

California Commission on Aging Operational Plan January 2015 – December 2017

This Operational Plan describes the Commission’s priorities and goals and provides an overall strategic framework to guide its function in advocating for and shaping aging policies and programs that meet the needs of older Californians today and in the future.

Approved September 29, 2014

Introduction

The California Commission on Aging is a citizens’ advisory body created by statute to advise the Governor, State Legislature, and state departments.

Since 1973, the California Commission on Aging (CCoA) has proudly served as the principal state advocate for the issues and concerns of older Californians. The roles and responsibilities of the CCoA are contained in California's Welfare and Institutions Code (Section 9200-9205). These responsibilities include Advocacy, Advising, and Information Dissemination.

The Commission envisions a robust statewide service system that supports older adults and their caregivers, provides an array of resources for independent living, embraces diversity, and respects the aging process.

The CCoA has identified the following six priorities for 2015 through 2017:

- ✓ **Develop a more accurate and progressive vision of aging and aging services**
- ✓ **Preserve the effectiveness of the aging services continuum**
- ✓ **Enhance community-based services and organizations**
- ✓ **Expand a trained aging-services workforce**
- ✓ **Prevent crimes against older adults and persons with disabilities and enhance remedies for victims of such crimes**
- ✓ **Support caregivers and their families**

The 2015-2017 Operational Plan was developed by the Commission and is consistent with statutory responsibilities as identified in Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 9200-9205. The Operational Plan is periodically reviewed and updated by the Commissioners.

ADVOCACY

GOAL 1: CCoA will identify needs that can be best met with legislative solutions and research issues for policy implications.

ACTIONS:

- Sponsor and take positions on state legislation and policies affecting older Californians and adults with disabilities.
- Track federal issues impacting older Californians and take positions on selected federal legislation.
- Network with Area Agencies on Aging on issues of concern to older adults and persons with disabilities.

GOAL 2: CCoA is focused on assuring continuation of the network of services that is so vital to older adults.

ACTIONS:

- Evaluate opportunities to influence emerging policy issues.
- Partner with organizations to enhance the existing array of services.

ADVISORY

GOAL 1 : CCoA is included in policy and program development discussions on a wide variety of issues that affect older Californians.

ACTIONS:

- Identify and respond to emerging issues and concerns in a timely manner.
- Invite the California Department of Aging (CDA) Director or designee to participate in Commission meetings on a regular basis and as appropriate invite representatives of other state and federal entities to address the Commission.
- Advise the State Legislature and relevant policy committees on issues pertinent to older Californians.

GOAL 2: CCoA will successfully fulfill its statutory responsibilities around the *State Plan on Aging*.

ACTIONS:

- Periodically request that CDA review with the Commission the Department's progress and assessment of use and impact of the 2013 – 2017 Plan within California.

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

GOAL 1: CCoA will promote a well-informed senior population that is an effective and positive voice for older Californians.

ACTIONS:

- Communicate regularly with key stakeholders via CCoA AgeWatch, website and other digital media forums to provide accurate and timely pertinent information.
- Sponsor and/or participate in statewide public education initiatives and events.

GOAL 2: CCoA will hold public hearings around the state as a means to talk directly with older adults and service providers, to gather information on senior needs and to issue summation papers on policy recommendations.

ACTIONS:

- Schedule a minimum of two public hearings a year.
- To maximize the impact of public hearings, invite organizations with an interest in the topic to become a cosponsor.

INFRASTRUCTURE

GOAL 1: Administration provided to Triple-A Council of California (TACC) by CCoA Staff is at an appropriate level and effectively meets their needs.

ACTIONS:

- Work with TACC leadership to build agendas that are relevant to their work at the local level.
- Maintain updated TACC Policy Manual.

GOAL 2: CCoA utilizes a variety of sources to share information about its work.

ACTIONS:

- Semi-annually review CCoA website for updating.
- Update CCoA brochure as necessary and resources allow.
- Disseminate information about CCoA's work through AgeWatch