

# Senior Update

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A Publication of the Seniors Council  
Operating Programs in Monterey,  
Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties  
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## **BUDGET CUTS TARGET AGING PROGRAMS** *California's social commitment to its elders has been broken*

SACRAMENTO, Calif. -- The recent budget cuts by Governor Schwarzenegger have unraveled the infrastructure of the statewide aging network, including the near elimination of a program that protects California's most vulnerable seniors who live in nursing homes. Overall, the Governor cut 24 percent from the programs administered by his Department of Aging.

Governor Schwarzenegger's action was especially devastating for the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. The 49 percent cut in funding eliminates all state maintenance for a program that protects and supports thousands of vulnerable patients living in nursing homes and assisted living facilities throughout California. The Ombudsman

Program investigates elder abuse and other complaints on behalf of patients in long-term care facilities, functions as an advocate for the patient, and often serves as a witness to the signing of crucial documents such as decisions about health care. "This is an effective community-supported program that leverages state funds to attract hundreds of volunteers who serve as an integral part of the program," said Clay Kempf, President of C4A and Director of the Area Agency on Aging for Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties. "The reduction of \$3.8 million dollars for the Ombudsman Program comes on top of a 10 percent cut in county Adult Protective Services. "These combined



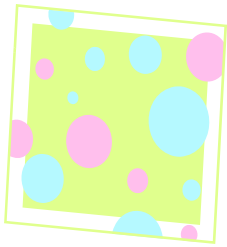
cuts collapse the safety-net for patients in a nursing home and, ironically, come at a time when baby boomers are aging, and reports of elder abuse and neglect are on the rise,” said Kempf.

California’s recently signed budget devalues our seniors. From freezing the income of poor seniors at \$870/month, eliminating senior rental rebates, to cutting programs that have received no cost increases during the past eight years, the Governor’s action places our most vulnerable seniors at an even greater risk. “The services administered by the Department of Aging and cut by the Governor were only costing the state about 12 cents per day or less than \$4 per month, per senior,” said Derrell Kelch, C4A Executive Director. The across-the-board cut hits services such as nutrition, case management, health insurance counseling, senior employment program, and many other safety-net programs. In the nutrition program alone, the cut will mean tens of thousands fewer meals delivered to our most needy seniors.

The Governor also cut the Multi-Purpose Senior Services Program by

more than \$5 million. This crucial case management program saves the state millions of dollars by keeping seniors at home rather than in nursing homes. Less money for this program will mean that hundreds of older Californians could be inappropriately placed in nursing homes as services are taken away. Finally, the Governor took away 5 percent in the In-Home Support Services Program (IHSS), a program that reviews the needs of seniors, disabled adults and children, and authorizes household chore and personal care assistance to improve their safety and quality of life. IHSS is a program that often means the difference between a person living with dignity in their own home or going to a nursing facility.

“The Governor needs to work with the state Legislature on ways to maintain services to seniors – not acting to reduce funding and simultaneously hurting older people and jeopardizing an already fragile network of aging services throughout California. It is not just about the frail, vulnerable older person; it is about our societal values and social commitment to our elders,” said Kempf.



# Solutions Summit – Fall 2008 Update

It's been about six months since the community came together at the Seniors Council Solution Summit. Much progress has been made on several of the key topics identified at our March gathering. Of course, much remains to be done.

The Seniors Council Advocacy Committee wanted to provide an update to our community partners about works in progress related to some of the priorities identified at the summit. We also want to encourage the community to continue your contributions by getting involved in any topic where you have skills or interest.

## **Action Groups**

### **Caregiver Training and Certification** –

The Caregiver Training and Certification Action Group is actively developing a caregiver curriculum, in partnership with Cabrillo College. The group envisions creating a series of workshops and trainings designed to be valuable to both the family caregiver and professionals in the field. Completion of core courses will conclude with the option for certification.

A three-year grant inquiry to expand the program was developed by the partners, but was unsuccessful, as many hundreds of agencies applied for the limited funds.

**Aging in Place** – The Aging in Place Action Group has been busy researching national models and

support systems for consideration in Santa Cruz County. Seniors Council staff attended a full day workshop at the American Society on Aging's regional conference. During that conference, Americorps representatives committed to funding local or state efforts to develop a more aging friendly state. The Action Group is currently regrouping and reconsidering where to best put their efforts.

**Advocacy** – the Seniors Council Advocacy Committee has opened its membership to any Solutions Summit participant to provide opportunity to address a broader range of topics, and to make sure those topics are shared with the greater community. The Advocacy Committee actively opposed Proposition 98 (and supported Proposition 99), joining with partner organizations to successfully achieve the defeat of Prop 98 and the passage of Prop 99.

The Advocacy Committee developed the initial positions on the State Propositions on the November ballot that are included in this newsletter.

The Advocacy Committee continues to develop Solutions Summit follow-up plans, including potential grant opportunities to increase community engagement around senior-related topics.

Other Summit Break-out Sessions:

(continued)

**Transportation & Mobility** – The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission added the recommendations of the Solutions Summit to the Long Range Transportation Improvement Plan, raising awareness among local commissioners and making the items eligible for future funding.

**Healthy Lifestyles** – The Seniors Council Annual Meeting in May highlighted Foster Anderson's Shared Adventures Program and encouraged people to exercise via an interactive workshop by personal trainer Brian

Orozco, using ribbons as a tool to moving and improving one's fitness. Meals on Wheels provided a healthy and delicious meal for all, featuring enchiladas.

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## SENIORS COUNCIL WELCOMES NEW STAFF:

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**Shary Greene** started as the new Seniors Council Fiscal Officer on September 30, 2008. Living in Aromas with her husband and two children, Shary came to us from Scotts Valley Water District and has been local to our area her entire life. We're delighted to have her join our team and network, as our new Fiscal Officer.

**Caren Dix:** I am Registered Dietitian since 2006, Cabrillo College student and transfer to Cal Poly SLO; Nutrition graduate from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, 2002. I attended a community nutrition focused Dietetic Internship in Keene, New Hampshire, (the East Coast is beautiful, but too cold!!, Santa Cruz is just perfect for me). I worked in Nutrition Education with elementary schools and the community of San Luis Obispo County at Cooperative Extension. I Love to garden, and hike with my 14 month old son, husband, and 2 big dogs in all of the Beautiful open space through out the county. I also love to bake and read in the sun when I can find the time. I am very happy to be working for the Seniors Council, and excited to use my education to promote health and safety through nutrition for seniors and the Senior meal programs in Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties.





## **IMPORTANT HOMEOWNER/RENTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NEWS**

Governor Schwarzenegger **eliminated all funds** for the Homeowner and Renter Assistance Program from the state budget that the legislature had approved for the 2008/2009 fiscal year.

Assembly member Anna Caballero, who represents parts of Santa Cruz and Monterey counties expressed dismay at this turn of events. “Last year over 5000 seniors and people with disabilities in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties received this important credit. For the governor to remove funding for this program is appalling. These are funds that are badly needed by low-income seniors and people with disabilities.”

Since there is no funding in the state budget for this program, **2008 claims cannot be paid**. The Franchise Tax Board will continue to accept 2008 claims and will hold them in the event that funding later becomes available. However, at this time there is no expectation that there will be any funds available to pay those claims.

Please direct any questions on the program to the Franchise Tax Board, at 800.868.4171 Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Governor Schwarzenegger does not have a toll-free phone number, but if you would like to call him to let him know you are concerned about his taking the money away from the Homeowner and Renter Assistance Program, you can call his office long distance at:

**916-445-2841**

You can also e-mail him through his website at:

[www.gov.ca.gov](http://www.gov.ca.gov)

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# PROPOSITIONS IN REVIEW: BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPEAK UP

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The Seniors Council Board of Directors has reviewed the recommendations of the Seniors Council Advocacy Committee and taken positions on a variety of the propositions on California's 2008 ballot. Propositions not listed were deemed as not applicable to a senior organization, or were ones that the agency chose to remain neutral on.

As an independent 501c3 agency, the Seniors Council is not allowed to endorse individual candidates for office, but we can take positions on non-partisan ballot issues such as these propositions. We do urge you to review candidates positions on senior topics, including maintenance of social security, Older Americans Act programs, and various other topics affecting older adults.

Most of all, we encourage all of you to read your ballot material, and to vote.

STATE BALLOT MEASURE      SENIORS COUNCIL POSITION

**PROPOSITION 5**

**SUPPORT**

*Nonviolent Offenders. Sentencing, Parole and Rehabilitation*

Prop 5 diverts minor drug offenders from state prison and into diversion programs. Diversion programs have proven to be far more successful in preventing a return to crime than prison. The cost of the diversion programs will be offset by savings in prison operating expenses. Taxpayers will be saved an estimated \$2.5 billion by not needing to build additional prisons.

**PROPOSITION 6**

**OPPOSE**

*Police and Law Enforcement Funding. Criminal Penalties and Laws*

This measure transfers \$500 million a year of state funds to increase law enforcement & criminal penalties and for operating prison and parole systems. An additional \$500 million capital outlay for prison facilities will be needed as a result of this initiative. With funding for senior programs already taking huge hits, the Seniors Council doesn't support transferring \$500 million in state dollars into this initiative.

**PROPOSITION 8**

**STRONGLY OPPOSE**

*Changes the state constitution in order to make same sex marriage illegal*

The Seniors Council believes the freedom to marry belongs to all Americans. Those wishing to marry should not be denied such a right because of the race, religion, age, or gender of the person they choose to marry.

**PROPOSITION 10**

**SUPPORT**

*Alternative Fuel Vehicles & Renewable Energy*

Proposition 10 provides rebates to individuals and businesses purchase high fuel economy vehicles, and grants for research and development of alternative and renewable fuel technologies. The Seniors Council endorses this effort to maintain transportation options for our seniors through the development of cleaner air alternatives such as those supported by this proposition.

**PROPOSITION 11**

**SUPPORT**

*Constitutional amendment to state redistricting process*

Proposition 11 removes the legislative conflict of interest of having the authority to redraw district boundaries for the State Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization. It creates a 14-member independent citizens commission to perform this process, establishes a defined criteria to redraw the boundaries, and requires open meetings, public hearings, and no communications outside of the hearings.

**PROPOSITION 12**

**SUPPORT**

*This act provides loans for veterans to purchase homes and farms in California.*

The Seniors Council endorses Proposition 12, both to honor the efforts of our veterans and to address the growing homelessness of older veterans throughout the state. We believe all Californians have the right to work, to food, to shelter, and to health care. Proposition 12 is consistent with these goals.



## NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY CIRCULATES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY

*WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU*

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The Seniors Council of Santa Cruz and San Benito counties is conducting a survey to help us learn about the needs of seniors in our community. The information we receive will help us to plan services and advocate for funding for senior programs.

**You are a very important part of this process and we want to hear from you.**

Please take a moment right now to complete the survey on the next page and return it to the person who gave it to you, or if you receive this survey by mail, you can simply fold it tape it closed and mail it back to us. Survey responses are completely anonymous.

Look for the results in our next newsletter or at [www.seniorscouncil.org](http://www.seniorscouncil.org)

Thank you for your time and attention.

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**Is this a challenge for you?**

**Living on My Own**

**YES      NO      SOMETIMES**

- |   |                          |                          |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Cooking, shopping and cleaning                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maintaining my home (yard work, home repairs)   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Finding a reliable person to do in-home care    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Being able to drive a car safely                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Getting transportation for medical appointments | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Getting transportation for errands              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Having Enough Money to Meet My Needs**

- |  |                          |                          |                          |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Paying my mortgage or rent                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Buying food and other essentials               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Paying for health care (doctor/hospital bills) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Paying for medications                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Paying for dental care                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Taking Care of Someone Else (Being a Caregiver)**

- |   |                          |                          |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Having support and training for caregiving      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Having a break from caregiving responsibilities | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Paying for help in my home                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Paying for nursing home or facility care        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Other Issues**

- |   |                          |                          |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Finding a doctor who will accept Medicare or Medi-Cal | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Feeling Isolated or Depressed                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| How do you get information about senior services?     |                          |                          |                          |

**Age:** \_\_\_\_ **Gender:** \_\_female \_\_male **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

Do you live alone? \_\_ yes \_\_no Yearly income below \$10,400? \_\_yes \_\_no

Race/Ethnicity: \_\_White \_\_Hispanic \_\_Asian/Pacific Isl. \_\_African Am \_\_Other

**Are there other issues you would like us to know about? Note them here.**

**Thank you for your response! Please turn in your survey or mail to the address on the other side**

Cut along dotted line

FOLD HERE

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42-CENT

STAMP REQUIRED

Seniors Council/Area Agency on Aging  
234 Santa Cruz Avenue  
Aptos, CA 95003

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## BELOW IS A LIST OF AGENCIES FUNDED BY THE SENIORS COUNCIL

### **ADVOCACY, INC.**

formerly OMBUDSMAN/ADVOCATE, INC.  
Phone: 429-1913  
(Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties)

### **CALIFORNIA GREY BEARS, INC.**

**BROWN BAG FOOD PROGRAM**  
(Santa Cruz County) Phone: 479-1055

### **COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, INC.**

Davenport Resource Service Center  
(Santa Cruz County) Phone: 425-8115

### **COMMUNITY BRIDGES, INC.**

Meals on Wheels Phone: 464-3180  
Lift Line Phone: 688-9663 or 425-1558  
(Santa Cruz County)

### **FAMILY SERVICE AGENCY OF THE CENTRAL COAST**

Senior Outreach Program: Phone 423-9444 (ext.206)  
I-You Venture Program Phone: 423-9444 (ext.205)  
(Santa Cruz County)

### **FOSTER GRANDPARENT/SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM**

Phone: 475-0816 (ext.12)  
(Santa Cruz, San Benito and Monterey Counties)

### **JOVENES DE ANTAÑO- DEL CONDADO DE SAN BENITO**

(San Benito County) Phone: 637-9275

### **Project SCOUT**

(Santa Cruz County) Phone: 688-7240

### **SENIOR CITIZENS LEGAL SERVICES, INC.**

Phone: 426-8824  
(Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties)

### **SENIOR NETWORK SERVICES, INC.**

Phone: 462-1433  
Watsonville Phone: 728-1751  
(Santa Cruz County)

### **VISTA CENTER**

formerly DORAN CENTER FOR THE  
BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED, INC.  
(Santa Cruz County) Phone: 458-9766

### **VOLUNTEER CENTERS OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, INC.**

(Santa Cruz County) Phone: 427-5070

**SENIORS COUNCIL**  
CONCILIO DE PERSONAS MAYORES



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Seniors Council

Concilio de Personas Mayores

**Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Program**

**234 Santa Cruz Avenue, Aptos, CA 95003**

**or Current resident**

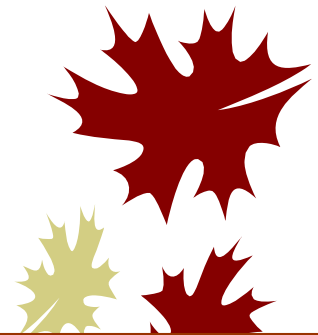
Questions about local resources?

*Call Senior Information and Assistance Lines*

San Benito County: (831) 637-9275

Santa Cruz County (831) 462-1433 or 728-1751

Or call 1-800-2020 to connect to the Information and Assistance Office nearest you.



**The Seniors Council of Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties is an umbrella organization serving older people. It is made up of individuals and community and public agencies, cooperation to develop a coordinated system of services.**

**The Seniors Council is designated by the California Department of aging to operate the local Area Agency on Aging.**