



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 May 20, 2026

9 a.m. – 11 Noon **(NOTE EARLIER START TIME!)**

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
One tap mobile
+16699006833, 86490817703# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/k6W3Ygvu>

AGENDA

- 9 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
- 9:10
5. Approve minutes of the April 2026 Advisory Council Meeting

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

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

- 9:15 6. Committee Reports
- A. Finance Committee
 - a. FY 2026-27 Agency Budget
 - b. Adoption of 2026-27 Staff Salary Schedule
 - c. Budget Cuts/Staff & Benefit Reductions
 - B. Resource Development Committee
 - C. Advocacy Committee
 - a. State & Local Funding
 - b. Candidate Forum(s)
 - D. California Senior Legislature ELECTION**
- 10:25 7. Executive Director's Report
- A. Budget Shortfalls
 - B. Agency Operations
 - C. SB 1249 & CDA's 2030 Plan
 - D. Master Plan for Aging Local Playbooks
- 10:35 8. Program Reports (written)
- A. Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Program
 - B. Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)
 - C. Volunteer Coordination Project
 - D. Project SCOUT
- 10:50 9. Miscellaneous Correspondence & Other Items
- JUNE meeting Location? July Meeting cancellation?*
- 11 am 10. Adjourn

Next Meeting:
10 am to 12 Noon
Wednesday June 17, 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.



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
(Held in person at Watsonville office with hybrid Zoom broadcast)

April 15, 2026

MINUTES

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Susan Westman (City of Capitola)
Gabriela Trigueiro (City of Santa Cruz) - ZOOM
Steve Clark (City of Scotts Valley)
Tara Ireland (Empowered Aging; AAA Service Provider)
Mark Johannessen (At-large, Seniors Commission)
Stephanie Auld (Representative of Persons with Disabilities)
Kimberly De Serpa (Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors)

ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Sandy Brown (alternate J. Cummings)
Jacques Bertrand (alternate S. Westman)

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Angela Curro (San Benito County Board of Supervisors)
Ari Parker (City of Watsonville)
Mindy Sotelo (San Benito County Board of Supervisors)
Dolores Morales (Councilmember, City of Hollister)
Scott Freels (City of San Juan Bautista)
Justin Cummings (Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors)

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; Britt Bassoni, ADRC; Corey Shaffer, Volunteer Engagement Project

OTHERS PRESENT:

Antonio Rivas (California Senior Legislature)
Corey Azevedo (Senior Network Services) - ZOOM

1. Welcome, Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Gabriela Trigueiro called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM. Introductions were made.

2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

None.

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

5-1

3. Receive Announcements from Advisory Council Members

Tara announced Volunteer Center 'Be The Difference' Awards next month at the [Coconut] Grove – 11:30-1:30 on May 20.

Stephanie reported from EDTAC that Garfield Park bus stop is set to be removed. Requested info on Seniors Council involvement in public works. Clay said Seniors Council seat on EDTAC is our path for input, and can elevate specific issues.

Kim reported later that this was only a rumor and the stop will not be removed.

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

None.

5. Consent Agenda

Advisory Council members were referred to minutes of the March AAA Advisory Council meeting.

MOTION, CLARK/BROWN, to approve the minutes of the March 2026 AAA Advisory Council meeting. **PASSED**

6. Committee Reports

1. Advocacy Committee –

- a. State & Local Funding – Clay reported on position on AB 2135, penalties for Skilled Nursing Facilities. Fines are being waived routinely, which impacts Ombudsman funding.

Report on Laird bill 1261 re: ADRCs. Allows up to 2 years for ADRC to continue if AAA is de-designated. Strong support.

Discussion of CDA, included in written report. Issue of changing definition of local unit of government, aids AAA takeovers by Counties.

- b. Candidate Forum(s) – Zach updated on Santa Cruz and San Benito proposed Candidate Forums. Noted difficulty in contacting/booking candidates and requested help.

- c. California Senior Legislature Report – Incumbents Antonio Rivas and Mickie Luna both running again, Mick Hucklebridge also in the running this round. Will be invited to next Advisory Council meeting for presentation and voting.

2. Resource Development Committee – Clay pointed to 6.B-3, elevator pitches for programs. Challenge to meet budget deficits and increasing reporting requirements. AmeriCorps once again slated for cuts.

7. 2024-28 Area Plan Update

Packet includes draft of required updates. Clay gave overview of cycle process. Input requested on Goals, page 7-7. Plan will be adopted at next AC meeting.

Stephanie asked about 3.6 and 3.11, family caregiver support program vs. IHSS. Discussion of overlap between the two as well as different focuses. Further discussion of Seniors Council's role, or lack of, in relation to IHSS. Sandy clarified that AAA has no access to funding but supports as much as possible. General acknowledgement of challenges to IHSS clients and providers.

Stephanie also asked about 2.5, coordination between organizations. Clay said our community has a good track record with this.

Steve asked about Cal-Fresh assistance, history and ongoing outreach efforts. Emphasis is cyclical with tax season as SCOUT resources become available. Antonio suggested purchasing a van for mobile uses.

Kim asked about 3.14, decreasing isolation, and proposed hosting social events for community.

Clay noted that behavioral health funding was recently cut. Broad-ranging discussion about impacts of isolation, challenges to addressing it, and suggested solutions.

Sandy asked about 4.7, disaster preparedness, and suggested ongoing communication with Fire Safety Council. Tara said Listos grant supports their efforts to help people create plans and work with VOAD.

8. Executive Director Report

1. Budget Shortfalls – discussed previously. AAA facing rising costs and flat funding.
2. Agency Operations –
3. SB 1249 & CDA's 2030 Plan – discussed previously.
4. Master Plan for Aging Local Playbooks – Brief update on history and ongoing process of Master Plan Local Playbooks.
Clay noted tensions with Santa Cruz County about responsibility for plan and implementation.
5. Service Provider Updates – General update on providers. Clay also noted ongoing construction impacts at PVMCC. Jacques asked about alternative meeting sites for SNS.

9. Program Reports (written)

- 1 ADRC – Report included in packet.
- 2 Falls Prevention – Report included in packet
- 3 Project SCOUT – Report included in packet

10. Adjournment

Discussion of site for May meeting. Agreed to start earlier at usual location (175 Westridge)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 PM
Minutes prepared by: Zachary Johnson

Next Meeting: May 20, 2026



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: 5-15-26

To: Seniors Council Board of Directors, AAA Advisory Council

From: Clay Kempf, Executive Director

RE: May Finance Committee Meeting

BACKGROUND

Our Finance Committee met this month to discuss the pending 2026-27 projected budget deficit, and explore alternatives to reduce our costs or enhance revenue to address the expected deficits.

Included in your packet is a detailed agency-wide budget. Operating under our current model, we are projected to have a deficit of about \$154,000, due to a combination of shrinking revenue and increasing costs.

DISCUSSION

Staff have been exploring options since our last Finance Committee, and Fiscal staff have provided detailed information of viable options, as well as eliminating other scenarios that further exploration has shown to be counter-productive. After detailed discussion and analysis, the Finance Committee agreed on four items, with others remaining under discussion. The agreements include:

- 1) Adopt our current salary schedule with no Cost-of-Living Allowances (COLA). This will be our second year in a row of no COLAs
- 2) Freeze all salaries at the current level; no staff will receive merit/step increases in the coming fiscal year.
- 3) Temporarily reduce our agency's 5% contribution to employee retirement accounts, in an amount to be determined.
- 4) Reduce agency health benefits from Gold/Zero Deductible plans to Gold/750 Deductible plans, in response to a \$23,000 increase in healthcare. The switch in plans will save approximately \$7,000 per year.

6.A-1

Exploration of other health care options continues, and if a more cost-effective option is discovered by the Board meeting, it will be pursued.

Discussed in detail and agreed upon is the need to reduce staff hours. Not agreed upon is the extent and methodology for doing so. The primary options were for a 10% reduction of hours to everyone, or laying off a full-time AAA and/or Admin staffer. The 10% reduction would save the agency about \$55,000; laying someone off would result in a savings of about \$100,000 with the included reduction of benefit expenses.

The projected deficit budget already includes a reduction of hours of direct service staff working in San Benito County, and they would NOT be part of the additional 10% cuts. Also, no staff that currently receive health benefits would have their hours dropped below the 30 hours per week minimum needed to receive benefits.

The 10% across the board cut, combined with the four agreed upon actions, will still leave a deficit of approximately \$50,000.

In recent years, we have added additional staff as services have expanded with an influx of both new dollars (e.g., ADRC, Nutrition Augmentations), COVID funds, and providing Information & Assistance and Case Management directly instead of contracting out.

We have also overcome a nearly \$500,000 deficit and built up about \$650,000 in agency reserves, using a variety of cost-savings techniques and using unrestricted funds wisely and frugally. We intentionally and strategically cut corners wherever possible despite the influx of new funding - knowing it wouldn't last forever.

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors discussed all of these details and more during their meeting. The Executive Committee's recommendations will be reported on as part of the Board discussion; they include the four Finance Committee recommendations but include greater detail along with additional actions.

SENIORS COUNCIL BOARD PROJECTED AGENCY

BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026/2027

5/13/2026

AGENCY

	Spec. Proj. (ADRC/IIIIB)	SCOUT (3B/TCE/VITA)	SCP (FED/NON FED)	FGP (FED/NON FED)	AAA (LOCAL/STATE/FED)	ADMIN	WIDE
INCOME							
FARMERS MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM							
GRANTS REC'D (Income) - Ca Dept. of Aging							
Federal							
IIIB - Supportive Svc.	48,000	17,700	-	-	15,000		15,000
C1 - Congregate Nutrition	-	-	-	-	284,170		349,870
C2 - Home Delivered Meals	-	-	-	-	414,624		414,624
IIID - Direct Services	-	-	-	-	373,447		373,447
IIIE - Family Caregiver	-	-	-	-	22,851		22,851
VIIA - Supportive Svc.	-	-	-	-	148,896		148,896
VIIB - Elder Abuse	-	-	-	-	37,140		37,140
Federal Administration	-	-	-	-	4,159		4,159
State	-	-	-	-	168,817		168,817
Ombudsman Initiative	-	-	-	-			
C1 - Congregate Nutrition A/P	-	-	-	-	130,793		130,793
C2 - Home Delivered Meals A/P	-	-	-	-	110,969		110,969
NM - Nutrition	-	-	-	-	437,283		437,283
OM- Supportive Services	-	-	-	-	-		-
ADRC	198,700	-	-	-	-		198,700
State Administration	-	-	-	-	100,000		100,000
GRANTS REC'D - OTHER INCOME							
CNCS FGP GRANT	-	-	-	979,412	-		979,412
CNCS SCP GRANT	-	-	264,656	-	-		264,656
CAL FRESH	-	41,471	-	-	-		41,471
HICAP	-	-	-	-	311,510		311,510
HICAP - Admin	-	-	-	-	27,117		27,117
MIPPA	-	-	-	-	42,605		42,605
MIPPA Admin	-	-	-	-	4,733		4,733
IRS - VITA	-	51,000	-	-	-		51,000
IRS - TCE	-	5,000	-	-	-		5,000
DEPT TRANSPORTATION 5310	-	-	-	-	-		-
TOTAL GRANTS REC'D	246,700	115,171	264,656	979,412	2,634,114	-	4,240,053
LOCAL MATCH RECEIVED-JURIS.							
City of Capitola	-	5,000	-	-	-		5,000
City of Hollister	-	-	-	-	9,500		9,500

6.A-3

6. A-4

SENIORS COUNCIL BOARD APPROVED AGENCY BUDGET
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026

5/13/2026

AGENCY WIDE

	Spec. Proj. (ADRC/III B)	SCOUT (3B/TCE/VITA)	SCP (FED/NON FED)	FGP (FED/NON FED)	AAA (LOCAL/STATE/FED)	ADMIN	AGENCY WIDE
INCOME							
City of Santa Cruz	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
City of Scotts Valley	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
City of Watsonville	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
County of San Benito	-	-	-	-	32,780	-	32,780
County of Santa Cruz	-	23,750	-	-	131,000	-	154,750
LOCAL MATCH RECEIVED - OTHER							
COMMUNITY							
FOUNDATIONS	-	55,000	-	35,000	-	-	90,000
IN KIND DONATIONS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MISC CASH DONATIONS	-	-	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
MISC VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UNITED WAY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Monterey County	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
San Benito County	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Santa Cruz County	-	5,000	-	-	-	-	5,000
TOTAL LOCAL MATCH							
	-	88,750	-	36,000	173,280	-	298,030
OTHER INCOME							
ADMINISTRATIVE FEE (12%)*	-	-	-	-	-	442,106	442,106
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT	-	3,824	40,970	100,000	-	-	144,794
INTEREST EARNED	-	-	-	-	-	900	900
OTHER INCOME - NIAC & SAMS	-	-	-	-	5,000	-	5,000
FUNDRAISING / DONATIONS	-	6,369	-	-	-	450	6,819
TOTAL OTHER INCOME							
	-	10,193	40,970	100,000	5,000	443,456	156,163
SHARE OF COSTS							
OTHER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MONTEREY COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL SHARE OF COST							
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME							
	246,700	214,114	305,626	1,115,412	2,812,394	444,806	4,695,596

EXPENSE All items below in green are paid by Admin

SENIORS COUNCIL BOARD APPROVED AGENCY BUDGET
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026

5/13/2026 Spec. Proj.

AGENCY WIDE

	(ADRC/IIIIB)	(3B/TCE/VITA)	(FED/NON FED)	(LOCAL/STATE/FED)	AAA	ADMIN	AGENCY WIDE
EXPENSES	Spec. Proj.	SCOUT	SCP	FGP	AAA	ADMIN	AGENCY WIDE
RECORDS SHREDDING	-	-	-	100	25	75	200
MEETING EXPENSE	-	500	-	-	125	1,500	2,125
ADVERTISING & PROMOTION	-	-	-	1,200	500	-	1,700
BAD DEBT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BANK FEES & CHARGES	-	-	108	504	-	-	612
CONTRACTED SERVICES	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AUDIT	250	-	900	5,200	13,000	8,600	27,950
CASUAL LABOR	-	250	-	400	200	500	1,350
CONSULTANTS	-	500	1,000	3,975	31,050	-	36,525
SUB CONTRACTORS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SYNERGY	-	-	-	-	9,575	-	9,575
TRANSLATION	-	-	1,200	5,840	-	-	7,040
VENDORS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK	-	-	400	1,279	-	-	1,679
DISASTER KIT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ELECTRONIC FILING	-	2,500	-	-	-	-	2,500
EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EQUIPMENT- EXPENDABLE	-	1,000	-	-	500	-	1,500
EQUIPMENT RENTAL	100	-	1,200	-	-	775	2,075
EQUIPMENT RENTAL	-	875	800	3,960	3,276	8,911	8,911
FEES	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GRANTS PAID (Expense)	4,400	-	-	-	2,314,097	-	2,318,497
INSURANCE - CIMA (volunteers)	-	-	281	1,373	-	-	1,654
INSURANCE - GENERAL LIABILITY	1,200	-	840	3,180	400	1,049	6,669
INSURANCE - GENERAL LIABILITY	449	1,441	316	-	1,237	3,443	3,443
MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS	3,200	3,000	3,600	7,920	5,900	9,500	33,120
MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MEETING SUPPLIES	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MEMBERSHIPS	-	100	313	400	10,000	450	11,263
MEMBERSHIPS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
OFFICE FURNITURE	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000
OFFICE SUPPLIES	500	2,000	2,172	5,880	1,000	10,000	21,552
PERSONNEL - BENEFITS	6,645	6,000	1,967	11,354	8,761	4,971	39,699
403b	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
total							11428
							9846
							0
							0
							16500

6
A
1
5

6.A-6

SENIORS COUNCIL BOARD APPROVED AGENCY BUDGET
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026

5/13/2026

AGENCY WIDE

EXPENSES	Spec. Proj. (ADRC/IIIIB)	SCOUT (38/TCE/AVITA)	SCP (FED/NON FED)	FGP (FED/NON FED)	AAA (LOCAL/STATE/FED)	ADMIN	AGENCY WIDE
403b	775	123	695	2,923	5,939	10,456	10,456
HEALTH, DENTAL, VISION, LIFE	63,338	18,239	9,232	56,642	18,430	21,846	187,727
HEALTH, DENTAL, VISION, LIFE	2,223	439	4,197	14,159	27,523	48,541	48,541
WORKERS COMP INSURANCE	1,200	850	552	2,142	2,200	1,403	8,347
WORKERS COMP INSURANCE	-	-	-	123	-	123	123
PAYROLL							
P/R TAX EXPENSE	10,632	10,200	3,068	20,211	14,018	8,451	66,580
P/R TAX EXPENSE	1,318	643	1,084	5,203	9,642	17,889	17,889
PAYROLL - WAGES	132,904	120,000	39,336	227,085	175,227	99,424	793,976
PAYROLL - WAGES	15,506	7,935	13,893	58,466	118,786	214,586	214,586
POSTAGE	-	103	1,680	2,880	-	500	5,163
PRINTING & REPRODUCTION	500	320	204	2,400	200	85	3,709
SPACE COSTS							
JANITORIAL	-	750	150	1,100	1,150	1,400	4,550
OFFICE RENT	6,400	12,000	3,000	20,160	17,700	25,000	84,260
STORAGE RENT	-	-	-	1,200	-	1,500	2,700
TRAINING FACILITIES	-	-	-	400	-	-	400
UTILITIES	-	300	300	2,000	1,800	2,000	6,400
UTILITIES	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
STAFF RECOGNITION	-	-	876	-	-	1,200	2,076
SUBSCRIPTIONS & PUBLICATIONS	-	-	120	204	-	-	324
TELEPHONE	1,600	2,000	1,440	8,364	1,500	3,600	18,504
TRAINING FEES	1,500	500	650	500	-	-	3,150
TRAVEL-LOCAL	286	4,500	2,250	8,718	1,300	425	17,479
TRAVEL-LONG DISTANCE	-	-	1,400	2,000	-	-	3,400
VOLUNTEERS							
MEALS	-	500	18,885	71,380	-	-	90,765
PHYSICAL EXAM	-	-	560	2,100	-	-	2,660
RECOGNITION	-	900	2,540	13,080	-	-	16,520
SCP LEADER	-	-	600	-	-	-	600
UNIFORMS	-	-	315	1,635	-	-	1,950
TAX ASSISTORS	-	4,400	-	-	-	-	4,400
STIPENDS	-	-	87,696	455,184	-	-	542,880
COORDINATORS	-	1,000	76,400	-	-	-	77,400

66,900

24000

297,500

SENIORS COUNCIL BOARD APPROVED AGENCY BUDGET
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026

5/13/2026

EXPENSES	Spec. Proj. (ADRC/IIIB)	SCOUT (3B/TCE/VITA)	SCP (FED/NON FED)	FGP (FED/NON FED)	AAA (LOCAL/STATE/FED)	AGENCY	
						ADMIN	WIDE
TRAVEL	-	-	10,939	62,129	-	-	73,068
ADMIN INDIRECTS	-	253			-	253	253
PROGRAM EXPENSE SUB-TOTAL	234,656	193,412	276,174	1,010,119	2,628,634	204,254	4,547,248
ADMIN EXPENSE SUB-TOTAL	20,271	11,709	20,984	84,835	166,403	304,202	304,202
TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSE	a+b=c	254,927	297,158	1,094,954	2,795,036	508,456	4,851,450
ADMINISTRATIVE FEE	(d)	30,591	33,141	121,214	233,951	-	442,106
EXPENSE TOTAL	a+d=e	265,247	309,315	1,131,333	2,862,584	204,254	4,785,100
NET INCOME	(total income-e)	(18,547)	(3,689)	(15,921)	(50,190)	(63,650)	(154,504)
							12% on program expenses less State A/P funding

If no changes are made, this is the
projected budget for 2026/2027
Total personnel = \$1,387,924

6.A.7

2026-27 PROPOSED Salary Schedule (unchanged from previous year)

POSITION	Entry	Adopted by BoD:									
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Executive Director	\$ 35.44	\$ 37.22	\$ 39.08	\$ 41.03	\$ 43.08	\$ 45.24	\$ 47.50	\$ 49.87	\$ 52.37	\$ 54.99	
AAA Administrator	\$ 27.20	\$ 28.56	\$ 29.99	\$ 31.49	\$ 33.06	\$ 34.72	\$ 36.45	\$ 38.27	\$ 40.19	\$ 42.20	
FGP/SCP Program Director	\$ 29.18	\$ 30.64	\$ 32.17	\$ 33.78	\$ 35.47	\$ 37.24	\$ 39.10	\$ 41.06	\$ 43.11	\$ 45.27	
Director of Programs & Special Projects	\$ 30.60	\$ 32.13	\$ 33.73	\$ 35.42	\$ 37.19	\$ 39.05	\$ 41.00	\$ 43.05	\$ 45.21	\$ 47.47	
Fiscal Officer	\$ 30.60	\$ 32.13	\$ 33.73	\$ 35.42	\$ 37.19	\$ 39.05	\$ 41.00	\$ 43.05	\$ 45.21	\$ 47.47	
Administrative Services Officer	\$ 29.14	\$ 30.60	\$ 32.13	\$ 33.74	\$ 35.42	\$ 37.20	\$ 39.06	\$ 41.01	\$ 43.06	\$ 45.21	
Fiscal Specialist	\$ 24.08	\$ 25.29	\$ 26.55	\$ 27.88	\$ 29.27	\$ 30.74	\$ 32.27	\$ 33.89	\$ 35.58	\$ 37.36	
Fiscal Assistant	\$ 21.85	\$ 22.94	\$ 24.09	\$ 25.29	\$ 26.56	\$ 27.89	\$ 29.28	\$ 30.74	\$ 32.28	\$ 33.90	
Project SCOUT Program Director	\$ 25.29	\$ 26.56	\$ 27.89	\$ 29.28	\$ 30.75	\$ 32.28	\$ 33.90	\$ 35.59	\$ 37.37	\$ 39.24	
Community Coordinator (SB Co. & Vols)	\$ 25.29	\$ 26.56	\$ 27.89	\$ 29.28	\$ 30.75	\$ 32.28	\$ 33.90	\$ 35.59	\$ 37.37	\$ 39.24	
Program Assistant (all programs)	\$ 17.42	\$ 18.29	\$ 19.21	\$ 20.17	\$ 21.18	\$ 22.23	\$ 23.35	\$ 24.51	\$ 25.74	\$ 27.03	
Program Coordinator/FGP/SCP/ADRC	\$ 21.50	\$ 22.57	\$ 23.70	\$ 24.89	\$ 26.13	\$ 27.44	\$ 28.81	\$ 30.25	\$ 31.76	\$ 33.35	
Program Specialist/Outreach Coordinator	\$ 19.91	\$ 20.91	\$ 21.95	\$ 23.05	\$ 24.20	\$ 25.41	\$ 26.68	\$ 28.02	\$ 29.42	\$ 30.89	

English/Spanish speakers receive \$1.00 per hour bilingual differential for bilingual required/preferred positions



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: 5-15-26

To: Seniors Council Board of Directors, AAA Advisory Council

From: Clay Kempf, Executive Director

RE: May Resource Development Committee Meeting

Highlights and Action

Our May Resource Development Committee continued its discussion of Board & Agency actions, highlighting the need for us to invest time and resources in expanding our very small donor base. To this end, it was decided to do several things, including:

1. Bring back our "Virtual Tea Party" non-event to jump start and expand our list of donors, challenging each Board member to provide ten names and addresses to promote the event to, or to contact directly. Corey Shafer and Tami Aviles took the lead in designing the Tea Party card, and will be distributing them to our Board members.
2. Continue to develop methods and strategies for using current and future events (volunteer recognition, Senior Resource Fair, etc.) as easy steps to expand our donor base.
3. Consider allocating a portion of our reserves to provide staff hours to support Board fundraising and other promotional or fundraising activities

6.B-1



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: 5-10-26

To: Seniors Council Board of Directors, AAA Advisory Council

From: Clay Kempf, Executive Director

RE: Advocacy Committee Report

BOARD OF SUPERVISOR CANDIDATE FORUMS

Candidate forums for local Board of Supervisor races were held last Friday, May 8, at the Watsonville Senior Center, with candidates Tony Nuñez, Elias Gonzales and incumbent Felipe Hernandez all confirmed as participants. The forum went well and a recording will be on our website soon. Unfortunately, Supervisor Hernandez failed to attend, and has not contacted our office as to why. Jennifer Merchant, Executive Director of Grey Bears, did an outstanding job as moderator.

In San Benito County, candidates for the two seats will be participating today in a virtual forum. The plan to hold the forum at the Pauline Valdivia Community Center had to be cancelled, as the center has been closed for the past six weeks while the City conducts repairs. Martha's Kitchen will be holding a listening session for the forum at the temporary Dunne Park mealsite location. Incumbents Mindy Sotelo, Angela Curro, and challengers Peter Hernandez and Roxanne Stephens are all expected to participate. Philip Geiger of the Alzheimer's Association will moderate.

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATION

The California Association of Area Agencies on Aging's (C4A) proposal for an ongoing \$62 million state budget augmentation has been heard in several committees. The proposal distributes the funds between three categories, with *\$26.1 million allocated for Nutrition, \$15.66 million for Supportive Services, and \$10.44 for Caregiver Support*. The proposal has been "kept open" at each hearing; meaning it is still alive, but in an extremely bad state budget year, I think it's a longshot. The Department of Aging and the Department of Finance continue to be problematic to the ask, as they consistently point out that there are unspent nutrition funds allocated to AAAs from the 2022-23 state budget augmentation. The Department could explain that the augmentation was allocated through March of 2029, and that most AAAs are exercising responsible fiscal planning in not spending the funds prior to the end of the service period. The

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

6.C-1

impression is being given that millions of dollars are unspent and wasted, and it implies AAAs competence is questionable. Also omitted is that it took CDA eight months to even provide an estimate of the amount of funding that each AAA would receive, or guidelines on how the funds could be used - even though existing statutes spelled that out pretty clearly. It continues to shock me to see how unsupportive CDA is of their own network.

SB 1261 (Laird) successfully moved out of suspense and out of the Appropriations Committee, much to our delight. The bill is now "across the desk", meaning it is back in circulation and will be up for a vote by the legislative body. This bill provides up to two years relief from the California Department of Aging shutting down operating Aging & Disability Resource Connections (ADRC) if the AAA or the Independent Living Center (ILC) in the area is re-designated. The action is needed to avoid the defunding and shutting down of the ADRC of Santa Barbara & San Luis Obispo, and potentially the same in Ventura County, or in any location where the makeup of a AAA or an ILC might change. The bill language reads:

"(g) (1) Notwithstanding any other law, the California Department of Aging shall not revoke the designation of an ADRC program solely due to the revocation of a designation, suspension, or temporary inability of either the area agency on aging or the independent living center partner to serve in its operator role. In those circumstances, either the area agency on aging or the independent living center may continue to operate the ADRC independently during a transition period of not less than one year and not more than two years, upon agreement of the California Department of Aging, the Department of Rehabilitation, and the Aging and Disability Resource Connection Advisory Committee, while a new or replacement partner is identified and designated.

(2) During the transition period described in paragraph (1), the services provided by the ADRC shall continue without interruption, and joint operation shall be reestablished upon designation of the replacement partner that serves older adults or is a peer-led disability organization."

SB 1249 AND CDA'S CALIFORNIA 2030 PLAN

Much of our advocacy time and efforts continue to focus on minimizing the potentially devastating impacts of CDAs implementation of their SB 1249 and California 2030 plan. Included in your packet are comments I sent to CDA regarding some of our IFF concerns via their public input process. The latest public input process, regarding the Instate Funding Formula (IFF) was slated to end at 5 pm on May 12th. Shockingly, legislative language to define this regulatory change entered was at 4 pm on the 12th, meaning they're not even respecting their own timelines, let alone the input of AAAs and other impacted parties.



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

May 11, 2026

Dear Director DeMarois,

RE: The California Department of Aging's Proposed Intrastate Funding Formula Revisions

Dear Director DeMarois and Concerned Partners:

Thanks for the opportunity to provide input to the California Department of Aging's (CDA's) proposal to amend California's Intrastate Funding Formula (IFF) regarding Area Plan Allocations to Area Agencies on Aging. Having lived through the litigation and subsequent legislation that established the currently used IFF during the decade of the 1990's, and its nearly crippling impact on several AAAs around the state, I'd like to offer observations, concerns and suggestions regarding the Department's current proposal.

1) First of all, **any proposal that bases its changes on creating winners and losers is doomed** to have a negative impact on older adults throughout the state. With no new money at hand, the lack of a strategy to mitigate literally taking funds (and the resultant food and services that go with it) away from one group of needy seniors in order to care for another is irrefutably flawed. Such a proposal should only go forward if and when it is linked to new funding that ensures that no senior will lose services as a result of an administrative exercise.

1a) Should the CDA choose to ignore the loss of funding in some regions of California, the effort could be started by **reducing funding by no more than the average amount of unspent funds** in any given planning and service area (PSA). This will minimize or eliminate service losses for older adults with a PSA that is receiving reduced allocations.

2) We are tremendously disappointed that the CDA is proposing to increase the annual amount of unspent funds a AAA can retain, literally DOUBLING that amount from 5% to 10%. This **new clause rewards AAAs for not spending their funds, and punishes the AAAs that do spend their allocation**. This direction is completely backwards, and makes no sense whatsoever.

3) Currently, unspent funds beyond 5% of a AAAs baseline are redistributed to the entire AAA network using the IFF. All AAAs are eligible to receive these funds, regardless of whether or not they fully expended their baseline allocations. We like the new proposal that requires each AAA to meet a threshold percentage of spending in order to participate in this redistribution. However, we feel that threshold needs to be 95% of baseline funds expended in order to participate in redistribution, rather than the proposed 90%. The 90% threshold merely exacerbates the problem by sending unspent funds back to the very same organizations that

175 Westridge Dr., Watsonville, CA 95076 300 West St. Hollister, CA 95023 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

6.C-3

failed to spend the dollars originally! One-time only **funds should be awarded to the organizations that are using the monies in a timely manner, and not to those that fail to do so.** Hold AAAs to high standards, and award those AAAs that meet those standards rather than those that fail.

4) **Administrative baseline amounts** have long been a problematic area of underfunding. We strongly support CDAs proposal to provide each AAA with a \$100,000 annual administrative baseline with state general funds dollars, and increase the annual administrative baseline in federal dollars to \$150,000 (a \$100K annual increase). The balance of the administrative dollars would then be distributed as a percentage of federal funds awarded in each title.

4a) AAAs and CDA have long noted that administrative dollars do not realistically match the required administrative burden bestowed upon all AAAs, but especially small ones, and we feel **this aspect of the new formula is of the utmost urgency.** We recommend it be implemented no later than FY 2027-28. It also seems to be the least controversial aspect of the proposed IFF.

5) We note that the current administrative overhead minimums provide no reward for multi-county partnerships and efficiencies, but that should a single county separate, they would receive the same amount of baseline funding as the remaining multi-county AAA. This provides a financial incentive for AAAs to splinter rather than integrate. We would propose that the opposite also be true; that a county merging with an already-established PSA/AAA have its baseline allocation **ADDED** to the existing AAA being joined. **Collaboration and consolidation must be rewarded rather than punished** if we truly seek increased efficiency. Other strategies to reward collaborative efforts and multi-county AAA are strongly encouraged.

California's current IFF was borne out of legal action and took nearly an entire decade to resolve legislatively. The ensuing battles created a tremendous rift in the statewide and aging network, and wasted local, state, and legislative resources in a tug-of-war over finite funding. PSA-13 was arguably the hardest-hit AAA, with our funding being held to our 1984-85 levels for 30+ years. Ironically, the AAAs that were the primary beneficiaries to our frozen funding continually left hundreds of thousands and even millions of dollars unspent every year; often more than our entire annual allocation. I sincerely hope the CDA will review California's IFF history and do its utmost to not repeat the past. Already, Los Angeles County has approved filing a lawsuit over the new IFF. Let's avoid that if we can.

Changing the IFF, and changing it fairly while minimizing negative impacts, will be incredibly difficult. It is not something that can be resolved by a simple survey, but instead, requires extensive conversation, exploration, and creativity. Patience and willingness to compromise and do what is best for the greater good are essential components of resolving this challenge in a non-litigious manner. Recognition and mitigation to unintended consequences, to unintended harm to already vulnerable older adults, HAS to be part of our strategies and our actions.

I sincerely hope the CDA will consider my comments in the spirit of both improving the proposed (and the existing) IFF, and doing so in a manner that results in a stronger network of AAAs, and in a CDA that is viewed as knowledgeable, compassionate, and strategic. Unfortunately, the current direction does none of that, and seems to be an exercise in compliance rather than positive impact.

6.C-4

If we can't come together on something as basic as improving our service delivery to older adults, on strengthening our network and each other, what are we doing?

Yours truly,



Clay Kempf
Executive Director
clayk@seniorscouncil.org

cc: Speaker/Assemblyman Robert Rivas
Senator John Laird
Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council
Seniors Council Board of Directors



The Honorable Robert Rivas
Speaker of the Assembly
1201 O Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Monique Limón
Senate President Pro Temp
1021 O St., Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel
Chair, Assembly Budget
1201 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable John Laird
Chair, Budget and Fiscal
Review Committee
1020 N Street, Room 502
Sacramento, CA 95814

May 15, 2026

RE: C4A Concerns and Opposition to Proposed Budget Trailer Bill Language on Intrastate Funding Formula Changes

Dear Legislative and Budget Leaders,

On behalf of the California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A), representing California's network of Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), I am writing to express C4A's immediate concerns regarding the California Department of Aging's proposed budget trailer bill language related to modifications to the Intrastate Funding Formula (IFF). C4A respectfully requests rejection of the proposal in its current form and urges a full review and discussion of public comments submitted by California's aging network before advancing policy changes of this significance.

C4A was unaware that budget trailer bill language on the IFF was being introduced. This came as a surprise to our membership and appears inconsistent with prior discussions with the Department. Based on conversations with CDA, the expectation conveyed to stakeholders was that legislation related to IFF changes would not be pursued until next year.

Compounding our concern, CDA recently conducted a limited two-week public comment period on proposed IFF changes that closed at 5:00 p.m. on May 12, 2026. Based on the timing of the trailer bill submission, it appears the proposal may have been advanced before the public comment period had even concluded. If true, this raises serious concerns regarding whether comments submitted by AAAs, providers, advocates, and other stakeholders received any meaningful review or consideration.

Public engagement should be more than a procedural requirement. Stakeholders throughout the aging network dedicated time and effort to provide substantive feedback based on operational experience and community need. Advancing trailer bill language before reviewing that feedback

6.C-6

undermines confidence in the process and creates the appearance that public participation was not intended to inform policy decisions.

Further, an Area Agency on Aging informally requested that CDA convene a public hearing on the Intrastate Funding Formula to allow for broader discussion and stakeholder input. That request was declined. While a short public comment period was provided, the absence of a public hearing limited opportunities for meaningful dialogue on a proposal that would substantially alter the funding structure for California's aging network.

C4A is also concerned that the proposed language was not developed in partnership with the AAA network. The Older Californians Act envisions meaningful coordination and collaboration between the Department and the Area Agencies on Aging. A proposal that fundamentally restructures the distribution of resources across California's aging network should not move forward absent direct partnership with those responsible for implementing and delivering services on the ground.

Additionally, C4A does not believe there is a compelling reason for this proposal to move through budget trailer bill language at this time. The Intrastate Funding Formula is not required to be updated until development of California's next State Plan on Aging, which is due to the Administration for Community Living in 2029. Existing federal correspondence approved California's current State Plan and suggested consideration of formula updates rather than requiring immediate action.

Beyond process concerns, C4A remains concerned that the proposed formula does not adequately reflect the current and growing needs of California's rapidly aging population. California continues to experience increasing demand for nutrition services, caregiver supports, transportation, information and assistance, and community-based aging and disability services. Any funding methodology should align with the goals of California's Master Plan on Aging and strengthen—not destabilize—the systems intended to help older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers remain healthy and independent in their communities.

Major policy changes involving the aging network should not occur through a rushed process absent full discussion and transparent review. C4A therefore respectfully rejects the proposed budget trailer bill language and requests that a collaborative stakeholder process occur before submission of policy that will fundamentally impact California's aging network.

C4A and our membership stand ready to participate in productive discussions regarding the future of California's funding methodology. We would welcome an opportunity to discuss the realities of current funding needs and what resources would be necessary to support an Area Agency on Aging network capable of meeting both state expectations and the growing needs of older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers across California.

Thank you for your consideration and continued commitment to California's aging network.

Sincerely,

6.C-7

Christina Mills
Executive Director
California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A)

6.C-8



Area Agency on Aging

Nutrition Funding and Demand Information

Legislative Nutrition Investment

Modernizing the Older Californians Act – Nutrition (General Fund)

Allocation	Expended	Remaining Balance	% Spent
\$89,500,000*	\$32,520,611	\$56,979,389**	36.34%

*Does not include the final year of planned funding. \$37,200,000 is proposed to be appropriated in the 2026 Budget Act, effective July 1, 2026.

** These funds are available for expenditure or encumbrance until June 30, 2029. Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) utilized federal COVID-19 nutrition funds first before they expired and have now pivoted to using the funds noted here.

Nutrition Waitlist

Clients	Comments
0	8 AAAs report no waitlisted clients
1 - 100	8 AAAs report up to 100 waitlisted clients, waits range from several days to one year
101 - 300	8 AAAs report between 101 - 300 waitlisted clients, waits range from several days up to 6 months
301 - 1,000	7 AAAs report between 301 - 1,000 waitlisted clients, waits range from several weeks to two years
1,001 - 1,400	2 AAAs report between 1,001 - 1,400 waitlisted clients, waits take over 6 months

6.C-9



Area Agency on Aging

Nutrition Funding and Demand Information

Older Americans Act Nutrition – Title III C1 Congregate and C2 Home Delivered (Federal and General Fund)

Allocation	Expended	Remaining Balance
\$141,421,072	\$88,705,596	\$52,699,084

**Funding is available for expenditure July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026. This is annual baseline funding.*

Attestation

Given the limited-term Modernizing Older Californians Act Nutrition funding, AAAs are working to maximize funding resources based on local community’s needs. All AAAs with waitlists have unspent nutrition funds. AAAs will receive the final installment of Modernizing Older Californians Act Nutrition July 1, 2026, or upon enactment of the 2026 Budget Act if enactment is delayed. Waitlists are triaged based on need, where the most vulnerable individuals are served first.

In addition to direct meal provisions, AAAs received \$38 million in 2022-23 to enhance and update their nutrition infrastructure. AAAs used the funding for vehicles, kitchen renovations, industrial grade equipment, and more.

AAAs work to mitigate waitlist impacts by:

- Connecting individuals to alternative food resources (e.g., food banks, community programs)
- Providing shelf-stable meals when available
- Coordinating with local partners to address immediate needs

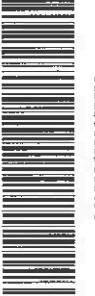
6.C-10

92323

UNBACKED

05/12/26 04:06 PM
RN 26 13886 PAGE 1

An act to amend Sections 9106, 9112, and 9114 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to aging.



261388692323BILL

6.C-11

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 9106 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

9106. (a) The department shall administer the administrative cost limitation, as defined in applicable federal law or ~~regulation~~ regulation, on a statewide basis. This allocation shall be based on notices of grant award. The formula to be used for the allocation of those funds shall be as follows:

(1) Each planning and service area shall receive ~~a base allocation of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000);~~ an administration base allocation.

(2) The remainder of the funds available up to the statewide limitation shall be distributed to area agencies on aging on the basis of the ~~number of persons over the age of 60 years per planning and service area;~~ factors and weights of the intrastate funding formula.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature ~~that that~~, in the event that an area agency on aging chooses to use other sources of funds for the administration of its area plan, the federal money made available to that area agency on aging for administration shall be used for the provision of direct services within its planning and service area.

SEC. 2. Section 9112 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

9112. (a) The department shall implement an intrastate funding formula in accordance with all federal regulations. This formula shall apply to all federal and state funds allocated for programs provided for under Title III of the federal Older Americans Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. ~~3021, 3021~~ et seq.).

(b) The intrastate funding formula shall include all of the following:

(1) ~~Assurances that all area agencies on aging shall have a fifty thousand dollar (\$50,000) administrative base with the remainder of the allowable administrative dollars allocated to planning and service areas on the basis of number of persons over the age of 60 years;~~

(2) (A) ~~When data is available, an annual update by the department for changes in population characteristics to include the number of persons per planning and service area over the age of 60 years and persons in greatest economic or social need as measured by all of the following variables which shall also be annually updated by the department:~~

(i) ~~The number of persons over the age of 65 years receiving aid under the State Supplementary Program for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled, provided for under Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 12000) of Part 3 of Division 9.~~

(ii) ~~The number of persons over the age of 75 years;~~

(iii) ~~The number of minority elderly over the age of 60 years;~~

(iv) ~~The number of persons over the age of 60 years living alone;~~

(v) ~~The number of non-English-speaking persons over the age of 60 years;~~

(B) ~~The weight given to each variable shall simulate the weighting used in the Washington State intrastate funding formula adjusting for the geographic factor.~~

(1) Assurances that all area agencies on aging shall have an administrative base in a dollar amount to be determined by the department and posted on its internet website every four years, with the remainder of the allowable administrative dollars allocated to planning and service areas on the basis of the factors and weights of the intrastate funding formula.



(2) (A) When data are available, an annual update by the department for changes in population characteristics to include persons in greatest economic or social need, incorporating all of the following variables, which shall be used to inform the factors of the intrastate funding formula by the department:

(i) The number of persons 60 years of age or older.

(ii) The number of persons 60 years of age or older living below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

(iii) The number of minority individuals 60 years of age or older.

(iv) The number of persons with a disability 60 years of age or older.

(v) The number of persons 60 years of age or older living in geographic isolation.

(B) The weight given to each variable shall be equally applied at 20 percent.

(3) A rural factor that guarantees a ~~105 percent~~ 105-percent allocation to rural planning and service areas.

(4) A hold-harmless factor that guarantees that no planning and service area shall have its federal and state allocation of funds under Title III of the federal Older Americans Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. ~~3021~~, 3021 et seq.), excluding area agency on aging administrative costs and funds carried over from the ~~1983-84~~ 2020-21 fiscal year, reduced below the ~~1984-85~~ 2021-22 fiscal year funding levels.

(c) In the event that additional federal or state funds, in excess of those appropriated under the ~~1984-85~~ 2021-22 Budget Act, or subsequent Budget Acts are made available for services, these funds shall be used to maintain existing service levels, with the remainder to be distributed to those planning and service areas ~~which that~~ have been determined by the department to be under equity until parity is achieved.

~~(d) The department shall develop, in conjunction with the intrastate funding formula, a methodology for assuring compliance with the state targeting strategy on an intraplanning and service area basis. In developing this methodology the department shall provide assurances that as additional federal and state service dollars are allocated to the planning and service areas these dollars will be expended on those elderly individuals identified as in greatest economic or social need.~~

(d) This section shall be implemented upon an appropriation made by the Legislature for this purpose.

SEC. 3. Section 9114 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:
9114. The department may, where necessary to ensure the continued provision of services or program operation, advance available state funds to an area agency on aging in an amount up to ~~one-sixth~~ one-fourth of the annual state and federal allocation to the area agency on aging.



LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

Bill No. _____
as introduced, _____
General Subject: Area agencies on aging: intrastate funding formula.

Existing law sets forth the mission of the California Department of Aging to provide leadership to area agencies on aging in developing systems of home- and community-based services that maintain individuals in their own homes or least restrictive homelike environments.

Existing law requires the department to implement an intrastate funding formula, in accordance with federal regulations, to apply to all federal and state funds allocated for programs provided for under certain provisions of the federal Older Americans Act. Existing law requires the department, on or before September 30, 2026, to submit to the Legislature and the federal Administration for Community Living an update to the formula, as specified.

Existing law requires the formula to include assurances that all area agencies on aging have a \$50,000 administrative base, with the remainder of the allowable administrative dollars allocated to planning and service areas on the basis of number of persons over the age of 60 years.

This bill would instead require the formula to include assurances that all area agencies on aging have an administrative base in a dollar amount to be determined by the department and posted on its internet website every 4 years, with the remainder allocated to planning and service areas on the basis of the factors and weights of the formula. The bill would make conforming changes to related provisions.

Existing law requires the formula to include an annual update by the department for changes in population characteristics, including the number of persons per planning and service area over the age of 60 years and persons in greatest economic or social need as measured by specified variables.

This bill would restructure those provisions, modifying the variables to include, among other things, the number of persons 60 years of age or older living below 200% of the federal poverty level or living in geographic isolation.

Existing law requires the formula to include a hold-harmless factor that guarantees that no planning and service area has its federal and state allocation of funds, as specified, reduced below the 1984–85 fiscal year funding levels.

This bill would instead set the minimum limit for the hold-harmless factor to the 2021–22 fiscal year funding levels.

Existing law requires the department to develop a methodology for assuring compliance with the state targeting strategy on an intraplanning and service area basis, as specified.

This bill would delete that provision.



UNBACKED

05/12/26 04:06 PM
RN 26 13886 PAGE 2

92323

Existing law authorizes the department to advance available state funds to an area agency on aging in an amount up to $\frac{1}{6}$ of the annual state and federal allocation to the area agency on aging.

This bill would instead set that amount up to $\frac{1}{4}$ of the allocation.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.



261388692323BILL

6.C-15

DATE: May 16, 2026

TO: AAA Advisory Council

FROM:  Patty Talbott, AAA Administrator/Planner

RE: **2026-30 CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE ELECTION**

Provided that we have a quorum present, the AAA Advisory Council will vote to elect our CSL representatives for the 2026-30 Term at this month's meeting.

The election will be held by the CSL approved method of appointment by AAA Advisory Council.

The process will be:

1. A brief presentation from each candidate for Senior Assemblymember – incumbent Antonio Rivas and candidate Mark Hucklebridge, both of Santa Cruz County.
2. Vote for the candidate of your choice on a ballot we will provide.
3. Votes will be tallied and the winner will be announced.
4. Advisory Council members will also be asked for a motion to certify the reelection of incumbent Senior Senator Mickie Luna of Hollister, who ran unopposed, as well as the results for Senior Assemblymember.
5. Staff will notify the State CSL Office of the election results.

If there is not a quorum present, the election will be postponed to June.

6. D-1

Candidate for Senior Assembly member

Mark Hucklebridge245@gmail.com

Education

High school diploma, **Montgomery High School**, Santa Rosa, CA
Staff writer, photographer Editor, high school bi-weekly newspaper

Honors at Entrance, **PACIFIC UNIVERSITY**, Forest Grove, Oregon
Staff writer/Copy Editor/ *University Index* weekly newspaper

BA, Public Relations, magna cum laud, Annenberg School of Cinema, Journalism,
Mass Communication, Public Relations 1972-74

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Staff writer/copy editor, *Daily Trojan* student newspaper

MA, Journalism, **UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN**, Madison

Harry J. Grant Fellowship, Non-resident scholarship.

Employment and Personal History

1966-68 Summer jobs, **SEBASTOPOL CO-OPERATIVE CANNERY**

1969-70 Staff writer, **SANTA ROSA NEWS-HERALD**

Summer trip, California-East coast and back. Eight weeks. \$92 expenses.

1972 Assistant Weighmaster, **Hunt-Wesson foods, Ukiah, CA**

1974 Drive from Santa Rosa, CA to Madison, Wisconsin

1975 – 1976 Graduate Internships

Attorney's General Office of Consumer Protection, Madison, WI

Produced "Consumer alert" for presentations to senior centers, service clubs,
school-age groups.

Employment history (continued)

6.D-2

MARK HUCKLEBRIDGE

Employment history (continued)

Graduate internship

1975 University of Wisconsin Center for Consumer Affairs, Milwaukee

Produced large print directories of "Who to See for Eye Care" and "Who to See for Skin Care" listing board-certified specialists in optometry, ophthalmology, and dermatology. Distributed to seniors at congregate meal sites in the greater Milwaukee area.

1976 – 1980 Director of Research and Information

ELVIRITA LEWIS FOUNDATION FOR GERIATRIC HEALTH & NUTRITION, Santa Cruz, Monterey, Indio, San Benito counties.

Conducted interviews with senior service providers, recipients of services to avoid duplication of efforts. Produced area's first Elder Resource Directory in English and Spanish. (Translation from English to Spanish by school teachers.)

Start-up introduced new operating foundation in four California counties. Coordinated estate sale and prepare for move of Ms. Lewis to Rancho Mirage.

Arranged for donation and distribution of dates, sweet corn, and 10,000 Fleet enemas shared with Grey Bears and Experience, Inc. brown bag programs.

Organized two-week Orient Gerontology Colloquia in collaboration with the American Society on Aging in conjunction with the International Congress of Gerontology in Tokyo, Japan.

Efforts made to establish link to Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion programs with Lillie Bourriague and Glorya Favor.

Organized "Get out the Elder Vote campaign," with Secretary of State March Fong Eu kick-off in Santa Cruz.

Coordinated Intergenerational Child Care Center dedication with Wilson Riles, Superintendent of Public Instruction.

1980 – 1987 Community Relations Director
Continued.

1980 – 1987 WATSONVILLE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Start-up position collaborating with administration, faculty, physicians, volunteers, staff, and public volunteers to generate community support for The Next Step \$1.8 million campaign. Re-produced Emergency handbooks in “English and Spanish distributed through California Grey Bears.

Provided administrative support for Hospital Associates, Service League (Pink ladies and blue knights) supporting construction projects, new equipment acquisition, and new services...

Established community advisory committee to address concerns with language accessibility issues and union contracts.

Produced MoneySaver65 (discount program for drug stores) and Courtesy card sign-ups for computerized patient registration.

Developed and launched **PRIME HEALTH** community education classes and hospital’s first home care program.

1986 – 1993 Part-time weekend & night Instructor, CABRILLO COLLEGE
Small Business Training Center. Advertising, customer service training, public relations, and publicity classes.

1987 – 1991 Development Director, Santa Cruz SPCA

Start-up fundraising during and after Loma Prieta earthquake. Collaborated with local resources to distribute semi-truck loads of pet food and toys, cat feeders, and pet health insurance paperwork.

Assisted with law-enforcement approved puppy mill rescuing 147 neglected dogs. Field inquiries after round-up of 77 malnourished horses were seized.

National recognition of original “Special People Care about Animals” campaign by the Humane Society of the United States.

1991- 1993 Development Associate, College of Applied Sciences and Arts SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY

Produced Experts Guide for faculty, funding sources, and media interest.

Launched CASA alumni association. Organized Flights of Fantasy, Aviation department open house.

Coordinated “Community Policing” conference with Administration of Justice Center and Santa Jose City Police officers.

1993-2000 Director of Public Information and Public Affairs
MONTEREY INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

(merged with Middlebury College, VT in 2001)

Collaborated with faculty and community groups for speakers bureau and Experts Guide. World-wide recognition for Translation and Interpretation graduate programs.

Interfaced with World Affairs Council and Friends of MIIS program activities.

Wrote and produced copy for newsletters and quarterly Communique sent to alumni and funders.

**2001-2004 Assistant Professor, Journalism, Public Relations,
CAL POLY STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN LUIS OBISPO**

**2004-2007 Director of Philanthropy and Marketing
Santa Cruz Medical Foundation, Palo Alto Medical Foundation, Visiting
Nurse Association.**

Start-up position established planned heritage society.

County-wide recognition for successful United Way participation.

2007-2009 Full-time teacher, Cesar Chavez Middle School, Watsonville

2009-2010 Director of Development, Community Bridges

Incumbent Senior Assembly member

Antonio R. Rivas

Educational Excellence and Leadership

Presently I'm board member of the California Senior Legislature, Santa Cruz County Senior Commission, Santa Cruz County Behavioral {Mental}Health Commission, Executive Board Member of Area Agency on Aging {Triple AAA}, Watsonville Senior Action Committee and member of San Benito Latino Coalition.

Retired after 45 years in Public Education...

22 years with the Salinas Union High School District

10 years with the Pajaro Valley Unified School District. 8 years with Vista Unified School District

40 years in Elementary and Secondary Education by serving as Head Counselor(Middle School/High School), Counselor, Resource Teacher, Teacher, Migrant Education Summer School Principal and Head Teacher, Yo Puedo and Talent Search Summer School Coordinator(UCSC) and Bilingual Coordinator..

Regional President for the State of California Counseling Association..

5 years with San Diego State University as Coordinator of the EOP/ Supportive Services, Director of College Assistance Migrant Program (C.A.M.P.) and Mini- Corps Coordinator...

Community and Leadership Involvement:

8 years as an Elected Official for the City of Watsonville. Served as a 2 Term Mayor and 2-Term Mayor Pro Tempore.

As an Elected official served as the Regional President of the California League of Cities, Santa Cruz County Transportation Commissioner, Metro Board of Directors, Library Commissioner, Criminal Justice and Sheriff Commissioner.. MAAC Project Board of Directors..

Other Educational and Leadership experience:

In Vista Unified School District develop the first Family Community School (La Escuela de La Familia) A Community School to provide classes in Basic Skills, ESL, Citizenship, Art, Baile Folklorico, Pre-School education, parent involvement and sports for the whole family...

La Escuela de La Familia was a awarded by the State and Federal Department of Education as an exemplary and innovative program in providing education to the whole family..

Assist and negotiated with the State Migrant Education Department in creating a Region of Migrant Education for San Diego County in order to provide education and supportive services for our migrant farmworkers..

Awarded the Santa Cruz County Teacher of the Year.

Awarded State of California Counselor of the Year.

Assisted in having a Counselor's Manual for Salinas Union High School District that led to negotiating with our AFT Union to have Counselors a student ratio of 400:1 in the Middle and High School..

President of the Salinas League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Council #2055



Current Senior Senator
Ran unopposed
Vote to confirm

Mickie Solorio Luna

Mickie Luna is a woman of compassion and principle. She loves her heritage and gives endlessly for the betterment of her community. She is focused and tireless, she is one of the most recognized and honored citizens in San Benito County

Mickie was born and raised in Hollister, California. The youngest child of 12 children born to parents who migrated to the United States from Mexico in search of a better life.

Mickie has founded or been a board member of countless organizations and committees including including MANA-the Mexican American National Association for Women, Mexican-American Committee on Education, founding member of the San Benito County Latino Coalition, former Vice Chair for AT&T's Latino Institute for Corporate Inclusion, ardent supporter of the United Farm Workers of America, Commissioner for the Paisano Commission in Mexico City under President Vicente Fox.

She was named to the first edition of Who's Who Among Hispanics of America. Mickie was honored in 2017 by then Assemblywoman Anna Caballero as the 30th Assembly District Woman of the Year. She was honored in Mexico City with the Humanitarian Doctorate Honoris Causa Doctorate for the humanitarian work she has performed in the United States on behalf of the Mexican population. In 2018, Mickie was named as the US Coordinator for the Ibero-Americano Claustro Doctoral for Mexico.

Mickie retired from the City of Hollister Finance Department on March 30, 2007 after 30 years of dedicated service to residents of this City, receiving commendations from every government agency in San Benito County. In 2014, she was elected to the Hollister City Council and served as councilmember and Vice Mayor for a 4 year term. She has served as a board member of the Senior Board for San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties for the past 12 years, and currently serves as a Senior Senator of the CA Senior Legislature. She is the current president of the Latino Coalition of San Benito County, an organization whom she helped to form in 1988. In 2021, Mickie was named Woman of the Year by the San Benito County Chamber of Commerce.

In her civic and special project involvements, she champions the Latino population because she knows there is a need to. She is an ardent proponent of affirmative action, helping young people, and being involved in communities in need. She is positive in her thinking and in her approach to her goals. You may say Mickie Solorio Luna is well connected, but in fact she is the connection for many people throughout the State of California, the nation and internationally.



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: 5-15-26

To: Seniors Council Board of Directors, AAA Advisory Council

From: Clay Kempf, Executive Director

RE: Executive Director's May Report

BUDGET SHORTFALLS

Fiscal staff have been putting in extensive hours focusing on alternative ways to reduce our costs, or, on how to report our options accurately. The result of that work is reported under Finance Committee.

During our monthly all-staff meeting this week, we followed up on our previous month's discussion of our fiscal challenges, and shared details of the options being considered; fewer hours, frozen wages, reduced benefits, and possible layoffs. I also spent some time expressing what a different all of our staff makes in the lives of older adults, shared how proud and honored I am to work with them, and that they should embrace that pride in themselves and with those they interact with in their personal and professional lives. That didn't make the news any better or the impact any less serious, but the sharing of what everyone is doing did create at least some feeling of success and impact.

Our staff all deserve a better fate than reduced hours and flat wages, of course, but we have little choice. All alternative ideas are welcomed, and we're lucky to have the staff longevity and resultant expertise that results.

AGENCY OPERATIONS & FUNDING

Program Director Cristina Bañuelos has been requested to make quite a few revisions to her submitted Americorps grant renewals for both the Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Programs for the three fiscal years of 2026-2029. Totalling well over \$1 million per year, these grants provide the vast majority of funding for both programs, and represents our second-largest funding source, topped only by the Older Americans Act administered by California's Department of Aging. Cristina has applied for increases over her current grant amounts, and we're all crossing our fingers that

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

7-1

those submissions will be successful. The revisions are mainly around the new requirement that answers to each of the grant questions follow a very specific format. It appears the review process has been modified significantly and is morphing from an art into a checklist.

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF AREA AGENCIES ON AGING STRATEGIC PLANNING

I attended C4A's annual planning retreat last week, and found it simultaneously inspiring, invigorating, and depressing and exhausting. Highlights were laying out three focus areas; 1) enhancing Information and Assistance programs and services; 2) Improving advocacy techniques and strategies, and 3) strengthening the Association. All three of those points should improve our own operations as well as the services we and our contracted service providers deliver to our local adults. The camaraderie developed within the network is always needed, and with numerous new AAA Directors the teamwork that emerged felt critical to our future.

On the depressing side, concerns over California Department of Aging's direction and how their own internal challenges impact AAAs have never seen greater. It is not a good time for CDA to be revamping AAA models when their ability to perform and communicate about their core functions is in its current state.

The retreat included advocacy training from the indomitable Kathy Mossburg of Mosaic Solutions and Advocacy, and an interactive session with Liz Fuller, staff to the California Assembly Committee on Aging and Long Term Care. Liz wants to see many more bills about older adults and people with disabilities submitted in the coming year. C4 will certainly make an effort to do so, but the invitation is also wide open for individual agencies such as ours to find legislative sponsors and submit proposals.

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

The latest version of the *Intrastate Funding Formula* is sort of unchanged from last month. CDA reports that none of the factors are being changed; however, some of the calculations they previously released were inaccurate, so a new 11x17 spreadsheet has been developed that significantly changes the allocations in at least Los Angeles County and City. Our allocation is unchanged; I haven't done a side-by-side comparison of other AAAs. But being informed that the allocations between the two L.A.s was wrong doesn't create a lot of confidence in the numbers. The new spreadsheet was shared the afternoon of May 7th; I e-mailed CDA leadership to see if they would be extending the public comment period given the change in the information being distributed and two of the five remaining days being weekends. CDA responded with a no, saying the factors haven't changed, only the resulting numbers.

MASTER PLAN FOR AGING (MPA) LOCAL PLAYBOOKS

We continue to promote and share the content of our MPA Local Playbooks throughout our PSA, with mixed responses. Corey and Zach had very productive Local

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

Corey has made several public presentations to various groups in San Benito County, keeping the playbook fresh and expanding the audience.

In Santa Cruz County, the Governance Committee will meet again on June 1, and expect to see a presentation from the City of Watsonville on their Age Friendly plan. We still haven't been allowed to present the Local Playbook presentation to the committee.

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.

SERVICE PROVIDER PROGRESS REPORT & CSL ELECTIONS

Service Provider engagement continues as part of our regular functions, including regular informal check-ins and the receipt and review of provider performance and fiscal reporting. Formal monitoring of each of our contracted service providers begins next month.

Service delivery in Hollister at the Pauline Valdivia Memorial Center is proving to be more challenging than expected. The building is undergoing repairs and renovations, causing it to be closed at times. Unfortunately, those closures are not aligning with proposed timelines or durations, causing unexpected disruptions in the provision of congregate and home-delivered meals, of the operations of our ADRC's information & support service, and Project SCOUT's tax assistance. Britt, Bill Lee of Martha's Kitchen, and Ed Santana are doing their best to mitigate the disruptions, but service is compromised and all involved parties are spending additional time problem solving the logistical challenges created. We are attempting to resolve the challenges and avoid future experiences of this nature with Hollister Parks and Rec staff.

Jovenes de Antaño is challenging the transfer of two vehicles that were purchased using AAA funds and are used to deliver meals. The vehicles were cooperatively handed over to Martha's Kitchen back in June/July of 2025, and legal transfer of ownership completed for one; unfortunately paperwork was not finalized for vehicle #2. We're not sure why Jovenes has challenged the ownership of both vehicles, or even one of them, but some of the arguments are bordering on the bizarre. If not resolved soon, we'll solicit the legal assistance of the state Department of Aging.

California Senior Legislature (CSL) elections are on the horizon, and so far with have three applicants for the two seats, including CSL incumbents Senator Mickie Luna and

Assemblyman Antonio. We anticipate holding the elections during our May AAA
Advisory Council meeting,



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

Monthly Report to the Board of Directors – Seniors Council of Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties

Submitted by Corey Shaffer, Community Coordinator

Senior Services Planning and Volunteer Engagement

San Benito County, Seniors Council

For the Month of April 2026

Overview

April focused on expanding outreach, strengthening partnerships, increasing awareness of volunteer opportunities, and continuing development of countywide aging and volunteer engagement initiatives supporting older adults, caregivers, individuals with disabilities, and residents throughout San Benito County.

Continued efforts included volunteer engagement outreach, newsletter communications, community presentations, partnership development, and support of local Master Plan for Aging (MPA) initiatives.

Volunteer Program (SBCVolunteers.org)

Continued Activities

- Continued outreach and support of participating agencies utilizing [SBCVolunteers.org](https://www.sbcvolunteers.org)
- Ongoing promotion of volunteer opportunities and community engagement efforts across San Benito County
- Monitoring volunteer sign-ups, agency participation, and platform engagement activity
- Continued outreach encouraging organizations to utilize volunteer tracking and reporting features within the platform

Current Platform Snapshot

- 22 active agencies registered on the platform
- 61 registered users
- 10 active volunteer opportunities listed
- 17 new users year-to-date
- Over 3,000 agency views year-to-date
- More than 1,200 volunteer need views year-to-date

Volunteer Opportunities Highlighted

Volunteer opportunities currently promoted through the platform include:

- HICAP Volunteers
- Certified Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program
- CASA of San Benito County
- Bridge Hospice Companion Volunteers
- Downtown Hollister Association events
- Senior meal and lunch support opportunities

Community Outreach & Marketing

- Continued promotion of SBCVolunteers.org, volunteer opportunities, and aging-related resources through presentations, social media, newsletters, and community networking efforts
- Continued distribution of the *San Benito County Seniors Connect Newsletter* highlighting programs, volunteer opportunities, and community resources
- Outreach efforts continued to focus on increasing visibility of senior services and volunteer engagement opportunities throughout the county

Community Meetings & Outreach Activities

- **April 18, 2026** – Tabled at the Caregiver University Conference, providing outreach and information regarding volunteer opportunities, ADRC resources, and aging services
- **April 23, 2026** – Volunteered for the San Benito Leadership Institute Information Night
- **April 28, 2026** – Met with Leah Calderon from the City of Hollister regarding community collaboration and outreach opportunities
- **May 7, 2026** – Presented to the San Benito County Business Council regarding the Master Plan for Aging, volunteer engagement efforts, and community aging initiatives
- **May 11, 2026** – Presented at the Hollister Rotary Club on SBCVolunteers.org and Master Plan for Aging Playbook

- Participated in additional outreach and presentations during Older Americans Month activities, including community presentations and awareness efforts related to aging services and volunteer engagement

Community Engagement & Partnerships

- Continued collaboration with local organizations, nonprofits, and community partners to strengthen volunteer engagement and community resource awareness
- Supported initiatives focused on healthy aging, caregiver support, volunteerism, and community connection
- Continued partnership development efforts with local agencies and organizations to expand participation in community engagement initiatives

Master Plan for Aging (MPA)

- Continued coordination and support of San Benito County's local Master Plan for Aging implementation efforts
- Ongoing collaboration with workgroup participants and community stakeholders connected to:
 - Healthy Aging
 - Housing
 - Caregiving
 - Inclusion & Equity
 - Affording Aging
- Continued outreach and presentations helping raise awareness of aging-related initiatives and the growing senior population within San Benito County

Communications & Outreach (Seniors Connect Newsletter)

April 2026 Newsletter Performance

- 365 emails sent
- 348 emails successfully delivered
- 46.8% open rate
- 5.2% click rate
- 163 confirmed opens
- 18 email clicks

Top Performing Links

- [SBCVolunteers.org](https://www.sbcvolunteers.org)
- Seniors Council resources

- Master Plan for Aging Playbook information
- Community partner resources and events

Strong community engagement continues through digital outreach, newsletters, social media, and presentations.

Observations & Opportunities

- Volunteer engagement and community awareness efforts continue to grow steadily
- Agency participation on the volunteer platform continues expanding, though usage and volunteer hour tracking varies by organization
- Community presentations and networking opportunities continue helping increase awareness of aging and volunteer initiatives throughout the county
- Newsletter engagement remains strong and continues driving traffic to volunteer opportunities and community resources

Next Steps / Focus Areas

- Continue expanding nonprofit and volunteer participation on SBCVolunteers.org
- Continue outreach to encourage consistent agency platform engagement and volunteer tracking
- Support future volunteer and community resource events
- Continue presentations and outreach efforts related to aging services and volunteer engagement
- Continue strengthening partnerships supporting Master Plan for Aging initiatives throughout San Benito County

Upcoming Activities & Presentations

- **May 22, 2026** – Presentation on SBCVolunteers.org and volunteer opportunities for Seniors Council/AmeriCorps Seniors participants (Monica Alvarez group)
- **June 4, 2026** – Presenting at the San Benito County Behavioral Health Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee (EDIC) meeting
- **June, 2026** – Presentation at the Community Foundation for San Benito County Executive Directors Round Table on SBCVolunteers.org and volunteer engagement efforts
- **July 30, 2026** – ¼ combined Master Plan for Aging (MPA) workgroup meeting



Celebrating OLDER AMERICANS' MONTH

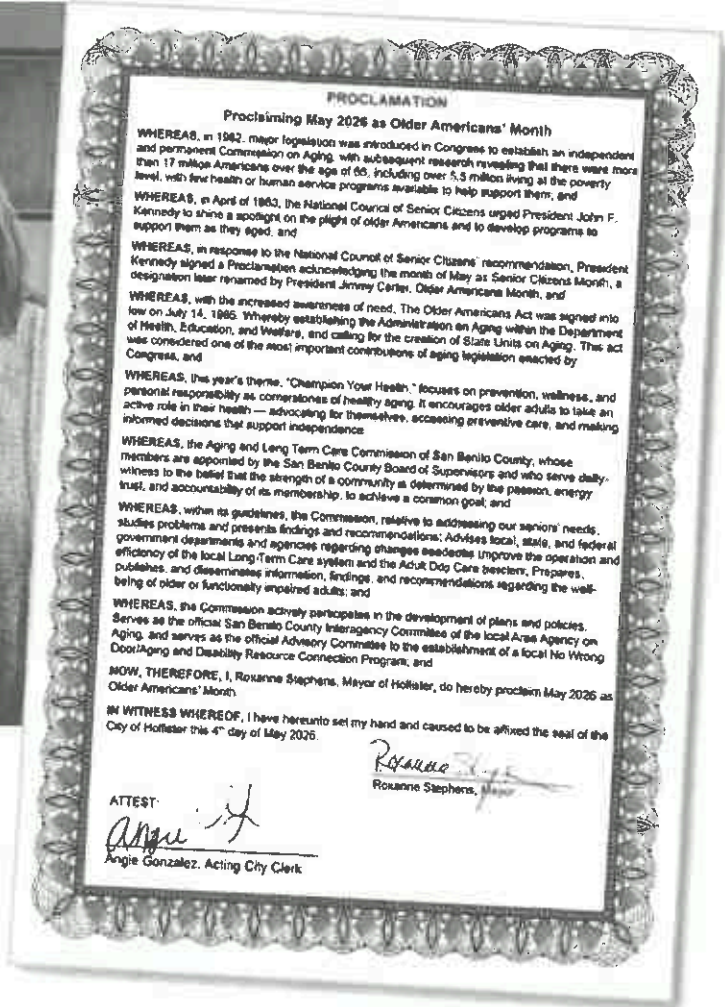


The City of Hollister proudly proclaims May 2026 as
Older Americans' Month!



This proclamation recognizes the invaluable contributions of older adults in our community and reaffirms our commitment to their well-being, independence, and quality of life.

Thank you to our seniors—
you inspire and strengthen
our community every day!



2026 THEME: CHAMPION YOUR HEALTH



Focus on
Prevention



Embrace
Wellness



Stay Active



Advocate for
Your Health

Stronger Together. Healthier Together.

8.C-5

Grateful

TO THE **HOLLISTER ROTARY CLUB**

Thank you for the warm welcome and this incredible gift!


Honored to present the **Master Plan for Aging** and the **Volunteer Program** and to be part of such an inspiring community.




- Community Foundation
- Solutions Summit
- Monthly Workgroups
- Addition by Aging & Long Term Care Commission
- AAA Advisory Council
- California Dept of Aging LADAP
- Action-Oriented Playbook



A Gift **WITH MEANING**

A reminder of the values that guide us to **UNITE FOR GOOD.** 

Thank you, Hollister Rotary Club!

Together, we can make a difference and build a brighter future for all. 



SENIORS COUNCIL
CONCILIO DE PERSONAS MAYORES
SERVICE • SUPPORT • ADVOCACY

SAN BENITO
CONNECT
NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR
VOLUNTEER NETWORK

8.C-7



TOGETHER, WE
CREATE CHANGE.



STRONGER
TOGETHER



SERVICE
ABOVE SELF



MAKING A
DIFFERENCE



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 & CalFresh Assistance

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

PROJECT SCOUT

End of April 2026 Report

2026 Tax Season Prep Sites*

- 1-ALL: Project SCOUT Tax Facilitated Self Assistance ONLINE <http://tinyurl.com/SCOUTFSA>
- 2-Project SCOUT VITA (Ad hoc, remote, & special events such as services at senior home facilities).
- 3-Highlands Park Community Center Wednesday and Thursday 10-1 by appointment (Ben Lomond)*.
- 4-Felton Public Library Saturday 10-1 by appointment*.
- 5-Santa Cruz Public Library Downtown Tuesday and Saturday 10:30-3 by appointment*.
- 6-London Nelson Community Center Monday 9:30-1 by appointment (Santa Cruz)*.
- 7-Market Street Senior Center Wednesday 1:30-3:30 First-come, first-served. Seniors and disabled (Santa Cruz).
- 8-Capitola Public Library Wednesday 2-5 by appointment*.
- 9-Mid-County Senior Center Wednesday 9-12 by appointment. Seniors and disabled (Capitola)*.
- 10-Aptos Public Library Tuesday 10-2 by appointment*.
- 11-La Manzana Community Resources Tuesday 9-2 by appointment (Watsonville)*.
- 12-Watsonville Public Library Wednesday 1-7 First-come, first-served.
- 13-Watsonville Senior Center Tuesday 9-12 & Thursday 10-3 by appointment. Seniors and disabled.
- 14-San Juan Bautista Public Library 2nd Thursday of the month 1-4 by appointment*.
- 15-Pauline Valdivia Memorial Community Center Wednesday 2-4:30 by appointment (Hollister)*.

Ad-Hoc Events in April

1. Homeless Garden Project (Santa Cruz)
2. La Posada Senior Living Retirement Community (Santa Cruz)
3. In-home support services for those unable to attend tax sites

Appointments are taken by calling 831-724-2606 or emailing projectscout@seniorscouncil.org, or in person at those sites that help with appointments*.

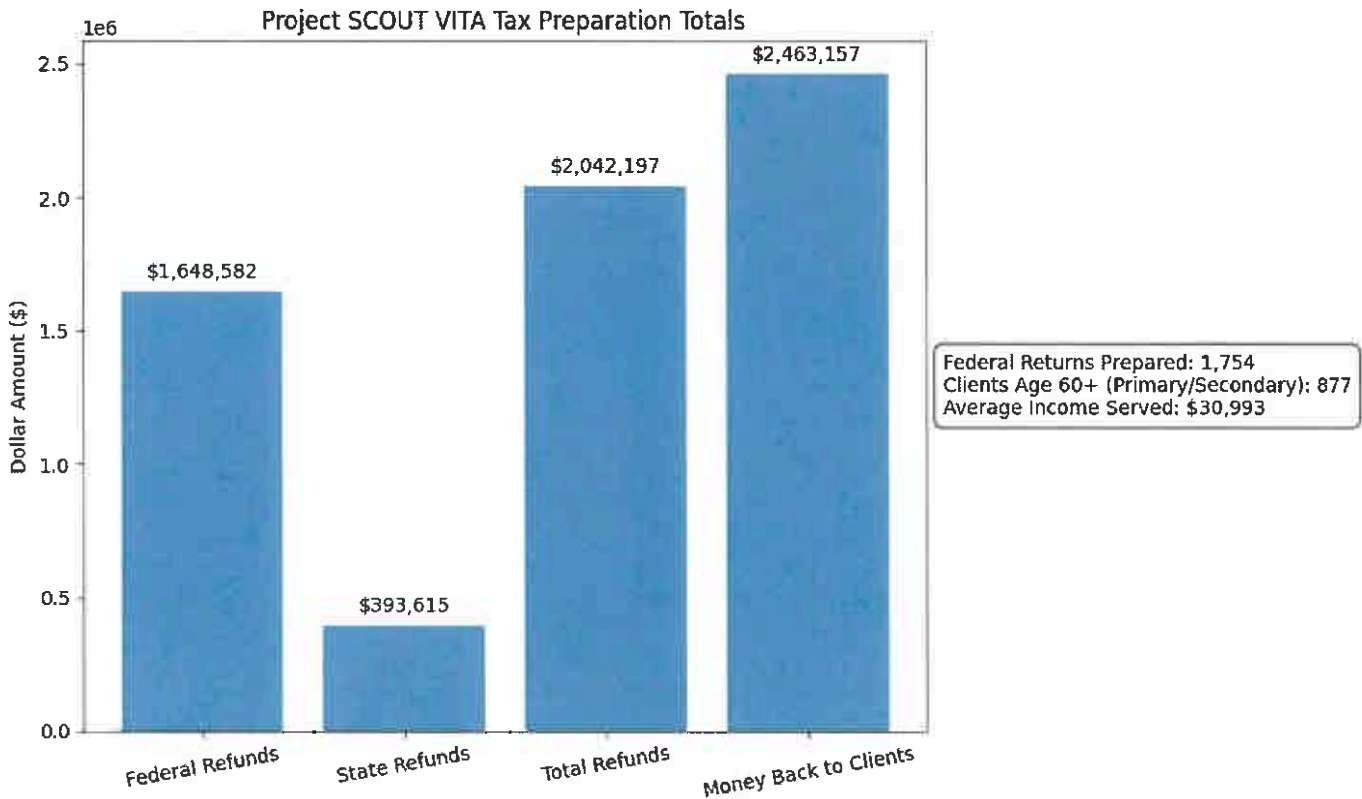
Project SCOUT APRIL Tax Production Totals

Project SCOUT Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Tax Preparation Totals:

- Number of Federal returns prepared – 1754
- Primary or secondary 60 years old or older – 877
- Average income of those serviced – \$30,993.00
- Dollar Amount of Federal refunds including credits – \$1,648,582.00
- Dollar Amount of State refunds including credits – \$393,615.00

Dollar Amount of TOTAL refunds – **\$2,042,197.00**

Money back in the wallets of our clients, including average return cost of \$240.00 – **\$2,463,157.00!**



CalFresh Services

CalFresh services for seniors and disabled are offered to those requesting the service during tax season. Outreach will be performed starting in May.

- Number of Senior and disabled clients assessed for services – 2 (2 SCC, 0 SBC)
- Number of clients assisted with CalFresh in Santa Cruz County – 2
- Number of clients assisted with CalFresh in San Benito County – 0

8.0-2

April 2026 Recap

Challenges:

April services in Hollister out of the Pauline Valdivia Memorial Center (PVMC) were jeopardized due to the last minute notice of site closure. This situation left our dedicated crew of volunteers and support staff scrambling for space where our clients could be serviced, as well as needing many extra hours of work to provide feasible options to our taxpayers. Wednesday afternoon (2pm to 5pm) services out of the Pauline Valdivia Memorial Center (PVMC) were switched to the San Juan Bautista Library, and our dedicated volunteers kept on servicing clients on Wednesday evenings (post 5:30pm to 7:30pm) out of the PVMC up until 4/15, through April, even when electricity was not available!

Best Practices:

As a result of the hard work and efforts of The Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), San Juan Bautista Public Library, and our dedicated volunteers and staff, Project SCOUT was able to provide accommodations to 29 tax clients scheduled for services out of PVMC in April through appointments at the San Juan Bautista Library, or Wednesday evening (5:30 to 7:30) drop-offs and pick-ups of returns at PVMC, thus assuring that everyone promised with an appointment did not get left stranded.

April 15th was the closure of regular tax season, yet Project SCOUT continued providing services up until the end of April at 4 of its 15 tax season sites, providing at least 25 tax returns to taxpayers post April 15th. We foresee Project SCOUT providing at least once per month services to our Santa Cruz and San Benito County communities up until October 15th 2026.

Project SCOUT has been nominated by members of the Santa Cruz County community for the "Be The Difference" Award hosted by the Santa Cruz Volunteer Center. We are honored and delighted to be recognized for the important and significant work Project SCOUT provides to those we serve, and look forward to attending the ceremony this following May 20th.



8.D-3

PROCLAMATION

Proclaiming May 2026 as Older Americans' Month

WHEREAS, in 1962, major Legislation was introduced in Congress to establish an independent and permanent Commission on Aging, with subsequent research revealing that there were more than 17 million Americans over the age of 65, including over 5.5 million living at the poverty level, with few health or human service programs available to help support them; and

WHEREAS, in April of 1963, the National Council of Senior Citizens urged President John F. Kennedy to shine a spotlight on the plight of older Americans and to develop programs to support them as they aged; and

WHEREAS, in response to the National Council of Senior Citizens' recommendation, President Kennedy signed a Proclamation acknowledging the month of May as Senior Citizens Month, a designation later renamed by President Jimmy Carter, Older Americans Month; and

WHEREAS, with the increased awareness of need, The Older Americans Act was signed into law on July 14, 1965. Whereby establishing the Administration on Aging within the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and calling for the creation of State Units on Aging. This act was considered one of the most important contributions of aging legislation enacted by Congress; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme, "Champion Your Health," focuses on prevention, wellness, and personal responsibility as cornerstones of healthy aging. It encourages older adults to take an active role in their health — advocating for themselves, accessing preventive care, and making informed decisions that support independence.

WHEREAS, the Aging and Long Term Care Commission of San Benito County, whose members are appointed by the San Benito County Board of Supervisors and who serve daily-witness to the belief that the strength of a community is determined by the passion, energy, trust, and accountability of its membership, to achieve a common goal; and

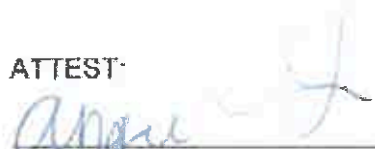
WHEREAS, within its guidelines, the Commission, relative to addressing our seniors' needs, studies problems and presents findings and recommendations; Advises local, state, and federal government departments and agencies regarding changes needed to improve the operation and efficiency of the local Long-Term Care system and the Adult Day Care system; Prepares, publishes, and disseminates information, findings, and recommendations regarding the well-being of older or functionally impaired adults; and

WHEREAS the Commission actively participates in the development of plans and policies; Serves as the official San Benito County Interagency Committee of the local Area Agency on Aging, and serves as the official Advisory Committee to the establishment of a local No Wrong Door/Aging and Disability Resource Connection Program; and

NOW, THEREFORE I, Roxanne Stephens, Mayor of Hollister do hereby proclaim May 2026 as Older Americans' Month

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the seal of the City of Hollister this 4th day of May 2026

ATTEST:


Angie Gonzalez, Acting City Clerk


Roxanne Stephens, Mayor

9-1



SAN BENITO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dom Zanger
District 1

Kollin Kosmicki
District 2

Mindy Sotelo
District 3

Angela Curro
District 4

Ignacio Velazquez
District 5

A Proclamation Recognizing May 2026 as Older Americans' Month in San Benito County

Whereas, in 1962, major Legislation was introduced in Congress, to establish an independent and permanent Commission on Aging with subsequent research revealing that there were more than 17 million Americans over the age of 65, including over 5.5 million living at the poverty level, with few health or human service programs available to help support them, and; and

Whereas, in April of 1963, the National Council of Senior Citizens urged President John F. Kennedy to shine a spotlight on the plight of older Americans and to develop programs to support them as they aged; and

Whereas, in response to the National Council of Senior Citizens' recommendation, President Kennedy signed a Proclamation acknowledging the month of May as Senior Citizens Month a designation later renamed by President Jimmy Carter, Older Americans Month; and

Whereas, with the increased awareness of need, The Older Americans Act was signed into law on July 14, 1965. Whereby establishing the Administration on Aging within the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and calling for the creation of State Units on Aging. This act was considered one of the most important contributions of aging legislation enacted by Congress; and

Whereas, historically, Older Americans Month has been a time to acknowledge the contributions of older persons to our Country, today it is profoundly important to extend the 2021 theme "Communities of Strength" to include the Aging and Long Term Care Commission of San Benito County, whose members are appointed, by the San Benito County Board of Supervisors and who serve daily-witness to the belief that the strength of a community is determined by the passion, energy, trust, and accountability of its membership, to achieve a common goal; and

Whereas, within its guidelines, the Commission, relative to addressing our seniors' needs, studies problems and presents findings and recommendations; Advises local, state, and federal government departments and agencies regarding changes needed to improve the operation and efficiency of the local Long-Term Care system and the Adult Day Care system; Prepares, publishes, and disseminates information, findings, and recommendations regarding the well-being of older or functionally impaired adults; and

Whereas, the Commission actively participates in the development of plans and policies; Serves as the official San Benito County Interagency Committee of the local Area Agency on Aging, and serves as the official Advisory Committee to the establishment of a local No Wrong Door/Aging and Disability Resource Connection Program; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, the County of San Benito that the Month of May 2026 be declared Older Americans' Month.

In witness of the approval of this proclamation by the Board of Supervisors of San Benito County on this 12th day of May 2026.

9 - 2

Dom Zanger, Chair

City of Scotts Valley
Mayor's Proclamation

Proclaiming May 2026 as Older Americans Month

WHEREAS, the City of Scotts Valley is home to many vibrant and active older Americans who contribute their time, wisdom, and experience to our community; and

WHEREAS, according to the last census, the population of people over 65 in Santa Cruz County grew faster than any county in California; and

WHEREAS, aging is a dynamic process that leads to new abilities and knowledge to share with our community; and

WHEREAS, communities benefit when people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds have the opportunity to contribute and live meaningful lives; and

WHEREAS, the City of Scotts Valley recognizes the need to create a community that offers the services and support older adults may need to make choices about how they age; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 theme for Older Americans Month is *Champion Your Health* which underscores prevention, wellness, and personal responsibility as cornerstones of healthy aging; and

WHEREAS, this theme encourages older Americans to take an active role in managing and advocating for their health, accessing preventive care, and making informed decisions; and

WHEREAS, in the Scotts Valley community, we value partnerships that empower individuals to lead healthy lives, and we embrace the many opportunities that come with aging

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Donna Lind, as Mayor of the City of Scotts Valley, on behalf of the entire City Council, do hereby proclaim May 2026 to be Older Americans Month





Donna Lind, Mayor

Signed and sealed this 6th day of May 2026

Receiving the 2026 Older Americans Month proclamation from Scott Valley's Mayor and City Council





SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

Opinion: AI is coming for our aging parents, ready or not Robotic companions are coming into our parents' and grandparents' lives as they grow older. But will they really help?



Dai Sugano — Bay Area News Group
Marieta Chapman talks to “Miroki,” a social companion robot brought in to interact with clients at Live Oak Adult Day Services in San Jose in November.



By Catherine Thorbecke

PUBLISHED: April 30, 2026 at 3:15 AM PDT | UPDATED: April 30, 2026 at 4:17 AM PDT

At first glance, AI companions for lonely seniors can seem dystopian, looking less like innovation than a bleak sign of social failure.

Spending a couple days last week in Tokyo nursing homes, I watched plushie robots the size of human babies being handed to aging parents and grandparents, and prototypes of conversational dolls aimed to fill gaps when family, community and human care fall short.

It reminded me of showing ChatGPT’s advanced voice mode to my own 97-year-old grandfather last summer, shortly after my grandmother passed away. He was appalled, making clear he had no interest in chatting with the artificially cheery voice.

9-6

Caregiver shortage

And yet my instinct to recoil at this all collides with a harder reality. Japan, like much of Asia, is aging fast and running short of caregivers. It's no surprise that policymakers are turning to technology. The nation is expected to face a shortage of 570,000 care workers by 2040, making the search for solutions increasingly urgent. And the meteoric rise of AI makes companion robots an attractive policy goal.

But they're no panacea. They may have a place in the future of care, but the bigger risk is that governments and companies will use them to dodge the harder fixes required to treat care work as essential infrastructure. This involves increasing wages, supporting seniors who want to live at home, and focusing on targeted tech solutions that help people maintain independence as they age.

Japan, long a leader in industrial automation, has been trying to make eldercare robots happen for a long time. Despite the immense hype, headlines and millions of dollars in government funding, it has yielded mixed results. Ghosts of these past efforts are still being put to use. In one of the facilities I visited, Softbank Group Corp.'s since-discontinued Pepper slumped in the corner of a room before it was rebooted to conduct an exercise class — alongside a human handler who was doing the same motions right beside it. Some patients seemed genuinely drawn to a stuffed animal robotic toy that would coo and react to touch, but the artificial bark rang in my ears for hours afterward.

In his 2023 book *Robots Won't Save Japan*, ethnographic researcher James Wright argues that the country's costly push into eldercare automation often produced unintended consequences and, in some cases, more work for staffers. Much of the money might have been better spent elsewhere, he notes. But Wright's fieldwork largely predates the AI shock that has breathed new life into this push.

Despite persistent stereotypes, Japan hasn't widely embraced the idea of robots as friends. The country had the lowest share of respondents that said they were "extremely excited" about AI companions in an Ipsos survey of 21 countries. It also had the highest share — 46% — of people who said they have not used an AI tool or application in the last 12 months. There is no doubt AI has the potential to revolutionize workflows, especially in care facilities. But those efforts might be better spent on easing caregivers' administrative burdens than replacing their face time with patients.

At one nursing home, the hopes for the potential of AI companion toys from their creators and caregivers was contagious. Even loving families cannot be present 24 hours a day, and engaging with the stuffed toy seemed better than staring at a wall. The engineered friendliness of chatbots has sowed concerns for its impact on young users, but what if that drive for engagement is conversely useful if it's aimed at keeping lonely seniors cognitively engaged?

Experimentation is spreading across Asia. In South Korea, government-led public welfare programs have distributed 14,000 AI-powered "Hyodol" devices to elderly people, baby-sized

plushies that use ChatGPT to communicate. In China, some retirees are turning to apps like ByteDance Ltd.'s Doubao for ordinary frustrations of aging, like deciphering tiny print on instruction manuals.

Teaching seniors

Tencent Holdings Ltd. said last month that it has run more than 200 local workshops teaching seniors how to use its Yuanbao chatbot for tasks such as asking for life hacks and recipes. Beijing increasingly views the “silver economy” as a new growth engine, meaning there is also a lot of money to be made. One national political adviser told state-backed media that the market could reach \$4 trillion by 2035.

With worker shortages deepening across the region, governments are running out of time. The debate is often framed as a choice between technology and immigration. Policymakers, especially here in Tokyo, would be wise to accept more foreign workers to plug labor gaps, but that’s not a durable answer on its own. This is no longer just a Japan problem. By 2050, nearly all OECD countries will be “super-aged,” with more than 20% of their populations over 65. Asia’s scramble to care for an aging population is worth paying attention to as it offers a preview of the pressures much of the world will soon face.

As AI more broadly weasels its way into progressively intimate corners of our lives, companion bots seem like a well-meaning attempt to use the technology for good. But they’re just one tool in a kit that should have the larger goal of preserving dignity in old age and easing the burden of caregivers with whatever works — whether that’s more robots, or even luring bodybuilders to the profession, as one company in the manufacturing and shipping hub of Nagoya is doing.

Automation still has a place here. Research published last year on Japanese nursing homes found that robot adoption reduced worker quit rates and was associated with better care quality. The findings were telling: Robots may raise productivity by shifting staff toward tasks involving “human touch, empathy and dexterity,” where humans still hold the clear advantage.

But one detail buried in research stood out: Care worker pay barely exceeded the minimum wage. Before investing millions more yen in robotic experiments, the next policy response might be to meaningfully lift wages as part of a broader effort to restore dignity and status to the work itself.

It seems inevitable that AI companions are coming into our parents’ and grandparents’ lives as they age. The test is whether they will serve as a useful support for human care, or a shiny excuse to abandon it.

Catherine Thorbecke is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering Asia tech. ©2026 Bloomberg News. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency.

9-8