



Relationship Between the Older Americans Act & Older Californians Act

2

Older Americans Act

- ❑ Defines Federal, State & Local Roles in Administering OAA programs & services
- ❑ Establishes OAA Programs & Services, funding formulas & match requirements
- ❑ Specifies target populations & data reporting requirements

Older Californians Act

- ❑ Designates the CA Department of Aging (CDA) as the State Unit on Aging
- ❑ Defines roles: Area Agencies on Aging, Commission on Aging, Senior Legislature, Advisory Committees, etc.
- ❑ Specifies programs administered by CDA, including HICAP and the Multipurpose Senior Services Programs

Older Californians Act

(W&I Code Section 9300-9800)

Older Californians Act

- ❑ Establishes specific OCA targeting & formulas for allocating AAA base administrative funding
- ❑ Requires the LTC Ombudsman Program to perform additional activities beyond those in the federal Older Americans Act
- ❑ AB 2800—Transferred contractual responsibility for the Ombudsman program & HICAP from CDA to the AAAs (1996)
- ❑ Establishes “Community Based Services Programs” & Initiatives, not in the OAA (All of these programs, except HICAP, were General Fund supported but have not received funding for over 10 years)

California's 33 Older Californians Act Planning & Service Areas



Key Programs & Services

- Access Services – e.g., Information & Referral, Outreach, Case Management
- Nutrition Services – Congregate Meals, Home Delivered Meals, Nutrition Education, Nutrition Counseling
- Legal Services – Provision of legal advice, counseling and representation by an attorney
- Supportive Services – Care Management, Chore Assistance, Home Modifications, Transportation, Senior Centers, etc.
- Health Promotion/Disease Prevention—Evidence based programs to assist older adults maintain their health, avoid injuries, and manage chronic health/behavioral health conditions

Key Programs & Services (cont.)

- Caregiver Support Services – Information & Assistance, counseling and supportive services, training, and respite
- LTC Ombudsman Program
 - Identifies, investigates, & resolves complaints made by (or on behalf of) LTC facility residents.
 - Conducts community education about LTC services and issues
 - Receives & investigates reports of suspected abuse or neglect in LTC facilities.*
 - Witnesses advanced health care directives & certain property transfers executed by nursing home residents.*

* Older California Act requirements not included in the Older Americans Act

Key Programs & Services (cont.)

- ❑ Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program (HICAP)

HICAP provides free counseling, education & assistance to individuals & their families on Medicare, LTC insurance & other health insurance related issues.

- ❑ Title V -- Senior Community Employment Program

Fosters and promotes useful part-time opportunities in community service activities for unemployed low-income persons. (14 AAAs participate in the Title V Program. There are also national contractors who administer this program in various parts of the State.)

Medi-Cal Programs – MSSP Waiver

- ❑ Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP) provides social & health care management to assist nursing home eligible older adults to remain at home.
- ❑ Key Services:
 - Care Management that links participants to other needed services & on-going connection with clients to address changes in needs/health
 - Coordination with health providers
 - Can purchase some additional needed services

More Recent Legislative Changes

Older Californians Act

- ❑ Establishes & defines the *Aging & Disability Resource Centers* to be administered by CDA, with DHCS and Dept of Rehabilitation as core State partners (2017)
- ❑ Specifies that all older adults have equal access to OAA programs & services (2006) and added LGBT older adults to the existing subgroups at risk of “greatest social need” in targeting program services (2018)
- ❑ Have addressed specific issues related to the LTC Ombudsman role and ability to serve facility residents in a timely manner.

California Commission on Aging

- Purpose: To serve as the principal advocate body in the state on behalf of older individuals.
- Specifies composition and appointment process.
- Identifies duties and functions



Additional Resources

- **CDA State Plan on Aging --**

https://aging.ca.gov/docs/Highlights/CSP_Plan_Aging/California%20State%20Plan%20on%20Aging%202017-2021.pdf

- **CDA Program Statistical Fact Sheets**

https://aging.ca.gov/Data_and_Statistics/Facts_And_Program_Narratives_2018.aspx

- **CDA Website links to Local Programs**

https://aging.ca.gov/ProgramsProviders/MSSP/Program_Overview.aspx