

Justice in Aging's 2022 Legislative and Budget Priorities

MARCH 2022

For 2022, Justice in Aging has prioritized these key legislative and budget proposals. These proposals span our issue areas of health and long-term care, housing, economic security, and elder justice, and advance several of the goals of the Master Plan for Aging.

As the state with the highest number of seniors living in poverty, and because California often leads the nation in innovative, progressive policies, our work to advance the needs of low-income older adults in California improves the lives of millions, and can serve as a model for other states.

HEALTH AND LONG-TERM CARE

AB 470 (Carrillo)- *two-year bill*

- This bill will clean up code for when the Medi-Cal assets test is eliminated on January 1, 2024, following the 2021 budget agreement that also raises the asset limits effective July 1, 2022.
- Co-sponsored with Western Center on Law and Poverty.

AB 1900 (Arambula)

- This bill will make the Medi-Cal Share of Cost program more affordable by updating the maintenance need levels to 138% of the federal poverty level. Today, older adults and people with disabilities who are just \$1 over the free Medi-Cal limit are forced to pay over \$800 of their monthly income on health care and are expected to survive on just \$600—the maintenance need level—to pay for rent, food, utilities, and all other expenses.
- Co-sponsored with Bet Tzedek, California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform, Disability Rights California, Senior and Disability Action, and Western Center on Law and Poverty
- Includes an accompanying 2022-23 budget proposal.

AB 2262 (Calderon)

- This bill would modify rules for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) annual reassessments by simplifying criteria for county social workers to perform alternative reassessments for program recipients with stable needs and whose IHSS hours do not fluctuate, or fluctuate very little each year.
- Co-sponsored with California Welfare Directors Association.

Reforming Nursing Facility Financing

- Justice in Aging supports efforts to reform the funding framework for nursing facility financing to incentivize value and quality, increase transparency of spending, hold facilities accountable for the money that they spend, and further the state's goal of rebalancing the provision of care from institutional settings to home and community-based settings.

HOUSING

AB 2547 (Nazarian)

- This bill would create housing stabilization subsidies that would enable an estimated 25,000 older adults and people with disabilities annually to access or keep their housing. The subsidies would be made available to severely low-income Californians who are experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness.
- Co-sponsored with Corporation for Supportive Housing, Leading Age California, California State Council on Developmental Disabilities, and United Way of Greater Los Angeles
- Includes an accompanying 2022-23 budget proposal to create a 5-year program.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Accelerate State Supplementary Payment (SSP) Reversal in 2023

- This budget proposal would expedite the implementation of the 2023-24 plan to fully reverse SSP cuts in the 2022-23 fiscal year, and go further to raise SSI/SSP grants above the Federal Poverty Level, at least to the levels prior to the devastating cuts during the Great Recession.
- Budget proposal championed by Californians for SSI Coalition.

ELDER JUSTICE

Adult Protective Services Training Program

- This budget proposal requests \$4.6 million General Fund annually to continue and increase support for the Adult Protective Services (APS) training program and infrastructure to ensure that the APS workforce remains prepared to meet the needs of California's growing aging and disabled populations.
- Budget proposal championed by County Welfare Directors Association, California State Association of Public Administrators/Guardians/Conservators, California Commission on Aging, and the California Elder Justice Coalition.

Please contact [Yasmin Peled, Senior Policy Advocate](#), with any questions on these proposals: ypeled@justiceinaging.org.