Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County. Don't forget to add wendy@seniorsservicescoalition.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

You may unsubscribe if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

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**Senior Services Coalition**  
of Alameda County

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**County Action Urgently Needed / State Budget Provides No Relief**

June 18, 2014

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**County Must Step Up to Fund Senior Services**

Community-based programs that provide health and supportive services to seniors in Alameda County are in crisis.

Population growth and increased acuity levels are straining the service network. Funding cuts, 25.5% inflation over the last 10 years, and no mechanism for cost of living increases have whittled away at programs and organizations. In spite of exceptional fundraising and innovation, CBOs have reached the breaking point. Not only is current capacity inadequate to meet current needs; we are on the brink of losing capacity altogether.

Immediate attention is necessary. SSC is calling on the County to step up and provide funding to stabilize the programs and services that are administered through the Area Agency on Aging. This includes senior meals, case management, adult day care, information and assistance, friendly visiting, telephone reassurance, senior center activities, senior employment services, family caregiver support, legal services and HICAP, health services, elder abuse prevention funding, and senior injury prevention services.

These services are a necessary part of the equation in helping older adults meet the challenges of aging and live successfully in the community. They complement medical care, help seniors maintain economic stability, and often provide life-line interventions that increase safety and prevent institutionalization.

These programs ARE the community-based services to which APS and other county programs, hospital discharge planners and managed care plans alike refer seniors. These programs and services are essential and effective. They will serve over 57,000 people this year, a number that has been rising every year. Our county cannot afford to lose them.

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**PLEASE JOIN US**

*Stand Up for Senior Services*

Monday, June 23, 1:30 p.m.

Alameda County Board of Supervisors Hearing Room  
1221 Oak Street, 5th Floor  
Oakland, CA

On Monday, the Social Services Agency budget for FY 14/15 is on the agenda. We need to have a large presence to support county funding for senior services.

**We need:**

* Seniors in the audience.

* Seniors, caregivers, staff and board members ready to testify.

* Volunteers ready to stay until 6:00 or 7:00 if necessary to testify and speak for the people who couldn't stay so late.

If you plan to attend, contact wendy@seniorsservicescoalition.org
Emergency stabilization funding is urgently needed so that CBOs can shore up their infrastructure and continue to provide essential contracted services.

We've made our recommendation known to Social Services Agency leadership, and we hope that the Board of Supervisors will ensure that there is funding in the new County Budget to address this crisis.

Please join us at the County Budget Hearing on Monday, June 23 (details in the right hand column). We need the community to show solidarity for this cause. If you would like to speak at the hearing, contact me at wendy@seniorservicescoalition.org.

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**State Budget Fails to Address Senior Needs**

On June 15th, the Conference Committee submitted a budget agreement to the Governor for signature. The news for senior services was disappointing. The conference committee adopted the Governor's budget for most items, even while making statements that they did so with a certain amount of regret and awareness of the consequences.

While the new budget does not make any new cuts, it fails to restore funding for senior services that was cut from the state's safety net between 2008 and 2013. The exceptions were good, including a rejection of the Governor's proposal to ban overtime for IHSS workers, and a rate restoration for PACE. Our request for restorations to Older Californians Act programs, MSSP, and Medi-Cal rates for Adult Day Health Care were adopted by the Assembly but not by the Senate, and those restorations failed to make it into the Conference Committee's final budget.

Evidently, the Governor thinks that the "new status quo" level of service capacity and funding for senior services is acceptable.

This thinking puts seniors in grave danger. With the senior population aging, with greater economic insecurity, and with increased acuity levels as the number of people over 80 grows, California has to invest in community-based supportive services now, or be overrun with acute care costs.

Click [here](#) for a quick comparison of the Assembly, Senate and Conference Committee decisions on key programs. I'll share a more detailed impact report in the coming week.

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If you have questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

- Wendy

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**Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County**

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Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County | 6955 Foothill Boulevard | Third Floor | Oakland | CA | 94605