



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, February 19, 2026

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)

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81931049538>

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. Approve minutes of the January 2026 Board Meeting
- 10:15 6. Committee Reports
- A. Finance Committee
 - B. Advocacy Committee

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

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MONTEREY, SAN BENITO, & SANTA CRUZ COUNTIES & YOUR PRIVATE DONATIONS

- C. Executive Committee
- D. Nominating & Board Development

- 11:05 7. Executive Director's Report
 - A. Agency Operations
 - B. SB 1249 & CDA's 2030 Plan
 - C. Master Plan for Aging Local Playbooks

- 11:20 8. Program Reports (written)
 - A. Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Program
 - B. Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)
 - C. Volunteer Coordination Project
 - D. Project SCOUT
 - E. AAA Updates

- 11:30 9. Presentation of 2024-25 Independent Financial Audit
Krystal Weaver, CPA, Walters and Kondrasheff

- 11:55 10. Miscellaneous Correspondence & Other Items

- 12 Noon 11. Adjourn

Next Meeting:

*10 am to 12 Noon
Thursday, March 19, 2026*

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)

January 15, 2026

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tami Aviles (President); Wayne Norton (Vice-President); Jane Schwickerath (Treasurer); Pam Arnsberger; Mickie Luna; Antonio Rivas; Mark Trabing (Secretary)

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Gwen Yeo; Lisa Berkowitz

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)

1. Welcome, Call to Order and Introductions

Meeting was called to order at 10:03 AM. Tami shared an invocation for a good 2026. Introductions were skipped.

2. Additions & Deletions to the Agenda

None.

3. Receive Announcements from Board Members

Wayne shared that Mary Velasquez group has moved their meetings to the VFW hall.

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

None present.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Wayne noted that he is listed as present at the joint meeting although he did not attend. Tami noted that in Item 5, Consent Agenda, Jane made the motion and not Gwen. Jane noted that Cathy had already resigned from the Board by this meeting.

MOTION, ARNSBERGER/SCWICKERATH, to approve minutes of December 2025 Board Meeting. PASSED.

5-1

6. Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee – No meeting in January.
2. Advocacy Committee – Tami and Wayne will co-chair position.
 - a. Implementing 2025-26 Priorities – Recommitting to meeting with elected officials as a priority and reviewed assignments. Extensive discussion of SB 1249.
 - b. Outreach & Strategic Elected Visits – Communicate with Wayne or Tami if interested.
3. Executive Committee – Will be voting on new Board additions today. Tami thanked staff and providers for joint annual meeting. From yesterday's Advisory Council meeting, Clay relayed that Mindy Sotelo and other electeds missed attending the JAM due to schedule conflicts. They discussed suggestions for alternative presentation opportunities but no final decision yet. Board members were supportive of additional presentation opportunities. Wayne suggested holding events in SBC for balance. Need for new, accessible location(s).
4. Nominating & Board Development – Pam reported on meetings with candidates.
 - a. Consider Applications of Connie Padron, Mary Lou McKenney – Board members reported positive impressions of both candidates.
MOTION, ARNSBERGER/RIVAS, to approve application of Mary Lou McKenney. **PASSED.**
MOTION, TRABING/LUNA, to approve application of Connie Padron. **PASSED.**
Mark will notify the new Board members.
 - b. Board Orientation Training – Clay will send Doodle poll to choose date.

7. Executive Director's Report

1. Agency Operations – CDA ending ability of ADRC to roll-over unspent funds, will instead be redistributed.
2. SB 1249 & CDA's 2030 Plan – First step in proposed process is redrawing of PSA maps, submitted to CDA. RFP to run the PSA will occur after. Clay reported on status of several struggling PSAs to watch. Latest Intrastate Funding Formula (IFF) draft strongly favors rural PSAs; Seniors Council would now gain \$260,000. LA County etc. likely to challenge in court. Total shifts are about \$14 million; 3-year average of unspent funds is \$19 million. Clay suggests that unspent (non-federal) funds be reclaimed and used to cover changes. Discussion of data-collection and submission challenges for CDA 'core' services reporting.
3. Master Plan for Aging Local Playbooks – Clay recapped discussion of how to get presentation in front of more people; already pending for Santa Cruz Seniors Commission and EDTAC. Antonio will provide contact and scheduling info for Watsonville Senior Commission. Potential opportunity to present to Supervisors, others, as May activities for Older Americans Month. Mindy Sotelo and Sandy Brown are running outreach. Jane will be replacing Wayne on Santa Cruz County MPA Governance Body. ARPA closeout on 7-5 shows we underspent by only a single dollar.

8. Program Reports (written)

1. *Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Program*
2. *Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)* – Wayne asked about Enhanced Care Management (ECM): a new State effort to provide additional assistance to people who meet certain diagnostic and usage criteria.
3. *Volunteer Coordination Project*
4. *Project SCOUT* – Volunteer tax preparer training on Jan 24, Tami has signed up. Tacos and Taxes set for Feb. 27th, 1-4 PM at PVMCC.

5-2

9. Miscellaneous Correspondence & Other Items

Antonio and Mickie reported on tentative CSL proposals:

- Expand density bonus law to include senior care
- Create state assisted living voucher program
- Establish CA assisted living tax credit
- Fund small-home and intergenerational housing
- Require local governments to zone for senior care facilities
- Create state revolving loan fund for senior housing

Hilary reported that Seniors Council is undergoing the Single Audit this month, will be reported in March.

Clay applauded Ray's op-ed piece in the Sentinel.

Clay noted that the current federal Continuing Resolution ends Jan. 30, very uncertain what may happen if another shutdown occurs.

Wayne would like to add updates from meal service providers on future agenda. Patty noted that Martha's Kitchen and Community Bridges both have waiting lists for meals. Group agreed that this topic needs to be part of conversations with electeds.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 PM

Minutes prepared by: Zachary Johnson

Next Meeting: February 19, 2026 | 10 a.m. – 12 Noon

BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESOLUTION TO AMEND A PLAN

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Seniors Council of Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties (the Employer) has assembled in a meeting;

WHEREAS, the Employer established the 403(b) Thrift Plan (the Plan) to provide retirement benefits for employees of the Employer; and

WHEREAS, the Employer has the right to amend the Plan pursuant to the provisions of the Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1) This attached Plan Amendment is approved;
- 2) All other provisions and conditions of the Plan remain unchanged; and
- 3) The authorized representative is hereby directed to take such further action as may be necessary, appropriate or advisable to effectuate the foregoing resolutions.

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing resolutions were duly adopted by the Board of Directors at the meeting referenced herein, and that the documents attached are the true copies of the documents referenced in those resolutions.

Secretary of Board / Board President

Date

Amendment to the 403(b) Thrift Plan

of

Seniors Council of Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties

In accordance with the provisions of the Plan, the Employer hereby amends its Plan, effective as of March 1, 2026, as follows:

(1) **Section 1.12** is added to read as follows:

1.12 DEFAULT INVESTMENT ALTERNATIVE

Any contributions made on behalf of a Participant for which no investment direction is in effect shall be allocated to the following investment account, subject to the Participant's right to transfer those funds in accordance with Plan Section 6.3 and to change the allocation of future contributions in accordance with Plan Section 6.1:

(Select only one)

- (a) Mutual of America Composite Fund.
- (b) Fidelity VIP Asset Manager Portfolio.
- (c) Calvert VP SRI Balanced Portfolio.
- (d) Mutual of America Retirement Funds. Any amount allocated for a Participant or beneficiary under this alternative shall be placed in the Retirement Fund appropriate to their age at the time of allocation.

**Seniors Council of Santa Cruz and San Benito
Counties**

By: _____

Date: _____

Seniors Council of Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties

Agency Wide Budget vs. Actual

July through December 2025

	Jul - Dec 25	YTD Budget	\$ Over Budget	Annual Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
PRIOR YEAR RELEASE FROM RESTRIC	25,000.00			
CFL				
Monitoring	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total CFL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRANTS REC'D (Income)	2,575,451.00	2,295,983.16	279,467.84	4,475,452.45
LOCAL MATCH RECEIVED-JURIS.				
City of Capitola	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
City of Hollister	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,500.00
County of San Benito	0.00	0.00	0.00	33,665.26
County of Santa Cruz	83,312.92	77,375.04	5,937.88	154,750.00
LOCAL MATCH RECEIVED-JURIS. - Other	0.00			
Total LOCAL MATCH RECEIVED-JURIS.	88,312.92	82,375.04	5,937.88	202,915.26
LOCAL MATCH RECEIVED - OTHER				
FOUNDATIONS				
Newman's Own Foundation	10,000.00			
Golden State Opp Foundation	0.00	20,000.00	-20,000.00	30,000.00
NANCY BUCK RANSOM FOUNDATION	0.00	10,000.00	-10,000.00	10,000.00
SANTA CRUZ COMMUNITY CREDIT UNI	0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00	5,000.00
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION - San Beni	23,400.00	13,750.00	9,650.00	42,800.00
HARDEN FOUNDATION	0.00	25,000.00	-25,000.00	25,000.00
FOUNDATIONS - Other	200.00	124,783.32	-124,583.32	185,567.24
Total FOUNDATIONS	33,600.00	198,533.32	-164,933.32	298,367.24
MISC CASH DONATIONS	5,211.15	0.00	5,211.15	7,819.00
MISC VOL RECOGNITION	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
UNITED WAY				
Monterey County	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Santa Cruz County	0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00	5,000.00
UNITED WAY - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total UNITED WAY	0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00	5,000.00
Total LOCAL MATCH RECEIVED - OTHER	38,811.15	203,533.32	-164,722.17	311,186.24
OTHER INCOME				
FGP / SCP 5310	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Seniors Council Admin	3,724.00	34,434.00	-30,710.00	68,868.00
REFUNDS & DEPOSITS RETURNED	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MISC INCOME	1,325.17	0.00	1,325.17	5,000.00
OTHER INCOME - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total OTHER INCOME	5,049.17	34,434.00	-29,384.83	73,868.00
SHARE OF COSTS RECEIVED	16,226.94	14,000.00	2,226.94	28,000.00
Total Income	2,748,851.18	2,630,325.52	118,525.66	5,091,421.95
Gross Profit	2,748,851.18	2,630,325.52	118,525.66	5,091,421.95
Expense				
RECORDS SHREDDING	295.90	125.00	170.90	175.00

5.1.3-1

Seniors Council of Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties

Agency Wide Budget vs. Actual

July through December 2025

	Jul - Dec 25	YTD Budget	\$ Over Budget	Annual Budget
INCONVENIENCE FEES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PURCHASED FALLS PREVENTION SERV				
EQUIPMENT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PURCHASED FALLS PREVENTION SERV - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total PURCHASED FALLS PREVENTION SERV	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
OFFICE FURNITURE	2,482.27	1,537.00	945.27	2,037.00
WEBSITE	149.70	0.00	149.70	0.00
Bank Service Charges	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MEETING EXPENSE	2,627.61	1,488.85	1,138.76	2,500.03
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	3,724.00	39,084.00	-35,360.00	78,168.00
Reconciliation Discrepancies	2.20	0.00	2.20	0.00
RETURN OF GRANT FUNDS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ADVERTISING & PROMOTION	3,460.85	5,143.84	-1,682.99	7,822.00
BANK FEES	137.48	306.16	-168.68	480.00
CONTRACTED SERVICES				
SUB-CONTRACTOR	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
VENDORS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ADVERTISING	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
AUDIT	11,839.40	21,600.74	-9,761.34	28,650.92
CASUAL LABOR	220.00	250.00	-30.00	1,150.00
CONSULTANTS	14,725.00	25,073.00	-10,348.00	40,050.00
SYNERGY	939.29	0.00	939.29	9,575.70
TRANSLATION	4,846.40	4,840.04	6.36	11,600.00
Total CONTRACTED SERVICES	32,570.09	51,763.78	-19,193.69	91,026.62
CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK	980.00	1,250.08	-270.08	2,500.00
DISASTER KIT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ELECTRONIC FILING	683.10	983.38	-300.28	2,500.00
EQUIPMENT				
EQUIPMENT- EXPENDABLE	5,444.67	1,500.00	3,944.67	1,500.00
EQUIPMENT RENTAL				
MEDICAL GUARDIAN				
Mini Guardian	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MG Home	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MG Classic	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MG Active	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total MEDICAL GUARDIAN	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
EQUIPMENT RENTAL - Other	5,353.27	5,720.97	-367.70	11,429.97
Total EQUIPMENT RENTAL	5,353.27	5,720.97	-367.70	11,429.97
Total EQUIPMENT	10,797.94	7,220.97	3,576.97	12,929.97
FEES	105.00	0.00	105.00	0.00
INSURANCE	11,830.20	6,201.42	5,628.78	9,846.53
MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS	20,556.16	13,949.53	6,606.63	32,663.78
MEALS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MEMBERSHIPS	10,436.93	3,520.00	6,916.93	6,349.08

5.1.3-2

Seniors Council of Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties

Agency Wide Budget vs. Actual

July through December 2025

	Jul - Dec 25	YTD Budget	\$ Over Budget	Annual Budget
OFFICE SUPPLIES	19,798.02	14,990.07	4,807.95	27,648.89
PERSONNEL				
BENEFITS				
403b	29,442.23	29,503.66	-61.43	56,012.56
HEALTH INSURANCE	106,466.75	127,720.98	-21,254.23	231,657.66
WORKERS COMP INSURANCE	6,771.00	6,656.28	114.72	7,493.76
BENEFITS - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total BENEFITS	142,679.98	163,880.92	-21,200.94	295,163.98
PAYROLL - WAGES				
Payroll Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
P/R TAX EXPENSE	46,739.03	49,235.42	-2,496.39	97,038.33
PAYROLL - WAGES - Other	600,453.52	567,895.73	32,557.79	1,125,680.21
Total PAYROLL - WAGES	647,192.55	617,131.15	30,061.40	1,222,718.54
Total PERSONNEL	789,872.53	781,012.07	8,860.46	1,517,882.52
POSTAGE	1,912.14	1,881.66	30.48	3,813.12
PRINTING & REPRODUCTION	2,049.78	6,323.38	-4,273.60	12,023.41
SPACE COSTS				
DEPOSIT	0.00			-220.00
JANITORIAL	2,860.00	2,166.66	693.34	4,497.66
OFFICE RENT	48,909.72	42,716.87	6,192.85	84,190.70
STORAGE RENT	919.96	1,553.34	-633.38	3,519.46
TRAINING FACILITIES	0.00	400.00	-400.00	400.00
UTILITIES	6,487.77	6,890.78	-403.01	12,814.74
Total SPACE COSTS	59,177.45	53,727.65	5,449.80	105,202.56
STAFF RECOGNITION	0.00	702.28	-702.28	1,200.00
SUBSCRIPTIONS & PUBLICATIONS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TELEPHONE	9,396.79	9,608.36	-211.57	18,852.82
TOTAL GRANTS PAID (Expense)				
FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROG	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRANTS PAID (Expense)	1,423,649.00	1,221,344.80	202,304.20	2,417,072.00
GRANT RELATED INCOME (Expense)	89,095.00	81,656.12	7,438.88	163,313.00
MATCH CASH	299,605.00	854,707.56	-555,102.56	1,709,415.00
MATCH IN-KIND	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
NON MATCH CASH	87,734.00	59,663.04	28,070.96	116,658.00
NON MATCH IN-KIND	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LESS MATCH	-476,434.00	-994,693.04	518,259.04	-1,989,386.00
TOTAL GRANTS PAID (Expense) - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total TOTAL GRANTS PAID (Expense)	1,423,649.00	1,222,678.48	200,970.52	2,417,072.00
TRAINING				
FEES	464.08	7,000.00	-6,535.92	7,000.00
LODGING	1,419.97	0.00	1,419.97	0.00
MEALS	344.00	0.00	344.00	0.00
TRAINING - Other	710.00	0.00	710.00	0.00
Total TRAINING	2,938.05	7,000.00	-4,061.95	7,000.00

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Agency Wide Budget vs. Actual

July through December 2025

	Jul - Dec 25	YTD Budget	\$ Over Budget	Annual Budget
TRAVEL-STAFF				
TRAVEL-LOCAL	7,311.44	6,597.35	714.09	14,245.74
TRAVEL-LONG DISTANCE	449.34	3,700.00	-3,250.66	3,700.00
Total TRAVEL-STAFF	7,760.78	10,297.35	-2,536.57	17,945.74
VOLUNTEERS				
RECRUITMENT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
OTHER VOL COSTS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
INSURANCE	1,738.13	1,390.00	348.13	1,390.00
MEALS	29,073.54	34,042.54	-4,969.00	68,185.00
PHYSICAL EXAMS	70.00	700.00	-630.00	850.00
RECOGNITION	978.24	5,040.97	-4,062.73	8,350.00
STIPENDS				
TEMPORARY ALLOWANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
COORDINATORS	0.00	500.02	-500.02	1,000.00
TAX ASSISTORS	0.00	1,000.04	-1,000.04	4,400.00
STIPENDS - Other	289,823.00	268,940.02	20,882.98	537,880.00
Total STIPENDS	289,823.00	270,440.08	19,382.92	543,280.00
TRAINING	1,126.00	0.00	1,126.00	0.00
TRAVEL	51,955.45	65,163.58	-13,208.13	130,327.00
UNIFORMS	0.00	840.00	-840.00	5,400.00
Total VOLUNTEERS	374,764.36	377,617.17	-2,852.81	757,782.00
Total Expense	2,792,158.33	2,618,412.48	173,745.85	5,135,421.07
Net Ordinary Income	-43,307.15	11,913.04	-55,220.19	-43,999.12
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
INTEREST INCOME	439.44	424.78	14.66	900.00
Total Other Income	439.44	424.78	14.66	900.00
Other Expense				
Penalties	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
BAD DEBT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Other Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net Other Income	439.44	424.78	14.66	900.00
Net Income	-42,867.71	12,337.82	-55,205.53	-43,099.12

Reserves as of 6/30/24 624,085

5.1.3-4



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Date: 2-13-26

To: Seniors Council Board of Directors, AAA Advisory Council

From: Clay Kempf, Executive Director

RE: Advocacy Committee Report

This month's Advocacy Committee discussion focuses on our ongoing efforts to meet with local electeds to discuss our priority issues, including Master Plan on Aging Local Playbook implementation, the threats of SB 1249 implementation, and, as always, growing needs among the rapidly growing senior population.

We also discussed the impacts of ICE and Department of Homeland Security on our programs and those we serve. After lengthy discussion, we are putting together training sessions to help prepare staff in the event of an ICE or DHS encounter.

Additionally, we discussed the California Association of Area Agencies on Aging's (C4A) Budget Augmentation request. C4A is seeking a downpayment of \$52.2 million per year in ongoing funds to restore previous cuts and continue services being lost as COVID funds sunset, or, in the case of Caregiver Support, provide never-funded mandatory state match to Federal Family Caregiver Support Program funding. Caregiver Support has been identified by the Department of Aging as a "Core AAA" Program - despite the lack of any CDA-funding.

C4A is recommending the funds be distributed with *\$26.1 million allocated for Nutrition, \$15.66 million for Supportive Services, and \$10.44 for Caregiver Support.*

5.2-1



AREA AGENCY ON AGING
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Navigating the San Benito County Senior & Disability Services Network

Date: 2-12-26

To: Seniors Council Board of Directors, AAA Advisory Council

From: Clay Kempf, Executive Director

RE: Executive Director's February Report

AGENCY OPERATIONS & FUNDING

Funding for the Older Americans Act and AmeriCorps was passed, approved, signed into law during the past month, to the tremendous relief of our staff and contracted service providers. Funding remained the same in most categories, with a slight 1% increase here and there.

While flat funding is great news compared to the cuts contained in the original Trump Administration Budget, flat funding does mean we'll experience about a 3% decrease in the services we can provide, due to inflation. In our PSA alone, that equates to over 5,100 fewer meals for seniors.

Budgets within our own agency remain problematic. The budget adopted at the beginning of the year was balanced based on each program generating additional review during the current year. While some progress was made, we continue to be short of the funds needed to support our operations. Program Directors who have failed to meet these goals are now charged with reducing costs to make up the difference. Details and discussions continue internally, and more information will be provided as action plans develop.

Program Directors have been holding regular meetings of a new Resource Development Committee, and we are now asking Board members to join and assist in the effort. The Committee will be meeting on the first Tuesday of each month from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

The field work for our 2024-25 Independent Financial Audit has been completed, and Krystal Weaver will attend our meeting to distribute and review the audit results.

7.1-1

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

CDA continues to chug along with their California 2030 plans with very little interactive dialogue with the AAA network. CDA now only attends one out of three California Association of Area Agencies on Aging's (C4A) monthly meetings, and they have cancelled the fiscal/operations meetings with AAA staff & leadership. Typically attended by 125-150 AAA staff each month, the fiscal/ops meetings had deteriorated into questions needing to be submitted in advance of the meeting with answers read from a heavily vetted scrip. Live questions usually resulted in "we'll-have-to-get-back-to-you" responses. Despite the impressive attendance, the peers that I have spoken with generally feel the meetings were not productive.

CDA's staff are well-meaning and caring about older adults, but their direction appears to be to increase accountability, collect more data, publicize AAA shortcomings, and homogenize statewide services. IMO, efforts would be better spent utilizing existing data; addressing systemic shortcomings (e.g. failing state data tools), streamlining operations (not every funding augmentation should require separate contracts and reports; integrate them), highlight shrinking funding, and tell positive stories of miraculous work being done by underfunded organizations.

CDA's priorities and timeline for implement their 2030 plan remain the same to my knowledge, and still include:

- 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.

Timeline: The tentative schedule for CDA to adopt these goals remains unchanged

- 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

The latest version of the **Intrastate Funding Formula** is also unchanged from last month. The current formula is a 180-degree turn from what was originally presented as our PSA goes from a funding ***decrease of \$234,336 to an increase of \$258,316 per year.***

7.1-2

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 and required state match, but they had discretion in how all other 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. CDA has indicated they prefer to make all funds, including the state overmatch, subject to federal approval.

Meanwhile, the makeup of existing AAAs is undergoing various changes. The **AAA of Ventura County**, operated directly by the County of Ventura, has announced they are giving up their AAA designation, primarily because the cost of running the program significantly exceeds available funding, and they can no longer bear the financial burden.

The non-profit **AAA of Santa Barbara & San Luis Obispo Counties** (like us, they are a two-county AAA) has been under duress, and CDA was in the process of de-designating them for poor performance. The non-profit informed CDA two weeks ago that they are voluntarily giving up their AAA designation. It's unclear as to whether the future boundaries of that AAA will remain the same, or if they'll be split into two parts, or combined with other organizations.

Sadly, the ADRCs (Aging & Disability Resource Connection) in these areas is being dismantled by CDA as a result of these changes. By all reports, it is a high-performing ADRC, but the CDA is citing that regulations require ADRCs to be a AAA/ILC (Independent Living Center) partnership, and if one of the partners changes, the ADRC designation is no longer valid. Hundreds of thousands of dollars of service will be lost as a result, and any future ADRC designation will have to start over from scratch, according to CDA.

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 had very productive Local Playbook workgroups meetings this month, and we were pleased to hear about continued progress in both counties towards achieving some of our local goals.

We're scheduled to make presentations about the Local Playbook on February 17 to the Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission, and have a couple temporary dates with the Community Foundation for San Benito County's Senior Planning Committee to do the same. Even more exciting, the idea of public presentations before elected bodies was embraced by the AAA Advisory Council last month, and we're in the process of working with them to set up presentations as part of the Older Americans Month activities in May. Britt, Corey, Zach and I are all able to make presentations in the event that we end up double-booked or unavailable for other reasons.

The Santa Cruz County Master Plan for Aging & Aging Friendly Communities Governance Committee hasn't had a quarterly meeting since our Board & Advisory Council met last month, so there is nothing new to report there. 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. We'll continue to suggest the overview be part of the agenda.

Meanwhile, the Aging and Long Term Care Commission of San Benito County continues to be the oversight committee for the San Benito County Playbook, and includes the item as a standing report at their monthly meetings. Britt, Corey and I share pertinent information at each meeting.

CHANGE IN OUR 403(B) RETIREMENT PLAN

We are asking for a Board Resolution to make an administrative change to our 403b Retirement Plans. Simply put, we need to have the authority to assign retirement funds to a default account in the event when an employee fails to make a choice. The employee can always change their funds to a different account if they so choose.

SERVICE PROVIDER PROGRESS REPORT & CSL ELECTIONS

Included in your packets is a report regarding our contracted service providers and their progress towards meeting the annual goals in their contracts. Internally, we also track the program expenditures. Those aren't included here in part because providers use a variety of matching funds to deliver services, and the timing of their spending is often adjusted to match the timing of funds received, including those that come from us. As a result, spending reports are often misleading if presented in a chart.

Patty Talbott also reports on the upcoming elections for the California Senior Legislature. Both CSL Senator Mickie Luna and CSL Assemblyman Antonio Rivas have indicated they intend to run again.

Congress Releases Final FY 2026 Funding Package, Wins for the Aging Network!

Snapshot

(A 30-second read for busy people)

- Yesterday, Congress released a bipartisan, bicameral three-bill FY 2026 funding package that included Labor/HHS appropriations.
- Almost all OAA programs were level funded, with increases to OAA Title III B Supportive Services and Title VI Native American Aging programs, which were USAging priorities.
- The House is expected to vote on final passage of the minibus later this week followed by a vote in the Senate next week with the goal of getting the bill to the President's desk for him to sign it into law before January 30.
- For full details on the Labor/HHS levels, see [**USAging's updated appropriations chart**](#).

Yesterday, Congressional leaders released a bipartisan, bicameral FY 2026 funding package covering most of the federal government, including the Department of Labor and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), ahead of the January 30 deadline. The deal is the result of negotiations between appropriations leaders in the two months since Congress ended the longest government shutdown in U.S. history. HHS would be funded at nearly \$117 billion, a \$210-million increase.

In a win for the Aging Network and USAging's policy priorities, the package included modest increases for two of

our three top Older Americans Act (OAA) appropriations priorities—Title III B Supportive Services and Title VI Native American Aging Programs! Our third priority, the Title III E National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP), also received an increase, but the added dollars were directed by Congress for demonstrations related to the National Family Caregiver Strategy and won't be a part of III E formula grants. We're also pleased that all of the other OAA programs at HHS, including the rest of Title III were protected from cuts—a key part of our collective advocacy over the past year.

Other programs that are critical to USAging members' work to support older adults also were protected, including the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the AmeriCorps senior volunteer programs. While the Department of Labor's OAA program, Title V Senior Community Service Program (SCSEP), received a \$10-million cut, that is the best possible outcome this year, given that the President and the House had proposed a full elimination of Title V funding. More details follow and can be found on USAging's updated [appropriations chart](#).

OAA and Other Critical Programs With Funding Level Changes

- **OAA Title III B Supportive Services** \$414 million, a \$4-million increase
- **OAA Title III E NFCSP** \$209 million, a \$2-million increase
- **OAA Title VI Native American Aging Programs** \$40 million (Part A, Grants to Indians), a \$2 million increase; \$14 million (Part C, Native American Caregivers), a \$2-million increase

- **OAA Title V SCSEP** \$395 million, a \$10-million cut
- **LIHEAP** \$4.04 billion, a \$20-million increase
- **CSBG** \$810 million, a \$6-million increase

Next Steps

Congress has fewer than 10 days to pass the package for the President's signature before federal funding is set to lapse on January 30. The House is set to vote later this week, with the Senate to follow next week. While obstacles could arise, the deal is expected to be passed by Congress and represents the best possible outcome that USAging was pushing for: a final bill for the rest of the fiscal year (versus a continuing resolution) and the highest possible levels for our prioritized programs. It's a testament to our collective advocacy and our members taking consistent action over the course of this year to ensure the best possible outcome in a difficult budget environment.

USAging will keep members updated on FY 2026 funding, and should the package get to the President's desk, we will begin preparing for our FY 2027 appropriations campaign. Stay tuned!

This *Legislative Update* is a USAging membership benefit. For more information about these and other federal aging policy issues, please contact USAging's policy team: Amy Gotwals, Olivia Umoren Ezeuko and Seth Ickes at policy@usaging.org, 202.872.0888.



FY 2023-2026 Labor/HHS Appropriations

As of February 4, 2026 (Dollars in thousands) Increases over prior year final funding are noted in **BOLD**. Decreases are noted in *italics*.

Older Americans Act and Other Key Aging Programs	FY 2023 Enacted Dec. 2022	FY 2024 Enacted 3.23.24	FY 2025 Continuing Resolution Enacted 3.14.25	FY 2026 President's Budget 6.11.25	FY 2026 Senate Comm. 7.31.25	FY 2026 House Comm. 9.8.25	FY 2026 House-Senate Deal 1.20.26	FY 2026 Enacted 2.3.2026
Title III								
B: Supportive Services & Centers	410,000	410,000	410,000	410,000	410,000	414,000	414,000	414,000
C1: Congregate Meals	540,342	565,342	565,342	565,342	565,342	565,342	565,342	565,342
C2: Home-Delivered Meals	366,342	381,342	381,342	381,342	381,342	381,342	381,342	381,342
NSIP	160,069	<i>112,000</i>	112,000	112,000	112,000	112,000	112,000	112,000
D: Preventive Health	26,339	26,339	26,339	26,339	26,339	26,339	26,339	26,339
E: Family Caregivers Support	205,000	207,000	207,000	207,000	209,000	207,000	209,000	209,000
Title V SCSEP (DOL)	405,000	405,000	405,000	0	<i>395,000</i>	0	395,000	395,000
Title VI								
A: Grants to Indians	38,264	38,264	38,264	38,264	38,264	40,264	40,264	40,264
C: Native American Caregivers	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	14,000	14,000	14,000
Title VII								
Ombudsman/Elder Abuse	26,658	26,658	26,658	26,885	26,658	26,885	26,658	26,658
Elder Rights Support + APS	33,874	33,874	33,874	34,005	33,874	34,005	33,874	33,874
Title II								
Aging Network Support Activities	30,461	30,461	30,461	30,461	30,461	30,461	30,461	30,461
ADRCs	8,619	8,619	8,619	8,619	8,619	8,619	8,619	8,619
Program Admin.	47,063	48,063	48,063	<i>37,500</i>	<i>41,000</i>	48,063	<i>41,000</i>	<i>41,000</i>
RDE Center	5,000	5,000	5,000	Unclear	Unclear	5,000	5,000	5,000
Other AoA/ACL Programs								
State Health Insurance Asst. Program	55,242	55,242	55,242	55,242	55,542	55,242	55,242	55,242
Community Care Corps	5,500	TBD	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	5,500	5,500	5,500
CDSMP	8,000	8,000	8,000	0	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Alzheimer's Disease Program Initiative		31,500	31,500	<i>16,800</i>	<i>16,800</i>	31,500	31,500	31,500
Elder Falls Prevention	7,500	7,500	7,500	<i>2,500</i>	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Lifespan Respite Care	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	11,000	<i>10,000</i>	11,000	11,000
Senior Medicare Patrol		35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
Other HHS								
Social Services Block Grant	1,700,000	1,700,000	1,700,000	1,700,000	1,700,000	1,700,000	1,700,000	1,700,000
Community Services Block Grant	804,383	804,383	804,383	0	<i>770,000</i>	<i>775,000</i>	810,383	810,383
LIHEAP: Low-Income Home Energy Assist.	4,000,000	4,025,000	4,025,000	0	4,045,000	4,035,000	4,045,000	4,045,000
CNCS: AmeriCorps Seniors	236,917	TBD	Unclear	0	236,917	<i>146,012</i>	236,917	236,917

7.2-4

DATE: February 12, 2026

**TO: AAA Advisory Council
Seniors Council Board of Directors**

FROM: Patty Talbott, AAA Administrator

RE: AAA Updates

Mid-Year Service Performance

Attached with this item is a mid-year review of Area Plan funded services. Most providers are at or near their targets, and there are some extenuating circumstances for a couple that aren't. For example, Project SCOUT won't report units until spring after tax season is over. I&A is seeing a dip over last year, which may be due to increased internet information searches, and I am working with the provider to see if this trend continues.

Health Projects Center, our new Family Caregiver Support Program provider, had a slower launch than we anticipated, in part due to some data challenges unique to the IIIIE program on the AAA side that we navigated and just getting a new program up and running. HPC is already an experienced provider of IIIIE services for the Monterey County AAA but using a different data system there. Things are back on track and we're confident that they will be able to meet all targets by the end of the program year. Their Caregiver University will be held in San Benito County this year.

California Senior Legislature Election

This is an election year for the California Senior Legislature. The terms are four years and will begin in October of 2026. Both of our current Senior Legislators, Senior Senator Mickie Luna (San Benito County) and Senior Assemblymember Antonio Rivas (Santa Cruz County) have announced their intention to run again for their respective offices. Information about the CSL can be found at: <https://4csl.org/>

Area Plan Update

Work is beginning on the 2026-27 Update to the 4-year Area Plan. Because services are contracted for four years, there will not be any significant changes in services, but updates are required for our Goals and Objectives and many of the appendices. Review of the update will be at the April meeting.

2025-26 SERVICE UNIT PERFORMANCE AREA PLAN FUNDED

PROVIDER AND SERVICE	CONTRACT	Q1	%	Q2	MID-YR	MID-YR %
COMMUNITY BRIDGES						
IIIC1 Congregate Meals	34,000	8,377	25%	7,814	16,191	48%
IIIC2 Home-Delivered Meals	100,500	34,927	35%	32,232	67,159	67%
IIIB Mealsite Transportation	5,800	2,086	36%	1,566	3,652	63%
FAMILY SERVICE AGENCY						
IIIB Peer Counseling	350	114	33%	89	203	58%
IIIB Visiting	350	98	28%	232	330	94%
HEALTH PROJECTS CENTER						
IIIE Comm Info (CGU SB Co)	1	0	0%	0	0	0%
IIIE Caregiver I&A	60	0	0%	0	0	0%
IIIE Caregiver Counseling	1,000	18	2%	195	213	21%
IIIE Caregiver Respite In-Home	3,000	344	11%	389	733	24%
IIIE Caregiver Consumables	60	2	3%	1	3	5%
MARTHA'S KITCHEN						
IIIC1 Congregate Meals	12,000	3,119	26%	3,374	6,493	54%
IIIC2 Home-Delivered Meals	26,000	7,073	27%	6,538	13,611	52%
SENIOR LEGAL SERVICES						
IIIB Legal Services hours	1500	448	30%	448	896	60%
SENIOR NETWORK SERVICES						
IIIB Case Management	450	417	93%	211	628	140%
IIIB Info & Assistance	8000	939	12%	979	1,918	24%
IIIB Visiting	50	30	60%	14	44	88%
VOLUNTEER CENTER						
IIIB Residential Repairs	300	71	24%	82	153	75%
MOB Sessions (8 classes/session)	4	2	50%	1	3	75%
MOB Seniors Served	50	23	46%	10	33	66%
SR NETWORK - OMBUDS- EAP						
Public Education Sessions	10	1	10%	1	2	20%
Training for Professionals	10	2	20%	0	2	20%
Training for IIIE Caregivers	3	0	0%	2	2	67%
Hrs. Dev Coord System	60	3	5%	36	39	65%
Ed Materials Distributed	300	75	25%	70	145	48%
Individals Reached	300	45	15%	60	105	35%
AAA DIRECT						
Project SCOUT Pers Aff Asst	500	0	0%	0	0	0%
Outreach (incl Farmers Mkt)	450	416	92%	0	416	92%
Nutrition Ed presentations	32	8	25%	8	16	50%
Nutriiton Ed participants	2800	1,209	43%	792	2,001	71%

8.5-2



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 Milissa 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

January 7, 2026

10.1-1