

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@seniorservicescoalition.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

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Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County

Update: Recent Budget Decisions Impact Seniors

July 10, 2014

Alameda County Takes Steps to Stabilize Senior Services

On June 27, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors approved its 2014/15 Budget, including a directive to Social Services Agency Director Lori Cox and Health Care Services Agency Director Alex Briscoe to earmark emergency funding for senior services and to develop an integrated plan for providing long term, health and supportive services to seniors in Alameda County. Click [here](#) to read the memo that is now part of the County Budget.

The recommendation was advanced by Supervisors Nate Miley and Wilma Chan. **Please take time to thank them**, and to thank your own Supervisor for supporting the recommendation. Click [here](#) to go to SSC's advocacy resources page for Supervisors' contact information.

Will the funding be adequate? The recommendation does not state a dollar amount or a percentage increase. Instead, it directs the two Agency Directors to bring to the July 28, 2014 Social Services Committee Meeting "a strategy to earmark one-time only emergency stabilization funds" for community-based organizations that contract with the Area Agency on Aging for Older Americans Act and Senior Injury Prevention services.

These CBOs have been struggling to provide services to more seniors with increasingly complex needs in spite of historically inadequate funding. We hope that with oversight of the Board of Supervisors via the Committee and continued engagement on the part of stakeholders, the stabilization funding will make a meaningful difference for these resource-strapped programs.



SAVE THE DATE

**Alameda County
Board of Supervisors:
Social Services Committee**

Monday, July 28th, 12:30 p.m.

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

The plan for earmarking emergency stabilization funding will be heard. Please join us, as continued stakeholder engagement is key to securing adequate funding.

If you plan to attend, contact wendy@seniorservicescoalition.org.



Did You Know?

SSC is part of TSF's Community of Constituents initiative, working to transform the system of care so that all Californians can age with dignity, choice and independence.

For more on the initiative, click [here](#).

Will a comprehensive plan deliver resources and build a more effective system? At last year's hearing on the status of seniors, SSC urged the county to move forward to develop a comprehensive plan that will address its rapidly aging population and the increasing demand for senior services that are already straining the healthcare and aging services network. The new budget recommendation directs Social Services and Health Care Services Agencies to collaborate on an "integrated long term sustainable plan of service delivery to older adults" and bring that plan to a joint meeting of the health and social service committees in fiscal 14/15. If both agencies truly collaborate, avoid falling back into their silos, and tap into the knowledge of the aging services community, then we stand a chance of developing a plan that accurately identifies the needs, innovates the service network, and engages new financing strategies.

Last but not least...Also included in the Social Services Agency Budget for the new fiscal year is approximately \$140,000 to backfill this year's federal sequestration cuts. This funding means that units of service won't be lost for Older Americans Act programs, but CBOs will face another year of complicated budget reports resulting from the staggered funding process.

Thank you to everyone who joined us in communicating the urgent need for County action to Supervisors and Agency leadership. We were heard!

State Budget Fails to Address Senior Needs

On June 20, 2014, Governor Brown signed the state budget for fiscal year 2014-15. The budget is based on a conservative forecast of the state's economy, and focuses on paying down debt, making several large infrastructure investments, depositing \$1.6 billion into the Budget Stabilization Account, and ending the year with a reserve of \$450 million.

While the budget makes select increases in education and health and human services, it largely ignores the urgent need to reverse the deep cuts made over the last six years to supportive and health care services for seniors. This short-sighted thinking will undermine the success of the Coordinated Care Initiative, and it denies seniors effective resources that could help them meet the challenges of aging.

Click [here](#) for SSC's summary of how the state's FY 2014-15 budget will impact seniors and senior services in Alameda County.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to [contact me](#).

- Wendy



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of Alameda County**

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