



February 28th, 2025

The Honorable Corey Jackson, Chair
Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2 Human Services
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for \$100M One-Time Budget Request for the California Community Care Expansion Program (CCE)

Dear Honorable Chair,

I respectfully request that this subcommittee hear and consider a one-time \$100 million budget request to fund the California Community Care Expansion (CCE) Program. This critical investment will strengthen California's long-term care infrastructure and provide essential resources to expand much-needed housing and supportive services for older adults and people with disabilities.

Over a quarter of the state's unsheltered adults without children are aged 55 or older. Additionally, the number of adults over the age of 65 accessing homelessness services has grown faster than any other demographic. One type of housing that meets the unique needs of older adults is licensed assisted living facilities, which provide both housing and care. In particular, licensed assisted living facilities serving those on SSI/SSP or CAPI who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness represent a crucial component of any effort seeking to address older adult homelessness. These facilities both provide a place for recently homeless older adults to live and prevent vulnerable older adults from becoming homeless in the first place.

Established in 2021, CCE fills a critical gap in California's housing funding streams by providing targeted funding to licensed assisted living facilities and supportive housing providers that serve low-income older adults and adults with disabilities. Since 2021, CDSS has awarded \$570 million in competitive grants across 61 projects to create 3,104 beds/units in permanent supportive housing, licensed residential care facilities, and recuperative/respite care facilities.

Over the lifespan of these CCE-funded housing projects, an estimated 94,000 individuals will be housed and supported through CCE-funded housing projects. This estimate is based on the number of individuals who will be able to access CCE-funded beds over the course of the 20 or 30 years the housing projects must ensure tenancy for the eligible population.

Addressing older adult homelessness has been a key objective of the State over the past few years. CCE is a vital program that increases affordable housing options across the continuum of care for older adults and adults with disabilities. It is about providing choice for older adults with minimal financial resources who may wish to or are better suited to live in a residential care setting. However, CCE Expansion funds have been exhausted, and the demand greatly outpaced the availability of funds. More than \$1.8 billion in funding was requested, but only \$570 million was available for award.

This one-time investment of \$100 million in funding, (factoring 5% for State administrative costs and 5% for cost of escalation and inflation), would create an estimated 474 beds ongoing, further expanding critical housing and care options for older adults at risk of homelessness.

I respectfully request inclusion of this one-time budget request and as a priority in the Subcommittee's deliberations. Your leadership in ensuring adequate funding for community-based care by increasing the number of assisted living care beds is essential to protecting California's most vulnerable residents and upholding the State's commitment to aging with dignity.

If you or your staff have any questions about this request please contact my staff, Marisol.prieto-valle@asm.ca.gov, or call 916-319-2019. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to working together to advance this critical investment in our long-term care infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Catherine Stefani".

Assemblymember Catherine Stefani
Assembly District 19