



# Overview of County Programs and Alameda County's Role in Promoting the Health of Seniors

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June 10, 2013

# County Services for Seniors

Supportive services are a necessary part of health care for seniors

- Health
  - Senior Injury Prevention Partnership
  - Measure A
  - BHCS – MHSA-funded Older Adult Programs
  - Bridge Funding for ADHC/CBAS transition
- Social Services
  - Medi-Cal
  - In-Home Supportive Services
  - Adult Protective Services and Public Guardian
  - LTC Ombudsman
  - HICAP
  - Older Americans Act Services

# Older Americans Act Services

- meals on wheels
- congregate meal programs
- case management
- adult day care
- information and assistance
- friendly visiting
- telephone reassurance
- homemaker assistance
- senior center services and activities
- legal services
- family caregiver support

Provided by community-based organizations

# Supportive Services...

- A necessary part of the health care equation for seniors
- Complement medical care and lower acute care costs
- Help older adults meet the challenges of aging and live safely in community
- Provide life-line interventions
- Help seniors maintain economic stability
- OAA services are primary support available to “near poor” seniors

# The Supportive Services Safety Net is Severely Compromised

Between 2008 and Today:

- The rate of growth in Alameda County's senior population accelerated
  - grew from 147,000 in 2000 to 168,000 in 2010 to 188,000 in 2013
- Poverty among seniors deepened
  - Half of all seniors are economically insecure (71,000 live below Elder Economic Security Index)
  - Over 29,000 seniors live below 125% of FPL
  - Over 23,000 seniors on SSI/SSP live below FPL
- California cut/eliminated funding in every category of service for seniors
  - Hundreds of millions of program and service dollars lost
  - Services and access evaporated from our communities
- Federal funding remained flat for many programs

# Challenges Facing Us

- Federal Sequester cuts hitting in July will further limit access to services, and may be the last straw for many essential programs.
  - **The expected 6% overall cut to Older Americans Act and other funding streams starting July 1 will be even deeper; as much as 9%.**
  - Cuts will be allocated unevenly, so that some programs may be spared, but others suffer even more devastating cuts.
- Coordinated Care Initiative & Duals Demonstration will not be the fiscal “White Knight” for all community-based services, only address part of the senior population, and will require innovation and added capacity from community-based service providers
- Number of seniors age 65+ will grow 30% (54,000 people) between now and 2020... A growing number of low-income older adults needing care.

# Recommendations

## **What is the County's Role in Addressing the Near and Long Term Challenges of our Aging Communities?**

- Track and monitor the progress of the Coordinated Care Initiative in Alameda County to ensure it's working for consumers and providers
- Planning for the County's aging population, bridging disciplines, departments, and agencies
- Ensure most vulnerable seniors are empowered and protected
- County budget support to mitigate the sequestration cuts to critical AAA services