



Building a Home Care System that Works for All Californians

The **majority of older adults and people with disabilities want to live at home**, even as their needs for care change – but **California lacks an affordable, inclusive, and equitable system to support them.**

Right now, too many Californians cannot afford in-home care, and many people – especially those with complex needs and people of color – are **forced to receive their care in institutional settings, like nursing facilities.**

At-home care and support, like **help with bathing, dressing, cooking, and care coordination**, are key to ensuring people with different health care needs can remain living at home and connected to their communities.

Today, **much of this support is provided by unpaid family caregivers**, who bear a big financial and emotional burden and risk their own financial security.

With adequate funding, California can build a system that **everyone can afford**, is **easy to navigate**, and can **access the services** they need at the right time and in the **setting of their choice.**

Robust investments in at-home care would **support family caregivers** who are far too often filling in the gaps, and **support California's direct care workforce** so that they are adequately compensated and receive the training they need.

With strong investments in at-home care and support, California can lead the nation to ensure everyone can get the help they need to live with dignity as they age and prevent aging into poverty.

These recommendations were developed by members of the California Master Plan for Aging Stakeholder Advisory Committee.



California should lead the way in building an equitable, statewide long-term services and supports (LTSS) system that values and embraces the diversity of older adults, people with disabilities, paid and family caregivers. To provide this leadership:

We need affordable long-term services and supports choices.

EXPAND MEDI-CAL ELIGIBILITY

California can leverage federal options and authorities to help more low-income families afford the assistance they need.

CREATE AN LTSS BENEFIT FOR ALL CALIFORNIANS

California should develop a new broad-based, LTSS benefit that makes care affordable for all Californians, especially with incomes too high to qualify for Medi-Cal, but too low to cover the current costs of care.

We need to support family caregivers and a high-quality workforce.

SUPPORT FAMILY CAREGIVERS

California's LTSS system should provide maximum support to family caregivers, who are predominantly women and working full or part-time and who also spend significant money out of pocket in order to care for their loved ones.

INVEST IN PAID WORKFORCE

California must adequately invest in the paid workforce, who are predominantly women of color, by increasing wages, enhancing training and career ladder opportunities, and improving working conditions.

We need access to long-term services and supports in every community.

EQUITABLE ACCESS TO LTSS

Older adults and people with disabilities must have equitable access to quality LTSS regardless of where they live in the state, their race, ethnicity, primary language, age, disability, sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

INVEST IN LTSS EXPANSION

California must invest in expansions of LTSS in order to meet the growing needs of older adults and people with disabilities, and their caregivers, and support LTSS programs that already exist but have been underfunded and left behind.

We need a system that everyone can easily navigate.

COORDINATION WITH MEDI-CAL AND MEDICARE

California should leverage CalAIM's Medi-Cal and Medicare benefits to coordinate care for older adults and people with disabilities who need LTSS.

USER FRIENDLY NAVIGATION SYSTEM

People need an understandable and easy to navigate LTSS system, and to be able to connect to services regardless of where they live, their economic status, or primary language – this includes a 'no wrong door approach' to be connected to services no matter the entity.

We need to streamline state and local structures for service delivery.

ALIGN LTSS IMPLEMENTATION ACROSS ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS

The state should be focused on ensuring that all aspects of a statewide LTSS system are aligned across all state departments, in order to promote seamless access to services.

ALIGN SERVICE COORDINATION ACROSS COUNTY PROGRAMS

The state and counties should examine options to better integrate and coordinate service delivery across local programs, including partnering with Area Agencies on Aging, to provide older adults and people with disabilities with streamlined access to a fuller array of services at the local level.

These recommendations are based on the May 2020 [Master Plan for Aging Long-Term Services and Supports Subcommittee Stakeholder Report](#).