**You Can Help Increase STATE Funding for two key Supportive Services**

**Send a Letter of Support Today!**

Use the sample letter as a guide. Include a compelling story about an older adult who is served by one or both of these programs. Include your organization’s unique perspective on the issues that these programs address.

Organizations: Put your letter on letterhead.

Individuals: be sure to include your mailing address.

Email your letter to the staffers of the California Senate and Assembly Budget Committees:

Dr. Renita Polk  renita.polk@sen.ca.gov and Nicole Vazquez  nicole.vazquez@asm.ca.gov

Please cc wendy@seniorservicescoalition.org and SherryLynn.Peralta@acgov.org

SAMPLE LETTER:

April XX, 2022

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| Hon. Assemblymember Philip TingChair, Assembly Budget CommitteeCapitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 8230P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0031 | Hon. Senator Nancy SkinnerChair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review CommitteeCapitol Office, 1020 N Street, Room 502Sacramento, CA 95814 |
| Hon. Assemblymember Joaquin ArambulaChair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee # 1Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 6240P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0031 | Hon. Senator Susan EggmanChair, Senate Budget Subcommittee # 3Capitol Office, 1020 N Street, Room 502Sacramento, CA 95814 |

**Re: Support for Budget Proposal California Department of Aging Supportive Services**

Dear Chairpersons Ting, Skinner, Arambula and Eggman,

I am writing on behalf of [your organization, and if you have members or number of people served, say how many and who they are] to urge you to support of the budget proposal from Alameda County and the Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County for $32.25 million in one-time General Fund investment over three years to build statewide capacity of two key Supportive Services programs administered by the California Department of Aging, specifically Case Management and Visiting. This budget request is championed by Assemblymember Mia Bonta with support from Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan.

These programs are powerfully effective at improving health outcomes and preventing crises. Case Management and Visiting often represent lifelines for older people who are economically insecure or isolated. They serve very low income as well as “not-poor-enough” older adults who are not eligible for Medi-Cal but nonetheless need supportive services that they cannot afford – a demographic that is growing rapidly. They address the stressors that have destabilized so many older Californians as a result of the pandemic, and too often can lead to displacement and homelessness. In addition, these services are unique and serve a population that does not receive any support from any other similar programs.

[Include pertinent facts or a story about a person or people who your organization serves, and why one or both of these aging services are important.]

California has provided no funding for these programs since 2008; they exist because of federal funding that has remained flat. This has constrained local efforts to grow capacity to meet the needs of our growing aging population, and forced some providers to serve fewer people as the cost of doing business rises year-over-year. All the while, the need for these services has grown, not only with the growth of the aging population, but as the pandemic has increased isolation, dismantled support networks, and increased economic insecurity among older adults across the state.

The economic insecurity of older adult households in California increases with age. Just when seniors are most likely to have serious health/physical/cognitive impairment, they are least able to afford the supportive interventions that will keep them stable. Without support, an illness, relationship loss, isolation, cognitive decline, or other stressors can destabilize them, putting them at high risk for repeat hospitalizations, housing loss and homelessness.

Community-based Supportive Services address the stressors, focusing their high-touch approach on issues common to later life stages. Case Management supports people with complex issues who need more than information and assistance. Case Management works towards solutions that complement medical care, connect clients with public and community-based services, and build or reconnect networks of friends and family. Visiting programs keep isolated people connected to community, building friendships and promoting learning, laughter and interactive discussion, thus reducing feelings of isolation, anxiety and loneliness.

The requested funding will protect these vital services from further erosion and build capacity to address the growing need.

[I/we] urge you to support the proposed investment of California General Funds to build capacity in these essential services so older Californians will have the support they need to recover from pandemic impacts and navigate the challenges of aging.

Sincerely,

[signature]
[name]
[organization]