


CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

Date: April 21, 2016

To: Honorable Paul Krekorian, Chair
Budget & Finance Committee

Attn: Richard E. Williams, Legislative Assistant I
Office of the City Clerk

From: Laura Trejo, General Manager
Department of Aging 

Subject: **LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF AGING RESPONSE TO
PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 BUDGET**

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The Mayor's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 for the Los Angeles Department of Aging (LADOA) is responsive to the needs of seniors and Department operations.

The Department is very appreciative of the proposed budget's inclusion of continued baseline funding for senior services that includes nutrition programs; the Echo Park Mini-MPC in Council District 13, providing an array of services such as nutrition, social services, and recreation programs; and continued funding for the Emergency Alert Response System (EARS) pilot to reduce non-medical 911 calls to the Los Angeles Fire Department. The proposed budget allocates new funding in the Senior Community Service Employment Program to serve 40 older adults at high risk of homelessness by providing them paid on-the-job training as a known strategy to prevent or support homeless seniors to gain the financial stability needed to secure permanent housing. It also responds to the need in central Los Angeles senior community around the Estelle Van Meter Mini-MPC by providing General City Purpose (GCP) funds to begin delivery of senior services.

The proposed budget unfortunately did not include funding for a number of other Department budget proposals:

- A budget request for the Evidence Based Wellness program to address the recent reduction in Community Development Block Grant fund and an additional cut in General funds. The Evidence Based Wellness program assists older adults remain active and improve their health. These programs have been rigorously studied and

demonstrated extensive evidence of improving health outcomes in older adults. This reduction will result in 792 seniors not being served, as well as a reduction of 1,061 classroom hours on an annual basis. In addition, there will be the potential closure of some or all of the 14 sites that would not be able to operate. This reduction jeopardizes the employment of 11.75 FTEs at the non-profits. An additional \$387,798 is needed to offset the reduction in both the CDBG funds and additional cut in General funds to continue funding at last year's level.

- General City Purpose (GCP) funds in the amount of \$192,000 previously allocated as gap funding to make up for federal sequestration cuts to Older Americans Act social service programs such as Case Management, Ombudsman and administrative support were eliminated from the current budget.
- Two staff positions to begin implementation of the Age Friendly City Initiative; two staff positions for a new Senior Safety and Community Education program (Elder Justice/Elder Abuse Prevention) which would have created a specialized unit to respond to cases of suspected elder abuse identified by City employees as well as to support training City staff that frequently interact with older adults to recognize the signs of elder abuse; and
- A study to identify options for replacement of the Department's electronic data reporting system Client Tracking System (CTS). The study is the first phase required to replace CTS used by the Department for purpose of complying contractually required data reporting that is now well beyond current technologies and becoming obsolete.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (213) 202-5645.

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cc: Miguel A. Santana, City Administrative Officer
Deputy Mayor for Budget and Innovation
Deputy Mayor for City Services