



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

AREA AGENCY ON AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL

Wednesday January 14, 2026

10 a.m. – 12 Noon

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

Guests can also join via Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86490817703>

Meeting ID: 864 9081 7703
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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 Advisory Council Members

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

10:10 5. Approve minutes of the September 2025 Meeting

10:25 6. Advocacy Committee
 1. Master Plan on Aging Local Playbook
 2. SB 1249 & CDA's Aging 2030 Plan
 3. Elected Meetings and Talking Points

10:30 7. Executive Director's Report
 A. Agency Operations
 B. SB 1249 & CDA's 2030 Plan
 C. Master Plan for Aging Local Playbooks

11:00 8. Program Reports (written)
 A. Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Program
 B. Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)
 C. Volunteer Coordination Project
 D. Project SCOUT

11:10 9. Executive Director's Report
 A. Agency Operations
 B. SB 1249 & CDA's 2030 Plan
 C. Master Plan for Aging & Solutions Summits

11:40 10. Miscellaneous Correspondence & Other Items

12 Noon 11. Adjourn

Next Meeting:
February 18, 2026
10 am to 12 noon
175 Westridge Dr., Watsonville, CA 95076

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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AREA AGENCY ON AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL
(Held in person at Watsonville office with hybrid Zoom broadcast)

September 17, 2025

MINUTES

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gabriela Trigueiro (City of Santa Cruz)
Steve Clark (City of Scotts Valley)
Scott Freels (City of San Juan Bautista)
Stephanie Auld (Representative of Persons with Disabilities)
Susan Westman (City of Capitola)
Tara Ireland (Empowered Aging; AAA Service Provider Representative)

ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Sandy Brown (alternate J. Cummings)
Regina Kelbert (alternate K. De Serpa)

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Kimberly De Serpa (Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors)
Justin Cummings (Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors)
Jimmy Dutra (City of Watsonville)
Angela Curro (San Benito County Board of Supervisors)
Mindy Sotelo (San Benito County Board of Supervisors)
Dolores Morales (Councilmember, City of Hollister)
Gerry Jensen (City of Capitola)
Mark Johannessen (At-large, Seniors Commission)

VACANCIES: Representative of Persons with Low Income; CSL Rep.; At Large Rep.

STAFF PRESENT:

Clay Kempf, Seniors Council Executive Director; Patty Talbott, AAA Administrator; Zach Johnson, Seniors Council Administrative Services Officer; Corey Shaffer, Community Coordinator; Britt Bassoni, Director of Special Projects

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jacques Bertrand; Nadia (LiftLine)

1. Welcome, Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Gabriela Trigueiro called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Introductions were made.

2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

175 Westridge Dr., Watsonville, CA 95076 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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None.

3. Receive Announcements from Advisory Council Members

Regina asked that the Santa Cruz County broadband survey be distributed to the Advisory Council.

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

None.

5. Consent Agenda

Advisory Council members were referred to Pages 5-1 to 5-3, minutes of the August AAA Advisory Council meeting.

MOTION, Brown/Clark, to approve the minutes of the August 2025 AAA Advisory Council meeting.
PASSED

6. Advocacy Committee

1. Setting 2025-26 Priorities – Need to reset after energy of Solutions Summits/Master Plan for Aging (MPA). Advocacy Committee selected local, state, and federal objectives (emphasis on local/state for practicality). Discussion of local and state priorities, plus tracking/responding/engaging with CDA's 2030 plan for services.
2. Creating Advocacy Workplan – engaging elected officials expected to be a huge component of success. Avoid starting from scratch each discussion. Invitation for Advisory Council members to participate in or make recommendations for Advocacy, Finance, and Board Development Committees. Need for new BoD members, especially with legal knowledge.

7. Annual Board & AAA Advisory Council December meeting

Combined meeting of November and December AC and BoD meetings; to be scheduled per Doodle poll. Contracted service providers will present and answer questions about programs as part of agenda.

8. Program Reports

1. Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Program – Discussion of defunding threats to program. US Senate discussing at least 50% restoration of funding, still developing. Total federal funding has been ~\$1.1 million, plus local match. Currently FGP/SCP covers four counties, which will likely be reduced; Santa Clara participation levels discussed as possible target for additional local match funding, grant assistance. There is a need for additional FGP/SCP Advisory Council members.
2. Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) – Welcome to our new hire for ADRC program coordinator: Crystal Ortiz, Hollister native. She will help reinvoke community outreach efforts and improve Spanish-language services. Britt reported on ongoing and proposed projects that align with MPA.
3. Project SCOUT – Concern was raised about areas focused on by program; suggestion made to add Capitola location (improved public transit access, lower income area access). Staff noted that there is a focus on lower-income individuals, and sites are scattered across both counties. Also always searching for more opportunities to expand program, which drives volunteerism. Noted (8.3-2) that seniors are refusing CalFresh appointment calls from the County because they come in anonymously, as is recommended to avoid scams. Request for HSA to restructure their phone system to avoid this issue.

9. Executive Director's Report

1. Agency Operations – discussed throughout, above.

2. Update on JdA Lawsuit – Last court visit extended trial date to September 29. Working to facilitate direct negotiation between attorneys. Some progress has been made, e.g. JdA acknowledges some zero-service areas for no reimbursement. Discussion of JdA's performance, reactions, Board behavior, and general relationship to Seniors Council.
3. SB 1249 & CDA's 2030 plan – Passed last year. At the time, 15/33 CA AAA's voted to endorse, even though only 28 were present. 9-1.2 highlights four biggest concerns:
 - a. Intrastate funding formula and hold-harmless clause determination. Suggestion to ask Board to weigh in officially.
 - b. De-designation of AAAs and counties' right of first refusal. Would have an outsized impact on San Benito County were it to be approved. Both counties report budget concerns that would make a spin-off disastrous. 9-1-3 shows timeline.
 - c. Lack of discussion with CDA re: feedback on AAA surveys and creative ideas. Does not seem like a productive process. CDA pushing to publicize scorecards in a way that seems punitive to AAAs. Covers timeliness, data reporting, etc. but does not cover CDA's (poor) performance.
 - d. Content of surveys, e.g. descriptions of services that don't match CDA definitions.
4. Master Plan for Aging & Solutions Summits – Progress continues, especially in SBC. Reports and presentations will continue to be made, to elevate awareness and engagement. MPA continues for another 5 years, workgroups will continue to convene periodically.

10. Miscellaneous Correspondence & Other Items

Included in packet. Staff praised Capitola's newsletter. Discussion of Farmers' Market program and rollout of new system.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 AM.

Minutes prepared by: Zachary Johnson
Next Meeting: October 15, 2025



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ANNUAL JOINT MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND AREA AGENCY ON AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL

December 10, 2025

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Pam Arnsberger, Tami Aviles, Wayne Norton, Mickie Luna, Antonio Rivas, Jane Schwickerath, Mark Trabing, Gwen Yeo

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Lisa Berkowitz, Cathy Cress

AAA ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steve Clark (City of Scotts Valley)
Tara Ireland (AAA Service Provider Rep)
Stephanie Auld (Representative of Persons with Disabilities)
Susan Westman (City of Capitola)
Mark Johannessen (At Large, Seniors Commission)

AAA ADVISORY COUNCIL ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Sandy Brown (alternate J. Cummings)

AAA ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Kimberly De Serpa (Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors)
Justin Cummings (Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors)
Gabriela Triguero (City of Santa Cruz)
Jimmy Dutra (City of Watsonville)
Angela Curro (San Benito County Board of Supervisors)
Mindy Sotelo (San Benito County Board of Supervisors)
Dolores Morales (Councilmember, City of Hollister)
Scott Freels (City of San Juan Bautista)

STAFF PRESENT: Clay Kempf, Seniors Council Executive Director; Britt Bassoni, Special Projects Director; Patty Talbott, AAA Administrator; Cathy Colvard, Fiscal Officer; Hilary Minugh, Fiscal Specialist; Maureen Hebert, Fiscal Assistant; Corey Shaffer, Community Coordinator, San Benito County; Eduardo Santana, Program Director, Project SCOUT; Cristina Bañuelos, Program Director, Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Programs; Chris Greenwood, Monica Alvarez and Lydia Ramirez, FG/SC Program Coordinators; Leanne Oliveira and Crystal Ortiz, San Benito County ADRC

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennifer Merchant, Kayla Traber and Daniello Wong, Grey Bears; Rebecca Steckler, Senior Legal Services; Tara Ireland, Volunteer Center; Corey Acevedo, Corinne Jones and Miriam Alao, Senior Network Services; John Beluetz and Jessica Mattila, Health Projects Center/Del Mar Caregiver Resource Center; Bill McCabe, Family Service Agency; Ray Cancino and Whitney Rose, Community Bridges; Mary Howe, Village Santa Cruz; Philip Geiger, Alzheimers Association, Ann Bennet Young and Christina Wise, Damians Ladder;

GUESTS PRESENT: Connie Padron, Julie Easterly, Mary Lou McKenney, Mary Masseli

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1. Welcome, Call to Order and Introductions

Board President Tami Aviles called the meeting to order at 9:36 AM. Introductions were made.

2. Additions and 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

None.

5. Consent Agenda

Board members were referred to Pages 5-1 to 5-5, minutes of the October meeting.
MOTION, Yeo/Arnsberger, to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2025 meeting.
PASSED unanimously

AAA Advisory Council members were referred to Pages 5-6 to 5-10, minutes of the October 15, 2025 meeting. Minutes were not approved due to lack of quorum.

6. Dismissal of Jovenes de Antaño Lawsuit

Clay referred to his report in the packet beginning on page 6-1 and provided an overview of the Jovenes lawsuit to date and the Superior Court's dismissal of the lawsuit. The final outcome was that Jovenes received the same dollars as we would have paid them without the lawsuit. The main difference was that payment was delayed by several months, due to Jovenes' restraining order against the Seniors Council.

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Finance – Jane Schwickerath reported the committee reviewed financials, and things are on track with the original budget. Still focused on building new revenue sources to cover current deficits. She noted that the committee needs more board members and encouraged those interested to contact her.

7.2 Advocacy Committee – Focus is on implementing 25/26 priorities and monitoring developments with the CA 2030 project and implementation of SB 1249

7.3 Executive Committee – The committee met and reviewed the December agency holiday schedule and office closure dates. The office will be closed the week of December 22-25, open Dec 29-31, and closed January 1 and 2.

7.4 Nominating and Board Development Recruitment – Clay noted that there are 2 or 3 prospective members attending today. A Board training is currently scheduled for December 19 if one is needed.

8. One Time Only Funding Awards

Clay reviewed pages 8-1 and 8-2, regarding allocation of One Time Only funding from CDA.

Funding allocations in the packet were reviewed:

Title IIIB Supportive Services (\$29,605): Allocated to Senior Network Services and the ADRC to be used to print updated senior resource guides in each county.

Title IIIB Ombudsman (\$196), Title VIIA Ombudsman (\$518) and Title VIIA Elder Abuse Prevention (\$197), allocated to Senior Network Services for the operation of their Long Term Care Ombudsman program in two counties.

Title IIIC1 Congregate Nutrition (\$12,910) and Title IIIC2 Home-delivered Meals (\$6,880), split on a 75/25 basis between Meals on Wheels of Santa Cruz County (\$14,692.50) and Martha's Kitchen (\$4,897.50).

Title IID Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (\$4,784): Allocated to the Volunteer Center for the operation of evidence-based Matter of Balance Falls Prevention classes in Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties.

Title IIIE Family Caregiver Support (\$15,636): Allocated to Health Projects Center and/or Gavilan College to offset the costs of Gavilan's new caregiver training course, pending approval of the Department of Aging. If not approved, all funding will be allocated to Health Projects Center for additional caregiver respite hours.

MOTION, Luna/Schwickerath, to approve. **PASSED** unanimously.

9. Provider Presentations

Health Projects Center – Jessica Mattilla provided an overview of the services provided as the Del Mar Caregiver Resource Center, one of 11 state-designated Caregiver Resource Centers. Services include case management, MSSP, enhanced case management, workforce development and caregiver support services. HPC is beginning their first year as the AAA-contracted provider of Title IIIE Family Caregiver Support funded services in both Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties. They have been working in San Benito County for many years and have been a long time contracted provider for Title IIIE funded services with the Monterey County AAA.

Senior Legal Services – Rebecca Steckler, Executive Director. Senior Legal Services has been providing free legal assistance to seniors in Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties for 53 years and their work focuses on 60+. The AAA is one of a number of different funding streams supporting the agency. The AAA contracts for specific service categories allowed with AAA funding, while additional grants support other work. Overall, housing is 50% of cases. All services are by appointment and book about 4 weeks out. Emergency appointments include elder abuse, home eviction notices of 5 days or less or unlawful detainees. Government benefits include assist with overpayment, denial of reductions of benefits such as retirement and SSI and Medicare/Cal appeals of denied applications. Elder abuse case work includes assistance with restraining orders and cease and desist orders. Planning for the future – includes Power of attorney, advanced health directives, new will, trusts. If you own real estate, you are referred to an attorney. Also provides assistance with consumer debt/fraud issues.

All age programs: Eviction defense collaborative

Housing & disability Advocacy Program (SC County only) – help with applications.

Project SCOUT – Eduardo Santana, Program Director

Project SCOUT began in the 70's and became part of Seniors Council in the 90's. Serves seniors, disabled and now families for EIC. He referred to the power point in packet on pages 10.4-1 to 10.4-7. He said that 2025 was a challenging year with many requests for information, including about SNAP funding loss. Ed noted that there have been lots of transitions with the federal specialists who provide support at federal level.

During tax season SCOUT operates 14 sites, 1 ad hoc.

123 possible volunteers lined up for next tax season. In last season, SCOUT serviced close to 2,000 people and over \$2m in benefits returned to the community in 2023. Ed thanked all the sites supporting SCOUT and is working on securing a site in Hollister.

Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Programs: Cristina Banuelos, Program Director. The Foster Grandparent Program is an intergenerational program that recruits seniors to work in classrooms

and child care centers. "Grandparents" provide extra help to teachers and much-needed one-on-one attention for students. The Senior Companion Program recruits seniors to work with isolated seniors to provide companionship and support, including outings. Volunteers must be low-income and complete monthly detailed documentation of their time to receive a small tax-exempt stipend. Cristina reported that the programs had 133,000 service hours last year with 150 volunteers. Funding is allocated through 2026. Future funding is unsure as the program is in the third year of grant cycle.

Volunteer Center – Tara Ireland, Empowered Aging Division Director

Tara said that the Empowered Aging Program seeks to support individuals to live a healthy, engaged active life. 1500 seniors served, older adults and those with disabilities. Services to meet needs include: home modifications/repair and yard work, transportation, grocery delivery, fall prevention, disaster prep, scam prevention, and connection and engagement through volunteerism. Home modifications are provided to low income homeowners. Tara noted that sometimes people can't be released from hospital until safety improvements are made. Volunteers with the Helping Hands program range from contractors to handymen and provide a variety of services, they love giving back to the community. Assistance with yard work is a high demand/need service. Low income disabled adults in greatest need. Helping hands clients are automatically referred to Matter of Balance classes. Monterey Bay RSVP also offers volunteer transportation program. Losing funding for RSVP as of March 31. Also involved with disaster prep - partnering with Community Bridges. As well as scam prevention programs and the Adopt a Family holiday program. 150 seniors adopted in this program this year.

Senior Network Services – Corinne Jones, Director or Programs.

Senior Network Services offers a variety of programs that service about 12,000 clients per year. Corinne focused on the AAA-funded programs which support their efforts for promote independence for seniors.

Case Management – no cost to participants, voluntary, Case Managers assist, arrange, coordinate, monitor and advocate for services for the seniors to remain healthy and living independently. Monthly check ins, help complete renewal and recertification of programs, coordinate appointments, etc.

HICAP provides unbiased information on Medicare options, plans costs, coverage needs and low income assistance, Estimated financial savings of more than \$400k per year for seniors.

Information & Assistance: information , referrals. Phone calls, walk in , home visits or providing copies of yellow books. I&A is a backbone resource. I&A helped with language translations, helped determine qualification for services, referrals to food pantries, warm hand offs and follow ups. Low-income minority LEP and rural has been been invaluable services.

Long Term Care Ombudsman: Provides services to protect health, safety, welfare and rights of residents in LTC facilities. Mandated responds to alleged abuse: physical, verbal, sexual, neglect and emotional.

Community Bridges – Ray Cancino, CEO, Whitney Rose, Meals on Wheels, Jesus Boroquez, Lift Line

Meals on Wheels – Began in 1976. Celebrating 50th anniversary. 50 volunteers. Delivered 164,000 meals last year. 4 congregate sites that offer music, activities and special presentations. Demand for meals grew during COVID and is not going back down. Focus on senior nutrition and health. Also offers two phone visits and two home visits per year and wellness checks. \$150K funding loss this year. Had to implement first ever wait list for home delivered meals. 70 people denied service or had to be removed from program

Lift Line – Maintains 25 vehicles, 16 on the road at all times providing a variety of transportation services. Seniors Council funding supports free transportation to Meals on Wheels congregate dining sites.

Grey Bears: Kayla and Danielle Wong and Jennifer. Started in 1973 by 2 UCSC students.

Powered by recycling and thrift store. over 800 volunteers 70,000 hours. Healthy food program; healthy food bag deliveries, healthy food distribution and lunch program.

"grocery rescue" volunteer sort donations. Rescued 1.7M pounds of food. Healthy food bag delivery (formerly brown bags) almost 200K bags delivered. \$50 year, scholarships offered, over 55. Everywhere in the county. 1 in 3 rely on Calfresh. 840 households per month. Served 63K meals last year. Starting to see rise in homelessness. Seniors experiencing increase in homelessness.

800 volunteers. 69,000 donated hours. \$2M value of donated time.

Jennifer, operating in old buildings, warehouse is former chicken coop. Purchased a building last year to house healthy food program and staff offices. Hoping to break ground next summer. Current kitchen 500sq feet. New kitchen, upgraded equipment, community rooms, etc.

FSA - Bill McCabe reviewed Peer Counseling and I-You venture Small grant provided by Seniors Council for both. Incredible programs that support vulnerable and isolated seniors. Explained some of the other programs provided by FSA. Mental health services are covered by Medicare, but very few providers taking it. 110-120 month seniors getting service. Requirements have improved and wait list for Medicare mental has dramatically decreased. Senior Outreach program needs more volunteers. Currently have a wait list. Good training provided, go into the home and engage with seniors 1 on 1. I-you venture provides visits to care facilities. Holiday outreach 3000 gifts last year to facility residents.

Marthas Kitchen

San Benito Volunteer Coordination – Corey Community Volunteer Coordinator. Corey works in San Benito County. Corey shared information about her website.

ADRC – Britt presented, goal is to connect people with the services that are available. Goal is to connect through No Wrong Door. Helping them access, apply and basic eligibility screening to make sure they can get the help they need. Provide leadership to develop services where there are gaps and expand where people are being understand and connect people with volunteer opportunities. Board member Pam Arnsberger is now participating on statewide ADRC committee

Q&A Where does Lift line serve IN San Benito County. Ray replied only for Elderday participants. Are Grey Bears and second harvest in competition? Theres way more demand than resources. Ray these programs are focused on older adults, many can't carry a bag of food or get to distribution centers or wait in line (3-4 hours sometimes), some can't drive. Jennifer – Grey Bears recovered of 1.7M pounds of food. They also receive food from Second Harvest sometimes. The food bags they prepared are tailored for seniors, lighter than what food bank does. Deliver 4000 a week, 1000 delivered directly to home. Not in competition, each offers slightly different thing.

Are we working to engage the business community? Clay said we've been working on this for years. As part of Master Plan for Aging we're working to promote the need. Everyone needs to be a champion.

Comment from Stephanie Auld, disabled rep for AAA Advisory Council, etc. bathrooms at clubhouse are not accessible. IHSS Commissioner. Fighting to make IHSS Commission meetings virtual to make them more accessible.

10. Additional Agency Reports

- 9.1 Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Falls Prevention – report in packet
- 9.2 – Aging & Disability Resource Connection report in packet
- 9.3 Volunteer Coordination Project Area Agency on Aging – report in packet
- 9.4 Project SCOUT – report in packet

11. Miscellaneous Correspondence

- 11.1 California Senior Legislature's Top Legislative priorities for 2026

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55AM

Minutes prepared by: Patty Talbott, AAA Administrator



AREA AGENCY ON AGING CSL UPDATE

January 2026

- **2026 Legislative Priorities**

To date three of our legislative proposals have been authored by legislators. They are:

AP-2: Personal Income Tax: Senior Child Care Tax Credit - Authored by Sen Dahle
(Senior Assembly Member Mark Cox, Yucaipa, CA) MPA Goal # 5

This measure establishes an income tax credit for qualifying seniors of \$2,500 for each claimed dependent under 18 years of age.

SP-2: Older Adult Education: Local Public Health Departments - Authored by Sen Choi

(Senior Senator Steve Lipson, El Cerrito, CA) MPA Goal #3

This measure authorizes local Public Health Departments to establish older adult education programs that include, among other things, communal meals and instruction in digital literacy and access to technology, fall prevention and physical activity.

AP-4: Automatic External Defibrillators - Authored by ASM Sanchez

(Senior Assembly Member Miliissa Meyer, Indian Wells, CA) MPA Goal #2

This measure requires a senior center or community center providing activities to 50 or more people who are 55 years of age or older, to obtain and maintain an Automatic External Defibrillator.

We will also be sponsoring legislation (AB 1359) that will enable Californians over the age of 80 to seek a permanent excuse from jury duty without a supporting letter, memorandum or note from a treating health care provider.

- **CSL Elections**

CSL Elections will be held in 2026. All CSL members must apply for re-election to a 4 year term. An email has been distributed to each Area Agency on Aging outlining the timeline for the application and election process. CSL members are to submit their application package through their Area Office on Aging.

Applications Due	March 31, 2026
Elections conducted by each Area Agency on Aging	May/June 2026
Annual legislative session and swearing in of new members	October 2026



Leaders in Aging Well at Home

December 4, 2025

Senator John Thune
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Bill Cassidy, M.D.
Chair
Senate HELP Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Bernie Sanders
Ranking Member
Senate HELP Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leaders Thune and Schumer and Senators Cassidy and Sanders:

USAging represents the country's 613 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and advocates for the more than 280 Title VI Native American Aging Programs. Our members help older adults and people with disabilities live with optimal health, well-being, independence and dignity in their homes and communities and support their critical family caregivers. Their work is grounded in the Older Americans Act, the foundational federal, state and local program creating in-home and in-community solutions to the challenges that many older adults face as they age.

That's why we are writing today to urge you to expedite the passage of S. 2120, the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act, under unanimous consent this month. With broad bipartisan support for S. 2120 in both the 118th and 119th Congresses and every single state in the United States experiencing rapid growth in the older adult and caregiver populations, it's important to move this important, measured update to the Act forward.

The OAA allows AAAs to create resources for older adults to access a wide array of programs and services, including information and referral to find help for their challenges with aging; congregate and home-delivered meals to address hunger, malnutrition and social isolation; health and wellness programs; in-home care support; transportation; elder abuse prevention; adult day care and other needed options. Family caregivers, who contribute

more long-term care than any formal government program, can also access OAA-funded respite, training, support and help navigating their caregiving roles.

We greatly appreciate Chairman Cassidy's and Ranking Member Sanders' leadership throughout the two-year reauthorization process, including taking a bipartisan approach to bill development and offering multiple opportunities for public comment. We appreciated the opportunity to provide the local aging leaders' perspective on this vitally important piece of legislation and the impact any changes will have on older adults and caregivers who rely upon OAA programs and services.

We believe that swift passage of S. 2120 before Congress leaves for the holidays will help speed its passage through the House in January, and we look forward to working with your teams to advance and ultimately celebrate the passage of this critical bill.

For questions about our request, the OAA or USAging's members, please contact Amy Gotwals, USAging's Chief, Public Policy and External Affairs, at agotwals@usaging.org.

Sincerely,



Sandy Markwood
Chief Executive Officer

cc:

Senate Special Committee on Aging Chairman Rick Scott and Ranking Member Kirsten Gillibrand

6.2-2



Leaders in Aging Well at Home

December 15, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito, Chair
The Honorable Tammy Baldwin, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Aderholt, Chair
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Capito and Aderholt and Ranking Members Baldwin and DeLauro:

With the government shutdown over and the continuing resolution (CR) expiring on January 30, USAging urges you to pass a final Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (Labor/HHS) bill as soon as possible and within it to support the highest possible funding levels for Older Americans Act (OAA) and other Labor/HHS line items that help older adults age well at home and support their caregivers.

USAging represents the country's 614 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and advocates for the more than 280 Title VI Native American Aging Programs. Our members help older adults and people with disabilities live with optimal health, well-being, independence and dignity in their homes and communities and support their critical family caregivers. This year has been particularly financially difficult for Area Agencies on Aging to provide critical uninterrupted services to our nation's most frail and vulnerable older adults. From the funding freeze threat to a long shutdown to the current CR (from which AAAs will not have their funding for several more weeks we note), the uncertainty in funding has made planning, development and delivery of critical services such as meals, medical transportation, in-home services and caregiver supports a challenge as our members are dealing with rising

demands and already limited funding. They are confronted with decisions such as limiting services or putting needy clients on waiting lists.

That's why we strongly support passage of a proper Labor/HHS bill and not a CR. USAging supports increases to all titles of the OAA to meet the current and future needs of older adults and we urge you to ensure that the recommended increases in your respective bills are secured in the final bill; a list of those higher-level recommendations follows.

- We are grateful for the House's modest increases for **Title III B Supportive Services and Senior Centers** and **Title VI Native American Aging Programs** (nutrition, caregiver support). Those levels should be the final recommendations.
- The Senate's measure protects **Title V of the OAA**, the **Senior Community Service Employment Program**, a special program for low-income older workers who need to work to stay financially independent. We urge full funding for this program, which, unlike the rest of the OAA, is administered by the Department of Labor.
- **We urge Congress to adopt the higher recommendations for the following programs, as well.**
 - OAA Title III E National Family Caregiver Support Program (Senate level)
 - Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (Senate level)
 - Community Services Block Grant (House level)
 - Americorps Seniors (Senate level)

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Amy Gotwals, Chief, Public Policy and External Affairs, and Olivia Umoren Ezeuko, Director, Public Policy and Advocacy, policy@usaging.org.

Sincerely,



Sandy Markwood
Chief Executive Officer

cc:

Chair Susan Collins, Senate Appropriations Committee

Vice Chair Patty Murray, Senate Appropriations Committee

Chair Tom Cole, House Appropriations Committee

Vice Chair Rosa DeLauro, House Appropriations Committee

Members of the Senate Labor/HHS/Education Subcommittee

Members of the House Labor/HHS/Education Subcommittee



SERVICE • SUPPORT • ADVOCACY

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

Date: 1-8-26

To: Seniors Council Board of Directors, AAA Advisory Council

From: Clay Kempf, Executive Director

RE: Executive Director's January Report

AGENCY OPERATIONS & FUNDING

The re-opening of the United States Government was good news for us, but aging programs were only funded through January 30, 2026, so a looming threat to our cash flow and programs is a short three weeks away. California Department of Aging has no control over this issue and little new to offer in the way of mitigation. Their previous strategy to accelerate the payment of state funds in the absence of federal dollars is a good one, but at this point in the year most state funding has been distributed.

USAging, our national AAA membership organization, has been a very strong advocacy organization regarding this, and other age-related funding.

Loss of funding, or freezing of federal funds is a bigger factor in how the shutdown impacts AAA services, as the majority of funds for programs such as Meals on Wheels, Legal Services, Information & Assistance, etc. are federal.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING'S (CDA) AGING 2030 PLANS & SB 1249

CDA provided an updated overview of their next steps in their *implementation of SB 1249 and their Aging 2030 plans* on Tuesday, Jan 6th, and will hold quarterly webinars to do the same throughout the year. The Department is emphasizing that the changes are necessary to improve older adult services. Among the topics being presented that concern us the most are:

- Revising the Intrastate Funding Formula;
- Designation and de-Designation of AAAs;
- Creation of additional AAA Service Reports and Performance Measures;
- Homogenization of AAA services across the state;
- The implication that their plans were developed via feedback and input received by CDA from AAA surveys and discussions.

175 Westridge Dr., Watsonville, CA. 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, PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS, THE UNITED WAY, AND YOUR PERSONAL DONATIONS

While we absolutely support the effort to improve the quality and quantity of services being provided, we see very little (if anything) in the Department's plans that will improve services. For example, one of the Department's goals is to create a webpage that shows the public which AAAs are on time with their data reports, and which are late. That measurement is problematic for several reasons. Included is that data reports submitted to CDA on time are often rejected by the data collection software. A productive action by CDA would be to work with AAAs and CDAs software system to correct the causes of data rejections. To date, no such effort has been initiated. This is not a minor issue - in the first quarter of 2025-26, only five of California's 33 AAAs were listed as being on time with these reports; nine were considered late, and a whopping 19 were delinquent. Many of the AAA's report that rejected data is the cause of their late reports. Our AAA falls int that category.

Another example of proposing an ineffective and blame-based solution has to do with CDAs response to California being ranked 44th to 46th in the delivery of Information and Assistance (I&A) to older adults. CDA wants to create new reporting requirements and training requirements for I&A. While this is a fine idea, nothing is being suggested to address the state removing all state funding for I&A in 2009 and never replacing it, despite the older adult population increase of about 50% in that time, and inflation of over 100%.

If CDA is the champion of older adults and of AAAs that they claim to be, and if they truly want to improve things like reducing waiting lists and speeding 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? If anything, I think the Department should be making the case of how service quality deteriorates when funding is slashed while the population skyrockets.

CDA's proposed revision to the *Intrastate Funding Formula* has been revised again, in response to pushback from 19 of California's 33 AAAs that were targeted to receive cuts. We're glad to see the revised formula, as our PSA goes from a funding **decrease of \$234,336 to an increase of \$258,316 per year**. Fewer (11 instead of 19) AAAs receive funding losses in the revised new formula, but some of the larger AAA's are now formula losers instead of winners. Los Angeles County, for example, loses over \$5.9 million per year in the new version.

In the original new formula, PSA 2 (Lassen, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, & Trinity Counties) would take a large hit; a loss of \$1,200,573 per year, or 37% of their funding. The new-new formula has the opposite impact, increasing their funds by \$1,131,812 per year; an increase of 32%. The two new formulas differ by almost 70% for PSA 2; talk about feast or famine!

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 was previously recommending inclusion of a Hold Harmless Clause in their new formula, but no mention of it was made during this week's presentation. CDA is planning on including state funds in the IFF that they submit to the Federal Administration on Aging (under whatever name it operates under in the post-DOGE world), despite urging to retain the flexibility that was granted in the 1991 lawsuit.

Timeline: The tentative schedule for CDA to adopt these schedules is once again 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 Consider Creation of new PSAs
- 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. Corey and Zach will be re-convening the Local Playbook workgroups to facilitate positive movement in achieving the adopted goals for a second time this month. Zach, Corey, Britt and I remain available to make presentations about the local playbooks to any interested council, commission, advisory group or interested party. Our next scheduled presentation will be before the Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission.

The Santa Cruz County Master Plan for Aging & Aging Friendly Communities Governance Committee has met twice this fall after a long hiatus going back to April of 2025. We asked to present our Local Playbook Powerpoint Overview to bring the Governance Committee up to date on our work, but County staff want to prioritize other items and activities.

Participation in the Santa Cruz County Governance Committee varies greatly from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, and from its initial inception to now. Some cities have City Managers involved, while others send Parks & Rec staff members. Santa Cruz County used to include members of the Board of Supervisors, but none have been included (or invited?) since 2024.

ACTION ITEM: Our Board should consider adding a second representation to the Governance Committee, as Wayne was originally added when he was our President, and it's more important for him to engage in the San Benito County efforts than those in Santa Cruz. Pam is our remaining Board appointee.

The Aging and Long Term Care Commission of San Benito County continues to serve as the official Local Playbook Advisory Council. Progress is discussed at each monthly Commission meeting, often led by Corey Shaffer, with additional input from Britt Bassoni and/or me. I'll be meeting with the new Executive Director of the Community Foundation for San Benito County to provide her with some background on the partnership between our two organizations on moving the local playbook forward in San Benito County.

As always, we appreciate all of our community partners, including elected officials, who continue help us to lead the way in these efforts.

FINAL EXPENDITURES STATEMENT
Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Contract Agency: Seniors Council of Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties (PSA 13)

Remit to Address: 175 Westridge Drive, Watsonville CA 95076

Federal Fiscal Year: 2122 -2526

Contract Number: AP-2122

PART I CONTRACT EXPENDITURES

Balance of Contract	III B Costs	III C-1 Costs	III C-2 Costs	III D Costs	III E Costs	III F Costs	III G Costs	VII Ombudsman Costs	Total
1. Total Allocation	\$370,918.00	\$241,903.00	\$362,854.00	\$35,479.00	\$115,730.00			\$5,920.00	\$1,132,804.00
2. Expenditures from Baseline Allocation (Reported as Allocated)	\$345,343.00	\$217,713.00	\$326,568.00	\$0.00	\$42,641.00			\$5,920.00	\$938,185.00
3. Expenditures from Baseline Allocation (Reported as Redirect to Different Programs)	\$25,575.00	\$24,190.00	\$36,285.00	\$35,479.00	\$73,089.00			\$0.00	\$194,618.00
4. Total Expenditures by Allocation	\$370,918.00	\$241,903.00	\$362,853.00	\$35,479.00	\$115,730.00			\$5,920.00	\$1,132,803.00
5. Balance (Unspent Allocation)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,00	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00	\$1.00

PART II TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND FUNDS DISBURSED

Status of Funds	6. Total ARPA Funds Disbursed	7. Total Expenditures Reported on Closeout (CDA 3061)	8. Amount Due to AAA	9. Amount Due to CDA					
	\$370,918.00	\$241,903.00	\$362,854.00	\$35,479.00	\$115,730.00			\$5,920.00	\$1,132,804.00
	\$370,918.00	\$241,903.00	\$362,853.00	\$35,479.00	\$115,730.00			\$5,920.00	\$1,132,803.00
									\$0.00
									\$1.00

LOCAL FINANCE ANALYST

DATE

LOCAL FINANCE MANAGER

DATE

Adrian Leung 11/24/25
Melissa Porcayo 11/24/25

7-5

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING
Home and Community Living Division
Older Adult Programs Branch
Planning, Monitoring, and Data Section
2880 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95833
www.aging.ca.gov
TEL 916-419-7500
FAX 916-928-2267
TTY1-800-735-2929



December 18, 2025

Seniors Council of Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties
Attn: Clay Kempf
175 Westridge Dr
Watsonville, CA 95076

Dear Director Kempf,

The California Department of Aging has reviewed and approved the attached 2025-26 Area Plan Update for Planning and Service Area 13. Your agency has fulfilled its responsibility under the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 7304, to submit an annual update to your four-year Area Plan.

We acknowledge you, your staff, governing board, advisory council, and community representatives for developing the Area Plan. And in building and enhancing your local system of services for older adults, adults with disabilities, and their caregivers.

Please provide a copy of this letter to the governing board and advisory council chairs. If you have any questions, contact the Area Planning Team at AreaPlan@aging.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jamie Pope".

Jamie Pope, Section Chief
Planning, Monitoring, and Data
California Department of Aging

CC:

Dan Birmingham, Data Manager
Amanda Towers, State Planning Manager
Planning, Monitoring, and Data
California Department of Aging

PSA 13- APU 2025-26 - Approval Letter

Final Audit Report

2025-12-18

Created:	2025-12-18
By:	Amanda Towers (amanda.towers@aging.ca.gov)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAUJd1YhbSuxl3Cgo1HoqvuFl4T0aJlYZx

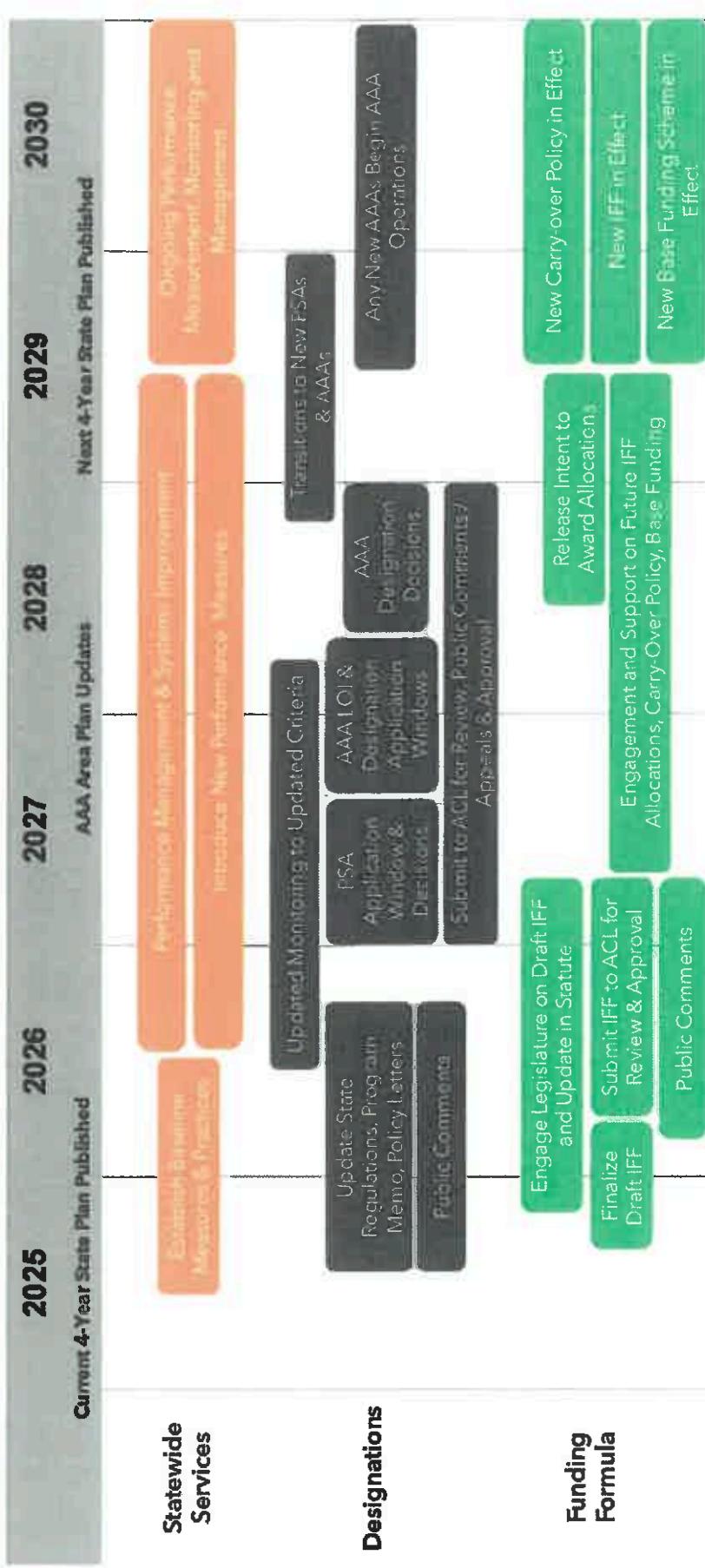
"PSA 13- APU 2025-26 - Approval Letter" History

-  Document created by Amanda Towers (amanda.towers@aging.ca.gov)
2025-12-18 - 11:01:20 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Jamie Pope (jamie.pope@aging.ca.gov) for signature
2025-12-18 - 11:01:24 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Jamie Pope (jamie.pope@aging.ca.gov)
2025-12-18 - 11:01:54 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Jamie Pope (jamie.pope@aging.ca.gov)
Signature Date: 2025-12-18 - 11:02:39 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.
2025-12-18 - 11:02:39 PM GMT



Adobe Acrobat Sign

4. OUTLOOK (Subject to Change)



Current and Proposed Allocations by PSA

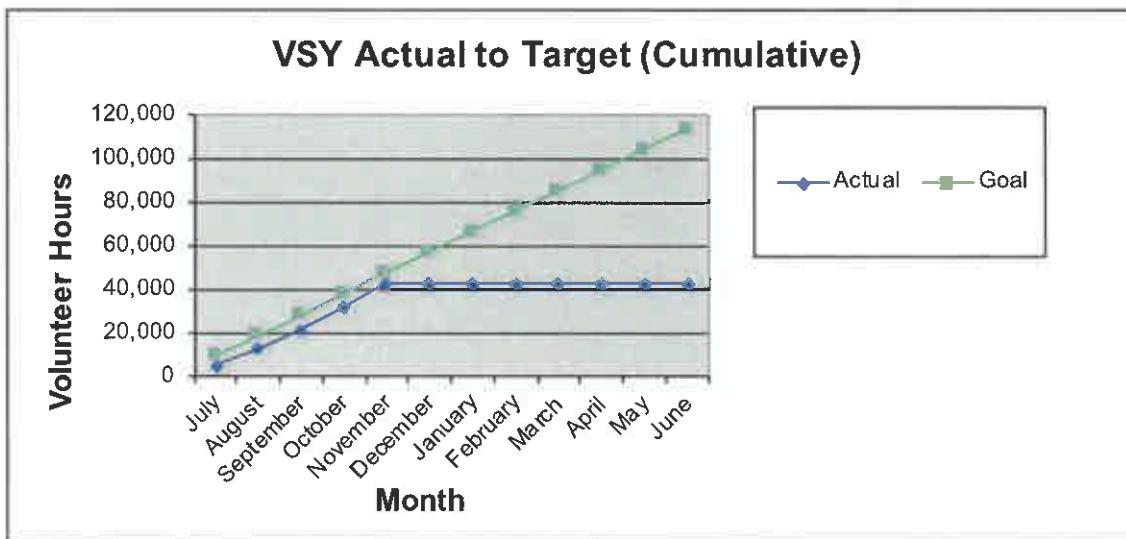
CURRENT AND PROPOSED ALLOCATIONS - TOTAL										3 Year Average Unspent Funds	
CURRENT PROGRAM/ADMINISTRATION											
PSA	Administration - ALL Funds - Federal and State			Proposed Allocations - updated			Current Allocations			Proposed Allocations	% Change
	Current Allocations	Proposed Allocations - updated Factor	Difference	Current Allocations	Proposed Allocations - updated Factor	Difference	Current Allocations	Proposed Allocations	Difference		
Area 1 Agency on Aging, Planning and Service Area 2 Area Agency on Aging	\$1,340,432	\$1,703,595	27%	\$214,894	\$339,660	\$124,766	58%	\$1,555,326	\$2,043,255	\$487,929	31.4%
Area 2 Area Agency on Aging	\$2,259,904	\$4,196,951	93%	\$216,120	\$470,885	\$194,765	71%	\$3,526,024	\$4,667,836	\$1,131,812	32.0%
Area 3 Chico Research Foundation	\$3,105,487	\$3,928,356	26%	\$285,057	\$456,749	\$171,692	60%	\$3,390,544	\$4,385,105	\$994,561	29.3%
Area 4 Agency on Aging	\$12,576,047	\$13,407,407	7%	\$1,016,477	\$955,630	\$60,847	-6%	\$13,592,524	\$14,363,037	\$770,513	5.7%
Area 5 County of Marin	\$1,530,087	\$1,402,088	-8%	\$289,365	\$323,792	\$34,427	12%	\$1,819,452	\$1,725,880	\$93,572	-5.1%
Area 6 County of San Francisco	\$5,316,294	\$4,826,239	-9%	\$491,031	\$468,839	\$22,192	-5%	\$5,807,325	\$5,285,078	\$612,247	-8.8%
Area 7 Contra Costa County	\$5,250,862	\$4,584,896	-13%	\$595,394	\$491,303	\$104,091	-17%	\$5,846,256	\$5,076,199	\$770,057	-13.2%
Area 8 County of San Mateo	\$3,859,678	\$3,295,795	-15%	\$464,725	\$423,457	\$41,268	-9%	\$4,324,403	\$3,719,252	\$605,151	-14.0%
Area 9 County of Alameda Area Agency on Aging	\$8,380,688	\$6,933,433	-14%	\$780,529	\$614,906	\$165,623	-21%	\$9,161,217	\$8,548,339	\$612,878	-7.6%
Area 10 County of Contra Costa	\$8,853,074	\$7,645,620	-14%	\$822,357	\$646,369	\$175,988	-21%	\$9,675,431	\$8,291,989	\$1,383,442	-14.3%
Area 11 County of San Joaquin	\$3,449,880	\$3,849,107	12%	\$382,532	\$452,578	\$70,046	18%	\$3,832,412	\$4,301,685	\$469,273	12.2%
Area 12 County of Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties	\$2,288,1945	\$3,393,415	42%	\$242,462	\$488,598	\$166,136	77%	\$2,624,407	\$3,822,073	\$1,197,666	45.6%
Area 13 County of Fresno	\$1,941,913	\$2,119,739	9%	\$281,072	\$151,562	\$30,490	29%	\$2,798,985	\$2,431,301	\$258,316	11.6%
Area 14 County of Madera Area Agency on Aging	\$5,689,246	\$7,012,465	23%	\$481,890	\$119,065	\$137,175	28%	\$6,171,136	\$7,631,530	\$1,460,394	23.7%
Area 15 County of Modesto Area Agency on Aging	\$3,045,276	\$3,541,231	16%	\$177,474	\$436,965	\$118,628	37%	\$3,363,023	\$3,977,606	\$614,583	18.3%
Area 16 County of Orange	\$1,264,020	\$926,904	-33%	\$166,430	\$273,049	\$106,619	64%	\$1,430,450	\$1,199,953	(\$230,497)	-16.1%
Area 17 Central Coast Commission for Senior Citizens	\$7,765,326	\$4,064,016	8%	\$425,457	\$463,889	\$38,432	9%	\$4,190,783	\$4,527,905	\$337,122	8.0%
Area 18 County of San Diego	\$3,733,560	\$3,605,027	-3%	\$460,314	\$439,732	\$20,582	-4%	\$4,193,974	\$4,044,756	\$349,115	-3.6%
Area 19 County of Los Angeles Workforce Development Agency	\$31,454,208	\$26,203,294	-17%	\$2,271,878	\$1,595,722	\$676,608	-30%	\$33,726,788	\$27,798,566	\$5,528,222	-17.6%
Area 20 County of San Bernardino Aging & Adult Svcs	\$9,457,194	\$9,976,249	5%	\$770,159	\$775,049	\$4,890	1%	\$10,227,353	\$10,751,298	\$523,945	5.1%
Area 21 County of Riverside County Office on Aging	\$10,763,478	\$11,327,716	5%	\$923,438	\$846,777	\$77,261	-8%	\$11,686,916	\$12,173,893	\$486,977	4.2%
Area 22 County of Orange Office on Aging	\$14,904,693	\$11,863,412	-22%	\$1,234,726	\$814,373	\$420,353	-32%	\$15,389,419	\$282,375	\$62,517,574	-17.2%
Area 23 County of San Diego	\$13,883,987	\$13,939,706	0%	\$1,266,002	\$983,445	\$282,357	-22%	\$15,149,989	\$14,923,351	\$226,638	-1.5%
Area 24 County of San Diego	\$1,329,006	\$1,294,356	-3%	\$205,524	\$318,122	\$112,598	55%	\$1,534,530	\$1,612,478	\$77,948	5.1%
Area 25 County of Los Angeles Department of Aging	\$18,328,995	\$18,858,432	22%	\$1,363,884	\$1,242,517	(\$121,367)	-9%	\$19,992,879	\$20,100,949	\$108,070	0.5%
Area 26 County of San Joaquin	\$1,573,569	\$2,293,305	46%	\$222,669	\$370,696	\$148,027	66%	\$1,796,238	\$2,664,001	\$867,763	48.3%
Area 27 County of Sonoma	\$2,626,965	\$3,479,183	32%	\$364,265	\$433,109	\$68,844	19%	\$2,991,230	\$3,912,292	\$921,062	30.8%
Area 28 County of San Luis Obispo	\$3,198,655	\$3,313,355	4%	\$318,699	\$424,382	\$15,683	12%	\$3,578,354	\$3,737,737	\$159,383	4.5%
Area 29 County of San Diego	\$1,404,976	\$2,342,222	67%	\$246,581	\$373,271	\$126,690	51%	\$1,651,557	\$2,715,493	\$1,063,936	64.4%
Area 30 County of El Dorado	\$2,411,256	\$2,734,475	13%	\$314,261	\$363,915	\$59,654	25%	\$2,725,517	\$3,128,390	\$302,873	14.8%
Area 31 County of San Luis Obispo	\$1,368,486	\$1,608,444	18%	\$223,569	\$334,651	\$111,082	50%	\$1,592,056	\$1,943,065	\$351,010	22.0%
Area 32 County of Fresno	\$2,142,500	\$2,555,712	19%	\$289,503	\$384,510	\$95,007	33%	\$2,432,003	\$2,940,282	\$508,279	20.9%
Area 33 County of Kern	\$4,000,183	\$4,857,277	21%	\$392,753	\$505,638	\$112,985	29%	\$4,392,936	\$5,362,915	\$969,979	22.1%
Area 34 County of Monterey	\$197,083,572	\$197,083,572	\$0	\$18,521,764	\$18,521,764	\$0	\$0	\$215,605,336	\$215,605,336	\$0	\$19,364,928

Project Name: Seniors Council Foster Grandparent Program

Grant Year: 7/1/25- 6/30/26

Month	Cumulative	Cumulative	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Annual	
	Hours	Hours	VSY	VSY	Hours	Vols.	FY 24-25	VSY
	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Active	Actuals	Goal
July	5,499	9,483	5.27	9.08	5,499	123	5,316	109
August	12,921	18,966	7.11	9.08	7,422	126	6,996	109
September	21,992	28,449	8.69	9.08	9,072	129	8,793	109
October	31,502	37,932	9.11	9.08	9,510	132	9,446	109
November	42,676	47,415	10.70	9.08	11,174	132	10,945	109
December	42,676	56,898	0.00	9.08			12,266	109
January	42,676	66,381	0.00	9.08			10,779	109
February	42,676	75,864	0.00	9.08			8,020	109
March	42,676	85,347	0.00	9.08			11,392	109
April	42,676	94,830	0.00	9.08			11,665	109
May	42,676	104,313	0.00	9.08			9,246	109
June	42,676	113,796	0.00	9.08			5,055	109
TOTAL			40.88		42,676		109,918	

Total VSYs
Achieved

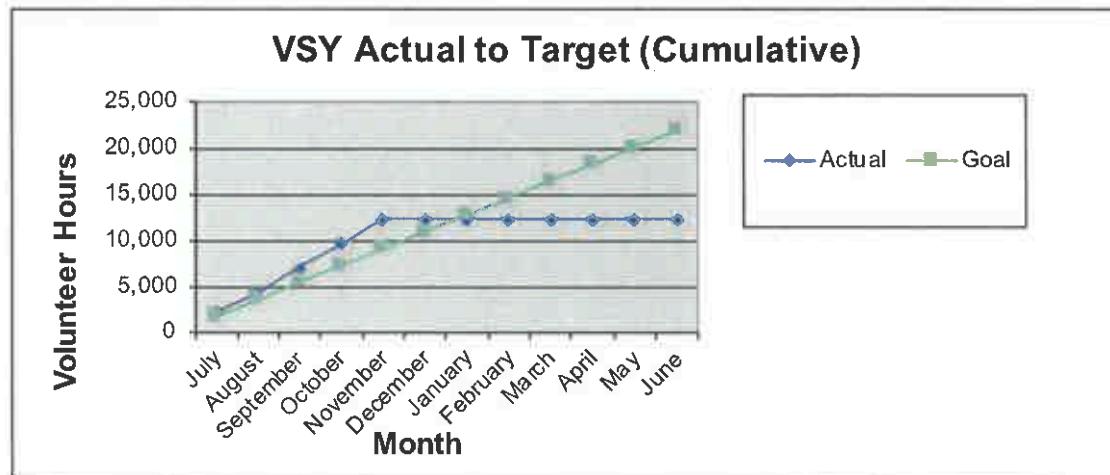


Project Name: Seniors Council Senior Companion Program

Grant Year: 7/1/25- 6/30/26

Month	Cumulative	Cumulative	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Annual	
	Hours Actual	Hours Goal	VSY Actual	VSY Goal	Hours Actual	Vols. Active	FY 24-25 Actuals	VSY Goal
July	2,283	1,827	2.19	1.75	2,283	30	1,837	21
August	4,405	3,654	2.03	1.75	2,122	30	1,608	21
September	7,016	5,481	2.50	1.75	2,612	31	1,909	21
October	9,731	7,308	2.60	1.75	2,715	34	2,055	21
November	12,333	9,135	2.49	1.75	2,602	34	2,504	21
December	12,333	10,962	0.00	1.75			2,614	21
January	12,333	12,789	0.00	1.75			2,159	21
February	12,333	14,616	0.00	1.75			1,643	21
March	12,333	16,443	0.00	1.75			1,989	21
April	12,333	18,270	0.00	1.75			1,585	21
May	12,333	20,097	0.00	1.75			1,959	21
June	12,333	21,924	0.00	1.75			1,688	21
TOTAL			11.81		12,333		23,547	

Total VSYs
Achieved





ADRC of San Benito County Staff Report – January 2026

The ADRC of San Benito County has finished up a very successful year of long term services and supports delivery to older adults, as well as community leadership and involvement in the growth and development of targeted services to help older adults, individuals living with disability, and caregivers find the person-centered counseling, navigation assistance, and enrollment supports needed to remain in their respective homes and communities for as long as is practical and safe. It was a year marked by growth, changes, and new responsibilities for ADRC direct services and management staff, much of which is still in process, and much of which is beginning to deliver real improvements and results.

The ADRC remained open and providing services during the last two weeks of December, and except for organizationally observed Holidays, was otherwise operating as usual despite most Seniors Council employees and programs being closed from December 22nd to January 2nd. Thank you to Leanne Oliveira and Crystal Ortiz for covering program service hours there at the Pauline Valdivia Memorial Community Center (PVMCC) during the Holiday closure; while perhaps a bit slower than some other times of the year, the two were still able to meet with and help a number of individuals with their questions, as well as their service and support needs.

As stated in earlier reports, the move back to the PVMCC has been a tremendous success, but it has also posed some challenges in meeting the site staffing needs given the ADRC's other mandated responsibilities, such as providing communitywide outreach about ADRC services, building up and supporting the local Long Term Services & Supports (LTSS) No Wrong Door (NWD) provider network, and working to provide application and enrollment assistance to those who need it. The ADRC was able to hire a new Program Coordinator, Crystal Ortiz, in early September of 2025, which has enabled the ADRC to be able to respond to the increasing services and staffing demands at the new-old location, and in order to provide on-going support and back-up for Leanne Oliveira. This additional position has helped tremendously, but with increasingly complex consumer needs, as well as having put on hold several other efforts meant to expand and improve program services, program staff and ADRC leadership are looking at ways to maintain the level of service currently being delivered at the PVMCC, while also returning to a larger communitywide focus, addressing the need to update our local San Benito County Aging & Disability Resources Directory, and providing additional awareness and outreach activity support.

Second quarter FY25/26 ADRC Program Service Data Reporting is currently underway, with a due date to CDA of January 30, 2026. No Wrong Door (NWD) Network partners are being encouraged to provide data of the services they delivered to consumers in San Benito County at their earliest convenience, so as to provide time for that data to be aggregated and a report completed by the deadline. As a reminder, ADRC staff do not claim these data and these delivered services as their own, but instead use the reported data to shine a bright light on the efforts of locally-focused programs and organizations -- as a part of the NWD Network -- to help meet the service needs of older adults, individuals living with disability, and caregivers, and to help them navigate complex service systems to access the support they need to live safely and successfully in their community of choice. The ADRC is by definition our local

collaborative of NWD service providers working in a coordinated and communicative manner, and for the benefit of consumers, as well as those participating programs and organizations.

A new player, or multiple players, in the area of local service provision are the Enhanced Care Management providers who are now operating and providing consumer service supports to MediCal and dual-eligible consumers. There are now thirty different providers of ECM in San Benito County, working in partnership with the Central Coast Alliance for Health, to provide a host of supports to those MediCal managed care members with multiple complex health conditions not easily addressed and requiring engagement with several delivery systems to minimize the risk of condition-related hospitalization or re-hospitalization.

According to the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), “Enhanced Care Management is a statewide Medi-Cal benefit available to select members with complex needs. Enrolled members receive comprehensive care management from a single lead care manager who coordinates all their health and health-related care, including physical, mental, and dental care, and social services. Enhanced Care Management makes it easier for members to get the right care at the right time in the right setting, and receive comprehensive care that goes beyond the doctor’s office or hospital.” The ECM effort is a response to State data indicating that more than half of Medi-Cal spending is attributed to the **5 percent of members with the highest-cost needs**. The ADRC is excited to be able to help eligible consumers access an ECM provider of services, but is also a bit wary given the large number of providers - - many of them unknown to ADRC staff - - and is currently working on standardizing referral protocols to provide a comprehensive listing of ECM providers to consumers, while also limiting referrals for such assistance to fellow non-profit service providers of ECM.

Finally, and as a nod to an important aspect of ADRC work highlighted in our year-end review, inclusive and diverse communities make for stronger individuals and families and more resiliency for all, and the ADRC is proud to be an on-going and forward-looking champion of such an inclusive, positive, and strengths-based approach to addressing both individual and community needs. Additionally, and as an on-going focus of the ADRC in 2026, we will continue to advance the connection and further the collaborative work being done between the ADRC of San Benito County and the San Benito Connect – Volunteer Services Development Program, as this partnership benefits both programs. Volunteers are at the core of community-based services provision, while at the same time, volunteerism represents an incredible opportunity for older adults and those living with disability to engage and serve others in need, thus increasing their own feelings of self-worth and self-determination.

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Guest Commentary | A Funding Freeze Would Put Seniors at Risk—Congress Must Act

By **SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL**

PUBLISHED: January 7, 2026 at 3:39 PM PST

By **Raymon Cancino**

As the holiday season comes to a close, we are left with a clear reminder — across faiths, cultures and traditions — of what matters most: caring for one another, ensuring no one is left behind, and acting with compassion toward those who are most vulnerable. During the holidays, generosity rises and communities come together. The question now is whether that spirit endures when the decorations come down.

We saw this sense of shared responsibility recently in the broad, bipartisan support for nutrition programs like SNAP. As a nation, we understand that food security is foundational. Yet there is a troubling disconnect between that shared value and the reality facing older adults — one that becomes painfully clear as the country approaches Jan. 30, when the current continuing resolution (CR) approved by Congress is set to expire and funding for Meals on Wheels programs across the nation will pause indefinitely.

Older adults — many living alone, on fixed incomes, and facing serious health challenges — have once again been left out of critical federal funding decisions. The current CR only releases funds to states from September through January. If Congress fails to act by Jan. 30, federal funds will be frozen, leaving states unable to distribute resources to local programs that serve seniors, including Meals on Wheels.

Meals on Wheels is often misunderstood as simply a meal delivery program. In reality, it is a lifeline. It provides daily nutrition, regular wellness checks and human connection for seniors who may otherwise be isolated. When funding is interrupted, seniors do not just lose a meal, they lose stability, safety, and, in many cases, their ability to remain in their own homes.

The impact in California is especially severe. Sixty-two percent of Meals on Wheels programs in our state currently have waitlists, nearly double the national average, where one in three programs report the same. Programs are already struggling to meet demand, even before the possibility of federal funds being frozen — funding that represents, on average, nearly 60% of support for most programs.

Earlier this year, one in five Meals on Wheels providers statewide reported they would be forced to pause services if a government shutdown lasted longer than 30 days. On average, programs said they could sustain operations for just 62 days under those conditions.

Behind these numbers is a senior sitting at a kitchen table, wondering how long their food will last and whether help will arrive in time.

Federal funding for Meals on Wheels has remained stagnant for years, even as food costs and fuel prices rise, workforce shortages worsen, and our population ages rapidly. Across California, the number of adults age 65 and older is projected to nearly double between 2010 and 2030, reshaping the state as older adults come to outnumber children.

Nowhere is this shift more pronounced than in Santa Cruz County, the fastest-aging county in the state. Between 2010 and 2020, the number of residents ages 65–84 grew by 81% locally, compared to about 40% statewide, and the county reached the milestone where older adults outnumber children in 2015 — six years earlier than California as a whole. By 2030, nearly 30% of Santa Cruz County residents will be age 60 or older, compared to one in four statewide, intensifying demand for nutrition and supportive services that help older adults remain healthy, independent and connected.

All of this has stretched local programs to their limits. Avoiding harm requires not only continuing funding beyond Jan. 30, but meaningful investment that reflects today's realities and the demographic future already underway.

This should not be a partisan issue. Hunger does not wait for compromise. Isolation does not pause for negotiations. Seniors should not bear the cost of political inaction.

The holiday season may be behind us, but our responsibility is not. Supporting seniors and supporting SNAP are not competing priorities.

They are unified expressions of our shared belief that every person deserves dignity, nourishment and care at every stage of life. Jan. 30 is approaching quickly.

Congress must act to ensure Meals on Wheels funding continues and grows. Our values demand it, and seniors cannot wait.

Raymon Cancino is the CEO of Community Bridges, the leading human services nonprofit on California's Central Coast serving more than 20,000 children, families and seniors each year.

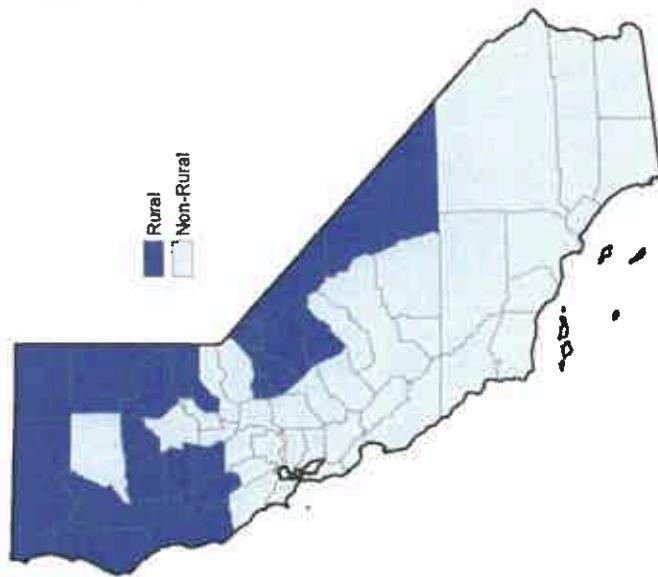
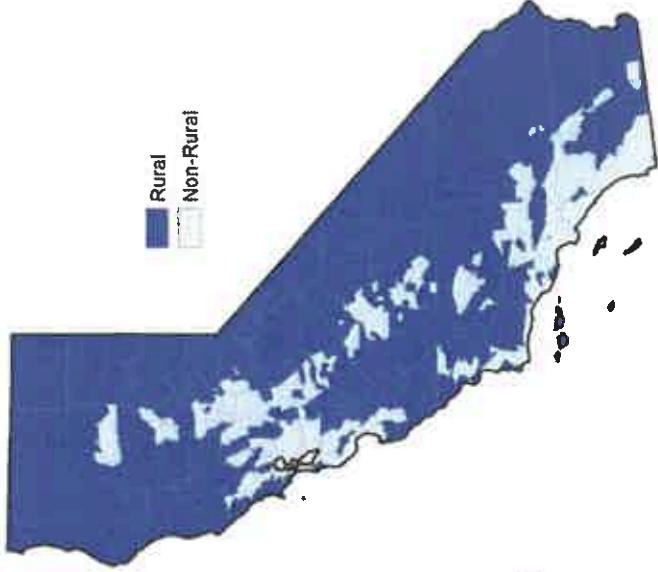
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Where is Rural California?

It depends how you define rural!

National Center for Health Statistics Urban-Rural Classification Scheme for Counties

Health Resources Services Administration, Rural Areas by Census Tract



- Using **county-level definitions** (NCHS 2023), only **21 of California's 58 counties are classified as rural.**
- Using **census tract definitions** (HRSA 2025), **57 of 58 counties include rural areas.**