



May 29, 2019

To: The Honorable Holly Mitchell
Chair, Budget Conference Committee

Honorable Members
Budget Conference Committee

From: Frank J. Mecca, Executive Director
Betsy Butler, Chair, California Commission on Aging
Scarlet Hughes, Executive Director, California State Association of Public Administrators/Guardians/Conservators (PA | PG | PC)
Lisa Nerenberg, Executive Director, California Elder Justice Coalition

RE: ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES (APS) AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR/GUARDIAN/CONSERVATOR TRAINING PROGRAM – SUPPORT SENATE VERSION

The California State Association of Public Administrators/Guardians/Conservators (CAPAGPC), California Commission on Aging, California Elder Justice Coalition, and County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA) respectfully request adoption of the SENATE VERSION of \$5.75 million General Fund (GF) over three years to continue support of the Adult Protective Services (APS) and Public Administrator/Guardian/Conservator (PA/PG/PC) training budget. This training will enable counties to meet their mandate to protect and serve this vulnerable elderly and dependent adult population.

Counties operate the APS Program, which provides 24 hour/7 day response to reports of abuse and neglect of persons over age 65 and dependent adults. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) administers the statewide APS training program to support consistent implementation of policies and practices across the 58 county APS agencies. County APS also collaborates with, and relies upon, County PA/PG/PC, who provide services to individuals who are no longer able to act in their own best interest, are unable to resist undue influence, or are gravely disabled as a result of a psychiatric or cognitive disorder.

In 2016, the Legislature and Governor approved \$3 million in one-time funding to begin development of the necessary training infrastructure for APS social workers and PA/PG/PC staff. This investment was leveraged with another \$3 million in federal funds, for a \$6 million total investment, which augmented the training infrastructure with additional trainers and

curriculum developers. The result was over 3,200 social workers receiving training on a range of topics, the development of several eLearning modules, and various regional trainings and advanced training provided by the PA/PG/PC. This funding will expire at the end of this fiscal year. Without continued funding the current training system will be dismantled, leaving just \$88,000 GF (\$176,000 total funds) for statewide training, which is insufficient to meet the needs of this growing program.

The proposed \$5.75 million GF over three years would allow CDSS the time to establish the necessary training infrastructure. CDSS administers this training program through contracts with local regional training academies, and these contracts can take upwards of six months to execute. Advanced planning and notice is required to secure training venues and trainers and to deliver the training. It is also difficult to attract and maintain high quality, consistent staffing infrastructure on a short-term basis. Without this level of funding over a several year span, APS and PA/PG/PC will be unable to replicate and multiply the success of the initial investment, leaving California unprepared to meet the demand for services among California's rapidly growing older adult population.

Since the APS program was realigned to counties in 2011-12, reports of elder abuse have risen 58%, a reflection of the growing population of older adults in California. The proposed \$5.75 million General Fund (\$11.5 million with federal matching funds) over three years will enable the current, yet temporary, APS and PA/PG/PC training structure to continue and would allow for some expansion to bring core training to all new APS social workers and supervisors, new advanced training addressing emerging trends and legislative mandates, and support to new staff through simulation training and coaching to supervisors.

For these reasons, we urge your support for the SENATE VERSION for \$5.75 million GF over three years to enable California to continue to build on the successes of the investment in County APS and PA/PG/PC training programs so that a vulnerable elderly and dependent adult population are provided consistent, effective protection and services.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Attachment: Infographic

cc: Jason Sisney, Office of the Assembly Speaker
Gail Gronert, Office of the Assembly Speaker
Mareva Brown, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore
Chris Woods, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore
Nicole Vazquez, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Cyndi Hillery, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office
Renita Polk, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
Rebecca Hamilton, Senate Republican Fiscal Office
Luan Huynh, Office of Senator Holly Mitchell
Irene Ho, Office of Assemblymember Philip Ting
Colin Sueyres, Office of Senator Jim Nielsen
Alex Norring, Office of Senator Richard. D. Roth

Elise Gyore, Office of Senator Richard. D. Roth
Zachary Leary, Office of Senator Nancy Skinner
Spencer Street, Office of Senator John M. W. Moorlach
Teresa Trujillo, Office of Assemblymember Jay Obernolte
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Diane Cummins, HHS, Department of Finance
Adam Dorsey, HHS, Department of Finance
Jay Kapoor, HHS, Department of Finance
Justin Garrett, California Association of Counties
County Caucus