

CalPACE

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 25 | August 2023

A Message from the CEO: Celebrating PACE Advocacy Wins

It has been a productive year for PACE! With the Capitol community now enjoying a brief Summer Recess, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank CalPACE members and allies for their hard work and dedication, which made possible three big advocacy wins.

- **Setting the Stage for Smart PACE Growth.** Our top advocacy priority was included in the 2023-2024 state budget! The addition of 10 new positions focused on PACE at the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will help expand access to PACE while ensuring the quality of care we provide.
- **Securing Resources for Worker Retention.** PACE providers can apply for \$500 bonuses for their employees as part of a one-time support through DHCS to help alleviate financial strain suffered by California's HCBS direct care workforce during COVID-19. This is an important recognition of the workers who make PACE care possible. [Learn more here.](#)
- **Building New PACE Champions.** CalPACE's first in-person Legislative Advocacy Day since 2019 resulted in visits with 42 legislative offices! With nearly a third of state lawmakers now serving their first term, continued outreach remains essential. I encourage CalPACE member organizations to invite their state representatives to a PACE center tour.



I look forward to the work ahead with all of you to keep this momentum moving forward.

Sincerely,
Val Sheehan
Chief Executive Officer, CalPACE

State Budget Overview

California's 2023-2024 state budget closes out a \$31.5 billion deficit but maintains important investments in PACE and the Master Plan for Aging.

In a huge victory for CalPACE and its members, the budget includes 10 positions (\$1,678,000 this year and \$1,588,000 ongoing) at DHCS to support PACE administration, operation, monitoring, and oversight. This investment will help protect PACE quality and the integrity of the PACE care model as we expand access to PACE.

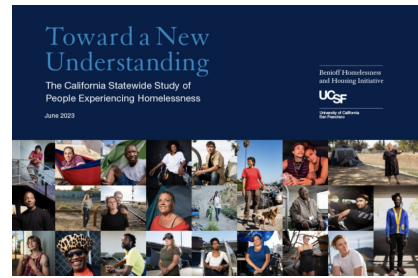
The budget also includes key investments that will help build a healthier, more equitable California:

- Expanding the California Food Assistance Program to adults aged 55 years or older regardless of immigration status, starting in October 2025
- Creating a new grant program to advance older adult behavioral health
- Continued operation of the statewide Older Adult Friendship Line, a free hotline and warmline for non-emergency emotional support calls
- Extending the timeline for all programs in the Home and Community Based Services Spending Plan through and until December 30, 2024
- Maintains expansion of Medi-Cal to undocumented immigrants aged 26-49, starting next year.



Research Roundup

- The Benioff Homeless and Housing Initiative at UC San Francisco released *Toward a New Understanding: The California Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness*. Believed to be the largest and most comprehensive investigation of California's homeless population in decades, the report found nearly half of single adults living on our streets today are over the age of 50 and nearly half had never been homeless before age 50.
- The McKinsey Health Institute released *Age is Just a Number: How Older Adults View Healthy Aging*, a survey of older adults in 21 countries. Respondents largely agree about the importance of having purpose, managing stress, enjoying meaningful connections with others, and preserving independence as they age.
- The Global Council on Brain Health released *Building Better Brain Health for All People*, which highlights how social determinants of health can create obstacles that prevent well-intentioned people from modifying lifestyle activities for better brain health. In order to address structural equity barriers, the report makes recommendations to the public that are grounded in the latest scientific findings and informed by the lived experience of individuals with varied degrees of cognitive loss.



New PACE Facilities

WelbeHealth opened two new PACE centers in the Los Angeles area, one in Rosemead (pictured here) and another in North Hollywood. WelbeHealth has employed multilingual staff members to better serve these highly diverse and underserved communities, offering culturally appropriate meals, activities, and services.



AgeWell PACE opened its first PACE center, in Rohnert Park. A non-profit partnership of LifeLong Medical Care and Santa Rosa Community Health, AgeWell PACE is the first PACE program to serve the Counties of Marin and Sonoma.



CalOptima Health will combine recuperative care and PACE at the proposed Community Living Center of Tustin, which will care for 119 unhoused older adults working towards permanent housing and serve 500 from the surrounding community.

Center for Elders' Independence broke ground on PACE Tri-Valley, in Livermore. Expected to open early in 2024, the center will serve the communities of Dublin, Pleasanton, San Ramon, and Livermore Valley.

Tulare County is getting its first PACE center, which will begin seeing patients in July of 2024. The Visalia PACE program is one of four large investments in health care financed by the **Family HealthCare Network** with the help of up to \$40 million in tax free bonds approved by the Tulare County Board of Supervisors. Some \$9 million of these funds will be dedicated to building out the Visalia PACE program.

Announcements



St. Paul's Senior Services Chief Marketing Director Amanda Gois was recognized as an honoree in the San Diego Business Journal's **Top 50 Women of Influence over 50**.

WelbeHealth added **two new executives** on its team. Chief Medical Officer Dr. Michael Le has over 20 years of experience in the medical profession, most recently as Chief Medical Officer of Optum Home and Community Care. Chief Information Officer Bindu Purushothaman joins WelbeHealth following an impressive career as a technology leader in value-based care organizations including HealthCare Partners, Davita Medical Group, and Optum.

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 25 operational PACE organizations in California. Our members and allied organizations provide and coordinate services to more than 19,000 participants through 72 PACE Centers and Alternative Care Settings in 24 counties.

Find a PACE Program

| 855-921-7223 |

STAY CONNECTED



CalPACE | 1315 I Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95814

[Unsubscribe hello@calpace.org](mailto:hello@calpace.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by hello@calpace.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!