



SCSC

Long Term Services and Support

Senior Coalition of Stanislaus County

Policy Goals and Agenda

*In Stanislaus County, the older adult population over the age of 60 grew by 3.83% in 2017 to approximately 100,800 persons. The senior population will continue to grow as **older adults are living longer lives.***

MISSION

To enhance the physical, mental, and social well-being, while reducing fall risk for seniors and persons with disabilities in Stanislaus County, in a collaborative community effort through advocacy, education, coordinated services and best practices for independence.

SENIOR COALITION OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

The Senior Coalition of Stanislaus County is a group of organizations and individuals working collaboratively to provide education and leadership to create awareness of senior issues around Fall Prevention and Long Term Services and Support Systems in Stanislaus County.

The Senior Coalition is comprised of 34 organizations and has a reach of 18,000 dual eligible persons in Stanislaus County. The Senior Coalition of Stanislaus County Policy Agenda represent policy areas that have been well-defined by our past work for which current events call for immediate attention and focused effort.

Our endeavors are supported by a grant from The SCAN Foundation – advancing a coordinated and easily navigated system of high-quality services for older adults that preserve dignity and independence. For more information, visit TheSCANFoundation.org



Our Priority Goals will include:

1. Build partnerships, with a focus

on inclusion, between organizations and advocates for seniors and persons with disabilities concentrating on underrepresented communities.

There are approximately 100,800 residents over the age of 60 in Stanislaus County which is a one percent increase from 2015. With the rise of the aging population, parallel to this trend is the rise of persons with disabilities. In 2009, 62% of Californians 65 years and older and dual eligible stated that they were disabled due to person's emotional, physical or mental conditions. In order to ensure all older adults including persons with disabilities receive the opportunities for a better quality of life, outreach must include rural communities.

2. Improve the Coalition's ability for social action and awareness in Stanislaus County – specifically focused on policy issues around a high- quality, person-centered, cost effective system of Long Term Services and Support (LTSS).

Findings from 2012 Survey of California Voters 40 and older on Long Term Care found that nearly half of California voters 40 and older anticipate need for long-term care for family yet most are unprepared for costs. Financial inadequacy for proper managed care may be due to the ignorance of long term services and supports. From a recent SCAN Foundation survey, three overall aging issues have come to light:

- Californians are not planning for the future and 39% of Californians are in denial about aging.
- Californians do not understand the costs of managed care and who or what will pay for these services. 30% of Californians misunderstand about Medicare paying for ongoing home care.
- 77% of Americans are in favor of supporting tax breaks to motivate long term care services.

Some key opportunities to improve long term care include strengthening linkages between medical care and supportive services. In a collaborate effort, the Senior Coalition of Stanislaus County will look at ways for LTSS integration in Stanislaus County, discuss solutions for improvement, and participate statewide with other coalitions.

3. Establish effective coordination of services and increase access to services to improve quality of life and quality of care.

In Stanislaus County there are over 100,800 individuals 60 years and older. Nearly half of the 65+ population is labeled as economically insecure as measured by the Elder Economic Security Index. Public agencies and elected officials must examine how prepared their institutions and infrastructure are to respond to this demographic shift and plan accordingly. Involved organizations with the Senior Coalition of Stanislaus County will be able to educate the targeted population on how to access the appropriate services and support they may need.

4. Increase Support for Family Caregivers

With the increasing number of older adults needing some type of assistance, we need to make sure Caregivers are given the support they need to best care for the individual. The Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP) has been a direct service of the Stanislaus County of Area Agency on Aging (AAA) since FY 2003-2004*. Referrals for this service have come naturally from the Information and Assistance Program, also through the AAA. Increasing awareness of this program will be a priority for the Coalition as well as other Family Caregiver Support organizations such as Community Hospice Caregiver College, In-Home Supportive Services, home health agencies, and numerous support groups. The Caregiver Support Resource Guide will be updated and be distributed to appropriate groups and consumers. Currently, the Caregiver Support Resource Guide is also available on the Area Agency on Aging website.

5. Sustain Fall Prevention Goals and Activities

In 2010, there were 4,564 visits to the emergency room in Stanislaus County due to falls for those age 50 and older. Interventions for fall prevention such as exercise classes have resulted in a majority of the participants maintaining their level of ability. Physical activity reduces the risk of many negative outcomes in older adults including falls, early death, cardiovascular disease, stroke, diabetes, several forms of cancer, depression, and cognitive decline.

6. Coalition Sustainability

In order for the Senior Coalition of Stanislaus County to continue its mission, the Senior Coalition will start to develop and implement a coalition sustainability plan.

*The FCSP offers respite to caregivers through help from home health agencies and trained volunteers.



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www.seniorcoalitionofstanislaus.org

Members

Alzheimer's Association
A Place Called Home
California State University, Stanislaus
Care One Home Health
CareMore Health Plan
Catholic Charities
Dale Commons
Disability Resource Agency for Independent Living
El Rio Memory Care Community
English Oaks Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
Golden Placement Services
Golden Valley Health Centers
Healthy Aging Association
Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program
Health Net Community Solution
Health Plan of San Joaquin
Health South Rehabilitation Hospital
Home Safety Services
Memorial Medical Center, Sutter Health, Social Work and Trauma Dept.
Modesto Parkinson's Support Center
MOVE-Transportation that Changes Lives
Office of Clients' Rights Advocate
Optimal Hospice
Paramount Court Senior Living
ResCare HomeCare
Stanislaus County Aging and Veterans Services
Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services
Stanislaus County Commission On Aging
Stanislaus County Multipurpose Senior Services Program
Stanislaus County Public Authority-In-Home Supportive Services
Stanislaus Senior Foundation
Sutter Memorial Medical Center
Visually Impaired Persons Support
Modesto City Council
State of California, Assemblyman Adam Gray