

CCoA
California Commission on Aging

AGEWATCH

Final Budget Protects Health and Social Service Budgets; Boosts Spending to Implement ACA

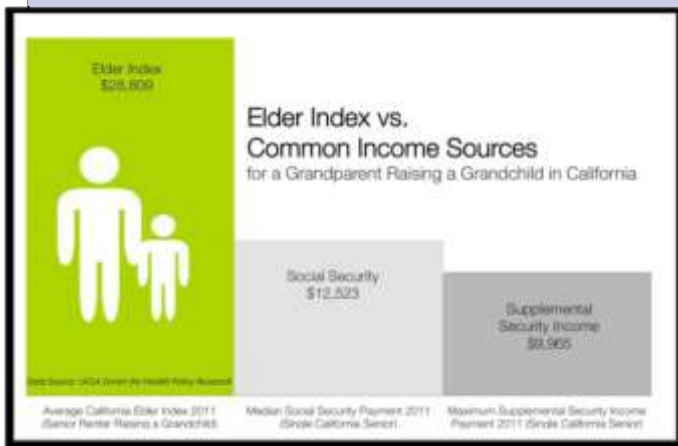
The Governor signed a balanced \$96.3 billion state budget last month that includes a \$1.1 billion rainy day fund, along with increased spending on education and Medi-Cal program expansion. The final 2013-2014 budget implements provisions of the federal Affordable Care Act, extending Medi-Cal eligibility to individuals with incomes up to 138% of poverty, reaching an additional 1.4 million residents.

The budget also expands Medi-Cal coverage to include certain mental health benefits, both through Medi-Cal managed care plans and fee-for-service, and includes coverage of home and community based services that come with federal matching funds. Under the new spending plan, the state will partially restore dental benefits to low-income individuals under the Denti-Cal program and increase grants under the state's welfare-to-work program, CalWORKS.

Adhering to the agreement between the Governor and Legislature, the budget largely leaves the state's Health and Human Service programs unchanged, including programs for the aging and persons with disabilities.

Excerpted from CDCAN Report #077-2013 (June 27 2013): Governor Signs Main Budget Bill -- No Line Item Vetoes to Health & Human Services in Main Budget Bill and California Healthcare Foundation, California Healthline, Lawmakers OK Spending Plan, Medi-Cal Expansion Legislation, June 17, 2013.

New Elder Index Includes Costs for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren



The latest version of the Elder Economic Security Index (EESI) contains new information on the living costs for older adults who are raising their grandchildren. Released in June by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and the Insight Center for Community Economic Development, the EESI measures the cost of older adults' basic expenses: housing, food, medical care, and transportation. The additional category added to the Index includes the costs associated with raising one, two, or three grandchildren in each California county. This data is the first of its kind nationwide.

According to the UCLA policy brief, more than 300,000 grandparents over age 65 in California have sole responsibility for raising almost 20,000 grandchildren.

You can find detailed county-by-county EESI data at www.insightcced.org or read the UCLA Policy Brief at <http://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/publications/latest/Pages/default.aspx>.

Information from UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, *Health Policy News*, June 27, 2013.

AGEWATCH is an occasional publication of the California Commission on Aging (CCoA) intended to inform, educate, and advocate. The CCoA is an independent state agency established in 1973 to serve as the principal state advocate on behalf of older Californians. The CCoA office is located at 1300 National Drive, Suite 173, Sacramento, CA 95834.

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Older Americans Act reauthorization bill introduced

Reauthorization of the federal Older Americans Act (OAA) was the subject of hearings in late June before the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging. Titled *Reducing Senior Hunger and Poverty; the Role of the Older Americans Act*, the hearing focused on the importance of reauthorization to assure continued funding of essential OAA programs, such as senior nutrition programs. With reauthorization more than two years overdue, the new reauthorization bill – S. 1028 -- was introduced by Committee Chairman Bernie Sanders of Vermont.

Testifying on reauthorization were Howard Bedlin, Vice President of Public Policy and Advocacy at the National Council on Aging; Paul Downey, President of the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Service Providers and member of the California Commission on Aging; Nancy Altman, Co-Director of Social Security Works; and Ellie Hollander, President and CEO of the Meals on Wheels Association of America.

While support was offered for many provisions of the reauthorization bill, advocates voiced concerns regarding reduced OAA program funding, urging an end to federal sequestration cuts.

Full written testimony from the hearing is available at [http://www.help.senate.gov/subcommittees/](http://www.help.senate.gov/subcommittees/health_and_aging/)



NANASP President and CCoA member Paul Downey testified before the Senate HELP Subcommittee in June.

[health and aging/](http://www.help.senate.gov/subcommittees/health_and_aging/).

Information from the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging.

California's first Green House Project due to open this summer

Los Angeles County will be the location of California's first Green House Project -- called Evergreen Villas -- between the communities of Pomona and Claremont. Due to open this summer in the senior community of Mt. San Antonio Gardens, the care facility represents a significant change in the way long-term residential care is delivered.

Cited in California Healthcare Foundation's *Healthline*, Green House Project founder Bill Thomas, a physician and eldercare expert, said the Green House model reconfigures operations and environments, offering person-centered care that focuses on relationships and people. Green House facilities are self-contained residential environments designed around what proponents call "warm, smart and green" elements. Residents' bedrooms flow into open living and dining areas with communal dining and fireplaces, a departure from traditional models. Medical supplies are subtly hidden and "demedicalized."

Stakeholders and advocates have long championed a long-term care model that strives to replace feelings of loneliness and boredom, loss of control and dignity with autonomy, companionship and what proponents believe can be more meaningful lives. Advocates say it's about time for elder care innovations, considering that California's 65-and-older population is projected to nearly double by 2025. The state has the largest senior population.

Reprinted in part from California Healthline, *Green House Grows New Model of Care*. July 1, 2013



AARP report details policy changes to strengthen caregiver supports

A new report from the AARP Public Policy Institute finds a growing need for workplace policies that accommodate and support family caregivers. *Keeping Up with the Times: Supporting Family Caregivers with Workplace Leave Policies*, by Lynn Feinberg ([Public Policy Institute](http://www.aarp.org/home-family/caregiving/info-06-2013/supporting-family-caregivers-with-workplace-leave-policies-AARP-ppi-ltc.html), June, 2013), provides an overview of three policy areas and offers policy recommendations to strengthen each area. Covering the Family and Medical Leave Act, Paid Family Leave and Sick Leave, the 18-page report cites the nation's increasing economic reliance on women as part of the labor force, the growing age of the workforce, and the growing need for elder-care for an aging population with multiple healthcare concerns. The report also looks at the rising numbers of men who are family caregivers and the reliance on caregivers to identify, arrange for and coordinate care in a complicated and fragmented long-term services and supports environment.

To read the full report, visit <http://www.aarp.org/home-family/caregiving/info-06-2013/supporting-family-caregivers-with-workplace-leave-policies-AARP-ppi-ltc.html>.

'Money Smart for Older Adults' helps seniors avoid exploitation

A new financial resource, developed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), is now available to help older adults and their caregivers prevent elder financial exploitation. Part of the FDIC's Money Smart financial curriculum family, this stand-alone training module provides information to raise awareness among older adults and their caregivers on how to prevent, identify and respond to elder financial exploitation, plan for a secure financial future, and make informed financial decisions. The instructor-led module is available at no cost and offers practical information that can be implemented immediately.

Money Smart for Older Adults is designed for use by representatives of financial institutions, adult protective service agencies, senior advocacy organizations, law enforcement, and others working with seniors. The module consists of a scripted instructor guide, participant/resource guide, and PowerPoint slides available in a downloadable format on the FDIC website at <http://www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/moneysmart/OlderAdult.html>, or in hard copy from the CRPB website.

Excerpted from NIH ELDERABUSE@LISTSERVE.NIH.GOV, FDIC and CFPB Collaborate to Develop a Tool to Prevent Financial Exploitation. June 19, 2013

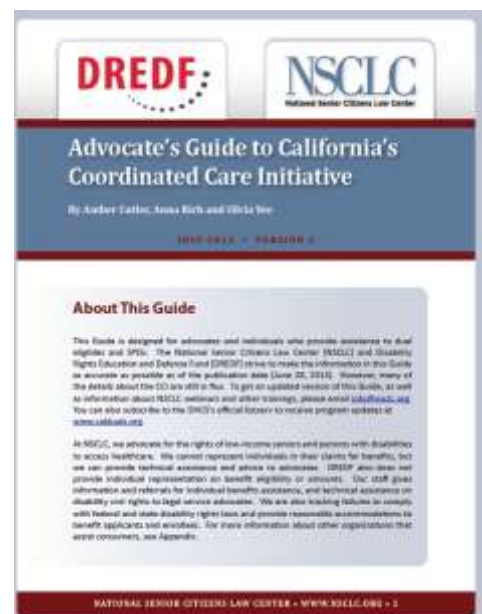
Guide to California Coordinated Care Initiative released

Advocates helping seniors and persons with disabilities through California's transition to Medi-Cal managed care benefits, known as the Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI), have a new tool at their disposal. *The Advocate's Guide to California's Coordinated Care Initiative* was developed by the National Senior Citizens Law Center (NSCLC) and the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF) with support from The SCAN Foundation (TSF). The 48 page guide covers the purpose of the CCI, who is eligible, the types of benefits covered, and more.

Developed through The SCAN Foundation's *Preparing for California's Dual Eligibles' Transition to Managed Care: An Outreach and Education Project*, the guide will help advocates and individuals working with to dual eligibles and Medi-Cal-only seniors and people with disabilities to understand the CCI and how it will impact the populations they serve.

To read about the project or to download the guide, visit <http://www.thescanfoundation.org/nsclc-advocates-guide-californias-coordinated-care-initiative>

Information excerpted from The Scan Foundation, TSF Update, July 3, 2013.



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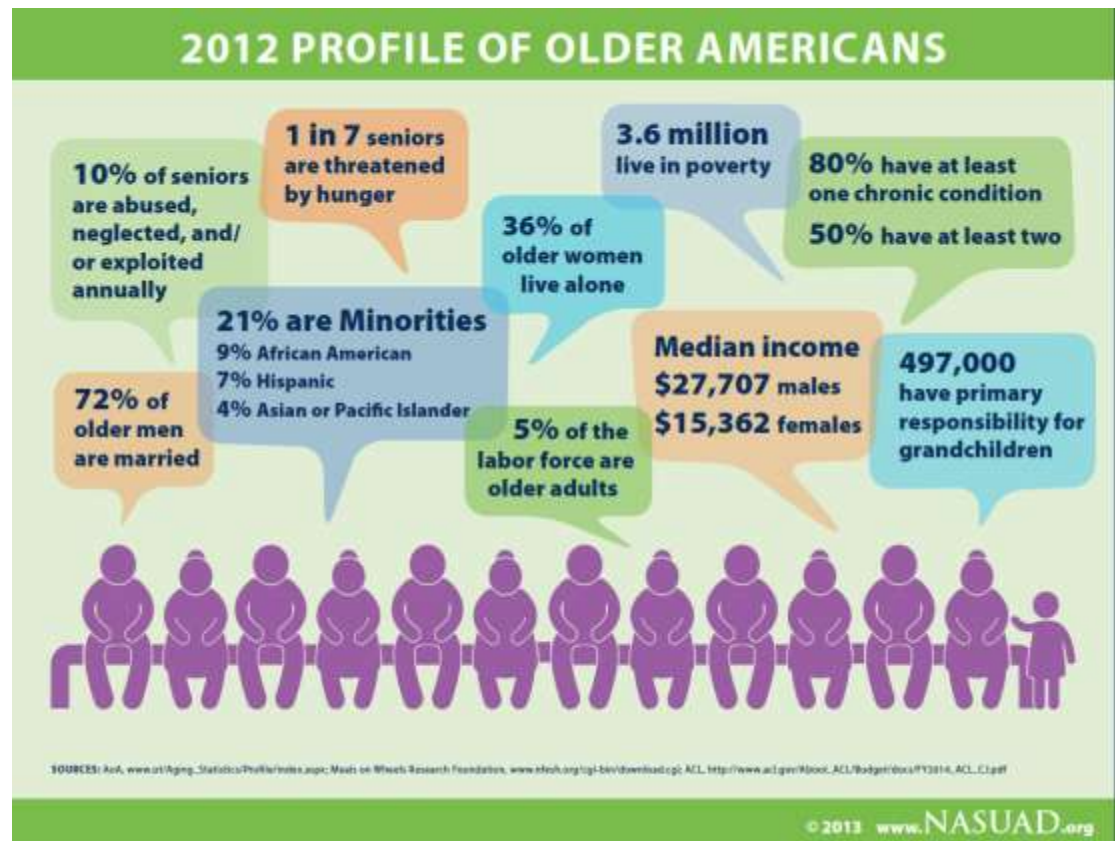
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We Can Do Better

The National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) has released a new set of infographics that explore the funding and demand for, as well as the provision of, Older Americans Act services, titled: *Aging in America: We Can Do Better*. The graphics address program funding shortfalls in the face of increasing service demands and the efficacy of helping older adults to age in place.

To see the complete set of graphics or to download the brochure, visit www.nasuad.org.



AGEWATCH

July, 2013

Upcoming Events

August 24-25, Triple-A Council of California. Sacramento, CA www.4TACC.org for agenda and information.

September 25-26, California Commission on Aging, Sacramento www.ccoa.ca.gov

October 2-4, 2013, CWDA 2013 Conference, Sacramento www.cwda.org or 800-344-4321

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