



The Dignity Fund



THE CASE FOR THE DIGNITY FUND

The numbers are growing...and economic security is shrinking. Almost one in four San Francisco residents is a senior or an adult with disabilities. The population age 60 and older has increased by almost 25,000 individuals over the past two decades, driven by the aging of the Baby Boomer Generation.

But this is just the tip of the iceberg, as the Department of Finance (2014) projects the city's senior population will grow by almost 100,000 individuals between now and 2030. The gap between mostly fixed incomes of seniors and adults with disabilities and the growing cost of living in San Francisco is widening. This puts people at risk even before they start needing services and supports at home.

Funding for services and support has not kept pace and will not be able to meet the challenges ahead without the creation of the Dignity Fund. Systems of services and support must be developed to support the aging of San Francisco's diverse population, including veterans, people aging with HIV, increasing numbers of individuals with dementia and those with other chronic conditions.

The Dignity Coalition's proposed ballot measure seeks to secure sustained funding for services and support to ensure that San Francisco seniors, adults with disabilities, veterans, and those living with chronic/life-threatening illnesses are able to live with dignity, independence and choice in their homes and communities.

WHAT IS THE DIGNITY FUND?

The Dignity Fund is a proposed San Francisco Charter Amendment that would do two things: 1) stabilize funding for today's services and support for seniors, veterans, adults with disabilities and adults living with chronic and life-threatening health conditions and; 2) establish a fund created with 2% of future **general fund revenue** set aside to address the currently unmet, and emerging needs.

Based on San Francisco's highly successful Children's Fund model, the proposed measure is backed by a diverse, Citywide coalition of nonprofits and community organizations, and is being sponsored at the Board of Supervisors to be placed on the November 2016 ballot. If supported by a majority of voters this November, the Fund will be created.

Designed to address documented unmet and emerging needs, the legislation defines seven areas of support:

1. Home and Community Based Long Term Care and Support
2. Food and Nutrition Programs
3. Consumer and Caregiver Education, Empowerment and Support
4. Senior/Disabled Community and Service Centers
5. Empowerment, Self-Advocacy and Legal Services Programs
6. Health and Wellness
7. Targeted Services

1. LIVING WITH DIGNITY INCLUDES HAVING THE SUPPORT, SERVICES AND CARE TO STAY IN YOUR HOME, AND BEING ABLE TO GET AROUND THE CITY.

Home and Community Based Long Term Care and Support: Home care programs, adult day health care, adult social day care, IHSS emergency homecare, short term interim housing options, housing stabilization and support services, respite care, transitional housing for those leaving institutional care, related transportation (not already mandated or funded), accessible transportation programs, and other services funded through the Community Living Fund for Aging and Adult Services, or any successor legislation.

\$7,513,791 is budgeted for these services for 2015-16

Unmet/emerging needs include:

- Thousands of seniors and people with disabilities live in housing units that are not physically accessible.
- An important component of public transportation for seniors and adults with disabilities is Paratransit, which is the door-to-door taxi and van service required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Group van services consist of trips to adult day health centers, social service agencies, and include grocery shopping assistance. DAAS budget for group van services is \$538,824. This funding meets the paratransit needs of 1,345 unduplicated clients, with a total of 38,321 one-way rides. Group van service is during limited hours, so an increase is needed to provide services beyond peak times. Many vehicles are inoperable and need to be replaced.

Historically, funding for group van service has remained static and is significantly inadequate to meet the Paratransit needs of less mobile seniors and disabled individuals City-wide. Funding is lacking in these essential areas.
- There are over 14,000 seniors with disabilities who may need in-home care, and who cannot afford private care, but do not qualify for existing, City administered Medi-Cal programs.
- Growing numbers of seniors find themselves homeless and need temporary housing.

Additional funding to meet currently unmet and emerging needs could include:

- Home Care: A 20% subsidy for the 5,202 most at risk – those whose incomes are between 124% to 184% of federal poverty level - \$18,503,858
- Housing Modification Fund for 100 households - \$500,000
- Elevator Repairs in SRO's - \$2,000,000
- Temporary Housing for Homeless Seniors - \$244,000
- Group Van Service Expansion- 27,000 additional passenger trips: \$384,480
- Procurement of ADA modified vehicles to provide additional passenger service and to replace inoperable vehicles: \$615,520
- Elimination of fares for low-income passengers currently subsidized by group van providers— and the restoration of those funds to providers for operational purposes: \$300,000

2. LIVING WITH DIGNITY INCLUDES HAVING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE, AND NUTRITIOUS FOODS.

Food and Nutrition Programs: Nutrition programs, including group meals, home delivered meals, home delivered groceries, CalFresh outreach, vouchers, and related education and outreach programs such as chronic disease self-management programs.

\$10,335,132 is budgeted for these services for 2015-16

Unmet/emerging needs include:

- 1,255 seniors and adults with disabilities are waitlisted for the home delivered grocery program.
- Senior lunch providers turned away 1,072 seniors in FY 2014-2015.
- From 2013- 2015, the number of meals served rose by 13% (689,969 to 783,989) and the senior contribution dropped from 1.13 to 1.00.

Additional funding to meet currently unmet and emerging needs could include:

- Home Delivered Meals- \$5,010,000 to clear current waitlist and serve new clients
- Home Delivered Groceries- expand capacity to serve 1,800 individuals (25% of unmet need) \$1,728,000
- Congregate meals: \$2,700,000 to increase service by additional 1,000 individuals daily (3% of unmet need)
- \$16,000,000 for the unmet need of 5,000 seniors and adults with disabilities that are eligible, but not receiving services

3. LIVING WITH DIGNITY INCLUDES LEARNING NEW SKILLS, HAVING SUPPORT FOR CAREGIVERS, AND GETTING SUPPORT FROM YOUR PEERS.

Consumer and Caregiver Education, Empowerment and Support: Programs including computers and digital learning, peer support programs, employment and training programs not otherwise mandated, senior companions, information and assistance programs, health insurance counseling and advocacy counseling, service connection programs, including resource centers supporting those with Alzheimer's and dementia, and family caregiver support programs.

\$2,893,052 is budgeted for these services for 2015-16

Unmet/emerging needs include:

- \$1,119,626 of the current total is spent on Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Centers, which currently serves 115 clients per year. With Adult Day Health currently serving 135 clients, and Family Caregiver Support Program serving currently only 500 clients, current services are severely underfunded given that in 2015 19,206 living in SF have Alzheimer's or another form of dementia. This number is projected to increase to 26,868 by 2030—a 40% increase in 15 years. This data is for people 55 and older.
- Seniors and people with disabilities seek meaningful opportunities to contribute and to work. Technology is opening up new opportunities to reduce isolation and improve cost-effective care and supports.

Additional funding to meet currently unmet and emerging needs could include:

- Expand Computer Training/Tutoring - \$808,000
- Double services to Alzheimer's day care resource centers - \$1,119,626
- Senior Workforce Initiative - \$250,000

4. LIVING WITH DIGNITY INCLUDES MAKING FRIENDS, STAYING CONNECTED TO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD, AND HAVING ACCESS TO SUPPORT RESOURCES.

Senior/Disabled Community and Service Centers: Programs including senior centers, neighborhood-based village projects and similar programs, case management and care coordination, housing-based service connection programs, and other community-building activities that lead to more aging and disability friendly neighborhoods.

\$11,835,512 is budgeted for these services for 2015-16

Unmet/emerging needs include:

- An informal survey of OOA case management agencies suggested that up to 120 clients were waiting for case management in 2015.
- Flat funding for CBO's has made it increasingly difficult to find and keep bilingual, bicultural case managers and care coordinators.
- Village type programs offer great promise for mobilizing social capital in support of seniors, people with disabilities and their hands on caregivers. The Village model is a membership organization that coordinates support networks, provides "concierge" like services, and offers various programs and events.
- Despite growing numbers of seniors, the baseline budget has remained flat for eight years. Senior Centers are the entry point to the community based long-term care system.

Additional funding to meet currently unmet and emerging needs could include:

- Additional funds for case management salary increases and staffing expansion- \$1,414,023
- Mobilize three new high need neighborhoods- \$300,000
- Increasing staffing at senior centers- \$1,300,000

5. LIVING WITH DIGNITY INCLUDES PROTECTION OF YOUR RIGHTS.

Empowerment, Self-Advocacy and Legal Services Programs: Programs including benefits counseling and advocacy, eviction prevention, housing advocacy, long term care consumer rights, ombudsman programs, naturalization services, legal services and supports, and IHSS/Supplemental Security Income (“SSI”)/Medi-Cal advocacy, including strengthening share of cost options.

\$1,916,840 is budgeted for these services for 2015-16

Unmet/emerging needs include:

- In 2014-2015, 419 clients received housing counseling, but the contracted service was only for 250.
- A majority of seniors and adults with disabilities live on relatively fixed income and nearly 2/3 lack basic economic security, and are further isolated due to the lack of traditional caregiver support structures.
- Ombudsman services - currently costing approximately \$500,000 and serving approximately 2250 clients. Funding continues to lag behind the number of complaints.

Additional funding to meet currently unmet and emerging needs:

- Eviction and Homelessness Prevention - \$1,500,000
- Adding two additional ombudsman positions - \$105,333

6. LIVING WITH DIGNITY MEANS HAVING ACCESS TO PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT, QUALITY HEALTH CARE, AND PROTECTION FROM ABUSE.

Health and Wellness Promotion: Programs including abuse and fraud prevention, grief counseling and suicide prevention, telephone reassurance, medication management, money management, behavioral health not otherwise funded or mandated, health promotion and screening, health prevention, recreational and education services.

\$1,590,661 is budgeted for these services for 2015-16

Unmet/emerging needs include:

- Currently money management serves approximately only 105 clients budgeted for \$78,651. With the increase in seniors over age 85 and the increase in the numbers of seniors developing Alzheimer's or other dementia – money management services need to be dramatically increased.

Additional funding to meet currently unmet and emerging needs could include:

- Increasing money management services- \$235,953- would serve 315 clients.

7. LIVING WITH DIGNITY MEANS HAVING ACCESS TO RESPONSIVE AND CULTURALLY COMPETENT SERVICES.

Targeted Services: Outreach, planning and targeted services and support to LGBT seniors, veterans, ethnic communities, people with disabilities and chronic conditions, their caregivers and other high need groups as strong and integrated components of the service categories above.

\$562,033 is budgeted for these services for 2015-16

Unmet/emerging needs include:

- 57% of LGBT seniors in SF live alone and are further isolated due to the lack of traditional caregiver support structures.
- There are 24,957 veterans in San Francisco city and county, 71.8% of which are seniors. Services by not-for-profits include supportive housing, legal services, representation and advocacy for VA benefits, and employment train of supporting. Drop-in centers provide access to services and integrated networks.

Additional funding to meet currently unmet and emerging needs could include:

- Services and Support to People Aging with HIV Legal services, outreach and education - \$150,000
- HIV and Aging Employment Services - \$175,000
- LGBT access to mental health and psychosocial services - \$360,000



FAQ

1. Who is the Dignity Fund Coalition?

The Dignity Fund Coalition is a broad coalition of San Francisco not-for-profit and community organizations and advocates who have come together to address the growing need for services and support for seniors, adults with disabilities, veterans, and those living with chronic illnesses, to ensure that San Francisco becomes a more aging and disability friendly place.

2. Why create a Dignity Fund?

Funding levels for many services for seniors and adults with disabilities have not kept pace with population growth, and at the same time, growing income inequality compounds the need. Right now, people 60 and over represent 20% of San Francisco's population, but by 2030, that number will grow to 25%. Many seniors and adults with disabilities are living on fixed incomes as the cost of living here continues to rise.

Community non-profit providers and advocates came together to look for a way to stabilize today's funding and address future need, and found a model in San Francisco's successful Children's Fund, which uses a similar mechanism to secure funding for programs and services for children and youth.

3. What will the legislation do?

Two things: 1) stabilize funding for today's services and support for seniors, veterans, adults with disabilities and adults living with chronic and life-threatening health conditions and; 2) establish a fund created with a **percentage of the general fund** set aside to address the currently unmet, and emerging needs.

4. How will it get enacted?

A vote of at least six of the eleven members of the Board of Supervisors is required to place it on the November 2016 ballot. As a proposed amendment to San Francisco's City Charter, it must be approved by a majority of voters at the ballot.

5. How will it be determined how the funds will be spent, and what kind of oversight will be in place?

The Department of Aging and Adult Services would administer the fund and the legislation would establish an Oversight and Advisory Committee to develop and oversee the needs assessment, planning and allocation process, to ensure that the funds are spent equitably, where best practices are employed and where the needs are highest.

6. Does this raise taxes?

No, it does not raise taxes. It sets aside a small portion **of the general fund - a set amount in the first 10 years and then a percentage that the general fund grows each year.**

7. Who is supporting this?

The Coalition includes: AIDS Legal Referral Panel; Alzheimer's Assoc.; Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach; Bayview Hunters Point Multi-purpose Senior Services; Canon Kip Senior Center; **Catholic Charities**; Centro Latino de San Francisco; Community Living Campaign; Curry Senior Center; Episcopal Senior Communities; Faith in Action Bay Area; Family Caregiver Alliance; Family Service Agency/Felton Institute; Filipino Community Center; HIV & Aging Work Group; HIV Long Term Survivors; Independent Living Resource Center; Institute on Aging; Jewish Family and Children's Services; Kimochi, Inc; Lighthouse for the Blind; Little Brothers Friend of the Elderly; Meals on Wheels San Francisco; Northern California Presbyterian Homes and Services; On Lok, Inc.; Openhouse; Pilipino Senior Resource Center; Project Openhand; Richmond Senior Center; San Francisco Village; Self-Help for the Elderly; Senior & Disability Action; Shanti Project; South of Market Community Action Network; Steppingstone; Swords to Plowshares; The ARC-SF; The Living Room; Veterans Equity Center; Westbay Filipino Center; YMCA of San Francisco (*partial list*).

Link to Needs Assessment:

<http://www.sfhsa.org/asset/ReportsDataResources/DAASNeedsAssessment2016Report2.pdf>

Contact: Dignity Fund Coalition

<http://www.sfdignityfund.org/contact>

<http://www.sfdignityfund.org>

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