

The City of Los Angeles Department of Aging's mission is to improve the quality of life, independence, health, and dignity of the City's growing older adult population by managing a community-based system of care that is comprehensive, coordinated, and accessible across all Council Districts.

With City Council's support, the Department launched and has operated an Emergency Meals Program for Older Adults to supplement its existing grant-funded Congregate and Home Delivered Meal Programs. This program was developed as an emergency response to address food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic, an issue that existed prior to and highlighted by the pandemic and continues to have a disparate impact on the physical and mental health of older adults. Over the past year, the program has provided meals to upwards of 6,000 individuals weekly, with one or two home-delivered meals daily. Many of these older adults have limited access to meals, either because of unstable income or because of a reluctance to frequent public spaces stemming from the real risk of suffering the severe consequences of contracting COVID-19, influenza, or RSV. As noted recently in the Los Angeles Times, *"There has been a troubling spike in coronavirus-positive hospital admissions among seniors in California, rising to levels not seen since the summer Omicron surge."* These two factors have been the primary drivers of why many of the City's older adult residents continue to rely on home-delivered meals.

Despite the additional funds that the City Council provided last year through the City's Budget process, the high demand for and enrollment in the supplemental emergency meals program have demonstrated the need to provide more long term, sustainable solutions to food insecurity. In this regard, the Department of Aging has begun the process of sunsetting this program and transitioning current participants to its grant-funded, staple Congregate and Home Delivered Meals programs. The Department has notified participants that the program will end by January 15, 2023. In an effort to transition the affected older adults as smoothly as possible while minimizing the disruption to their meal service, the Department has identified \$480,000 of savings in its budget to extend this program an additional week or more.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the Department of Aging be authorized to transfer identified savings into the Contractual Services account; to augment the funding and extend the contract term with its current provider (Everytable); and, per Council instruction, authorize the Department to submit an interim budget request for additional funding to continue the program beyond its current closing date of January 15, 2023.

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the Department of Aging works with the Office of the City Administrative Officer to continue reviewing its budget to identify additional savings that could be added to the Department's contractual services account to further support the Senior Meals Program.

**I FURTHER MOVE** that Council, subject to the approval of the Mayor, AUTHORIZE the Controller to:

- A. Transfer FY 21-22 General City Purpose (GCP) fund savings of \$480,000 to FY 22-23 Senior Emergency Meals Program (SMP). Establish a new account and appropriate \$480,000 within the Area Plan for the Aging Title III Fund Number 395 as follows:

JAN 13 2023

From:

Account No.	Account Title	Amount
395/02/02VQ02	Congregate Meals For Seniors	\$480,000

To:

Account No.	Account Title	Amount
395/02/02WQ12	SMP City Fund (GCP) C-FD PY	\$480,000

- B. Make technical adjustments in the event that there are errors to these instructions, and authorize the Controller to implement the instructions.

PRESENTED BY:



**HUGO SOTO-MARTÍNEZ**

Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY:



**ORIGINAL**