

# CalPACE

NEWSLETTER

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## A Message from the CEO: Celebrating 15 Years of CalPACE

As CalPACE observes its 15th Anniversary, I am in awe of our accomplishments as the nation's first state PACE trade association. I encourage you to check out a newly chronicled history of CalPACE milestones and an account of PACE origins in California, which are now available [on our website](#).

We've come so far. Back in 2007, PACE providers faced extreme delays getting applications processed by state regulators and enrolling seniors in PACE took months. The number of PACE programs was also restricted in law. Starting a new PACE center can now be done in 18 months, approval of level of care assessments for new participants takes five business days, and there are no caps on PACE growth.



This is an exciting time. Today, 24 PACE programs serve over 17,000 seniors at 71 PACE centers and care sites in 22 counties. Since PACE provides the kind of care people want to remain at home in their communities and less than 15 percent of eligible Californians are enrolled, these figures will only increase in coming years.

It has been extremely rewarding working with all of you over the past 11 years as CalPACE's CEO to reach this point. It is also gratifying to see the core values of PACE embedded in California's Master Plan for Aging, which will guide California's aging programs and policies for years to come. Now it's time for new leadership to take CalPACE to the next level. I look forward to watching PACE's star rise even higher from retirement and wish my successor, [Val Sheehan](#), great success.

Sincerely,  
Peter Hansel  
Chief Executive Officer, CalPACE

## Legislative Wrap Up

CalPACE supported several bills, which were backed by bipartisan support, in the recently completed legislative session. While not all were successful, in many cases our priorities are reflected in final actions taken by the California State Legislature and Governor Gavin Newsom:

- [AB 1900](#) (Arambula) – While this bill was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee, the bill's goal to adjust the "spend down" provisions for medically needy Medi-Cal beneficiaries advanced in the state budget, which provides \$33.4 million in 2024-2025 and \$80.2 million in ongoing funding to implement this. Funding is contingent on a determination of sufficient state resources from the Department of Finance.
- [AB 2077](#) (Calderon) - Vetoed by Governor Gavin Newsom for concerns over costs, the bill would have increased monthly allowances for beneficiaries in medical institutions, nursing facilities, and PACE from \$35 to \$80. This remains a priority as the amount hasn't changed since 1984.
- [AB 2331](#) (Calderon) –The contents of this bill were included in the state budget, which provides \$61.4 million to the Department of Aging to administer a grant program to help adult day services programs adjust to ongoing threats from COVID-19 and address senior isolation.
- [AB 2483](#) (Maienschein) – Signed by Governor Newsom, it requires the Department of Housing and Community Development to provide incentives to housing developments that set aside at least 20 percent of their units for older adults living with disabilities and experiencing homelessness who are eligible to receive community-based services such as PACE.
- [AB 2547](#) (Nazarian) – Held on suspense in the Senate Appropriations Committee, the bill's companion budget request was not part of the final state budget agreement. It would have required the Department of Aging to administer a grant program to provide housing subsidies for older adults or persons with disabilities experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

## CalPACE 15th Anniversary Celebration

CalPACE members and friends gathered last month to honor our history and accomplishments as an association to solve problems facing PACE and the seniors we serve.

At one of the first in-person CalPACE events since the start of the COVID-19 public health emergency, we were pleased to take the opportunity to honor Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian as our Legislator of the Year. As Chairman of the Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care, he has been a valued supporter of PACE and committed leader.



Assemblymember Nazarian and Department of Aging Director Susan DeMarois also honored CalPACE CEO Peter Hansel for his service to California's seniors on his upcoming retirement.

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## New Study Contains Recommendations for PACE Growth

The Bipartisan Policy Center released a study earlier this month that includes federal legislative and administrative policy solutions to expand the capacity and geographic reach of PACE, increase PACE enrollment, raise consumer awareness of PACE, and ensure and demonstrate the continued value of PACE. The National PACE Association [announced its support](#) for these recommendations, many of which are similar to those contained in legislation before Congress – the PACE Part D Choice Act and the PACE Expanded Act. For further information, check out the report [here](#).

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## New PACE Facilities Open in California

[WelbeHealth and Sutter Health](#) have opened a new center in Modesto. The new center is integrated with the pair's PACE Center in Stockton, providing adult day services to PACE-eligible seniors such as physical and occupational therapy, personal care and supportive services, recreational therapy, meals and nutritional counseling, and access to in-home care and a mobile clinic.



The [Center for Elders' Independence](#) hosted a Grand Re-opening of its PACE East Oakland Center, following a refurbishment of the center's clinic, gym, and day center. Check out the upgraded facility in this [video](#).

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## Announcements



Mindy Wilds, Associate Vice President and Executive Director with WelbeHealth Sequoia PACE, received the prestigious Marie-Louise Ansak Award at the National PACE Association Annual Conference earlier this month. The award is given to a PACE employee who embodies the ideals of Ansak, who co-founded On Lok, the nation's first PACE program. Wilds is pictured here with Rosana Scolari, Senior VP of Operations at WelbeHealth.

A year ago, On Lok and Openhouse launched a partnership to operate the nation's first community-based adult day program designed for and with the LGBTQ+ community. Check out [this article](#) highlighting this innovative program in San Francisco.



San Ysidro Health has announced two partnerships with housing developers and services partners. [In August](#), along with partners National City and Community HousingWorks, it broke ground on a residential development that will include affordable housing, a senior center, and a health center with PACE. [In July](#), along with partners including San Diego PACE, National CORE and others, it broke ground on an affordable development to provide services to older adults in San Diego.

Innecare filed an application to open a PACE center in the City of Imperial in July, with a goal of expanding health care for seniors who lack access to the services PACE provides. Further information available [here](#).

CalOptima is now CalOptima Health. As part of its strategic planning and community outreach, a public opinion survey of Orange County residents was conducted late last year. The survey found the name “CalOptima” was known by some but there was a general lack of recognition about the organization’s role as a health plan. Its logo has been updated to reflect community, connection, diversity, innovation, excellence, inspiration, growth, and wellness. Check out [this video](#) for further information.



The Los Angeles Jewish Home has changed its name to Los Angeles Jewish Health to align with the broad spectrum of care the organization offers to seniors of all backgrounds, regardless of their residency at the home or within the community. LAJH plans to open a new PACE center next month in Beverlywood with others to follow in the South Bay and another in the Valley. Further information is available [here](#).

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## About CalPACE

CalPACE, the California PACE Association, is a 501(c)(6) association that is dedicated to the expansion of comprehensive health care services to seniors with chronic care needs through the Program of All-inclusive Care for Elderly (PACE). Through education and advocacy, CalPACE members strive to support, maintain, and safeguard the PACE model and promote high-quality comprehensive health care services to California’s seniors.

CalPACE represents 24 operational PACE organizations in California. Our members and allied organizations provide and coordinate services to more than 17,000 participants through 71 PACE Centers and Alternative Care Settings in 22 counties.



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