

THE CALIFORNIA BLUEPRINT

SUPPORT FOR AGING & DISABLED CALIFORNIANS

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- **Continued, historic investments in home care choices for aging and disabled adults, along with a \$1.7 billion to support the care economy workforce**
 - **Reforming the nursing facility financing to advance quality and equity**
 - **Targeted investments in age-friendly communities for all ages and abilities**
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The shift in California's population is changing family life, communities, and the economy, with new opportunities and issues. Governor Newsom's Blueprint is driving the comprehensive approaches needed to address the state's most persistent challenges and build a California for all ages and abilities. The Blueprint Plan makes transformative investments in the state's most urgent priorities – including climate justice, housing and homelessness, and behavioral health care – all of which benefit Californians across their lifespan, whether 8 months, 8 years, or 80 years old. In addition, the Blueprint advances three priority areas for aging: home care, nursing facility care, and age-friendly communities.

EXPANDING HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE CHOICES FOR AGING AND DISABLED ADULTS AND FAMILIES

Governor Newsom's Blueprint builds on last year's historic investments to expand Home Care choices for adults and families, with unprecedented support for home and community services, care navigation, affordability (via Medi-Cal expansions to older and disabled adults), and workforce. This year's investments focus on workforce and take an additional step on affordability:

- **\$1.7 billion in the Care Economy Workforce for a Healthy California for All** to expand, support, and diversify the health and human services workforce essential to community living.
- **Reduced Medi-Cal premiums for working adults with disabilities**, making health and home care more affordable.
- **\$24.8 million for a permanent back-up provider system in In-Home Supportive Services**, to avoid disruptions to caregiving due to immediate need or emergency.
- **First state to achieve universal access to healthcare coverage.** The California Blueprint will provide a full expansion of Medi-Cal access to all eligible Californians regardless of immigration status, including an estimated 764,000 undocumented immigrants. Under Governor Newsom's leadership, California has expanded the Medi-Cal program to cover young adults and older adults over age 50 regardless of immigration status. The Blueprint builds on that work by expanding full-scope eligibility to all age groups regardless of immigration status.

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REFORMING NURSING FACILITY FINANCING FOR CARE QUALITY, VALUE, EQUITY AND INNOVATION

Advance care quality and value, implement a new funding framework. Over 100,000 of the most vulnerable older and disabled Californians live in skilled nursing facilities, which have weathered the pandemic with many losses and learnings. This year presents an opportunity for California to improve by Reforming Nursing Facility Financing, replacing the existing framework when it sunsets December 31, 2022 with a new funding framework to further advance care quality, value, equity, and innovation for residents, families, and workers.

BUILDING INCLUSIVE, AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

California's millions of diverse older and disabled adults and their families will benefit from California's continued implementation of the 2021 Master Plan for Aging and 2020 Alzheimer's Prevention and Preparedness Task Force's recommendations to advance an age-, disability-, and dementia- friendly California for all. Targeted, catalytic investments this year include:

- **\$10 million for Healthy Brain Initiatives** to help more communities prevent and prepare for Alzheimer's and all dementias - newly projected to impact 1 in 5 older adults and families.
- **Expanded California Food Assistance Program** for adults age 55 and older, regardless of immigration status, beginning in 2025-2026, to prevent hunger and malnutrition in older adults.
- **\$10 million for Older Adult Volunteer Opportunities** - both with children, to build intergenerational connections, and with peers, to prevent isolation, and another \$10 million to expand the state's existing volunteer infrastructure, creating a neighbor-to-neighbor initiative to recruit, train, and equip neighbors in response to community needs.
- **\$30 million for the Special Olympics** to support efforts to promote healthy living and inclusive communities for people with intellectual disabilities.
- **Work Opportunities for all ages and abilities** are advanced by new state CalLeads initiatives furthering an inclusive and equitable State workforce and by service model pilots with people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.
- **Protection for Vulnerable Older and Disabled Adults** is elevated by a new state liaison to county Probate Conservators and by an increased focus on people aging with an intellectual and/or developmental disability and their families.
- **The Master Plan for Aging's data-driven outcomes and public engagement** are supported at the Department of Aging and the California Commission on Aging.

FIGHTING COVID-19, BOLSTERING LOCAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS

- **Accelerate vaccination and booster efforts, expand testing programs and capacity.** The Blueprint focuses on meeting Californians where they are, with in-home vaccination and testing programs, free transportation to vaccination appointments throughout the state to get more Californians vaccinated and boosted. The Governor's plan expands hours and capacity at

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testing sites throughout the state and distributes millions of additional COVID-19 antigen tests to local health communities.

- **Combat misinformation and ramp up public awareness campaigns.** In partnership with 250 ethnic media outlets, the Blueprint continues a robust community outreach and direct appointment assistance campaign with door-to-door canvassing, phone banking and texting with over 700 CBOs and community partners.
- **Support Local Public Health Response.** The Blueprint includes \$200 million for local health governments to enhance their public health infrastructure, including workforce expansion, data collection and integration and community partnerships.