


CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

Date: April 8, 2022

To: Honorable Paul Krekorian, Chair
Budget and Finance Committee

Attn: Erika Pulst, Legislative Assistant II
Office of the City Clerk

From: Mariella Freire-Reyes, Interim General Manager 
Department of Aging Mariella Freire-Reyes (Apr 8, 2022 12:22 PDT)

Subject: **LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF AGING PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR
2022-23 BUDGET**

The Mayor's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23 for the Los Angeles Department of Aging (LADOA) maintains current service levels and regularizes four resolution authorities. The department appreciates the Mayor's continued support.

The Needs of Aging Population

To meet the needs of older adults and to improve their quality of life, the proposed budget maintains the current service levels and supports the following top four priorities: Food insecurity, housing insecurity, digital divide, and language access.

Food Insecurity: It is critical that nutritional-related funding remains in place to ensure the health and safety of the City's most vulnerable population. For the past two years, the Elderly Nutrition Programs and the Senior Emergency Meals Program expanded its service. Senior clients increased by 257% and meal services increased by 555%. The department's responsibility continues to expand as the population is rapidly growing and it is imperative to keep current service levels to support the City's senior community.

Housing Insecurity: It is critical to maintain funding in place for the Older Worker Employment Program (OWEP) to support unemployed homeless older adults as they are the largest and fastest growing demographic within the homeless community.

Digital Divide: Due to the pandemic, seniors continue to experience higher incidents of social isolation and depression which were exacerbated with the transition of senior services via remote, by phone, or via video conference. The department has launched various programs to address social isolation to improve the health of older adults.

Language Access: The department is making a modest request for language access services to ensure that services are accessible and inclusive to the City's diverse senior community and to improve service delivery.

To ensure uninterrupted and critical services, the department requests to regularize five resolution authorities that support the above mentioned core services.

Regularize Resolution Authorities

The department respectfully request to regularize the following additional five resolution authorities that provide core departmental programming and service delivery to seniors and family caregivers: One Senior Management Analyst II and one Management Analyst position to support Purposeful Aging LA (PALA). PALA leverages partners and existing resources to address the complex and unique needs of older adults compounded by the rapidly increase of the older adult population set to double by 2030. The department is also requesting to regularize the following three positions: One Management Analyst, one Social Worker I, and one Administrative Clerk to support OWEP. OWEP provides direct services to unemployed, homeless older adults in the form of hands-on training and supportive services. OWEP is one of its kind program, and the department is proud and grateful that Mayor Garcetti prioritizes homeless seniors. Regularizing these positions will stabilize the department's operation as it continues to support the City's homeless older adult community.

LADOA Operations & Reopening of Services

Older adults are disproportionately impacted by food insecurity, homelessness, and digital divide, making Covid-19 exceptionally devastating to seniors as 80% of all Covid-related deaths were persons 65+. To ensure continuity of services, the department transitioned all services via remote and via telephone. After two years of having closed its centers, the department is working with its community partners to resume in-person operation and provide critical social connection and services that seniors desperately need.

I look forward to discussing with you how to best serve older adults and their family caregivers in our City.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (213) 482-7242.