

California Department of Aging March 2023 Aging Matters Newsletter

The California Department of Aging (CDA) is sharing this update about current program developments and upcoming programs and events.

CA2030

Have you heard about CA2030? To prepare to serve a larger, older, and more diverse population of older Californians, CDA is convening leaders in aging to identify opportunities for Area Agency on Aging (AAA) network-wide advancement and enhancement. Six areas of focus include: funding sources and capacities, geography and demographics, governance, branding and communications, programs and services, and performance measures. We'll share more later this year as we begin developing a future-oriented framework with recommendations for both CDA and the California aging network.

Older Californians Nutrition Month

March is Older Californians Nutrition Month, which highlights and celebrates the positive impacts food and community have on older adults and those who serve them. For example: four out of five meal program participants say a congregate meal program improved their health. Read some Nutrition Program success stories and watch for CDA's posts on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn throughout March. We've also developed an online toolkit you can use to share information with your audiences.

COVID-19 Treatments Available

California's State of Emergency has ended but COVID-19 is still circulating. There are medications you can take at home that are safe and effective for treating COVID-19, and that are free and widely available. If you get COVID-19, these medications can stop the illness from getting serious, can help you to test negative sooner, and may reduce the risk of long COVID symptoms. The California Department of Public Health has an online toolkit available to help you spread the word.

Program Updates

California's Master Plan for Aging (MPA)

The second Master Plan for Aging (MPA) Annual Report was released in January, sharing progress updates on the 132 initiatives that were priorities for the first two years of the MPA. Accomplishments include more than \$100 million invested in creating more residential care options for older adults and people with disabilities; the nation's first Dementia Care Aware program; and more than \$17 million invested to close the digital divide. These achievements are possible thanks to partnerships with other agencies, the Legislature, Governor's Office, philanthropy, and the private sector.

January also brought the launch of 95 new MPA initiatives that are the state's priorities for 2023 – 2024. New initiatives include promoting access to models that integrate housing with services; improving accessible transportation options; and improving income and food security. The new MPA Implementation Tracker website that enables on-demand access to initiative updates throughout the year is now live.

OLTCPR Launch

The Office of the Long-Term Care Patient Representative (OLTCPR), a new program within the California Department of Aging, officially opened on January 27. This was a year-long effort that involved multiple CDA teams and many touchpoints with care facilities across California. The OLTCPR provides trained representatives for specified long-term care residents who may need medical treatment but lack the

capacity to make health care decisions and have no legal surrogate authorized to make decisions on their behalf. Learn more about the program and how to determine when a Public Patient Representative is needed by visiting the OLTCPR website.

CalGrows

The CalGrows program, a key MPA initiative, is nearly ready for launch. In February, CDA announced the program granted nearly \$100 million to 78 organizations to provide training and incentives to paid and unpaid caregivers across the state. The goals of CalGrows are to help develop and retain the direct care workforce, which faces a huge shortage of workers over the next few years, and help unpaid family and friend caregivers learn how to better care for their loved ones. Courses will open for registration in April.

Long-Term Care Facility Access Policy Workgroup

Commissioned by the California Legislature, the Long-Term Care Facility Access (LTCFA) Policy Workgroup will develop recommendations for policies and practices regarding access and visitation to long-term care facilities (LTCFs) during states of emergency, with consideration for the impact that restricted access has on the mental health of residents, families, and friends and on the physical health and safety of residents. Launched with a kick-off meeting in February, upcoming meetings will include sharing research and lived experience to help inform policy development. Visit the LTCFA Policy Workgroup website for more details.

Funding Opportunities

LADAP Request for Applications - Deadline this Friday

CDA is accepting applications for the Local Aging & Disability Action Planning (LADAP) Grant Program, which will award \$4.5 million in funding to support local communities to develop their own age- and disability-friendly action plans. The local plans developed under this grant program aim to improve a community's livability and address the current, emerging, and future needs of California's older adults, people with disabilities, and professional and family caregivers through cross-sector collaboration and transformational systems change. CDA anticipates awarding grants to up to 36 communities throughout the state. The application deadline is this Friday, March 24, 2023. Learn more on the MPA LADAP website.

MHSOAC Request for Applications

CDA is working closely with the Mental Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) on a Request for Applications (RFA) for \$20 million in grant funding to support the expansion of older adult behavioral health programs. The grants will support the implementation of additional Age Wise and PEARLS (Program to Encourage Active and Rewarding Lives) programs. Applicants can be AAAs, county behavioral health departments, or community-based organizations. The application deadline is April 7, 2023. Learn more on the MHSOAC website.

CDA's Aging in California Resource Guide is available online.

https://www.aging.ca.gov/Aging_Resources/

Share with your audiences so they have quick access to a directory of resources and links to services available to older adults in different regions of the state, including how to find vaccine sites and treatment options, community services, and to learn more about caregiver supports.