



AREA AGENCY ON AGING
San Benito & Santa Cruz Counties

FOSTER GRANDPARENT/SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM
Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara & Santa Cruz Counties

PROJECT SCOUT
Tax Counseling Assistance

AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CONNECTION
Navigating the San Benito County Senior & Disability Services Network

SENIORS COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, September 18, 2025

10 a.m. – 12 Noon

**Hybrid in-person - Zoom Meeting
175 Westridge Dr., Watsonville, CA**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81931049538>

**Meeting ID: 819 3104 9538
One tap mobile
+12532158782,,81931049538# US (Tacoma)**

**Dial by your location
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kclTMKXHq5>**

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
- 10:10 5. *Possible* Adjournment to Closed Session - Jovenes de Antaño's Lawsuit
- 10:25 6. Reconvene Open Session -CONSENT AGENDA
 Approve minutes of the August 2025 Board Meeting

175 Westridge Drive, Watsonville, California 95076 www.seniorscouncil.org
PHONE: AAA – (831) 688-0400 • FG/SCP – (831) 475-0816 • SCOUT – 1-877-373-8297 • FAX: (831) 688-1225

SUPPORTED BY FEDERAL, STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, FOUNDATIONS, THE UNITED WAYS OF
MONTEREY, SAN BENITO, & SANTA CRUZ COUNTIES & YOUR PRIVATE DONATIONS

- 10:30 7. Committee Reports
- 1. Committee Appointments
 - 2. Finance Committee
 - 3. Advocacy Committee
 - a. Setting 2025-26 Priorities
 - b. Creating Advocacy Workplan
 - 4. Executive Committee
 - 5. Nominating & Board Development
- 11:00 8. Annual Board & AAA Advisory Council December meeting
- 11:10 9. Executive Director's Report
- 1. Agency Operations
 - 2. Update on Jovenes de Antaño's Lawsuit
 - 3. SB 1249 & CDA's 2030 Plan
 - 4. Master Plan for Aging & Solutions Summits
- 11:40 10. Program Reports (written)
- 1. Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Program
 - 2. Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)
 - 3. Project SCOUT
- 11:50 11. Miscellaneous Correspondence & Other Items
- 12 Noon 12. Adjourn

Next Meeting:
Thursday, October 16, 2025
175 Westridge Dr., Watsonville, CA

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.



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SENIORS COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Held by Zoom in accordance with COVID-19 social distancing requirements)

August 21, 2025

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tami Aviles (President); Wayne Norton (Vice-President); Jane Schwickerath (Treasurer); Mark Trabling (Secretary); Pam Arnsberger; Gwen Yeo; Antonio Rivas; Lisa Berkowitz;

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Cathy Cress; Marissa Ledesma; Mickie Luna

STAFF PRESENT:

Clay Kempf (Executive Director); Hilary Minugh (Fiscal Specialist); Patty Talbott (AAA Administrator); Zach Johnson (Administrative Services Officer); Corey Shaffer (Community Coordinator); Leanne Oliveira (ADRC); Cathy Colvard (Fiscal Officer); Britt Bassoni (ADRC Director)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Raymon Cancino (Community Bridges)

1. Welcome, Call to Order and Introductions

Introductions were skipped. Call to order at 10:08 AM.

2. Additions & Deletions to the Agenda

None.

3. Receive Announcements from Board Members

Mark met with Northern California Retired PeaceCorps, they are looking to get involved with projects (one-time, half day); possible coordination on future events, FGP/SCP. Social Security just celebrated its 90th anniversary.

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

Rick Perez donated \$2000 to the Seniors Council, c/o Corey Shaffer.

5. Closed Session

Closed session.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION, Schwickerath/Rivas, to approve minutes of July 2025 Board Meeting. **PASSED**.

7. Committee Reports

1. Committee Signups: selection of chairpersons –
2. Finance Committee – Met on the 14th. Recap of programs' status, reserves, and prognosis. 25-26 admin rate adjusted from 10% to 12% to help close budget gap.
MOTION, Rivas/Arnsberger, to approve the proposed 2% Admin increase. Discussion of programs' deficits, which are increased by shift to admin rate. Pointed to 7.2-9, 'program development' line of funds needed to balance budgets (needed for funder applications). Admin will tap \$55,000 from reserves, hopefully to be reduced by additional funding sources. Ray noted that *de minimis* rate changed to 15% recently; Clay noted that some costs, e.g. volunteer stipends, are not calculated for *de minimis* rate. **PASSED**.
Reminder to Board members to complete their requested annual donations.
Next meeting October 9th.
MOTION, Arnsberger/Norton, to approve proposed budget from Finance Committee. Brief discussion of grants paid to other agencies. **PASSED**.
3. Advocacy Committee
 - a. Refocusing committee work – Survey will be deployed to assess priorities and time commitments for upcoming fiscal year.
Suggestion to work with Community Foundation to access set-aside funds for seniors.
Suggestion to replace "empower" in Mission Statement and other agency positions.
Broad agreement to continue visible opposition to SB 1249.
 - b. Existing Detailed Committee Description –
4. Executive Committee – Met on August 14th, discussed plan for advocacy and tentative dates for annual joint meeting in December, TBD via Doodle poll.
5. Nominating & Board Development – Currently 11 Board members; 12 would be full participation so encouraged to recruit new members (up to 15)

8. MPA Local Playbook Presentation

An excellent presentation by Corey Shaffer!

9. Executive Director's Report

Pointed to 9.1-3, most recent Santa Cruz County homelessness Point-In-Time Count. Demonstration of how the report under-represents 55+ population by splitting the category. CDA continues to advance support for SB 1249 (AAA accountability, core services, county takeovers, & intrastate funding formula). New AAAs must have >100,000 residents.

10. Program Reports (written)

Project SCOUT, FGP/SCP, ADRC, & AAA included

11. Miscellaneous Correspondence & Other Items

Included in packet.

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM

Next Meeting: September 18, 2024 10 a.m. – 12 Noon | Minutes prepared by: Zach Johnson

Seniors Council Board of Directors Committee Descriptions

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee meets regularly with the Executive Director and fiscal staff to review the agency's financial reports, as well as develop the budget at the beginning of the fiscal year. Mid-year, the Finance Committee reviews the agency's salary schedule. The Finance Committee may address additional issues as they emerge, such as developing action plans to revamp fiscal systems or reviewing audit reports, etc.

Nominating & Board Development Committee

The Nominating Committee is responsible for identifying and recruiting potential members to the Board of Directors and the AAA Advisory Council. The Committee interviews potential candidates and makes recommendations to the Board for appointment.

The Committee also develops ongoing training activities for Board & Advisory Council members to enhance their ability to serve the senior community and agency.

Advocacy Committee

The Advocacy Committee identifies emerging issues effecting seniors and develops action plans to respond to them. These issues can be at any level, from local to national, depending on the ability of the committee to respond. Recent experience has been that the committee is most effective addressing local or state issues; past examples include representing the Seniors Council at County Budget hearings; starting a campaign to refund the Older Californians Act; thanking local cities and counties for supporting Seniors Council programs, etc.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is composed of the four officers of the Board of Directors, plus one additional At-Large member. The Executive Committee is empowered in the agency by-laws to act on behalf of the Board when emergencies occur between Board meetings. Such actions are subject to ratification by the full Board at its next meeting.

The Executive Committee regularly meets once per month with the Executive Director to discuss the key activities of the agency and develop the agenda for each month's Board of Directors Meeting. The Treasurer also serves as chair of the Finance Committee.

Executive Committee members are elected by the Board, and therefore are not among the list of committees members are asked to volunteer for.



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FALLS PREVENTION PROGRAM
Emergency Response Systems, Assessments & Training

Date: 9-8-25

To: Seniors Council Board of Directors

From: Clay Kempf, Executive Director

RE: September Advocacy Committee Report

Today our Advocacy Committee continued its discussion about how to improve our operations and performance in the coming year, including annual priorities and accountability for our efforts.

While we focused on our 2025-26 priorities, the discussion also included components for succeeding, and the division of labor among committee members to facilitate achieving that success.

2025-26 PRIORITIES

We broke these down into three components; local, state, and federal.

Local Efforts

The Advocacy Committee recommends that promoting our Master Plan for Aging Local Playbook be our top priority. The Local Playbook and MPA open the door in a variety of ways - connecting with the community - with electeds, with funders, and building upon existing and growing new partners. The Five Bold goals cover numerous topics, and ways to support our Local Playbooks.

State Focus

California's implementation of SB 1249 holds the potential for tremendous damage to AAAs all around the state, including ours. Given the extensive experience and knowledge of our staff and Board members, engaging in SB 1249 and CDA's plans for reconfiguration was identified as an obvious focal point.

MPA efforts also open the door for involvement in state activities related to our local playbooks, including funding augmentations and regulatory changes.

Federal Focus

Besides advocating for the continuation of Americorps/Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion funding, our efforts here will probably be local efforts to protect vulnerable people and programs that are under attack by the Trump Administration.

TASKS AND STRATEGIES

Generating community awareness and support for our 2025-26 Priorities is both the challenge and pathway to success. The Committee discussed strategies to promote community engagement, including identifying not only who targeted communities and individuals are, but developing an effective and intentional approach to making those contacts. Elected officials, influential advisory bodies, key organizations, older adults and their friends and families, social media, the press, etc., are all part of the targeted areas for outreach and engagement.

During our October meeting, we'll flesh out structural roles and assignments within the Committee to help us not only achieve our goals, but to track our progress.

ANNUAL MEETING

Too often we overlook our accomplishments and focus on what's next; what's left to achieve and what we failed to get done. It was decided that we need to take five minutes to review highlight our advocacy efforts of the past year, along with reviewing current year goals & priorities.



SAM LICCARDO

Representing the 16th District of California

Hi Judith,

Thank you for contacting me about President Trump's attempt to dismantle AmeriCorps. As your Member of Congress, I appreciate hearing from you, to help me better understand your concerns.

For more than three decades, AmeriCorps has been a cornerstone of national service. By providing grants and placing over one million service members in local organizations, AmeriCorps has empowered generations of Americans to strengthen their communities and assist others in times of need. In the 2023–2024 service year alone, AmeriCorps members in California planted nearly 40,000 trees, tutored more than 73,000 students, and delivered more than 4.4 million hours of service. In my own prior experience as mayor, I cheered the dedication of AmeriCorps team members who taught and tutored students in East San Jose, revitalized our neighborhood streetscapes with tree plantings, and served our community with distinction through several non-profits and school districts.

Unfortunately, under the current administration, President Trump and his Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) have devastated AmeriCorps, like so many critical federal programs. On April 25th, the administration cut nearly \$400 million in AmeriCorps grant funding and placed 85 percent of its staff on administrative leave, with many positions terminated in June. These actions have effectively halted AmeriCorps operations nationwide, despite the lack of executive branch authority to dismantle the agency. More than two dozen states, including California, have filed suits challenging this unlawful overreach. On May 5th, a U.S. District Court judge ruled that the Trump administration likely violated administrative procedures when it attempted to cancel AmeriCorps funding, and reinstated the grants. However, the court allowed the staff terminations to proceed, debilitating the agency.

To address the administration's illegal impoundment--the withholding of congressionally approved funds--I introduced [H.R. 3454](#), the *Protect Our Constitution and Communities Act (POCCA)*. POCCA creates a right of action for individuals, states, and local governments harmed by the administration's unlawful impoundment of funds. If we could secure any GOP support to enact it, POCCA would enable harmed parties to sue top federal officials who

7.6-1

intentionally impound federal funds without the approval of Congress. POCCA would reinforce Congress' power of the purse and restore the checks and balances ignored by this administration.

As a member of the Rapid Response Task Force & Litigation Working Group of the Democratic Caucus, I will continue to fight the onslaught of actions taken by the administration in court, and on the floor of the House. We are working with several national organizations, such as Democracy Forward and Public Citizen, to sue the administration, and providing support with amicus briefs, strategy, and resources. Due to the work of these great partners, courts with Republican and Democratic-appointed judges have issued more than 190 injunctions halting or limiting unlawful executive action. I'll continue to put my experience as a former civil and criminal litigator to use, because our courts offer the most immediate and impactful tool for halting executive actions and defending our liberties.

Thank you again for sharing your concern and viewpoints with me. Please reach out as other issues arise.

Unfortunately, "other issues" will arise all too often—if not daily— under the current regime, so please know that I'm fighting for our community and our Constitution every day.

All the best,

Sam Liccardo
Member of Congress
16th District of California

P.S. You can learn about what we're doing by following me on [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Bluesky](#), and [Instagram](#), signing up for my [e-newsletter](#), or visiting my website at [Liccardo.house.gov](#).

7.6-2



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Date: 9-11-25

To: Seniors Council Board of Directors, AAA Advisory Council

From: Clay Kempf, Executive Director

RE: Executive Director's September Report

AGENCY OPERATIONS & FUNDING

Time demands on our staff and agency continue. Federal threats of defunding our Foster Grandparent & Senior Companion Programs; the changing status of the Administration for Community Living and related funding; provider transitions; local funding; CDA's upcoming changes to AAA structure continue, but there is some good news.

The House of Representatives is recommending a 50% cut to our Foster Grandparent & Senior Companion Program, which is bad news but far better than President Trump's proposal to eliminate the program entirely. A 50% cut would eliminate about 65,000 hours per year that our volunteers contribute to local school children and to helping vulnerable older adults.

Meanwhile, the Senate's Labor/HHS Appropriations bill restores funding to AmeriCorps Seniors to its previous levels, so the final decision will be made by the Appropriations Conference Committee.

JOVENES DE ANTAÑO LEGAL ACTION

Jovenes de Antaño's lawsuit against the Seniors Council around Jovenes' reporting and operational challenges has been continued until September 29th. The restraining order has been revised to allow for the release of some funds provided both entities agree in writing. Until then, we are unable to make payment to Jovenes or to CDA for amounts we normally would have already released.

Our attorney has proposed a facilitated arbitration-like meeting to discuss the lawsuit in hopes of an expedited resolution. Jovenes legal counsel is consulting with Jovenes to determine if they are open to this path forward.

CDA'S AGING 2030 PLANS & SB 1249

CDA presented an overview of their next steps in their *implementation of SB 1249 and their Aging 2030 plans* on Monday, August 18. We continue to express our serious concerns regarding the approaches being taken, especially those regarding:

- Revising the Intrastate Funding Formula;
- Designation and de-Designation of AAAs, and the creation of additional AAA Services and Performance Measures;
- The absence of interactive discussions regarding the feedback received by CDA from AAA surveys;
- Content of those surveys, including descriptions of service that don't match CDA's own definitions.

The actions outlined by CDA seem to be more about homogenizing AAA services and dismantling the existing AAA network than they are about innovations and improvement.

The question of how each single proposed CDA action actually helps to achieve the Master Plan for Aging's Five Bold Goals needs to be not only asked, but discussed, in order to have a thorough understanding of the pros and cons of the changes, and especially to avoid unintended consequences. Much of them focus on facilitating additional reporting and gathering of data - often in a manner that is actually counter-productive to provision of services, and sometimes in ways that set up new barriers to at-risk individuals attempting to seek help. And what is the point in collecting MORE data, when the existing data that's being collected is very rarely used, and often not available when requested?

It is especially aggravating to hear CDA call out AAA shortcomings for supportive services - something that California stopped funding in 2009. In 2008, California allocated \$28.661,990 million for Title IIIB Supportive Services. Adjusted for inflation, those dollars would total \$55,010,645 today.

If CDA is the champion of older adults that they claim to be, and if they truly want to improve things like reducing waiting lists and speed up responses to Information & Assistance calls, why doesn't their plan highlight this critical loss of revenue (and therefore services)? Why doesn't the plan describe new revenue sources to re-build AAA infrastructure?

Proposed revision to the ***Intrastate Funding Formula*** (included) will result in an annual ***decrease of \$234,336 to our PSA*** (12%). 19 of California's 33 AAAs (and 41 of California's 58 counties) would have their funding reduced. PSA 2 (Lassen, Modoc,

Shasta, Siskiyou, & Trinity Counties) takes the largest hit; a loss of \$1,200,573 per year, or 37% of their funding.

A key component of the resolution of the 1991 IFF lawsuit was that the state had to have a federally approved formula for federal funds, but they had discretion in how state funds are distributed. That discretion allowed the state to include (and modify, as needed) a Hold Harmless Clause to minimize the negative impacts the new formula might have. Via this clause, all AAA's were assured they would receive close to the same level of funding as they had previously. CDA is recommending inclusion of a Hold Harmless Clause in their new formula, but want the Hold Harmless to apply to 2020 funding rather than current levels. 2020 levels pre-date the funding augmentations that have been achieved in the past few years. IMO, this approach would greatly reduce the value of including a Hold Harmless Clause at all.

Timeline: The tentative schedule for CDA to adopt these schedules is included in our packets. Important portions include:

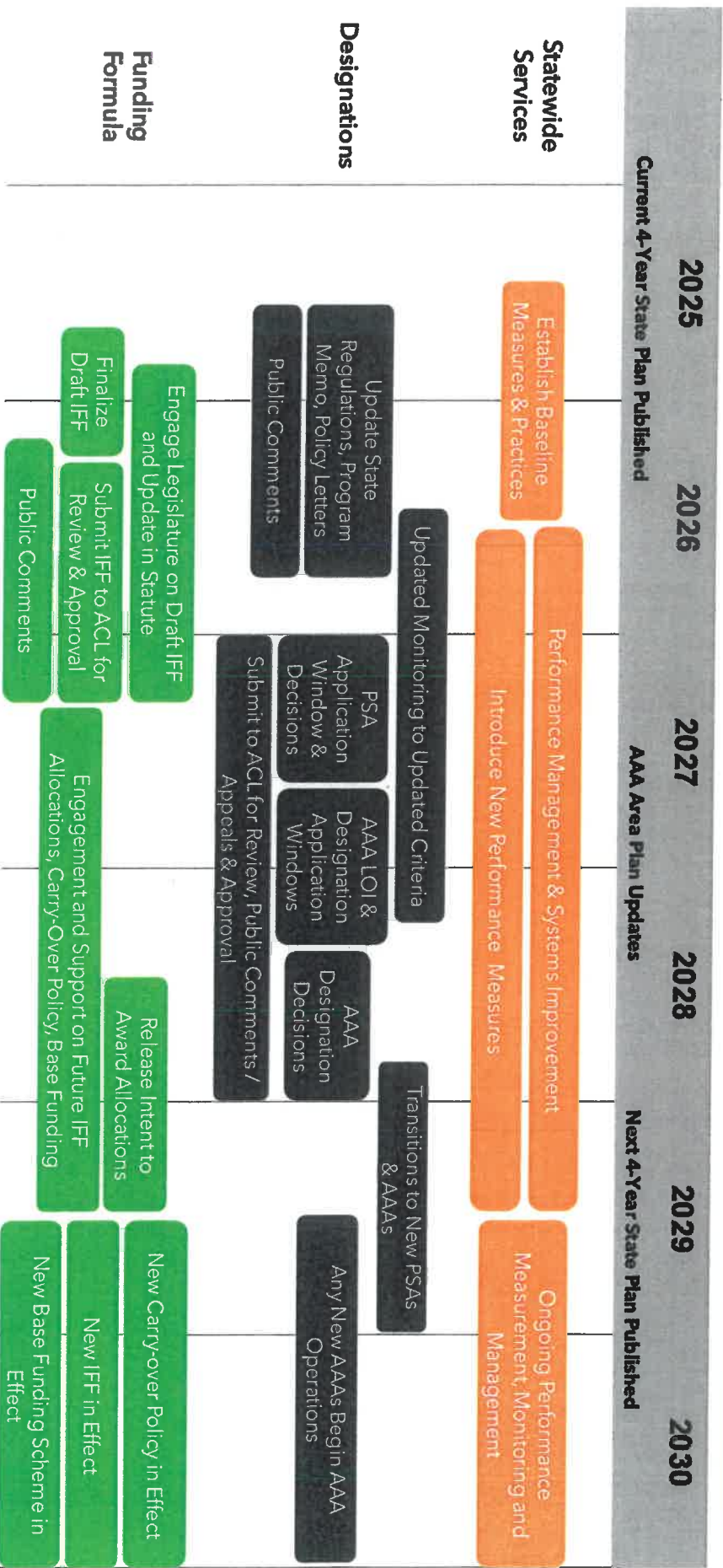
- 2025-26 Engage Legislature on IFF changes; submit new IFF for Fed approval
- 2026-28 Introduce new Performance Measures
- 2027-28 Solicit Applications for AAA Designation
- 2028-29 Announce Designation of any new AAAs
- 2029-30 New AAAs begin operations

MASTER PLAN FOR AGING (MPA) LOCAL PLAYBOOKS

We continue to promote and share the content of our MPA Local Playbooks throughout our PSA, with positive responses. We'll be reconvening the workgroups on a quarterly basis to facilitate positive movement in achieving the adopted goals. These meetings will also allow us to augment the playbooks with strategies to address new and emerging needs and take advantage of any developing opportunities. As always, we appreciate all of our community partners who continue help us to lead the way in these efforts.

PKA	AAA Name	AAA Org Type	18+ 20+ 21+ Population	18+ 20+ 21+ Pop Growth	Current Allocation (w/Current Ht)	Option 1 Allocation (w/Ht)	Option 2 Allocation (w/2122 Ht)	Allocation Difference	Allocation % Change	3-Year Unpaid Avg. (Funded)	Current Allocation per Capita	Proposed Allocation per Capita
1	Area 1 AAA (El Norte, Humboldt)	NP JPA	41,310	120%	\$ 1,340,420	\$ 884,378	\$ 380,840	(\$ 339,180)	-27%	\$ -	\$ 32	\$ 23
2	PMA 2 AAA (Losee, Modoc, Shasta, Siski., Yuba)	NP JPA	81,080	147%	\$ 2,258,855	\$ 2,068,727	\$ 2,059,322	(\$ 1,200,572)	-37%	\$ 184,282	\$ 40 (High end)	\$ 25
3	Presqu Coast (Butte, Col., Glenn, Plumas, Teh.)	NP JPA	89,155	83%	\$ 1,105,477	\$ 2,158,565	\$ 2,148,838	(\$ 946,639)	-31%	\$ 330,254	\$ 35	\$ 24
4	Area 4 AAA (Hwy, Plac., Sac., San., Siski., Yuba, Yuba)	NP JPA	53,120	227%	\$ 1,257,593	\$ 12,080,160	\$ 12,038,877	(\$ 539,119)	-4%	\$ 304,105	\$ 24	\$ 23
5	North County	County Govt	77,270	164%	\$ 1,530,080	\$ 1,508,735	\$ 1,503,330	(\$ 26,750)	-2%	\$ 62,781	\$ 20 (Low end)	\$ 19 (Low end)
6	SF DMS	County Govt	187,385	51%	\$ 5,316,270	\$ 5,095,401	\$ 5,071,144	(\$ 229,126)	-4%	\$ -	\$ 28	\$ 27
7	Central Coast County	County Govt	258,105	216%	\$ 5,220,835	\$ 5,732,489	\$ 5,732,489	\$ 501,688	10%	\$ 979,880	\$ 21	\$ 22
8	San Mateo County	County Govt	171,110	111%	\$ 3,859,656	\$ 4,143,865	\$ 4,280,819	\$ 289,381	7%	\$ 156,861	\$ 23	\$ 24
9	Alameda Division on Aging	County Govt	331,765	124%	\$ 8,390,645	\$ 8,943,542	\$ 8,811,858	\$ 431,211	5%	\$ 919,373	\$ 25	\$ 27
10	Sebastopol (Santa Cruz)	NP	388,580	185%	\$ 8,853,028	\$ 9,343,724	\$ 9,310,249	\$ 457,218	5%	\$ 386,890	\$ 24	\$ 25
11	San Joaquin Dept. of Aging	County Govt	138,730	167%	\$ 3,449,864	\$ 3,639,330	\$ 3,617,223	\$ 167,469	5%	\$ 425,689	\$ 25	\$ 26
12	Area 12 AAA (Alphina, Alameda, Col., Merced, Teh.)	NP JPA	56,880	214%	\$ 2,381,940	\$ 1,507,186	\$ 1,707,567	(\$ 224,369)	-12%	\$ 113,659	\$ 42 (High end)	\$ 26
13	San Jose Council of San Benito & Santa Cruz	NP JPA	74,875	123%	\$ 1,941,933	\$ 1,713,707	\$ 1,707,567	(\$ 224,369)	-12%	\$ 25,785	\$ 28	\$ 23
14	Fresno-Madera AAA	NP JPA	201,615	163%	\$ 5,689,218	\$ 5,484,212	\$ 5,484,583	(\$ 27,638)	-4%	\$ 748,523	\$ 28	\$ 27
15	Kings-Tulare AAA	Govt. PJA	97,780	132%	\$ 3,045,282	\$ 2,728,531	\$ 2,708,575	(\$ 27,638)	-4%	\$ 226,023	\$ 31	\$ 28
16	Eastern Sierra AAA (Hwy, Kern, Fresno, Kings, Teh.)	Govt. PJA	9,285	120%	\$ 1,284,970	\$ 1,244,165	\$ 1,268,304	(\$ 333,655)	-27%	\$ 250,882	\$ 108 (High end)	\$ 100 (High end)
17	Central Coast County (San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara)	NP JPA	170,505	135%	\$ 3,705,309	\$ 3,882,140	\$ 3,549,377	(\$ 215,932)	-5%	\$ 687,654	\$ 22	\$ 21
18	Ventura County AAA	County Govt	185,315	214%	\$ 3,733,540	\$ 4,068,087	\$ 4,053,612	\$ 319,872	5%	\$ 13,605	\$ 20 (Low end)	\$ 22
19	LA County AAA	County Govt	1,170,744	104%	\$ 31,454,783	\$ 31,232,451	\$ 31,120,547	(\$ 334,136)	-1%	\$ 3,884,567	\$ 27	\$ 27
20	San Bernardino Dept. of Aging	County Govt	288,820	218%	\$ 3,467,147	\$ 9,809,716	\$ 9,774,501	\$ 317,421	3%	\$ 720,087	\$ 26	\$ 27
21	Riverside Dept. of Aging	County Govt	477,265	298%	\$ 10,768,424	\$ 11,081,065	\$ 11,346,285	\$ 682,872	6%	\$ 2,543,871	\$ 23	\$ 24
22	Orange County Govt	County Govt	884,170	205%	\$ 14,094,619	\$ 15,052,261	\$ 16,008,314	\$ 913,695	6%	\$ 320,802	\$ 21	\$ 23
23	San Diego Dept. of Aging	County Govt	65,135	165%	\$ 13,883,816	\$ 15,018,342	\$ 14,894,552	\$ 1,080,916	8%	\$ 1,757,483	\$ 21	\$ 23
24	Imperial County AAA (FAL & 2122 HH TEST)	County Govt	32,715	195%	\$ 1,329,000	\$ 1,082,330	\$ 1,101,504	(\$ 27,470)	-47%	\$ 80,433	\$ 41 (High end)	\$ 34 (High end)
25	LA City AAA	City Govt	770,465	104%	\$ 18,628,904	\$ 20,274,121	\$ 20,201,480	\$ 1,572,576	8%	\$ 3,385,910	\$ 24	\$ 26
26	AAA Lake & Mendocino Counties	Govt. PJA	47,885	104%	\$ 1,157,351	\$ 1,192,825	\$ 1,188,552	(\$ 385,000)	-24%	\$ 42,266	\$ 33	\$ 24
27	Sanoma County AAA	County Govt	133,585	164%	\$ 2,626,952	\$ 2,715,051	\$ 2,703,324	\$ 78,372	3%	\$ 204,778	\$ 20 (Low end)	\$ 20 (Low end)
28	Mariposa AAA	Govt. PJA	138,045	204%	\$ 3,189,639	\$ 3,327,765	\$ 3,216,200	\$ 16,661	1%	\$ 82,151	\$ 23	\$ 23
29	El Dorado County	County Govt	57,315	354%	\$ 1,484,989	\$ 1,524,780	\$ 1,320,033	(\$ 64,633)	-4%	\$ 71,983	\$ 25	\$ 23
30	Stanislaus County	County Govt	100,110	163%	\$ 2,411,244	\$ 2,497,865	\$ 2,408,315	\$ 77,671	3%	\$ 285,547	\$ 24	\$ 25
31	Marced County AAA	County Govt	43,975	181%	\$ 1,388,481	\$ 1,264,979	\$ 1,280,446	(\$ 108,035)	-8%	\$ 119,729	\$ 31	\$ 28
32	Monterey County AAA	County Govt	83,500	135%	\$ 2,112,489	\$ 2,299,189	\$ 2,091,677	(\$ 52,812)	-2%	\$ 56,330	\$ 28	\$ 25
33	Kern County	County Govt	144,385	171%	\$ 4,000,164	\$ 3,809,300	\$ 3,885,289	(\$ 104,871)	-3%	\$ 309,785	\$ 28	\$ 27
AVERAGE (MEAN)				166%					-4%		\$ 30	\$ 27

4. OUTLOOK (Subject to Change)





ADRC of San Benito County Staff Report – September 2025

The ADRC of San Benito County will be the new State-designated and Federally-funded aging services Information & Assistance (I&A) provider, under Title IIIB, for San Benito County in FY25/26. In addition to providing Enhanced Information, Referral, and Assistance (I/R&A) as the ADRC has traditionally provided, we will now receive locally originating calls to the State of California's Aging & Adult Information Line at 800-510-2020. If a call to that number originates from San Benito County, or even from a cell phone connecting to transmission towers located in San Benito County, then the State's Info Line will redirect to the ADRC of San Benito County at 888-637-6757.

Along with this Information, Referral, and Assistance (I/R&A) funding, the ADRC will also now receive a small amount of funding to support Title IIIB Case Management Services. Since Short Term Care Management is already a part of the ADRC's mandated service offerings, the additional funds will assist in helping to financially support what is sometimes a very labor and time intensive service, and also allow the ADRC to continue to support this as a much-needed service for individuals who otherwise may not qualify for Case Management support. Typically, only available under Medi-Cal qualified services, or as a very expensive private-pay service from professional Geriatric Care Managers, these funds will help support the ADRC's ability to provide this service to anyone in need, and without an income eligibility determination.

Both service augmentations will help the ADRC be more financial sustainable, while also aligning this local work with State of California goals to make ADRCs the focal point of aging and disabilities Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) and community supports information and service access. We will continue to work with our existing No Wrong Door Network of partner service providers to share information about their services, make referrals, and provide decision-support and access and enrollment assistance to help consumers and caregivers get the services they need.

The ADRC direct service is now firmly established at the Pauline Valdivia Memorial Community Center, at 300 West Street, in Hollister. Seniors Council and the ADRC of San Benito County are currently renting two offices in the building, directly off of the main entry hall, and right next door to one another. One office houses ADRC Core/Direct Service Staff, and the other is a drop-in space for our local partners and providers, from which weekly or bi-weekly community services can be delivered, with the hope of creating a monthly calendar of program services availability to consumers at that location. Consumers can schedule appointments for tax preparation and tax counseling with Project SCOUT on one day, and then get health insurance questions answered by HICAP staff and volunteers on another day. Drop-in appointments will be supported, as possible, but appointments are strongly encouraged. ADRC staff are still in conversation with several other local partners to provide site support, and - - currently anyway - - no-cost office space, to help create mutually beneficial partner and consumer-friendly service experiences.

ADRC staff continue to support the efforts of Seniors Council to share and highlight the results of our collective Master Plan for Aging Local Area Playbook development work and our very own San Benito County MPA Local Playbook! Many of the identified challenges, resources, and identified actions and activities meld nicely with the ADRC's focus on accessible and affordable community based long term

services and supports expansion, and the means to navigate services and effectively engage with individuals, organizations, public institutions, and businesses where one chooses to live. Some activities outlined in the Playbook have already been undertaken with notable success, and others will serve as guideposts for future funding and collective community services development efforts. Congratulations to Seniors Council's own Corey Shaffer for the guidance and leadership she provided throughout the more than a year-long effort, and also to Zach Johnson for his leadership and work on the Santa Cruz County MPA Local Playbook.

Returning to the topic of the open ADRC Program Coordinator position discussed in previous reports, we are very, very pleased to announce we have hired Crystal Ortiz to fill this role with Seniors Council and the ADRC of San Benito County. Crystal is from Hollister, and also currently lives in Hollister, as well. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Public Health, graduating Magna Cum Laude, and is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in the same from San Jose State University. Crystal has worked as a Health Educator for both the San Benito County Department of Public Health, and also the San Benito Health Foundation, and has relevant lived experience as a caregiver for her grandmother. Crystal is a fluent Spanish-speaker and will be working out of our new ADRC office at the Pauline Valdivia Memorial Community Center, in Hollister. We are really pleased to be able to welcome her to our Team, and encourage you to introduce yourself! Crystal can be reached at crystal@seniorscouncil.org, or at (888) 637-6757.

ADRC staff would like to remind and encourage participating partners to contribute local service data for the FY25/25 1st Quarter Program Report in October. Additional reminders and instruction will be shared at the beginning of October, with few changes from previous reporting periods. Please also remember that partner outreach/awareness-building, direct assistance, and service enrollment efforts can all be counted towards our local ADRC total, so we want to know about this important work and the number of individuals you were able to reach and support with information, application assistance, or enrollment support.

The ADRC has been in discussion with another local service provider about the possibilities of partnering to provide technology education, support, and training for older adults, with an emphasis on digital safety practices and expanding access to knowledge and understanding, as well as community engagement activities. The partner has received a modest grant to help achieve these goals with a number of older adults yet to be determined and approved by the grantor, Spectrum. More information in the form of a public announcement and more details about the associated effort and programming will be forthcoming, but ADRC staff are excited about the opportunity to ply some skills and knowledge we obtained during a couple of earlier technology roll-out, training, and support program efforts utilizing grant funds, training partnerships, and local in-person, as well as virtual troubleshooting and skills-building curriculum.

Lastly, and due to an effort to amend and balance our FY25/26 budget, we unfortunately had to scale-back our original intention to provide ADRC Core Team members with funding to support their training needs. In zeroing out this line item, we will instead be looking for relevant no-cost local training opportunities to be able to help enhance professional skills and knowledge. We will also be looking for scholarships to cover fee-for-training opportunities we deem important to pursue, and we will be looking to raise additional program revenue through local contributions and strategic grant applications, providing supportive training funds.



AREA AGENCY ON AGING
San Benito & Santa Cruz Counties

FOSTER GRANDPARENT/SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM
Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara & Santa Cruz Counties

PROJECT SCOUT
Tax Counseling Assistance

FALLS PREVENTION PROGRAM
Emergency Response Systems, Assessments & Training

PROJECT SCOUT

Free tax preparation options in AUGUST:

1. Project SCOUT Facilitated Self Assistance ALL Online: <http://tinyurl.com/SCOUTFSA>
2. Project SCOUT TCE ALL (Remote and ad-hoc for at-risk seniors and disabled)
3. Aptos Public Library (one Thursday per month)
4. La Manzana Community Center Watsonville (one Wednesday per month)
5. Watsonville Public Library (one Wednesday per month)
6. Watsonville Senior Center (Walk-ins and by appointment 60 and over and disabled)
7. San Juan Bautista Library (One day per month)

Project SCOUT AUGUST Tax Production Totals:

Project SCOUT Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Tax Preparation Totals:

- Number of Federal returns prepared: At least 1953
- Dollar Amount of Federal refunds: At least \$1,448,954.00
- Dollar Amount of State refunds: At least \$348,046.00
- Dollar Amount of EITC Claimed: At least \$464,374.00

Dollar Amount of TOTAL refunds: At least **\$1,797,000.00**

Total money back in the wallets of our clients, including average return cost of \$250.00: At least **\$2,285,250.00.**

*Due to internal IRS staffing issues, there is no current IRS SPEC representative to support our VITA / TCE programs. We are currently without a contact and without information regarding production totals. These are the totals as best as we could gather in house.

10.3-1

Project SCOUT AUGUST CALFRESH Services

Project SCOUT is completing assessing senior and disabled clients from tax season 2025 who are low-income and qualify for CalFresh services. For the month of August, one of our staff was fully tasked with assessing, contacting, and setting up services for those interested, with the help of another for all those who are Spanish speaking. Project SCOUT's August results:

- **Number of Senior/disabled clients assessed for services TOTAL – 541**
- Number of Senior/disabled clients assessed for services (Santa Cruz County)– 498
- Number of Senior/disabled clients assessed for services (Santa Benito County) – 43
- **Number of clients who completed Calfresh application TOTAL – 20**
- Number of clients who completed Calfresh application (Santa Cruz County) – 17
- Number of clients who completed Calfresh application (San Benito County) – 3

Project SCOUT AUGUST Services Highlights:

Project SCOUT helped a client through the CalFresh application process providing at least 6 appointments, taking considerable efforts and staff time allocated to CalFresh services. One major barrier of service has been the county's use of a restricted number which many seniors are hesitant to pick up, even when they are aware that a call will be made from the county at the time the call is being made. Project SCOUT has helped many a senior calling the county after they have missed their appointment.

As was stated on last month's report, the United States Congress passed House Resolution (H.R.) 1, changing rules for General Fund match for the federal reimbursement in the CalFresh Outreach program, meaning that programs like Project SCOUT will be required to have local funds to match funds received from for CalFresh services to the tune of 25 percent of the total funds for FY 25-26, and increasing in subsequent years.

Project SCOUT has been involved in monthly meetings with service providers and the county. It has been discussed that new CalFresh requirements for those who are of working age, and with no disability hindering their ability to work, will need to be employed, receiving work-training, or involved in some volunteer-to-work program at 20 hours per week to not lose benefits. So far the county assesses that 200 households will lose benefits. Project SCOUT does not foresee many of those we serve being affected by these new measures.

A direct outcome of the hard work Project SCOUT staff and volunteers do with outreach, community involvement, and funding, Project SCOUT was once more asked to apply for sponsorship from Golden State Opportunity (GSO), who has been one of our biggest partners/funders of the last few years and who in partnership has put the highly successful "Tacos and Taxes" events bringing local government officials and media to said events. With the help one of our volunteers, Newman's Own awarded Project SCOUT for \$10,000.00 to continue its work assisting low-income families with children. Project SCOUT had to write and rewrite its proposal, taking two months between initial submission to final submission. Project SCOUT also applied for the City of Capitola Community Grant during this month which had successfully been received for the last 3 years at the tune of \$10,000.00. Project SCOUT also re-established communication with United Way

10.3-2

of San Cruz County and its new CFO (who happens to be the mayor of Capitola when awarded in the last cycle), and its new 2-1-1 Coordinator. We are hopeful to reignite a positive relationship of community outreach, support, and collaboration.



AREA AGENCY ON AGING CSL UPDATE

September 2025

- Leg Proposals

- 2024

Note: The Legislature reconvened from Summer Recess on August 18th. The Legislature again goes on recess on September 12th and reconvenes on January 5, 2026.

Three CSL proposals were picked up by legislators by the January 2025 deadline. They are:

- **SB707** Sen Durazo (SP4 - SS Lipson) 8-29-2025: From Assembly Appropriations Committee: Do pass as amended.
- **SB508** Sen Valladares (AP1 - SA Clough) - Out-of-State physicians and surgeons: telehealth: license exemption. 6/05/2025: Referred to Assembly Business and Professions Committee and scheduled for hearing on July 1st, however, was cancelled at the request of the author. Author indicated this has been moved to 2 year bill.
- **Budget Ask** ASM Aherns (SP5 - SS Lopez) – Personal Needs Allowance. ASM Aherns has pursued a budget ask. No committee hearing to date has occurred.

- 2025

2025 CSL Legislative Proposal were due by June 1, 2025. Attachment # 1 identifies the 2025 legislative proposals that were submitted by the deadline and forwarded to Legislative Counsel.

- Legislative Calendar

The following are key dates for the month of September 2025.

September	2-12	Floor Sessions only
	12	Last day for each house to pass bills
	12	Interim recess begins

September 1, 2025

10.4-1

Attachment # 1 – 2025 Legislative Proposals

ITSAP #	Member Last	First	Title	S/F	Resubmit
9	Lopez	Helen	Raising PNA	S	Y, multiple years
10	Cox	Mark	Grandparent Caregiver Support Program Info Site	S	
11	Cox	Mark	Senior Child Care Credit	S	
12	Cox	Mark	Caregiving Grandparents: Support	S	Y, AP-1 2024, SB 431 2023
13	Meyer	Milissa	Automated External Defibrillator	S	Y, multiple years
14	Holt	Robert	Aging CA on Fixed Income Exemption from Sales Tax	S	
16	Clough	Robin	(1) Telehealth Across State Lines	S	Y, 2025 SB 508
18	Lipson	Steve	Older Adult Ed Through Public Health	S	Y, 2025 SB 508
19	Lipson	Steve	(2) Brown Act Teleconferencing Rules	S	Y, 2025 SB 239
24	McBrady	Helen	Food Disclosure & Labeling	S	
25	White	Richard	Fall Prevention: Older Adults: Lighting	S	Y
26	White	Richard	Isolation: Electronic Devices: Inventory Requirements	S	
24	McBrady	Helen	Food Disclosure & Labeling	F	

(1) SB508 as of July 1st became a 2yr bill

(2) SB239 was ordered to the inactive file on June 3rd

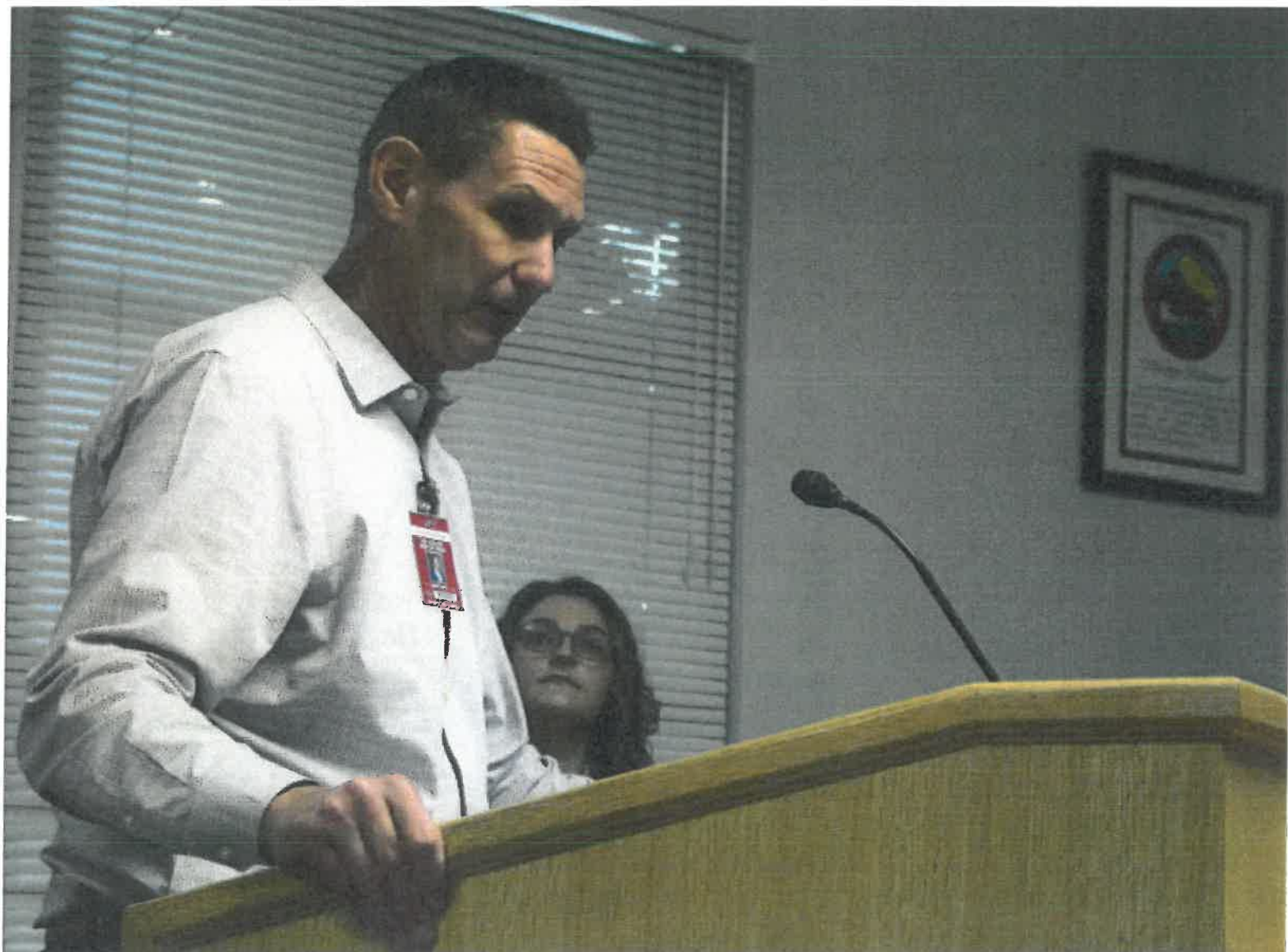
HOUSING / LAND USE

County planners approve prioritizing locals for affordable housing

San Benito County Planning Commission passes a local tenant preference policy.

by **Juan Pablo Perez Burgos**

August 23, 2025



11.1-1

San Benito High School superintendent Shawn Tennenbaum celebrated the adoption of a local tenant preference for school employees. Photo by Juan Pablo Pérez Burgos.

Lea este artículo en español [aquí](#).

San Benito County is moving closer to adopting a policy aimed at protecting residents from being displaced by rising housing costs.

On Aug. 20, the San Benito County Planning Commission approved a new code chapter that would give local residents priority for affordable housing, favoring those who already live, work or study in the county.

The new policy, called Local Tenant Preference, lets applicants earn points when looking for housing for each category they qualify in—such as being a senior, a farmworker, a person with a disability or an employee in the county or at a local school. The applicants will be required to provide documentation.

Of those who meet a project's standard rental requirements, the ones with more points will be ranked higher when competing for an affordable housing unit.

The proposed resolution, which now heads to the San Benito County Board of Supervisors for final approval, is intended “to remedy or mitigate potential displacement and gentrification impacts of development and other displacement activities, and to provide an opportunity for existing San Benito County residents to afford the housing provided in the county.”

The idea of prioritizing local residents over newcomers originated with the Board of Supervisors, which in February created a Housing Policy Reform Ad Hoc Committee. The board assigned Supervisors Dom Zanger and Ignacio Velázquez to work with staff on several housing reforms, including the development of a local tenant preference.

The Planning Commission first reviewed the new policy at a meeting in April, then directed staff to revise it and gather public input. It came back in June, when commissioners removed a one-year residency requirement, added seniors as a preference and asked staff to explore a school district exemption.

During the Aug. 20 meeting, senior planner Stephanie Reck told the commissioners that, after meeting with the school district, staff added a new preference giving applicants a point if someone in their household works for a school district within the county. San Benito High School superintendent Shawn Tennenbaum celebrated the decision. *U.1-2*

“Affordability for housing is one of the state’s greatest crises right now,” Tennenbaum said. “So, we’re trying to amend that so that we have a local workforce that can live and work in our community.”

Reck told the commissioners that, besides adding the senior preference, staff also added a disability preference, noting that “they typically go hand in hand. Our Aging and Disability Resource Center serves both individual populations.”

Commissioner Robert Gibson endorsed the changes and suggested seniors receive two points instead of one.

“They’re a very vulnerable population,” Gibson said. “A lot of them are surviving on Social Security, and I think if anyone deserves an extra point or two, it would be seniors.”

Gibson’s proposal received unanimous support from the commission.

Next, the local tenant preference will be discussed by the supervisors, who are expected to adopt it.

We need your help. Support local, nonprofit news! BenitoLink is a nonprofit news website that reports on San Benito County. Our team is committed to this community and providing essential, accurate information to our fellow residents. It is expensive to produce local news and community support is what keeps the news flowing. Please consider **supporting BenitoLink**, San Benito County’s public service, nonprofit news.

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11. 1-3

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1 Comment

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Best Newest Oldest



Tod DuBois
2 days ago

Not a bad idea but since we are not building any affordable housing or senior housing, not sure the effort is worth the paper

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11.1-4

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Events

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August 2025



Capitola Waves

The City of Capitola Bi-Weekly Newsletter



Happy Summer, Capitola! Read on for a brief summary of fun upcoming events, the latest City Council action, and other timely City business.

Community Grants: Last Chance to Apply for Funding

Remember, funding is available as part of our Community Grant Program, which is intended for local 501(c)3 non-profit organizations. Grants will be awarded based on three Conditions for Health and Well-being: Stable, Affordable Housing and Shelter; Health and Wellness; and Healthy Environments. Additionally, grants will be awarded to organizations and programs that serve children and youth, with an emphasis on programs that benefit pre-school-aged, four-and-five-year-old children.

Apply NOW through Friday, August 29, at 5 P.M.

[Link to Application & More Information](#)

Youth Liaison Program: Apply by Saturday!

Are you interested in positively impacting your community and connecting with youth and adult City of Capitola leaders? Are you a high school student who lives in Capitola?

11.2-1

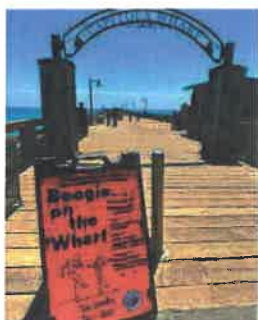
Apply by August 30 for the City of Capitola Youth Liaison Program, a partnership between the City of Capitola and United Way Santa Cruz County's Youth Action Network! The Youth Liaison Program will build bridges between youth and local City Council members to ensure youth voices are heard and considered in local government decision-making.

[Link to Application](#)

Capitola Village Art & Wine Festival

The local favorite is coming soon, **the weekend of September 13 and 14, in Capitola Village**. Stroll the Festival, sipping exceptional wines from the Santa Cruz Mountains while admiring the artistic talents of over 150 fine artists. Enjoy live music, be inspired by local dance groups and street performers. Remember, entrance to the festival is **FREE** for all and hosted by the Capitola-Soquel Chamber of Commerce.

Free parking and shuttle provided at the Capitola Mall on 41st Avenue. Ride your bike to the festival and park in the free Bike Valet Parking at the festival entrance. **Remember, Capitola Village is closed to all vehicle traffic during the festival so please plan accordingly.**



Boogie on the Wharf

Don't miss this fun new Recreation and Community Services-sponsored event, on upcoming Sunday afternoons, **September 7 and September 21**, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Come prepared to dance, gather in community, and learn something new!



Movies at the Beach

This summer's last Movie at the Beach event is on **Friday, September 12**, featuring *The Garfield Movie*.

Join for this free, family-friendly showing at Esplanade Park beginning at dusk.

Nutrition Assistance for Low-Income Seniors

The Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) is a federally funded program with the goal of providing fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown produce, cut herbs, and raw honey through Certified Farmers' Markets to low-income seniors.

Qualified seniors can pick up an electronic benefit card at the **Live Oak Farmers' Market** on **Sunday, September 14**, beginning at **9 A.M.** To qualify you must:

- be age 60 or older,
- have a monthly income of \$2,413 or less for an individual, or \$3,261 or less for a 2-person household,
- have not received a voucher for the 2025 season already.

For more information, click [here](#).

SCPL Wants Your Input!



Santa Cruz Public Libraries has launched the effort to craft its next three-year strategic plan!

During the months of September and October, they will conduct surveys and focus groups to gather community feedback on services, programs, and opportunities.

To take their quick, online survey, click [here](#).

Latest Council Action

City Council meeting agendas can be found on the city website by clicking [here](#). The following is a summarized list of the actions taken by the City Council during the General Government / Public Hearings section of their meeting on Thursday, August 28, 2025:

- 1) **First Reading of Ordinance Prohibiting the Sale of Cigarettes and Cigars with Filters:** Council introduced the first reading of an ordinance prohibiting the sale of any tobacco product that includes a filter. A second reading will take place on September 11, 2025; if approved, the ordinance will be effective as of October 11, 2025. However, as amended by City Council, enforcement will not begin until July 1, 2027.
- 2) **CVWBIA Assessments:** Council approved self-assessments for businesses within the Village and Wharf Business Improvement District.
- 3) **Capitola Mall Update:** Council continued this item until their next meeting (September 11, 2025) and formed an Ad-Hoc Committee comprised of Council Members Orbach and Westman to work with City staff and communicate with Mall stakeholders.
- 4) **Sustainable Transportation Planning (ATP) Grant:** Council approved staff to enter a grant agreement with Caltrans for the Citywide ATP Grant to plan for improvements to create safer biking and walking throughout the City. Council also authorized a contract with Ecology Action for project support.
- 5) **Cliff Drive Resiliency Project:** Council received an update on this project: click here to review the [staff presentation](#). To read a simple fact sheet on this project, click [here](#).
- 6) **Park at Rispin Mansion Project Update:** Council requested staff to partner with a community group or outside organization for park landscaping and a paver fundraising project, and directed staff to prepare a Request for Proposals (RFP) for garden installation and maintenance.
- 7) **Amend Fiscal Year 2025-26 City Fee Schedule:** Council adopted a resolution amending the fee schedule to reduce the costs for sidewalk signage and the associated/required encroachment permits.

The following items were pulled from Consent and heard at the end of the General Government section of the agenda:

- 8) **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan:** Council adopted the City's ADA plan.
- 9) **Community Center Patio Improvements Contract Award:** Council authorized a contract with SSB Contracting, Inc. for patio improvements as part of the Community Center Renovation Project.

In September, the City Council returns to its typical schedule, with meetings held twice a

month at 6:00 P.M. on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month in the Council Chambers at Capitola City Hall.

Next City Council Meeting: Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 6 P.M.

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11.2-4