

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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California Association for Adult Day Services Applauds Legislative Leaders for Supporting COVID

Mitigation Grant Funding to Keep Adult Day Centers Open

Adult Day Service Providers urge Governor Newsom to include in the final State Budget \$61.4 million in One -Time funding to create the Bridge to Recovery for Adult Day Services: COVID-19 Mitigation and Resilience Grant Program to Combat Senior Isolation

Sacramento, June 6, 2022—Advocates for seniors and adults with disabilities applaud the leadership of the California Legislature for supporting the inclusion of \$61.4 million in one-time funding for grants to harden Adult Day Centers and bolster staff recruitment in the 2022-2023 budget, in the wake of over two years of challenges in providing critical services to seniors and adults with disabilities in their communities.

Prior to COVID, participants accessed care in congregate settings during the day, allowing them to live at home, stay in their communities, and avoid costly institutional care. Since the initial COVID outbreak in 2020, Adult Day Center services have shifted to home wellness checks and deliveries of supplies, as well as support services online and over the phone, to keep participants safe.

With COVID becoming endemic, and a body of research supporting effective mitigation measures, centers are now facing challenges in getting their participants back into congregate settings without space and infrastructure upgrades to accommodate distancing and increased ventilation. Other centers have lost staff and are struggling to recruit and retain skilled workers.

Without the social engagement, activities, and structure associated with accessing care at centers, many participants have declined emotionally, physically, and cognitively during COVID. Many caregivers at home are also struggling with respite.

Assemblymember Lisa Calderon (D-Whittier), Chair of the Assembly Human Services Committee, is leading the effort to include the needed funding in the state budget. "Adult Day Health Care and Adult Day Programs are critical to enabling older adults to age with dignity in their own homes and communities," said Assemblymember Calderon. "With final budget negotiations commencing, I urge my colleagues and Governor Newsom to support the continued inclusion of \$61.4 million in funding to help keep vulnerable seniors and adults with disabilities safe."

Justice in Aging, Disability Rights California, The Arc of California, Alzheimer's Association California Council, and 37 other aging and disability organizations statewide join CAADS in supporting the creation of the Bridge to Recovery for Adult Day Services grant program.

More information about the Bridge to Recovery for Adult Day Services: COVID-19 Mitigation and Resilience Grant Program to Combat Senior Isolation is available <u>HERE</u>.