

California Commission on Aging THREE-YEAR OPERATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK January 2021- December 2023

Introduction

Issued in January 2021, the Governor's Master Plan for Aging (MPA) offers a once-in-a-generation bold vision of a California for All Ages at a time when systems change is not only timely, but essential.

In 2020-2021, the COVID-19 pandemic shattered norms and created urgency to address the disparities and gaps in health and human service delivery systems. Today, California has an opportunity to learn from adapting to an emergency situation, including advances in technology, acceptance of telehealth, innovative partnerships for meal delivery, housing and healthcare with long-term services and supports, virtual social contacts, expanded internet access and new workforce configurations.

The California Commission on Aging (CCoA) Operational Planning Framework incorporates the CCoA mandate to serve as the principal body advocating on behalf of older Californians and the three primary responsibilities to Advocate, Advise and Educate with CCoA's MPA priorities and the Older Americans Act State Plan on Aging 2021-2025.

VISION

Californians can age with dignity and respect in the setting of their choice.

MISSION

To serve as the principal advocacy body for older Californians and a catalyst for change that supports and celebrates Californians as they age.

VALUES

- Equity and Inclusion
 - Services will be linguistically and culturally responsive and the workforce will reflect the strength of California's diverse communities.
- Autonomy, Choice and Access
 - Financing and public policy will intentionally support the statewide infrastructure needed to foster quality options in all communities while reducing reliance on institutional placement.
- Respect and Integrity
 - The needs, values and preferences of individuals and their caregivers will be honored by the system and its providers.
- Collaboration and Partnership
 - Collaboration and partnerships will be fostered and supported to form a unified voice in support of California's aging population.

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ADVOCACY

GOAL I: Advocate on issues affecting older adults, individuals with disabilities and caregivers.

Strategies

Inputs: research, analysis of legislation and initiatives, presentations from subject matter experts and site visits across the state.

1. Serve as subject matter experts advising the Governor, state departments and the Legislature.
2. Initiate, analyze, advance, promote and sponsor California state legislation to improve and increase policies and programs for all Older Californians and reduce disparities in the health and well-being of underserved communities, e.g., Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), LGBTQ+ and disabled older adults.
3. Engage in federal policy development to ensure the voices of California's older adults, individuals with disabilities and caregivers are considered at the federal level.
4. Advance issues of poverty (such as food security/nutrition, Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment [SSI/SSP]), gender inequities and definition of needs; elder justice (including access to justice, victim services, Adult Protective Services and Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program); healthcare (including Medicare, Medi-Cal/Denti-Cal and behavioral health), dementia services, long-term supports and services and community living (such as housing, transportation, caregiving, respite care, age-, disability- and dementia-friendly communities and senior/community centers) and geriatrics and gerontology workforce development. Geriatrics is a medical specialty that focuses on treating and caring for old adults. Gerontology is a wide-lens study that not only focuses on the physical and mental health of the elderly, but it also considers societal implications and public policies.
5. Advise stakeholders on impact of emerging legislation, policies, and regulations.

Outputs/Progress Indicators:

CCoA committee and workgroup assignments, external stakeholder advisory committee and workgroup assignments, reports and recommendations, articles, position letters, partnership/coalition letters, committee meetings, briefings, participation in hearings and presentations by subject matter experts (SMEs) and group representatives

GOAL II: Advance issues that affect older adults and their families with an inclusive and equitable perspective on aging.

Strategies

Inputs: Subject matter experts including California Department of Aging (CDA) director and/or designees, representatives of local, state, and federal government agencies,

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nonprofits, universities, service providers, and group representatives (e.g., older adults, individuals with disabilities, caregivers) to address topical issues at Commission meetings or priority issue areas.

1. Promote issues that affect older adults and their families, including but not limited to, economic security, age-, disability- and dementia-friendly communities, caregiver supports, workforce development, gerontology/geriatric education, affordable long-term supports and services, Alzheimer’s disease research, healthcare and behavioral health, social connectivity, and intergenerational engagement.
2. Champion emerging issues and opportunities consistent with the Commission’s mandate, priorities, and available resources.
3. Contribute to effectiveness of local, regional, state, and federal advocacy networks.
4. Partner and network with Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) throughout California to research program innovations and address issues of concern at both federal and state levels.
5. Build coalitions and partnerships with leaders in nonprofit, local, state, and federal government and the private sector, media and entertainment to address issues of mutual interest.

Outputs/Progress Indicators: participation in advocacy networks, partnership activities with AAAs, participation in California Association of AAA (C4A) sponsored events, distribution of AgeWatch, position letters, visibility of Commission efforts and participation in priority and emerging areas, list of potential partners and leadership contact information, agreement on planned activities/efforts.

ADVISORY

GOAL III: Advise the Governor, state legislators, government officials and stakeholders on policies and programs that affect older Californians, individuals with disabilities, and caregivers, with attention on CCoA Master Plan priorities below. Advise on other CCoA Master Plan recommendations as resources allow.

1. Development of innovative models to increase access to and coordination of long-term services and supports (LTSS) for all Californians, such as California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM).
2. Creation of a LTSS benefit.
3. Expansion of the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) No Wrong Door model.
4. Support the establishment of the California Elder and Disability Justice Coordinating Council.
5. Partner with CDA on the “California for All Ages” campaign to support inclusion and equity, and combat ageism, ableism, sexism, racism, bias against gender identity and sexual orientation and other types of discrimination in California.

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Inputs: expertise/work and affiliations of Commissioners and CCoA staff, staff analytical work, participation in educational webinars and stakeholder meetings convened by the State to track progress and provide input on development and implementation of initiatives, MPA data dashboard.

Strategies

1. Support and monitor implementation of the MPA in alignment with CCoA priorities.
2. Keep the Administration, state legislators and applicable committees apprised of pertinent issues.
3. Provide expertise on aging issues in professional forums regarding government, healthcare, behavioral health, housing, business, education, industry, technology, entertainment, culture, diversity, equity, underserved communities, and other relevant topics.
4. Support CDA in meeting requirements for California's designation as an Age-Friendly State.

Outputs/Progress Indicators: leveraged expertise/work and affiliations of Commissioners and CCoA staff, research and analysis of proposals, participation in educational webinars and stakeholder meetings, biannual legislative reception, participation in coalition meetings and network; participation in CCoA meetings; information collected from Commissioners on activities and shared with full Commission, regular meetings with CDA Communications and other staff.

GOAL IV: Ensure the State Plan on Aging reflects emerging and critical issues affecting older adults, individuals with disabilities and their caregivers.

Inputs: expertise/work of Commissioners and CCoA staff, stakeholder input, AAA local plans.

Strategies

1. Conduct public hearings on State Plan on Aging in partnership with the CDA.
2. Advise CDA staff on key Commission priorities for consideration.
3. Support the evaluation of California's aging services structure—including the Planning and Service Area (PSA) boundaries (currently 33), the Intrastate Funding Formula, and the designation process for the Area Agency on Aging in each PSA—to assess how to best meet the needs of California's --to assess how to best meet the needs of California's diverse communities, e.g., racial, ethnic, gender, gender identity and sexual orientation, needs of the broader older population, and the changing landscape of aging and disability service. .
4. Monitor State Plan on Aging implementation.

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Outputs/Progress Indicators: State Plan hearings co-chaired by Commission Chair and CDA director, Commission input on draft State Plan, progress reports from CDA, jointly co-sponsored meetings, leveraged expertise/work of Commissioners and CCoA staff, MPA Committee meeting, presentation and materials from CDA, State Plan used to inform Commission planning process and priorities.

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Outreach and Education

GOAL V: Advance a positive, stigma-free, bold vision of aging across the lifespan.

Inputs: Commissioner and CCoA staff participation in events and policy discussions, expertise of California Foundation on Aging (CFoA) board members, input and technical support of subject matter experts and consultants

Strategies

1. Explore rebranding the Commission on Aging to champion a universal bold, inclusive vision of aging across the lifespan and reflect a strong, positive image of aging.
2. Raise the visibility of the Commission and priority initiatives and promote a vibrant and positive image of aging.

Outputs/Progress Indicators: presentations by Commissioners and CCoA staff, participation in events, collaboration with CFoA, grant proposal, presentations from leads of other rebranding initiatives such as Age Strong Commission (Boston) and CDA, presentation from rebranding communications experts, strategy for rebranding the Commission, communication toolkits (as resources allow)

GOAL VI: Educate older adults, the public, policymakers and key stakeholders.

Inputs: staff administrative support, networking and seeking partnerships, research consultants.

Strategies

1. Expand distribution of *AgeWatch* newsletter and elevate events and publications that focus on underserved communities and health equity issues.
2. Seek opportunities to sponsor or join statewide and local public education initiatives and events, public hearings/presentations, workshops and listening sessions.
3. Provide administrative support to Triple-A Council of California (TACC) to promote communication and collaboration among local AAA advisory councils and key state partners.
4. Produce and distribute position papers, surveys, and special reports; draft letters to the editor and/or opinion pieces, when appropriate and as resources allow.

Outputs/Progress Indicators: increased AgeWatch subscriptions, TACC meetings, participation of TACC representatives, positions papers, surveys or special reports (as resources allow), engagement in education initiatives and/or workshops

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GOAL VII: Encourage increased workforce diversity and cultural competency by raising awareness of Gerontology and Geriatrics and related fields and normalize lifespan aging in primary, secondary and higher education.

Inputs: formal agreement with Sacramento State University, technical support and subject matter expertise of Commissions and members of the California Foundation on Aging in identifying opportunities and drafting grant applications.

Strategies:

1. Provide internship opportunities for diverse undergraduate students who either major or minor in Gerontology.
2. Seek funding to develop a Lifespan Education curriculum for K-12 grades to raise awareness about planning for a longer life, promote a positive image of aging, promote intergenerational relationships and combat ageism.
3. Promote diversity-focused pipeline programs beginning with community colleagues that lead into aging services, Gerontology, Geriatrics, and health and social professions.
4. Increase legislative efforts and Administration awareness of geriatric/gerontology workforce deficits and gaps and issues around building a representative workforce (increase diversity of workforce).
5. Promote continuing education in geriatrics and gerontology and diversity of older adults for health, behavioral health and social service providers.
6. Grant development to support increased gerontology and geriatrics workforce and diversity of workforce.

Outputs/Progress Indicators: weekly check-in meetings with intern and final project presentation, regular project development meetings with partners; list of potential grantors, grant and budget proposal , meetings scheduled with legislators and/or staff; meetings on topic with Administration leadership, position letters developed, collaborative relationship with the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI, (formerly OSHPD) and other State Administration and entities (e.g., licensing); coalition for workforce development grant writing