

# 2023 Legislative Bills and Budget Requests Related to the Master Plan for Aging

March 2023

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HOUSING • HEALTH REIMAGINED • INCLUSION & EQUITY • CAREGIVING • AFFORDING AGING

In January 2021, Governor Newsom released California's [Master Plan for Aging](#) (MPA), which lays out a ten-year plan to prepare the state for an aging and changing population. The MPA set five major goals: Housing for All Ages and Stages; Health Reimagined; Inclusion & Equity, Not Isolation; Caregiving that Works; and Affording Aging.

[Last year](#), 11 bills in alignment with MPA goals were chaptered. The Legislature and Administration again have an unprecedented opportunity to partner together to create a state where older adults and people with disabilities can age in place and live in dignity. The list below highlights some of the bills that have been introduced in 2023 that would directly affect older adults and people with disabilities and that would advance the MPA.

In addition to this year's legislative efforts, stakeholders have submitted additional budget proposals for consideration that augment the Governor's initial budget proposals. The list below highlights budget proposals from stakeholders that affect older adults and people with disabilities and that align with the goals of the MPA.

Justice in Aging compiled this summary of 2023 legislative bills and budget requests. Sponsors are listed when known. Questions and additions, including to sponsors, can be referred to [Yasmin Peled](#). Inclusion on this list does not indicate endorsement by Justice in Aging.

## Goal 1: Housing for All Ages and Stages

### BILLS:

1. [AB 478](#) (Connolly): Wildfire Insurance

- California Senior Legislature
- This bill would prohibit an insurer from canceling or refusing to renew a policy of residential property insurance based solely on the fact that the insured property is located in a high

or very high fire hazard severity zone, as identified by the State Fire Marshal, if the insured is 65 years of age or older.

2. [AB 540](#) (Wicks): Social Service Transportation Improvement Act

- Choice in Aging
- The Social Service Transportation Improvement Act would support coordinated transportation services agencies, creating a pathway for revolutionizing service delivery and access to affordable, available, and accessible transportation for elders and people with disabilities.

3. [AB 582](#) (Connolly): Senior Wildfire Tax Credit

- California Senior Legislature
- This bill would create a credit for home hardening costs incurred by seniors who reside in high fire severity zones.

4. [AB 1085](#) (Maienshein): Housing Support Services as Medi-Cal benefit

- Western Center on Law and Poverty, Corporation for Supportive Housing
- This bill would require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to seek federal approval to make housing support services a Medi-Cal benefit.

5. [AB 839](#) (Addis): Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly: Financing

- LeadingAge California
- This bill would modernize and update the CHFFA and Cal-Mortgage statutes to allow nonprofit RCFEs, regardless of their connection to a SNF, to utilize the programs.

6. [SB 17](#) (Caballero): Senior Housing: Tax Credits

- LeadingAge California
- This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would create new opportunities for the development of affordable senior housing. Additionally, this bill ties the 15% senior goal in the 9% Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) to the American Community Survey (ACS) census data, so that funding for affordable senior housing will increase in proportion to the size of the senior population.

7. [SB 37](#) (Caballero): Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities Housing Stability Act

- Justice in Aging, Corporation for Supportive Housing, LeadingAge California, State Council on Developmental Disabilities, United Way of Greater LA
- This bill would create rental stabilization subsidies that would enable thousands of 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.

## 8. [SB 656](#) (Nguyen): Rental Assistance: Veterans

- California Senior Legislature
- This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation related to prioritizing veterans in the provision of rental assistance.

## 9. [SB 657](#) (Caballero): Senior Housing

- California Senior Legislature
- This bill would require the council to coordinate with the California continuums of care and the area agencies on aging to partner in their shared regions to provide gerontological training for homelessness services staff and to ensure that homelessness service providers are well trained and well equipped to assist vulnerable older adults with accessing resources to gain a permanent housing solution. The bill would be implemented contingent on an appropriation for those purposes in the budget act.

## BUDGET REQUESTS:

- Justice in Aging, Corporation for Supportive Housing, LeadingAge California, State Council on Developmental Disabilities, United Way of Greater LA request one-time funds of \$500 million that would fund a four-year housing stabilization program for older adults and persons with disabilities who are at imminent risk of, or currently experiencing, homelessness. The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) will oversee competitive grants to local housing, aging, and disability agencies. Grantees will administer rental subsidies to prevent homelessness for those who are at highest risk, and offer housing stability to those most at risk of homelessness, and allow currently unhoused individuals to obtain housing in the private market.
- Justice in Aging, California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform, and Disability Rights California request \$22 million General Fund for FY 23-24 (and ongoing) to increase the Home Upkeep Allowance to 138% FPL to prevent the loss of housing and permanent institutionalization of older adults and persons with disabilities who would otherwise be able to return to the community and live in their own homes. Current policy allows low-income Californians who need six months or less of long-term care to set aside only \$209 a month to keep their housing while they receive care in a facility. Because that amount is a fraction of actual housing costs, many individuals who would otherwise be able to return home, become homeless and are unable to leave nursing home facilities.

## Goal 2: Health Reimagined

### BILLS:

## 10. [AB 48](#) (Aguiar-Curry): Nursing Facility Resident Informed Consent Protection Act of 2023

- California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform (CANHR)
- This bill would codify and expand existing informed consent rules to ensure nursing home residents are given important information about drugs that are prescribed for them and an opportunity to consent or withhold consent.

11. [AB 336](#) (Cervantes): Contractors: Workers' Compensation Insurance
  - This bill would provide funding and resources, as well as reduce barriers, to address significant workforce shortages in county human services programs.
12. [AB 486](#) (Kalra): Nursing Home Citations: Appeal Process
  - Disability Rights California
  - This bill would provide a more consistent framework for the appeals process across regulatory citations for long-term care facilities in California. This would reduce the burden on our superior court system and save judicial resources and taxpayer money. Furthermore, it would streamline and improve a process that is designed to hold negligent facilities (i.e., nursing homes) accountable.
13. [AB 1036](#) (Bryan): Health Care Coverage: Emergency Medical Transport
  - California Senior Legislature
  - This bill would, if a physician has certified that emergency medical condition existed, require a health care service plan, disability insurance policy, and Medi-Cal managed care plan, to provide coverage for emergency medical transport, consistent with an individual's plan or policy.
14. [AB 1157](#) (Ortega and Wilson): Rehabilitative and Habilitative Services: Durable Medical Equipment and Services
  - Western Center on Law & Poverty, National Health Law Program (NHeLP)
  - This bill would clarify that durable medical equipment is a covered essential health benefit in California-regulated health plans and policies when prescribed by a doctor for rehabilitative or habilitative purposes. It will remove limitations such as annual caps on durable medical equipment coverage.
15. [AB 1309](#) (Gómez Reyes): Long-Term Health Care Facilities: Admission Contracts.
  - California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform (CANHR)
  - This bill would require nursing homes to include the same level of detail on written notices to justify a resident eviction that is required of Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFEs), allowing residents to better defend against inappropriate and unsafe evictions on appeal.
16. [AB 1417](#) (Wood): Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse: Mandated Reporting
  - California Long Term Care Ombudsman Association
  - This bill will require mandated reporters to follow a single, simplified reporting process. This bill will also require reports of abuse or neglect to be reported sooner than under the current system (e.g., 24 hours vs. 2 working days); and ensure that criminal acts are reported to law enforcement first. By making the process easier to follow and requiring

reports to be submitted in a timely manner, the bill will ensure that residents of long-term care facilities have the same protections against elder abuse as persons who reside in their own homes.

17. [SB 311](#) (Eggman): Medicare Part A Buy-In

- Justice in Aging
- This bill would require the Department of Health Care Services to submit a State Plan Amendment for California to become a Part A Buy-In State. This would benefit low-income older Californians and persons with disabilities, who rely on Medicare and Medi-Cal but struggle to pay costly Medicare Part A premiums, by simplifying the enrollment process for financial assistance.

#### BUDGET REQUESTS:

- Leading Age California seeks \$15 million to demonstrate California Integrated Care at Home – a housing-based population health model that seeks to help bridge the gap between housing and health care for low-income older adults.
- County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA) requests a total of \$240.2 million GF on an ongoing basis to rectify the underfunding of worker costs (\$185 million GF) and to include the application processing and ongoing case management workload associated with authorized but unpaid cases (\$55 million GF) in the State budgeting methodology. This will enable county IHSS social workers to respond to the growing demand for IHSS services as envisioned in the Master Plan for Aging and California’s commitment to caring for its older adults and persons with disabilities.
- California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) requests that an allocation be raised in order for the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) program to continue development as a critical aspect of the Master Plan’s intent to develop a “No Wrong Door” strategy. It must be raised to account for an ongoing inflation rate of up to 7.7%. It must be raised to continue to expand the ADRC program throughout California, so that all older Californians and individuals with disabilities have access to the program. It must be raised so that there is not the brutal zero-sum game that happens when funding is capped but more programs are entering the program and competing for a fixed pot of money. To support further development and increase the sustainability of the ADRC program in California, C4A is asking for the program allocation to be raised over two years, with \$15,972,500 allocated during SFY 23-24, and \$19,671,125 to be allocated in SFY 24-25.

## Goal 3: Inclusion & Equity, Not Isolation

#### BILLS:

18. [AB 21](#) (Gipson): Peace Officers: Training

- Alzheimer’s Association
- This bill would advance an Alzheimer’s content training for peace officers. This includes a budget request being worked out with the author. Last year, a similar bill cost \$13.5 million.

19. [AB 385](#) (Ta): Alzheimer’s Disease: Public Awareness Campaign

- This bill would require the CA Department of Public Health to implement a public awareness campaign with education for unpaid caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer’s Disease.

20. [AB 386](#) (Nguyen): California Right to Financial Privacy Act

- County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA)
- This bill would improve Adult Protective Services (APS) financial abuse investigations and better protect the assets of California’s growing population of older and dependent adults by: (1) simplifying criteria to access financial records, (2) extending the time frame of accessible records, and (3) expanding the information APS can receive.

21. [AB 387](#) (Aguiar-Curry): Alzheimer’s Disease

- Alzheimer’s Association
- This bill would update the state’s Alzheimer’s and Related Disorders Advisory Committee to add new members, conform term lengths, remove stigmatizing language, and uplift diversity.

22. [AB 449](#) (Ting): Hate Crimes: Law Enforcement Policies

- California Alliance for Retired Americans
- This bill would make adoption of a hate crimes policy by a local law enforcement agency mandatory. The bill would require those policies to include the supplemental hate crime report in the model policy framework developed by the commission and a schedule of hate crime or related trainings the agency conducts. By imposing requirements on local agencies, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

23. [AB 751](#) (Schiavo): Elder Abuse

- California Alliance for Retired Americans
- The bill would codify existing law requiring most local law enforcement agencies to adopt a detailed, specific policy providing much better protection to the 8.5 million older adult Californians and to the 9 million California children and adults with disabilities.

24. [AB 820](#) (Reyes) State Boards and Commissions: Seniors

- California Commission on Aging (CCoA)
- This bill would ensure that aging and disability are part of all equity initiatives and that equity metrics are clearly communicated to the appropriate audiences. Additionally, it would allow opportunities to review and strengthen state and local government leadership and partnership structures.

25. [AB 979](#) (Alvarez): Long-Term Care: Family Councils

- California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform (CANHR)
- This bill would modernize existing family council laws, so that members can continue to meet, communicate, and operate during a public health emergency; ensure facilities are more responsive to concerns; discourage operators from undermining family council activities; and clarify that control of the family council membership and participation in meetings lies with the family council itself.

26. [SB 278](#) (Dodd): Elder Abuse

- Consumer Attorneys of California, California Low Income Consumer Coalition and Elder Law & Advocacy-San Diego
- This bill would clarify existing elder financial exploitation laws to ensure that older adult victims of financial scams can hold banks and other entities accountable for assisting in their financial exploitation.

27. [SB 639](#) (Limón): Alzheimer’s Disease

- Alzheimer’s Association
- This bill would update the state Alzheimer’s Disease Centers to include Dementia Care Aware, which will improve our state systems that help people receive a timely and accurate diagnosis.

**BUDGET REQUESTS:**

None

## Goal 4: Caregiving That Works

**BILLS:**

28. [AB 518](#) (Wicks): Paid Family Leave

- This bill would expand the definition of “family member” and “family care leave” which will allow family caregivers to take paid family leave to care for individuals related by blood or whose association with the caregiver is the equivalent of a family relationship.

29. [AB 524](#) (Wicks): Discrimination: Family Caregiver Status.

- Would add family caregiver status, defined as “a person who is a contributor to the care of one or more family members (including chosen family),” as a protected class under the existing CA Fair Employment and Housing Act.

30. [AB 575](#) (Papan): Paid Family Leave

- This bill would remove unnecessary barriers for individuals seeking to access their paid family benefits by making improvements to California’s Paid Family Leave program.

31. [AB 1672](#) (Haney): In-Home Supportive Services Employer-Employee Relations Act

- SEIU 2015
- This bill would allow In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) providers and employers to negotiate their contracts and wages at a state level instead of at the county level.

32. [SB 431](#) (Nguyen): Grandparents: Caregivers Support

- California Senior Legislature
- This bill would require the California Department of Aging, in consultation with the Department of Justice and the State Department of Social Services, to conduct a study to examine the issues faced by grandparents who are 60 years of age or older and are primary caregivers for their grandchildren, and require the California Department of Aging to report the findings of the study to the Legislature.

33. [SB 616](#) (Gonzalez): Paid Sick Days: Accrual and Use

- This bill would raise the minimum amount of paid sick time to 56 hours or 7 days. Paid sick leave can be used for a family member's preventative care or diagnosis, or the care or treatment of an existing health condition.

#### BUDGET REQUESTS:

- LeadingAge California urges the state not to defer funding for education training to grow the health care workforce, in particular the 21st Century Nursing Initiative.
- California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) recommends that the state provide the 15% state match (\$2.69 million) for the federally funded Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP) as well as an additional investment of \$5 million to support the disproportionate number of women, and in particular Black, Indigenous, Latino, and Asian-American women, providing unpaid care for their family members. Goal 4 of the Master Plan for Aging speaks to the five million family caregivers that the state relies on to help their parents, spouses, and friends who need assistance with everyday tasks to live well in their homes and communities. Of the five million, almost 1.7 million are caring for someone with Alzheimer's Disease or dementia, usually with little support or training. This constitutes about 4 billion hours of unpaid time, valued at \$63 billion, each year. Lack of support and the resulting caregiver burnout often leads to nursing home placement and state-funded institutionalization.

## Goal 5: Affording Aging

#### BILLS:

34. [AB 559](#) (Boerner Horvath): Personal Income Tax: California Senior Citizen Advocacy Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund

- California Senior Legislature

- This bill would require the Franchise Tax Board to revise the return for taxable years 2017 to 2030, inclusive, to allow a taxpayer to designate an amount in excess of personal income tax liability to be deposited into the California Senior Citizen Advocacy Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund, and would extend the repeal date for these provisions to January 1, 2032. By extending a continuously appropriated fund, the bill would make an appropriation.

## BUDGET REQUESTS:

- Californians for SSI Coalition requests critical investments to ensure that older adults and people with disabilities with SSI do not struggle with the toxic stress of poverty and have the economic security to live in safe environments.
  - Appropriate a three-step increase to bring the SSI/SSP grants to 100% of the federal poverty level over three years, which would require \$209 million each year, over the next three years and \$418 million ongoing.
  - Appropriate \$8.288 million to update the Supplemental Nutritional Benefit (SNB) & Transitional Nutritional Benefit (TNB) allotments to have parity with adjustments made in CalFresh.
  - Revive the Special Circumstances Program: Appropriate \$10 million to support vulnerable populations facing emergencies.
- California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) is appreciative of the funds received last legislative session that will provide critical services and supports for older adults and allow individuals to age in place in the setting of their choice. These funds also provide critical funding for nutrition and will help delay the food cliff that would have happened when the federal stimulus funds expire. 2.5 million low-income older Californians continue to struggle to make ends meet and rely on programs such as CalFresh, food banks, and congregate and home-delivered meal programs. C4A's focus in the coming years will be to ensure that the Legislature understands how critical these services are and work toward solutions that address the meal gap and sustain funding for programs and services that help older Californians and individuals living with disabilities remain in their communities. C4A wants to ensure that funding for all of our existing services will not be cut and will further press for a cost-of-living increase so that needed services can be maintained.