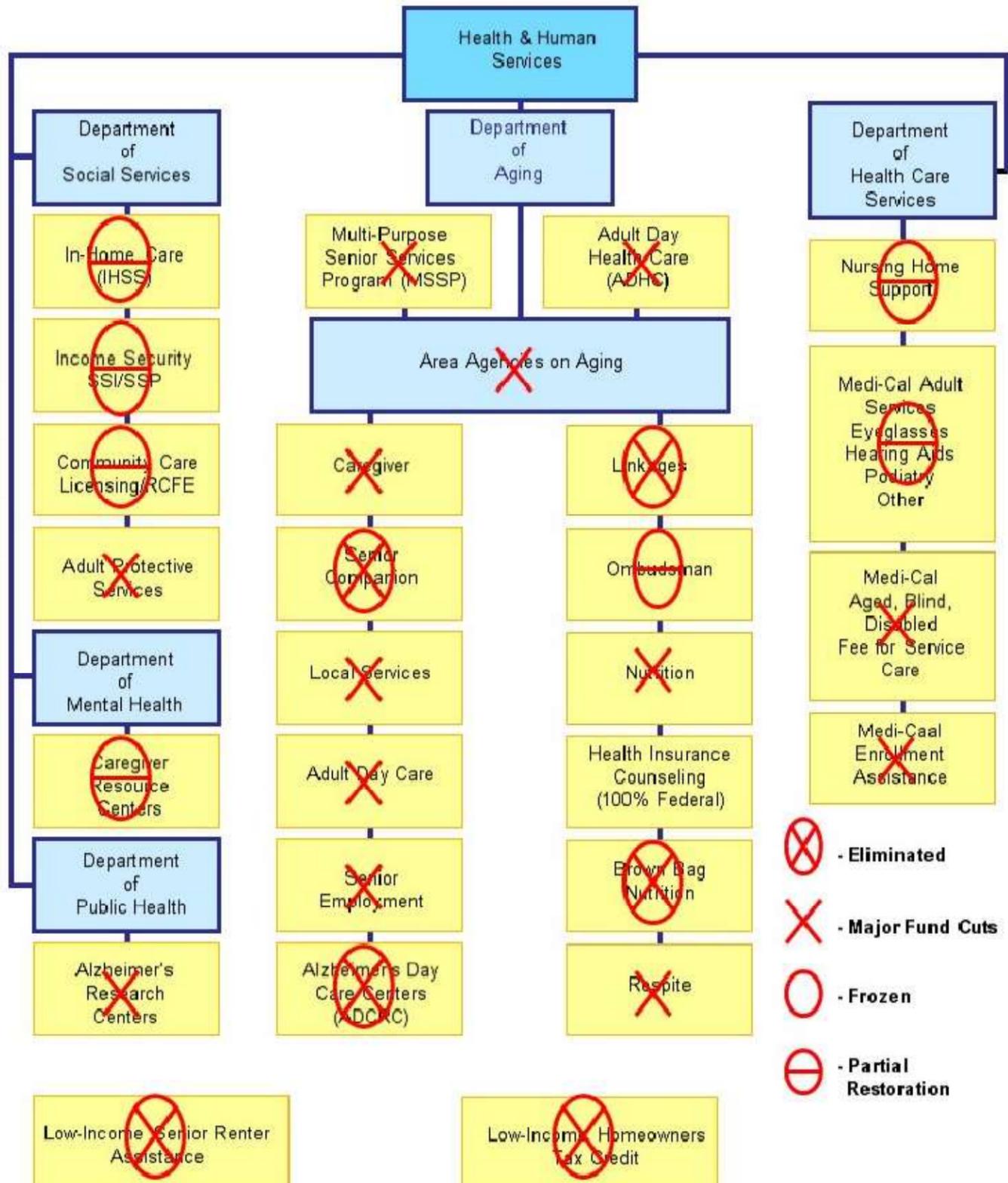


# Decade of Decline

Updated to Reflect 2015-2016 Budget



Prepared by Congress of California Seniors - Printed in house

## Senior Rally 2016 – Priority Budget Items

### A Summary of FY 2016-2017 Priority Budget Augmentations Supported by the Organizations Participating in the 2016 Senior Rally

(items are not listed in priority order)

Our organizations have three broad goals to help California deal with five million new seniors in the decades ahead:

#### GOAL NUMBER ONE: ENABLE SENIORS TO AGE IN PLACE

**Caregiver Resource Centers (CRC) \$7.1 million**  
 CRC funding has been reduced from \$10.5 million in 2009 to the current funding level of \$3.4 million to serve 6 million family caregivers in California. CRCs serve and support unpaid family caregivers who are the backbone of reducing hospital re-admissions, and compliance with provider care plans. The CRC served more than 15,000 families and caregivers of adults affected by chronic health conditions such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and brain injury. The CRC serves as an entry point to community services and provides information, education and support to the family caregiver.

**Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Centers (ADCRC) \$4 million**  
 Once funded at \$3.8 million, the ADCRC program assisted Adult Day Care (ADC) and Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) centers to support specialized staffing, training, education and caregiver support to meet the needs of persons with moderate to severe levels of dementia. Many have complex behavioral issues that require more intensive supervision and hands-on care. There were 56 ADCRCs in California that served approximately 3,200 frail older persons on a day basis, thus relieving family caregivers so that they may work. Approximately 33 percent of the clients had severe cognitive impairment, 38 percent were 85 or older, and over 33 percent were poor. Elimination of this program during the recession resulted in many clients being institutionalized.

**California Alzheimer's Disease Centers \$2.5 million**  
 Physicians statewide need education to better detect and diagnose Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. California's university-affiliated Alzheimer's Disease Centers at UCSD, UCI, UCLA, USC, UCSF, Stanford and UC Davis would work collaboratively to train primary care doctors on how to screen for and communicate a diagnosis. Earlier and better diagnosis will lead to better treatment and care, and help curb the state's \$3.3 billion annual spending on Medi-Cal services for this population.

## **SSI/SSP**

SSI/SSP is a federal-state program to provide minimal financial assistance to people who would otherwise qualify for Social Security but are not eligible. For years the state share has been reduced to the minimum required and reduced when the federal amount was increased. The result is that the average grant has fallen well below the Federal Poverty Level and monthly grants are below the grant in prior years. In 2016 the state funded a \$10 per month supplement to the state portion. In the 2016-17 budget the Governor proposed another small grant increase. Advocates support a greater increase that would increase grants so all recipients are at 100% of the Federal Poverty Level and tie future grant increases to changes in the Consumer Price Index.

## **Multi-Purpose Senior Services Program (MSSP)**

**\$5.1 million**

A \$5.1 million increase to the Multi-Purpose Senior Services Program (MSSP) would expand services to an additional 2,670 seniors at risk for nursing home admission. MSSP has a 31-year history of successfully serving frail older adults age 65+ with co-occurring multiple chronic conditions in their homes, preventing costly acute and long-term institutionalization. MSSP saves the state an estimated \$117 million or more by decreasing nursing home placement. With restored capacity, MSSP would save the state \$146 million annually.

## **Grace Period for New IHSS Overtime**

## **Trailer Bill Language**

The state delayed implementation of federally-mandated overtime for homecare workers. The deadlines place undue hardship on IHSS consumers and providers who must navigate a complex set of new rules and procedures for overtime and travel time. Several aspects of implementation are simply too cumbersome to properly implement. This places IHSS consumers in jeopardy of losing their providers, and worse, potentially risks their health and safety. To prevent unintended and undesired harmful consequences to IHSS consumers, the state should extend the grace period from May 1 to September 1, 2016, and the change needs to be spelled out in the Budget Trailer Bill.

## **GOAL NUMBER TWO: PROTECT OUR MOST VULNERABLE SENIORS**

### **Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program**

**\$3.6 million**

Since the elimination of all General Fund support in 2008, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman has worked tirelessly to secure alternative funding, streamline services and create more efficient systems. To meet the state and federal mandate of quarterly unannounced visits to facilities, LTCO pieced together partial restoration with support from several special funds and a small General Fund allocation. Both the Senate and Assembly recommended an additional \$5 million allocation in 2015-16 but they only received \$1.4 million and a one-time amount from a special fund. Last year's augmentation of \$1.4 million has demonstrated improvements, but a great-deal remains undone. The requested funding will bring support to the level approved by the Legislature last year, and will allow local programs to meet their federal and state mandates. The enhancement will be an important step to rebuilding the state's commitment to protecting vulnerable residents of long-term care facilities.

## **Senior Nutrition**

**\$5.4 million**

California has the highest rate of senior poverty of any state and is home to millions of seniors who experience food insecurity. Many are too poor to meet their basic needs of food, shelter or medicine. Since state funding was reduced to the lowest federal match possible, the cost of food has risen by 18% and the number of seniors needing help with their meals has increased 24%. An additional \$5.4 million for home delivered meals (Meals on Wheels) will allow the program to recover the lost number of meals served because of inflation and provide an additional 730,000 meals annually.

## **Adult Protective Services (APS) Training**

**\$5 million**

California's APS programs provide emergency response and follow up to reports of abuse and neglect of elders and dependent adults. Budget cuts in recent years have diminished APS programs. Adult Protective Services social workers require specialized skills to respond to complex cases of abuse, neglect and financial exploitation, helping the elderly access vital services to help them remain safe in their homes and communities. California Budgets 1¢ to train APS workers for every \$1 in the Child Protective Services training budget. This \$5 million request will make expanded and updated training available to the state's 58 county APS agencies.

## **GOAL NUMBER THREE: PROVIDE ADVOCACY AND INFORMATION FOR SENIORS**

### **CalQualityCare.org**

**\$400,000**

CalQualityCare.org is an online resource for California consumers seeking long-term services and supports. The portal is free, easy to use, and features information on California hospitals, medical groups, nursing homes, and other LTSS services, along with tips and checklists about how to make informed decisions about long-term care, health care providers, and what to do if something goes wrong.

### **Elder Economic Security Index**

**\$50,000**

The Elder Index was established by the Elder Economic Planning Act of 2011 to provide policy makers with precise and sometimes troubling facts about the costs of making "ends meet" for older Californians. With the withdrawal of the California HealthCare Foundation's support in January of 2016, the Elder Index is at risk. Principals at UCLA indicate that roughly \$50,000 annually would provide the necessary support to continue this important endeavor.

### **California Senior Legislature**

**\$500,000**

The California Senior Legislature (CSL) relies upon a tax check-off as its primary source of operating resources. In recent years, the CSL has experienced a severe drop-off in donations - so severe that drastic cost-cutting measures have been undertaken which may threaten the viability and purpose of the organization to give seniors another voice in state policy and budget deliberations. A one-time allocation of \$500,000 will allow CSL to establish a sustainable funding base.

*For more information contact: Gary Passmore, Congress of California Seniors - [garyp@seniors.org](mailto:garyp@seniors.org)*