

Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County

AGING IS SOMETHING WE ALL HAVE IN COMMON

September 28, 2025

Hon. Supervisor David Haubert, President
Hon. Supervisor Lena Tam, Vice-President
Hon. Supervisor Elisa Marquez
Hon. Supervisor Nate Miley
Hon. Supervisor Nikki Fortunato Bas
Alameda County Board of Supervisors
1221 Oak Street, 5th floor
Oakland, CA 94607

Re: Recommendations for Meeting the Needs of Older Adults through Measure W

Dear Board of Supervisors,

The Senior Services Coalition and our [40 member organizations](#) are deeply grateful for the Board's appropriation of \$2 million to backfill cuts to programs contracted by the county's Area Agency on Aging, a decision that will avoid cutting services for well over 3,600 low-income older adults who rely on them. In addition, we applaud the creation of Older Adult and Food Security Priority Areas within the Measure W framework.

Since that July 30 decision, we have learned the sobering details about coming fiscal and human impacts of federal and state policy changes. These changes not only affect the County's bottom line, but will put tens of thousands of people at risk for losing their CalFresh and Medi-Cal benefits. We understand the difficult decisions facing the Board going forward.

In light of these realities, and to incorporate recent developments and new information, we have revised the Senior Services Coalition's July recommendations for Measure W investments. Our revised recommendations are summarized in this letter.

As your Board considers next steps, please keep top of mind that senior services are part of the solution. These providers are the trusted connections for a diverse and vulnerable population of older adults who will need help navigating economic hardship, destabilizing eligibility and benefits challenges, hunger, and the resulting health impacts.

The community-based senior services administered through the AAA, SSA and ACH are a necessary part of what it takes to help seniors maintain health and stability. They are the services that APS, health plans and hospitals coordinate with and refer seniors to. They provide life-line interventions, reduce 211 calls, prevent homelessness, and help seniors navigate systems. **With the federal and state policy changes about to hit, we need greater capacity in this suite of services.**

Specifically, we recommend the following immediate and ongoing investments to increase service capacity:

1. OLDER ADULTS/SENIOR SERVICES – Prevention and Tenancy Sustaining Supportive Services & Employment – approximately \$1 million in 25/26; \$3 million/year thereafter

- \$800,000/year to increase service capacity of Senior Centers, Fall Prevention Programs, Visiting and Telephone Reassurance, Health Promotion, and Family Caregiver Support. These services reach upstream to help seniors live stably in the community, catch issues early, and avoid crises that can accelerate displacement and homelessness. (AAA-contracted services)
- \$200,000/year to increase service capacity of local Senior Employment programs to retrain, place and subsidize employment for low-income older adults who need to return to the workforce or to continue working. Older workers face job discrimination in both job retention and hiring – roughly half of job-seeking seniors are unsuccessful, and many must settle for part time, low-wage jobs.ⁱ (AAA-contracted service)
- Beginning in July 2026, \$2 million/year ongoing to continue filling the baseline funding gap for AAA-contracted services that has been filled in 25/26 with the Board's July 30 appropriation.

2. FOOD SECURITY - Prevention and Housing through Food & Meals that Promote Health and Reduce Expenses so Seniors Can Afford Their Housing – approximately \$3 million/year

- \$1 million/year to restore Korean Community Center of the East Bay's Meal of Love for 250 AANHJ seniors and serve the 150 seniors on the wait list, and Unity Council's meals program for over 4,000 seniors in Oakland. (ARPA funding at SSA ended in June)
- \$2 million/year to add capacity to senior food and meals providers throughout the county to address wait lists and funding gaps to provide meals on wheels, congregate dining and healthy Brown Bag groceries designed to meet the nutritional needs of economically insecure older adults. (AAA-contracted services)
- We wish to note our appreciation for the Board's \$500,000 appropriation to fund food recovery programs that leverage donated food to save money, and urge ongoing attention to this approach to combat hunger in the county and help offset the loss of food from federal sources.

3. HOME TOGETHER - Prevention, Housing, and Access & Coordination: Case Management and Navigation to Stabilize At-Risk and Homeless Seniors – approximately \$1 million/year

- \$700,000/year to increase the capacity of Case Management, legal assistance and Information & Assistance programs contracted through the AAA to stabilize seniors who are at risk of displacement and homelessness. (CBOs contract w/ multiple funders)

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- \$300,000/year to increase the capacity of the APS Home Safe Program to provide case management, eviction prevention, relocation support and housing stabilization services for older adults in crisis through APS. (SSA-contracted services)

We recommend the following innovative approaches and interventions that address real issues that are driving economic insecurity and homelessness among older adults:

- **Launch a Housing Resource Center that focuses on Seniors!** There are 14 HRCs across the county, including those specializing in populations with unique needs (transition age youth, people fleeing intimate partner violence) – but none specialize in addressing the needs of older adults. Seniors have unique and often complex needs requiring accommodations, content expertise and staff skill sets not available in HRCs.
- **Fund Spectrum Community Service’s proposal to provide subsidies to low-income renters and homeowners facing utility shut offs.** This investment of between \$2.22 million to \$6 million/year in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program would serve over 20,000 county seniors, people with disabilities and families, preventing eviction and reducing energy poverty.

We also recommend Measure W Home Together funding directed to **shallow and deep housing subsidies** for older adults struggling to remain housed or afford rehousing, and **home match programs** that connect community members seeking housing with those who have extra space in their homes.

Measure W presents an opportunity to mitigate the impacts of federal and state policy decisions, and fully and effectively address senior homelessness and housing insecurity. On behalf of the 40+ members of the Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County, I urge the Board to support our recommendations.

Sincerely,



Wendy Peterson

Director, Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County

ⁱ The Long Road Back: Struggling to Find Work after Unemployment,
https://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/ppi/2015-03/The%20Long%20Road%20Back_INSGHT-new.pdf