

From: Denise Crandall
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 3:54 PM
To: HICAP Program Managers
Subject: CDA: COVID-19 HICAP Update

Good afternoon Program Managers,

The California Department of Aging (CDA) has received requests for guidance from a number of you about the provision of HICAP services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) requires the provision of in-person counseling as well as phone counseling for HICAP service delivery. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has presented us all with an unprecedented situation. Today ACL advised CDA to follow public health guidance and limit exposure for high-risk individuals including the beneficiaries we serve. ACL recommends that limiting in-person visits at events and one-to-one counseling should be considered as well as utilizing other counseling modalities, such as teleconferencing, webinars and online telecommunications applications (e.g., SKYPE).

Governor Newsom, in his March 11 announcement, directed that “non-essential gatherings should be limited to no more than 250 people, while smaller events can proceed only if organizers can implement social distancing of 6 feet per person. Gatherings of individuals who are at a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 should be limited to no more than 10 people, while also following social distancing guidelines. <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2020/03/11/california-public-health-experts-mass-gatherings-should-be-postponed-or-canceled-statewide-to-slow-the-spread-of-covid-19/>

- For additional information, note that California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is the lead source of information on COVID 19. Monday’s guidance on Higher Risk Individuals can be found at this link: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/ncov2019.aspx>
- The CDA website (<https://www.aging.ca.gov/>) will also be continuously updated with CDPH, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<https://www.cdc.gov/>) and other key resources.
- ACL recommends following the guidance provided in the CDC website, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/guidance-community-faith-organizations.html>

Please inform the CDA HICAP Team of all counseling center closures (and re-openings) to enable us to track the situation statewide.

Thank you for all you do,

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This document has been modified for clarity and accessibility.