

April 19, 2021

Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman, Chair
Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Sub. No. 3
State Capitol, Room 4052
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Joaquin Arambula, Chair
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
State Capitol, Room 5155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Adult Protective Services: Support \$100 million SGF Investment

Dear Chair Talamantes Eggman and Chair Arambula:

The Lake County Board of Supervisors (**or County of Lake**) respectfully requests your support for a \$100 million State General Fund (SGF) investment in the Adult Protective Services (APS) Program. This funding is needed to ensure that APS is keeping pace with the rapid growth in the senior population and can provide more intensive services to the increasing proportion of APS cases that involve older and dependent adults with higher-level needs, including those that have cognitive impairments or are experiencing homelessness.

APS provides a critical role in protecting older and dependent adults in California from abuse, neglect and exploitation. This role is growing and expanding with the population that APS serves, which has grown and changed significantly since the program's inception. By 2030, one in five Californians will be age 65 or older – double what the over-65 population is today. Many of these individuals will also be disabled, cognitively impaired, or facing financial struggles including homelessness. The APS program reflects this growth, having responded to 206,668 reports of abuse in 2019-20, which represents a 61.3 percent increase in reports since 2011-12.

Currently, the APS Program is largely supported through 2011 Realignment funding, since there is no mandate nor permanent dedicated funding at the federal level. Recent state investments have been made, including a statewide training of APS staff. Even with these new investments, county APS programs still struggle to address a new and evolving landscape that includes the rapid growth in the senior population and rise of cognitive impairments within that population, and the effects of the pandemic coupled with the severe housing crisis that California is facing.

In our county, we believe this funding would allow us to serve victims of abuse or neglect who have multiple, co-occurring needs including dementia and coordinate services across multiple agencies.

The requested \$100 million will help counties to meet the rising demand in the aging population and the increasing complexity of those cases, and will allow the APS program become a program that not only helps California's most vulnerable older and dependent adults in their time of need, but prevents these same individuals who are victims of abuse, neglect, and exploitation from any further trauma and crisis that re-abuse, homelessness, or inability to access needed services might elicit. This investment will allow counties, during this critical time, to intervene with more seniors in crisis before situations escalate further, deliver longer-term case management services to those with intensive needs, and better partner with other systems that can help serve APS clients.

For these reasons, the Lake County Board of Supervisors (**or County of Lake**) urges your support.

Sincerely,

cc: Members and Staff of the Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3
Members and Staff of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No.1
County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA)