plans -- 119 iPads, in total -- have been distributed to older adult and individuals with disability in San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties. The ADRC of San Benito County lead this outreach and distribution effort in San Benito County, and will continue to provide oversight and limited technical support, as well as providing FCC Affordable Connectivity Plan (ACP) enrollment support as State-provided broadband plans come to an end in December 2023. Britt Bassoni will provide similar support to participating individuals from Santa Cruz County, in his role as Special Projects Director for Seniors Council.

Five (5) ADRC Staff and NWD partners continue their asynchronous Person-Centered Case Management Certificate (6 courses, 24-hours) program through Boston University – Center for Aging & Disability Education and Research (BU-CADER), building on the on-going process of creating a more person-centered approach to the provision of core ADRC service supports.

ADRC and Seniors Council Staff continue with initial planning discussions and timeline development for our Local Aging & Disability Action Planning (LADAP) Grant to develop a local action plan in support of the State’s Master Plan on Aging (MPA). We are looking at beginning to convene local Solution Summit provider and community input events in early 2024, with partnership outreach and additional planning discussions leading up to the New Year. Additionally, there is discussion around and plans for the formation of follow-up workgroups around MPA’s Five Bold Goals and activities pursuant to these goals and others identified through the Solution Summit events.

ADRC Staff, along with Seniors Council Staff, also continue to have discussions around the development of a volunteer services support program in San Benito County, dedicated to the recruitment, retention, training, and support of local volunteers -- of any age -- working to meet the needs of older adults and individuals living with disability.
PROJECT SCOUT

End of JUNE 2023 Report

Project SCOUT continued providing free tax services beyond regular tax season through appointments at both Aptos and Watsonville offices, as well as Highlands Park Senior Center, Santa Cruz Public Library, Watsonville Public Library, La Manzana Community Resources in Watsonville, and Jovenes de Antano in Hollister. We also held an ad-hoc free tax prep and CalFresh outreach event in Pajaro (Monterey County). Project SCOUT continues providing CalFresh for low-income seniors and the disabled at our offices by appointment.

VITA/TCE Sites (All by appointment ONLY)

ALL: Project SCOUT Facilitated Self Assistance ONLINE VITA http://tinyurl.com/SCOUTFSA
TUESDAY: La Manzana Community Resources (Watsonville) VITA
WEDNESDAY: Highlands Park Senior Center (Ben Lomond) TCE
WEDNESDAY: Watsonville Project SCOUT Office @ Watsonville Senior Center TCE
FRIDAY: Jovenes de Antano (Hollister) TCE
SATURDAY: Santa Cruz Public Library VITA

*Ad-Hoc services on June 2nd in Pajaro via United Way’s “Tax Bus” at Our Lady of the Assumption Church by appointment and walk in.

Project SCOUT MAY Tax Production Totals

Project SCOUT Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA, all ages) Tax Preparation
Total: • Number of Federal returns prepared – 1033
• Dollar Amount of Federal refunds – $807,089.00
• Dollar Amount of State refunds – $210,004.00
• Dollar Amount of EITC Claimed – $278,278.00
• ITIN Count – 28

Project SCOUT Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE, 60 and over) Tax Preparation
Total: • Number of Federal returns prepared – 497
• Dollar Amount of Federal refunds – $259,495.00
• Dollar Amount of State refunds – $105,346.00
• Dollar Amount of EITC Claimed – $25,611.00
• ITIN Count – 3

Number of total tax returns prepared – 1530
Dollar Amount of TOTAL refunds (including state) – $1,381,934.00
Total money back in the wallets of our clients, including average return cost of $220.00 – $1,718,534.00!

**Project SCOUT JUNE CALFRESH Services**

• Number of clients assessed for services – 115
• Number of clients assisted with Calfresh in Santa Cruz County – 6
• Number of clients assisted with Calfresh in San Benito County – 1

**JUNE Happenings**

Project SCOUT with the assistance of the United Way of Santa Cruz brought a “Tax Bus” to the community of Pajaro aiming to provide services to some of our most affected after our abnormal winter storms. Thanks to Our Lady of the Assumption Church at 100 Salinas Rd in Pajaro, United Way’s “tax Bus” parked on site offering services to 23 taxpayers on the date. The event was visited by State Senator John Laird, as well as representatives of Jimmy Panneta’s office. Canvassing was performed in Pajaro and neighboring communities of Las Lomas and Watsonville, telling the community of the event.

As well, Project SCOUT in partnership with Golden State Opportunity, lobbied in Sacramento this month, convening with over 20 CBOs from all over the state advocating for the continuation and expansion of EITC, as well as CTC and Senior Property Tax Deferment.
### Volunteer Hours

#### VSY Actual to Target (Cumulative)

![Graph showing monthly volunteer hours from June to July.]

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<td>12,210</td>
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#### Hours Breakdown

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<td>Days in Month</td>
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<tr>
<td>Days in 6-Month</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Days in Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hours/Week</td>
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</table>

**Grant Year:** 7/1/22 - 6/30/23

**Project Name:** Seniors Council Foster Grandparent Program
2023 SANTA CRUZ COUNTY SENIOR FACT SHEET

Population Changes
- Seniors are the fastest growing age group in California and the United States.
  - The 60+ population has grown by over 40% since 2010 in California
  - The population of Californians aged 0-59 has increased less than 1% since 2010
- The 65-84 population has grown faster (80.9%) in Santa Cruz Co. than anywhere else in California since 2010
- 11,322 of the County’s 72,021 seniors are eligible for Medi-Cal
- The over-60 Medi-Cal Eligible population grew 135% since 2011
- 1,000 Californians are turning 65 every day for the next decade

Senior Services Funding and the Cost of Long-Term Care
- The average cost of a nursing home in California is over $100,000 per year
- Pre-COVID funding for local Older Americans Act programs increased 10% in 35 yrs.
- U.S. Inflation since 1984-85 is over 151%
- Baseline Funding for the AAA has 32% of the buying power that it had 40 years ago.
- Meals on Wheels, Tax Counseling for the Elderly, Elderday Care Center, & Ombudsman Nursing/Residential Care Protection all received funding cuts in the 2022 CORE process

Senior Loneliness & Isolation has been a national crisis BEFORE COVID-19
- Being isolated has the health impact of smoking 15 cigarettes per day
- Senior isolation increases Medicare costs by about $7 billion per year nationwide
- 14,565 Santa Cruz County older adults live alone (1 in 5).
- Lonely seniors have a 45% increase in their risk of death
- COVID is estimated to have tripled the senior isolation crisis

Seniors and COVID-19
- 65% of ICU beds have been occupied by individuals 61+
- 85% of deaths were individuals aged 61+

Homeless Seniors
- There are twice as many homeless people over age 50 as there are under the age of 25
- In the 55+ population, homelessness is identified as a trigger for Mental Health Issues

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1 Previous Santa Cruz County Homeless Census (current census did not collect this information)
2023 SAN BENITO COUNTY SENIOR FACT SHEET

Population Changes
- Seniors are the fastest growing age group in California and the United States.
  - The 60+ population has grown by over 40% since 2010 in California
  - The population of Californians aged 0-59 has increased less than 1% since 2010
- San Benito Co. has the third highest growth rate (67.2%) for the 65-84 population among all California Counties since 2010
- 242 more seniors in the County were Medi-Cal Eligible last year than the year before
- The over-60 Medi-Cal Eligible in San Benito County population grew 114% since 2011
- 1,000 Californians are turning 65 every day for the next twelve years

Senior Services Funding and the Cost of Long Term Care
- The 2018 average cost of a nursing home in California was over $100,000 per year
- Pre-COVID funding for local Older Americans Act programs has increased 10% in 35 yrs.
- U.S. Inflation since 1984-85 is over 160%
- Baseline Funding for the AAA has 32% of the buying power that it had 40 years ago.
- Successful programs such as Linkages & Alzheimer’s Day Care Resource Centers have been closed

Senior Loneliness & Isolation has been a national crisis BEFORE COVID-19
- Being isolated has the health impact of smoking 15 cigarettes per day
- Senior isolation increases Medicare costs by about $7 billion per year
- Lonely seniors have a 45% increase in their risk of death
- COVID is estimated to have tripled the senior isolation crisis
- Seniors in rural communities are twice as likely to be isolated as their urban counterparts

Seniors and COVID-19
- 65% of ICU beds have been occupied by individuals 61+
- 85% of deaths were individuals aged 61+

Homeless Seniors
- Homeless seniors over age 50 are growing at a faster rate than any other age group
- In the 55+ population, homelessness is identified as a trigger for Mental Health Issues

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2 2020 U.S. Census Results
234 Santa Cruz Avenue • Aptos, California 95003 • www.seniorscouncil.org
PHONE: AAA – (831) 688-0400 • FG/SCP – (831) 475-0816 • SCOUT – 1-877-373-8297 • FAX: (831) 688-1225

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