

City of Palo Alto

Office of the Mayor and City Council

May 26, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95818

Re: May Revision Budget Cuts for Community-Based Adult Services (CBAS); Letter of Opposition

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the City of Palo Alto, I write to respectfully express our opposition to the elimination of Community-Based Adult Services (CBAS), as presented in the May Budget Revision. Such action will harm one of the populations most vulnerable to COVID-19, as well as their loved ones and the hardworking therapeutic supporters and caregivers that work with those elderly adults.

As our State faces a \$54.3 Billion budget deficit, we fully understand the need for removing proposed expenditures, as well as for reductions or cuts in existing funding. CBAS, however, is a program that should not face cuts so severe that the entire program should be eliminated. CBAS helps older adults or adults with disabilities to restore or maintain their optimal capacity for self-care and delays or prevents inappropriate or personally undesirable institutionalization. Not only does this gift people with a new chance at life, it reduces the strain on full-care intensive support homes and staff.

The City of Palo Alto, like many cities across the State, has senior enrichment centers and programs that serve hundreds of people each year. As an example, the Avenidas Center in Palo Alto, a community-based non-profit, provides programs such as an LGBTQ seniors program, health, wellness, and nutritional support, transportation services, educational programs, and other critical services that enrich the lives of mature adults and their families. While we understand that the State must make difficult budget decisions, we urge you to not eliminate the funding for Community-Based Adult Services.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Adrian Fine
Mayor, City of Palo Alto

Cc: Holly Mitchell, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Phil Ting, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Senator Jerry Hill
Assemblymember Mark Berman
Palo Alto City Council
Amy Andonian, President and CEO, Avenidas
Ed Shikada, Palo Alto City Manager