

# California Commission on Aging

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GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor

Executive Director  
Karol Swartzlander

June 7, 2021

Sent via email: [publicinput@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:publicinput@dhcs.ca.gov)

Dear Director Wade:

The California Commission on Aging commends the California Health and Human Services Leaders for the seizing the opportunities afforded by the American Rescue Plan of 2021 to propose historic and revolutionary investments in Medi-Cal home and community-based services, infrastructure and workforce. The Commission is pleased to see additional investments in the Aging and Disability Resource Connection initiative and the proposals to pilot innovative models of care under both Medi-Cal and Medicare, among many others.

The Commission offers the following suggestions:

1. **Direct Care Workforce:** Add a category for training and stipend incentive programs for social workers to encourage working in In-Home Supportive Services, Adult Protective Services, Multipurpose Senior Services Program, etc., the behavioral health workforce specializing in older adults and Geriatrics and Gerontology students.
2. **Increasing Home and Community-Based Clinical Workforce:** In addition to the nurse workforce, add primary care physicians, social workers, gerontologists and those in the fields of behavioral health such as psychology and marriage and family services.
3. **HCBS Infrastructure and Support:** Include development of a statewide one-stop long-term services and support (LTSS) information and referral system (website) to empower Californians (any age, any disability or any income-level) to understand and make informed decisions about their long-term services and supports needs and options.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the HCBS Spending Plan. As always, the Commission stands ready to support the Administration in development of a more inclusive, accessible and equitable LTSS system in California.

Sincerely,



Ellen Schmeding  
Chair, CCoA

cc: Jacey Cooper, California Medicaid Director and Chief Deputy Director, Department of Health Care Services  
Kim McCoy Wade, Director, California Department of Aging