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**CHOICE IN AGING AWARDED \$10 MILLION IN CALIFORNIA STATE BUDGET FOR
AGING IN PLACE CAMPUS**

*Aging in Place Campus to include senior housing, wrap around services and
intergenerational preschool*

PLEASANT HILL, CA – Last night, the California Legislature voted for the 2023 fiscal year budget, which includes \$10 million to help fund Choice in Aging’s innovative Aging in Place Campus in Pleasant Hill. The \$10 million dollar award was at the request of State Senator Bill Dodd with support from Assemblymember Tim Grayson.

The Aging in Place campus will create a national model for aging independently in the community with wrap around health and social services outside a senior’s front door. The campus includes 82 single bedroom apartments for low-income seniors, a new Choice in Aging adult day health care facility and a new Choice in Learning Montessori intergenerational preschool.

“By providing wraparound services where seniors live, it will ensure low-income people remain housed, and that it will be less expensive and with healthier outcomes than congregate care settings,” said Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa. “This model closely aligns with the governor’s Master Plan for Aging that seeks to support seniors aging in place with the appropriate services necessary to live healthy independent lives in a setting of their choice.”

Studies show that seniors living independently, in their community, instead of in a skilled nursing facility, are healthier and happier. And, it costs less for seniors and their families and for taxpayers.

“We are deeply grateful that Senator Dodd is a leader on Aging issues and that he fought for us to create an innovative Aging in Place campus that will replace our broken system of long-term care that lands our beloved elders in institutions,” said Debbie Toth, President & CEO of Choice in Aging. “This new model for aging will support senior health and ensure they maintain relationships and joy in their communities.”

Forty-seven organizations and individuals supported this budget request for Choice in Aging, including the Alzheimer’s Association, Justice in Aging, Comcast, the California Alliance for Retired Americans, and Disability Rights California.

Assemblymember Tim Grayson said, “Choice in Aging has been serving Contra Costa County for decades and I am thrilled for this year’s state allocation of \$10 million towards the construction of the Aging in Place Campus to continue to effectively support and uplift the community’s most vulnerable and at-risk populations. Thank you to Sen. Dodd and Debbie Toth for their continued leadership and advocacy in supporting our aging population.”

Choice in Aging is a 73-year old non-profit that provides innovative care to seniors, allowing them to age independently, in their own homes. Choice in Aging participated in the piloting of the first-in-the-nation program that serves seniors with mid to late-stage Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias in an adult day health care setting – a model for subsequent programs around the country. They also created a model intergenerational program that allows clients and preschoolers to master and maintain similar motor skills and bust ageism through weekly interactions that build bonds between participants.

“How we age will undergo profound change in Contra Costa County now that the state has provided funding to help Choice in Aging build an Aging in Place Campus in Pleasant Hill,” said Supervisor Karen Mitchoff. “This first-of-its-kind project will allow for wrap around services right outside a senior’s front door to keep them living independent and out of a skilled nursing facility. This project is a true collaboration, with funding provided by the state, the county, the City of Pleasant Hill, and many individuals who want to make this a model for how we age in our communities.”

The housing element of the campus is being built by Satellite Affordable Housing Associates, a non-profit developer, on land owned by Choice in Aging. The wrap around services provided in the new adult day health care facility will be managed by Choice in Aging. The intergenerational Montessori preschool, will be managed by Choice in Learning.

Choice in Aging is working to raise the remaining \$10 million needed to complete the Aging in Place Campus. The housing component will break ground later this summer and is slated for completion in 2023. The building of the new adult day health care facility and preschool will be completed in 2024.

Choice in Aging President & CEO Debbie Toth is a state leader on aging issues and programs and was appointed to Governor Newsom’s Master Plan for Aging Stakeholder Advisory Committee which was tasked with creating a state-wide blueprint for how we prepare California for the coming demographic changes of a rapidly aging population and create policies that are equitable and promote independence.

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