

CalPACE

NEWSLETTER

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A Message from the CEO: Building on CalPACE's Successes

I've long had a passion for PACE since my days as a graduate student studying how PACE pioneered integrated, whole-person care and addressed social determinants of health. As these concepts shape standards for Medi-Cal reform through [CalAIM](#), I'm excited to be a voice for PACE as we challenge our peers in health to innovate and provide even better care.



Looking ahead, one thing is crystal clear: PACE growth is an essential ingredient to building an equitable California for all ages. Our decades of work serving primarily low income communities of color prove this goal is in reach with an enabling policy environment.

Since joining CalPACE last fall, I've visited some of California's great PACE centers to see how the flexibility of this care model enables adaptation and innovation. Knowledge of your work, my career advocating for healthy and just communities, and my lived experience as a caretaker for my mother inspire me to show policymakers how PACE is a model with untapped potential to meet California's growing elder care challenges.

As a new class of state lawmakers begins their service, [the most diverse ever](#), I look forward to working with all of you to share PACE's many successes and build a new generation of champions for our important work.

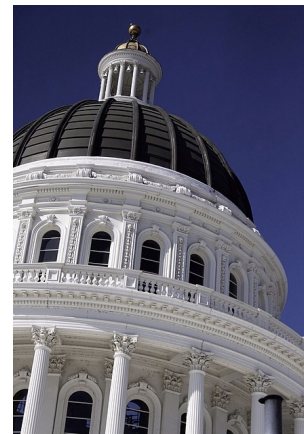
Sincerely,
Val Sheehan
Chief Executive Officer, CalPACE

Budget Priorities in Focus

After years of record state budget surpluses, California has a very different fiscal outlook shaping this year's budget.

When releasing his [January budget](#), Governor Newsom projected a \$22.5 billion budget gap for this year. CalPACE was pleased to see the budget proposal include funding for Medi-Cal for All and SSI/SSP grant increases - important building blocks for a more equitable society. Similarly, we were pleased to see \$1 billion in funding maintained to strengthen the health care workforce.

A new [report from the Legislative Analyst's Office](#) (LAO) argues California faces a tougher road ahead, concluding the state faces a deficit \$7 billion larger. Compared to the state's current \$240 billion FY 2022-2023 budget, a \$29.5 billion deficit is approximately 12 percent of spending. After adjusting for inflation, the LAO notes anticipated revenues for the FY 2023-24 budget remain about 20 percent higher than before the pandemic.



While it's too soon to know what all of this means for CalPACE budget priorities, it's encouraging to see the governor propose a 10 percent increase to the Health and Human Services budget where most of them are funded. Given the uncertainty surrounding the state's economy and subsequent impact on its finances, history shows the revenue projections released with the May Revision will shape the final budget agreement. Along the way, CalPACE will keep you informed of new developments as they arise.

New Master Plan for Aging Initiatives

In January, the Department of Aging announced [95 new initiatives for 2023-2024](#) to continue progress through the state's Master Plan for Aging. While there are many exciting items on the list, we want to highlight the following.

- [Initiative 3](#) - Address the housing needs of older adults and people with disabilities by promoting statewide access to integrated models, including connections to social services, healthcare, housing, and home and community-based services.
- [Initiative 19](#) - Develop a Medi-Cal and Non-Medi-Cal Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Multiyear Roadmap.
- [Initiative 20](#) - Finalize implementation of the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services HCBS Settings Final Rules to protect the rights of Medi-Cal beneficiaries to receive HCBS services in settings that promote inclusion in the community and guard against isolation.
- [Initiative 24](#) - Continue to expand access to PACE and other community-based programs for older adults, including the Medi-Cal Assisted Living Waiver, the HCBS Alternatives Waiver, CBAS, and MSSP.
- [Initiative 86](#) - Leverage technology, innovative practices, and program flexibilities that enable older adults, people with disabilities, and family caregivers to access virtual care (tele-health) through Medi-Cal, particularly in underserved communities.

Furthermore, we look forward to learning more information about the \$61.4 million [Bridge to Recovery grant program](#) to support safe access to Adult Day Health Care centers, Adult Day Programs, and PACE sites. The program will be launched later this spring.

Research Roundup

- The California Health Care Foundation released its *2023 Health Policy Survey*, which notes 16% of Californians are caregivers. Only a quarter of them are paid and those with lower incomes are more than twice as likely to be caregivers. The survey also found 44% of Californians are not confident they can afford home-based support for family members or themselves as they age. This concern is more pronounced among Black Californians and people with low incomes.
- The UCLA Center for Health Policy Research released a study *Demand for Aging and Disability Services in California: Can We Meet the Need?* It finds Medi-Cal's Multi-Purpose Senior Services Program serves about 10% of eligible people and Community-Based Adult Services serve about 16% of those eligible. Most older Californians who are potentially eligible don't know they may qualify for care.
- The SCAN Foundation released a roadmap for policymakers *Leveraging COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Flexibilities to Advance Person-Centered Care for Older Adults and People with Complex Care Needs*, which identifies three temporary flexibilities that merit permanence. These include expanding telehealth for equitable access to remote care, maximizing clinician scope of practice to expand the workforce caring for older adults, and easing Medicare and Medicaid program requirements.



- Did you know 51% of Americans aged 65 and up live in nine states but the most live in California? Or that 27% of older Americans living in the community live alone? A wealth of helpful facts about older adults is available in the Administration for Community Living's [2021 Profile of Older Americans](#).

New PACE Facilities

The Center for Elders' Independence is opening a new [PACE West County center](#) on the border of Richmond/El Sobrante later this year, including a geriatric clinic, a rehab gym and a senior social center for activities & meals. Part of a push to provide more robust services to better meet community needs, CEI will close its Guardian Adult Day Health Center, in El Sobrante.



In December, Golden Valley Health Centers broke ground on a PACE center - [Central Valley PACE, Merced](#) - that is expected to be completed sometime late this year with a tentative opening date of July 2024.

In November, [San Ysidro Health announced a partnership](#) with nonprofit housing developer MAAC and social services provider Father Joe's Villages on a new housing project for older adults in San Ysidro. Set to open in 2024, it will feature 101 apartments for low-income seniors and 25 dedicated to house homeless older adults. San Ysidro Health will provide PACE services to residents.

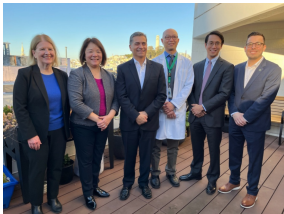
New PACE Facilities Open in California

[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](#).

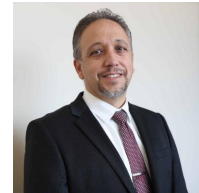
Announcements



The California Department of Aging announced 78 [CalGrows Innovation Fund](#) grants to help build a resilient caregiver workforce in California. Exciting to see Welbe Health, Gary and Mary West PACE, and AgeWell PACE among the organizations receiving grants!

On Lok hosted U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra for a tour of the On Lok PACE Powell Center, in San Francisco. Secretary Becerra enjoyed learning about how On Lok PACE helps older adults with complex medical conditions remain living in their homes and communities.

St. Paul's PACE Operations Director Alberto Aldrete was selected for the [Larry Minnix Leadership Academy](#)! Sponsored by Leading Age, it develops aging services professionals through a year-long program.



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.



Community Leadership for California's Seniors

CalPACE represents 24 operational PACE organizations in California. Our members and allied organizations provide and coordinate services to more than 18,000 participants through 72 PACE Centers and Alternative Care Settings in 23 counties.

[Find a PACE Program](#)

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