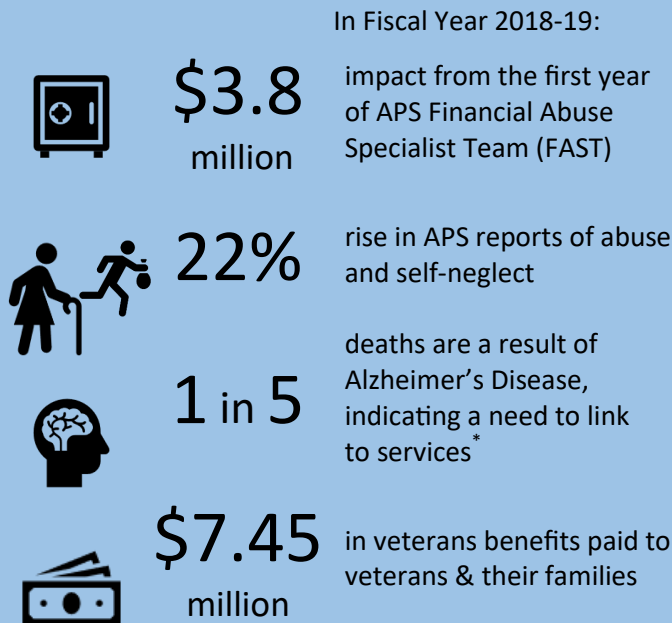


Aging & Adult Protection

The Division of Aging & Adult Protection (DAAP) provides a continuum of services, including services for veterans and protective services for vulnerable adults and individuals lacking capacity to provide for their basic needs or safely oversee their own care. DAAP programs include: Adult Protective Services (APS), Office of the Public Guardian-Conservator (PG-C), the Public Administrator's Office (PA), and County Veterans Services Office (CVSO).



Human Impacts



Our Senior & Homeless Populations Overlap

1 in 2
homeless individuals are
age 55+

1 in 2
of the 55+ were never
homeless before age 50

1 in 3
lost their housing within
the last year**

Sources: Alameda County Social Services Agency, *CA DHCS Vital Statistics; ** M. Kushel, UCSF, Homelessness in Older Adults (03/06/2019)

Looking Forward

Financial Abuse — The Financial Abuse Specialist Team (FAST), a partnership involving Adult Protective Services, the PG-C, District Attorney, and law enforcement, had an active 2019, handling 48 cases of financial abuse with an estimated impact of \$3.8 million recovered through civil or criminal action. Proposed legislation included funding and training to establish FAST and Forensic Center efforts across California (Assembly Bill 2302).

Preventing Homelessness — State support to make the Home Safe program permanent and extend it to all 58 counties would support housing stability for individuals involved in Adult Protective Services statewide. Additional State and federal resources are needed as the number of seniors experiencing homelessness continues to rise.

Beatrice's Story

Beatrice, a 96-year-old widow with declining memory, and a history of strokes, came to APS in 2010 due to financial abuse. Trusted family took advantage of her poor vision and declining memory by writing checks against her account that she would sign. An APS investigation revealed Beatrice's dissatisfaction with family financial management and provided services including an attempt to identify a local fiduciary. Months later, she was diagnosed with dementia. Unable to advocate for her own needs, her case was referred to the Office of the Public Guardian (PG) and the courts granted conservatorship in 2012. PG hired a daily caregiver so Beatrice could age safely in place. In late 2018, the caregiver reported repeated intimidation by Beatrice's family, including being chased out of the home after witnessing illicit drug use. As it became more challenging to ensure Beatrice's safety in her home and to maintain the home, she was moved to a board and care home. Family refused to move out or pay rent so an eviction began in July 2018. The home was sold with the proceeds going toward Beatrice's care. Despite few visits from family, Beatrice is stable, safe, and able to communicate her wishes to her care team. Whether in a crisis or over the long-term, DAAP programs navigate complex systems to provide stewardship and protection for vulnerable adults, like Beatrice, always mindful of the importance of autonomy and choice.

Area Agency on Aging

The Alameda County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) supports the independence of more than 75,000 older adults (ages 60+) in Alameda County by providing access to senior centers, legal assistance, friendly visitors, group exercise, medication and case management programs, and healthy meals, in congregate settings and through home delivery. With guidance from the Commission on Aging, the AAA funds more than 30 community-based organizations to advocate for and serve the needs of older adults.



Human Impacts



85%

increase in responses to AAA Community Survey and Needs Assessment; 6,895 responses to 2019 survey, versus 3,725 in 2015.



6,400

bags of nutritious groceries provided during FY 2019-20



59%

of older adult renters are “cost-burdened” - meaning more than 30% of their income is consumed by rent

Top 10 Concerns Among County’s Older Adults

Rank	Concern (Most to Least)
1	Enough income to save
2	Enough income to meet all basic needs
3	Being able to afford housing
4	Being able to stay in home
5	Falling
6	Ability to maintain home
7	Being included in decisions
8	Being able to prepare healthy foods
9	Ability to support dependents
10	Feeling anxious

“Enough income to save,” with a rank of 1, was of the greatest concern (highest average score, where 1=Least and 5=Most).

Sources: Alameda County Area Agency on Aging 2021-2024 Area Plan Needs Assessment & Community Survey

Looking Forward

2021-2024 Countywide Area Plan for Older Adults — The AAA is finalizing its extensive Area Plan, which includes a needs assessment and public engagement to identify strategies and policies to effectively meet to older adults’ needs.

California Master Plan for Aging (MPA) — A massive update to the MPA will enhance delivery and performance of long-term services and supports for older adults. Scheduled for adoption in October 2020, the MPA represents a major milestone on the road to supporting a diverse, healthy, and vibrant population of older adults.

Funding — The federal budget increases funding for senior nutrition programs by \$30 million from federal Fiscal Year 2019-20. Unfortunately, severely reduced funding in subsequent years minimizes the benefits of this increase.

“Team Gilmore’s” Story

Mrs. Gilmore lives in the home where she and her husband, Carter Gilmore — the first African-American elected to the Oakland City Council in 1977 — raised their six children with a family commitment to community service and civil rights. Although she became a widow in 2006, her home continues to be a lively place, visited frequently by her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Mrs. Gilmore refers to her support network as “Team Gilmore” and is happy she expanded it to include Meals on Wheels. After a lifetime of cooking for her family, she was slowing down and couldn’t always prepare nutritious meals to keep herself healthy. With her Meals on Wheels driver checking on her during the day, and her family with her at night, Team Gilmore is keeping her where she wants to be: in the home that holds her dearest memories.

In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

In-Home Supportive Services is a mandated program that provides homecare for the elderly and individuals with disabilities. The program supports low-income individuals in their own residences and communities, rather than placing them in more restrictive and expensive institutional care settings, which can cost more than \$140,000 per year.



Human Impacts



24,872

Alameda County IHSS recipients as of January 2020



119

average usage hours per month, per IHSS recipient



\$503.3
million

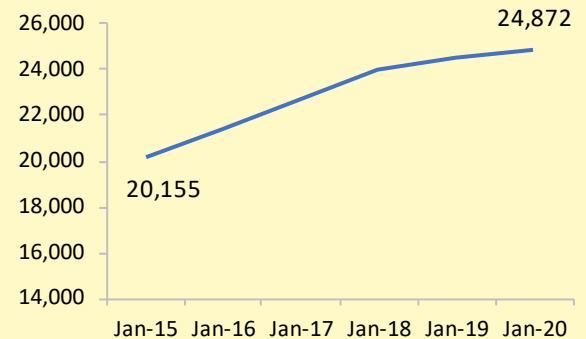
in wages paid to nearly 26,900 IHSS providers in FY 2019-20



22.5%

of providers receive health benefits through the Public Authority's health program

Alameda County IHSS Recipients



Demand for IHSS has been rising in recent years and continues to increase with the rapidly growing population of older adults in Alameda County.

Source: Alameda County Social Services Agency Monthly Report

Looking Forward



High rates of COVID-19 infection in group-living settings underscore the importance of IHSS programs that allow individuals to be cared for in their own homes. Due to the COVID-19 recession, the FY 20-21 State Budget freezes County and Public Authority administration funding at the FY 19-20 level.

Funding — IHSS program costs will continue to grow due to an aging population, increasing caseloads, and increasing wages and benefits, resulting in a significant rise in the cost of care. While the State has provided substantial relief to counties through the new Maintenance of Effort (MOE) financing arrangement, the continued cost growth may make the MOE unsustainable for the State resulting in a cost shift to counties for this mandated service. Without continued State investment, Alameda County will face surging IHSS costs and cuts to vital local services.

Sick Leave — Beginning in 2020, IHSS providers received two days of paid sick leave per year, and will begin receiving three days in 2023. As participation increases, the County will evaluate the potential impacts these increases will have on the IHSS program.

Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) — Implementation of EVV, a telephone- and computer-based system that electronically verifies service visits, continues in alignment with federal regulations. Implementation for home health care services will begin in January 2023.

Lily's Story

Lily is an 81-year-old female in declining health, has a hearing deficit, and is visually impaired. She felt socially isolated and depressed and is not fluent in English. An injury from her latest fall led Lily to depend solely on her daughter for daily support. Her daughter had quit her job so Lily could remain safely in their home. IHSS assistance included discussion about possible relocation from the second-floor walk-up, and an introduction to community resources such as free assistive phone services and programs for the elderly offered in Mandarin. Subsequently, her daughter was able to enroll as the IHSS provider and earn an income while caring for her elderly mother.

Children and Family Services

Alameda County Children and Family Services (CFS) is focused on improving the lives of children and families in the County by serving children and youth who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing abuse or neglect. CFS is committed to improving outcomes through safety, permanency, and well-being.



Human Impacts



194

children/youth exited to reunification



114

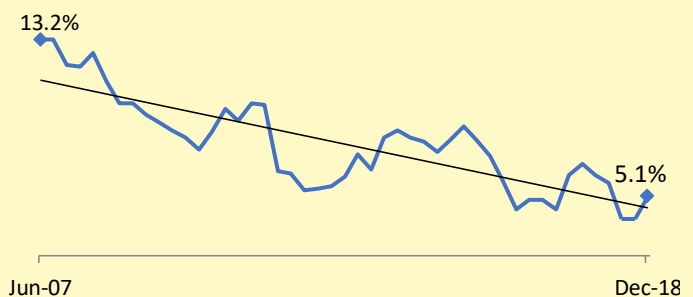
children/youth exited to adoption



79

children/youth exited to legal guardianship

Percentage of Alameda County children with a recurrence of substantiated maltreatment within 12 months since the start of the Title IV-E Waiver (rolling 12-month total)



Source: California Child Welfare Indicators Project—UC Berkeley and California Department of Social Services. Reports retrieved 2/28/2020.

- In July 2007, Alameda County began the implementation of the **Title IV-E Waiver** which served as a catalyst to improve supports and services provided by CFS. While the waiver sunsetted on September 30th, 2019, the County has seen a 58.7% decrease in the number of children 0-17 in foster care over the lifespan of the waiver.
- The **Safety Organized Practice (SOP)** Equity and Inclusion Task Force began in September 2019 to work on (1) the creation of training content and related planning for CFS staff related to racial equity and justice and (2) review of CFS forms, tools, and training to assess improvements needed for cultural responsiveness. The group will continue to meet as needed.

Looking Forward

Title IV-E Waiver — While the Waiver has expired, CFS diligently continues to review and monitor programs in response to any loss of funding. The Family First Transition Act was signed into federal law in December 2019 and provides waiver states bridge funding for the next two federal fiscal years.

Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) — CCR remains strong in implementation. The State is reviewing CCR to determine the appropriate methodology which will lead to cost savings strategies related to CCR implementation activities.

The Logan Family Story

The Resource Family Approval (RFA) program was developed to ensure that all children live in committed, nurturing, and permanent families. RFA establishes a new family-friendly and child-centered approval process for all related and non-related families seeking to care for children and youth in foster care. The Logan family has participated in the home study phase since 2011 and completed their RFA approval. To date, they have adopted 6 children from the same family and are in the process of adopting the 7th so that the siblings can remain together. The family has truly been committed; they have traveled to Los Angeles almost every week for adoption proceedings to gain custody. The Logans are active in the foster parent association, including helping with a new clothing bank for foster parents who need additional clothes for the children they are caring for.

Homelessness

Multiple factors contribute to homelessness in Alameda County: high housing costs, affordable housing shortages, neighborhood transformations, and deinstitutionalization. According to the 2019 Point-in-Time Count, there were **8,022 individuals** experiencing homelessness on a single night in Alameda County, **79%** of whom were unsheltered. County departments collaborate to align County programs and initiatives to address homelessness and provide services to the County's vulnerable population.



Human Impacts

2019 Performance Metrics

Individuals Received Homeless or Housing Crisis Screening via 2-1-1 *	14,105
Assessed for Coordinated Entry	3,500
Engaged in Street Outreach Services	2,228
Served in Rapid Re-Housing Projects**	2,467
Provided Transitional Housing**	1,110
Served in Emergency Shelters**	3,326
Obtained Permanent Housing**	1,682

* Data from Eden I&R for FY 18-19

** Individuals in particular programs may be duplicated across programs

Source: Alameda County Homeless Management Information System



43%

increase in homeless individuals between 2017 and 2019



30,500

estimated winter relief bed nights in FY 2019-20



10,000+

Individuals experiencing homelessness provided health care services in FY 2019-20



\$336
million

of Measure A1 affordable housing bond commitments to support over 3,100 new units



\$340
million

of investments detailed in the Alameda County Homelessness Action Plan 2018-2021

Looking Forward



In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, State funding and coordination through Project Roomkey has been prioritized to provide hotel rooms to individuals experiencing homelessness who are at high risk of the virus. The FY 20-21 State Budget provides \$600 million, including \$550 million of federal CARES Act funding, for the acquisition, rehabilitation, and leasing of hotels and motels for permanent housing under Project Homekey. Alameda County is supporting various sites under Project Roomkey and continues to work together with cities to serve as many people as possible countywide, utilizing State and federal resources.

Funding — Although the current COVID-19 funding streams are helpful in addressing the immediate crisis, ongoing State and federal funding is needed to address the homelessness crisis in Alameda County. The FY 20-21 State Budget includes \$300 million for a second round of the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program, which can be used to support Project Homekey or for other evidence-based solutions. However, this funding is less than half the first round, providing even less funding for existing programs.

Debra's Story

Following an abusive relationship, Debra was living on a very low income with limited resources. She was referred to Abode's Sunrise Village Emergency Shelter, which provides emergency housing and supportive services. Having newfound stability allowed Debra to enhance her professional skills and pursue her dreams. Upon securing permanent housing through Southern Alameda County's Housing/Jobs Linkages Program, Debra took business classes and received job and financial literacy training. From this support, she obtained a new, full-time position and was able to provide for herself and son. Today, her son is the general manager of a Fremont business. Debra commented, "That's your goal with kids: to prepare them so they can fly...just like what Abode Services did for me."

Immigrant Services

Approximately 500,000 of Alameda County's 1.6 million residents are immigrants. The Alameda County Social Services Agency (SSA) offers an array of programs and services to assist immigrants, refugees, and asylees entering our communities. These programs, including Refugee Social Services, Protective Services, CalWORKs, Refugee Cash Assistance, General Assistance (GA), CalFresh, California Food Assistance Program, and Medi-Cal, provide economic support, job training/placement, social adjustment, case management, and supportive services.



Human Impacts



31%

of Alameda County residents are foreign born



1 in 2

Alameda County children have a foreign-born parent

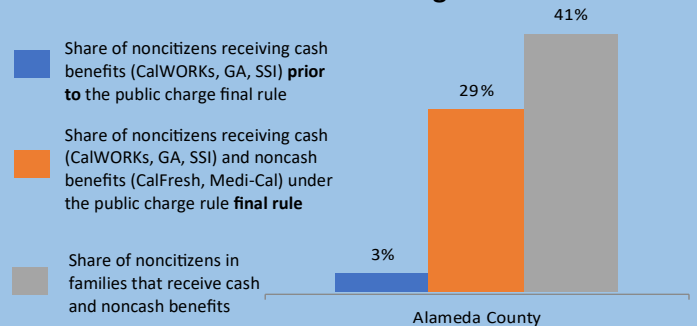


\$3.2B

Estimated annual State and local taxes paid by undocumented immigrants

Source: Migration Policy Institute (MPI) tabulation of U.S. Census Bureau 2014-16 American Community Survey

Share of Noncitizens Whose Benefits Use Could Be Considered in a Public Charge Determination



The final rule on public charge went into effect earlier this year. While the rule does not apply to most immigrants, it has caused confusion amongst immigrant communities, who may stop using vital public benefits programs in fear of jeopardizing their immigration status.

Looking Forward



Alameda County's immigrant communities are particularly vulnerable to the health, economic, and social harms being inflicted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Immigrants comprise a large share of the workforce in essential occupations that face increased risks of infection, like healthcare, food production, and transportation. Immigrants also are disproportionately represented in occupations that have suffered some of the most severe job losses, including food service, hospitality, and domestic work. Despite immigrants presence on the frontlines of the crisis, federal CARES Act assistance programs exclude large segments of the immigrant community. State and local funding for programs serving immigrants, refugees, and asylees is more vital than ever.

Funding — The FY 20-21 State Budget provides \$10 million ongoing funds to provide immigrant legal services on community college campuses in addition to funding for the California Newcomer Education and Well-Being Project.

Legislation — Alameda County has co-sponsored requests to strengthen programs for immigrant families by extending CalWORKs benefits beyond 12 months for indigent sponsored noncitizens. Alameda County supports extending the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) and the Young Child Tax Credit (YCTC) to individuals who file their taxes using Individual Tax Identification Numbers (ITINs). These vital credits reduce economic insecurity and help working immigrant families thrive.

Asmah's Story

Asmah is a Hayward resident who lives with her mother and teenage daughter. She entered the United States as a refugee and their only source of income was her mother's monthly pension of \$700. Asmah wanted to become a naturalized citizen and didn't want to apply for CalFresh out of fear of being considered a public charge. However, she attended the Alameda County Community Food Bank (ACCFB) Super Clinic and was informed by staff that public charge did not apply to refugees or individuals wanting to become U.S. citizens and she should apply for benefits. Through the collaborative efforts of the ACCFB and SSA, Asmah and her family are now receiving the benefits they are entitled to and ensuring their nutritional needs are met.

Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA)

WIOA Title I establishes **employer-led local workforce development boards (LWDBs)** that provide administrative, fiscal, and program policy oversight of Title I programs. WIOA Titles II through IV are mandated to partner with LWDBs. The Alameda County Workforce Development Board (ACWDB) administers Title I programs for the County outside the City of Oakland. Career Service Providers ensure that job seekers have access to high-quality career services and training programs that facilitate skill development and lead to industry-recognized credentials and high-wage employment within high-growth industries. WIOA Title I programs serve adults, dislocated workers, youth, and employers.



Human Impacts

In FY 2018-19:



831

Participants (adults, dislocated workers, and youth/young adults) enrolled in WIOA Title I



201

Youth and young adults (ages 16-24) enrolled in WIOA Title I



211

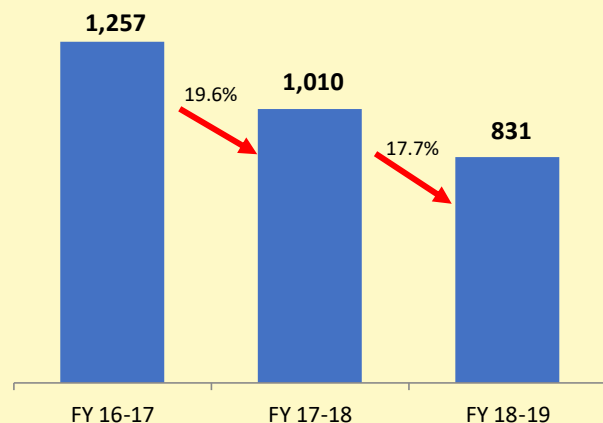
WIOA Title I participants completed industry and occupational training



454

WIOA Title I participants entered into employment

ACWDB's WIOA-Enrolled Participants



WIOA Title I funding has decreased over the past few years, as the funding formula is correlated with the local unemployment rate, which had been on a downward trajectory before COVID-19

Sources: ACWDB and CalJOBS, 2019

Looking Forward



COVID-19 has led to significant job loss in Alameda County, with unemployment rates up to 13.5% in May. The Governor made available an additional \$10 million in WIOA funds for LWDBs to provide supportive services to underserved workers. In response to the severe employment and other workforce disruptions caused by COVID-19, Congress is considering proposals to increase funding for WIOA Title I programs, but the prospects for approving this funding remain unclear.

Service Strategy — ACWDB's Sub-regional Workforce Network (SWN) is designed to bring partners together to leverage resources, develop new funding opportunities, and coordinate job seeker services. ACWDB will continue to refine the SWN service delivery model while also aligning with the State's Labor and Workforce Development Agency's focus on shared prosperity, good jobs and wages, job security, and apprenticeship career pathways.

Policy — ACWDB's program policies align with serving priority populations and target groups with barriers to employment to facilitate skill development, training and employment opportunities, good wages, and job security.

Nara's Story

Nara emigrated to the United States from Mongolia and didn't know how to transfer her experience as a human resources officer in the local labor market. With the help of ACWDB's Career Service Provider at the College of Alameda, Nara was enrolled at California State University-East Bay to earn a certificate in Human Resources Management Payroll Practice. Nara is on her way to a brighter and more secure future in the United States.

CalWORKs

The California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Program provides time-limited cash aid, as well as employment and employment support services, to eligible non-exempt adults with children. CalWORKs services are designed to promote self-sufficiency and provide parents with assistance to enter or reenter the workforce. Most CalWORKs families are categorically eligible to receive Medi-Cal and CalFresh (Food Stamp) benefits.



Human Impacts



\$878

current maximum
monthly CalWORKs
grant for a family of 3



1 in 10

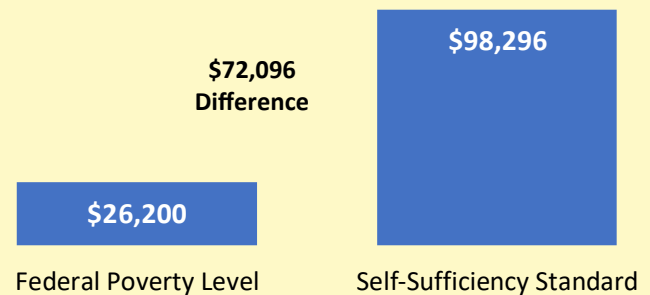
children in Alameda
County lives below
the poverty line



1 in 6

families cannot make
ends meet despite
both parents working

True Cost of Living for Family of Four in Alameda County, 2020



Source: U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey,
1-Year Estimates, 2018 for Alameda County

Looking Forward



COVID-19 has damaged many families' stability. The unemployment rate in May 2020 in Alameda County was 13.5% and is expected to remain high. The County's CalWORKs applications have increased by 40% above the average figures. To accommodate continued caseload growth across California, the FY 20-21 State Budget reduces funding for the home visiting Starting Out Strong program and other programs.

Funding — It is vitally important that the federal government funds services so that families can get the assistance they need to recover from the broad effects of the pandemic.

Policy — Effective as early as June 1, 2020, CalWORKs income disregards will increase from \$200 to \$500, allowing more families to continue to receive assistance in meeting their needs as many working families continue to struggle working multiple jobs with inconsistent or reliable hours. The FY 20-21 State Budget extends the CalWORKs time limit from 48 months to 60 months in an effort to address the massive job loss and provide employment support to families. However, it still does not provide relief for working immigrant families not eligible for CalWORKs.

Legislation — Alameda County supports policies to increase access that help low-income immigrant families. With the Western Center on Law & Poverty, the County is proposing legislation to align CalWORKs policy with existing CalFresh policy to extend eligibility to sponsored noncitizens who would go hungry or homeless without aid.

Ms. Keya's Story

I was homeless living in my car with my teenage son. My employment counselor referred me to the Alameda County CalWORKs Homeless Assistance Program. Because of my housing situation, I needed a lot of emotional support. I used to cry for no reason. The case manager encouraged me to apply for jobs and attend interviews. I finally moved into an apartment on October 25th and started working part-time at Amazon and at the Alameda County Registrar of Voters. I am very happy to be economically stable and have a place to call home for my child and me.

CalFresh

CalFresh is California's version of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The CalFresh program provides assistance for low-income households to purchase nutritious food. When the national economy or a regional, State, or local economy is in trouble, CalFresh is among the most effective government responses. CalFresh is a vital support to ensure individuals and families can meet their basic nutritional needs.



Human Impacts

Food insecurity is defined as a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active and healthy life. Individuals who are low-income and food insecure must make tough decisions, such as purchasing inexpensive and unhealthy food, or choosing between paying for food or other basic needs, such as medical expenses, utilities, transportation, and housing.



112K

individuals aided per month as of January 2020



40%

of Alameda County residents are food insecure



1 in 3

children face the threat of hunger every day

Living Wage vs. Program Eligibility

(Family of four, two working parents)

Living Wage for Basic Needs

\$92,267

CalFresh Income Limit (before deduction)

\$50,208

Federal Poverty Level

\$26,200

Families who fall into the gap between a living wage and program eligibility struggle to meet their most basic needs.

Source: 2019 CDSS CalFresh Program and CBPC 2017 Making Ends Meet

Looking Forward



Due to the economic effects of COVID-19, more individuals and families lack access to nutritious meals. In the first five weeks of the Shelter in Place Order, the County received **360% more** CalFresh applications than it received during the same time period over the past several years. The FY 20-21 State Budget provides additional funding to the CalFresh program.

Policy — In response to the COVID-19 emergency, California has been given CalFresh program flexibility, such as waiving in-person interviews, allowing telephonic signature, suspending reporting responsibilities, and suspending the Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents time limit to help applicants and recipients receive and stay on CalFresh. CalFresh recipients have received an emergency supplemental allotment, which increases the CalFresh benefit to the maximum benefit based on household size.

Public Charge — A new federal rule will look at an immigrant's receipt of CalFresh in the determination of public charge. While not all immigrants are directly affected, the confusion, complexity of immigration law, and the lack of understanding may cause immigrant families to disenroll from public assistance programs out of fear and caution.

Ms. Luella's Story

Ms. Luella, 62, retired after working for 32 years as a truck driver. She has been homeless and living out of her car for the last two years and has retirement income. Luella suffers from poor health and is still trying to find permanent housing. The Alameda County Community Food Bank assisted her with the CalFresh application and she was approved for \$87 a month in CalFresh benefits. She is very hopeful that things will get better and is grateful for the help she receives.

General Assistance

General Assistance (GA) is a State mandated, three-month time-limited social safety-net program that is locally administered and 100% funded by Alameda County. The program provides financial assistance to indigent adults who are County residents and have no other means of support. All GA cash assistance is considered a loan and recipients must sign a reimbursement agreement as a condition of eligibility. The GA program prepares clients, unless exempt, for possible employment through a variety of training and educational activities.



Human Impacts



\$336

maximum monthly GA grant for one person (\$548 for two adults)



9,052

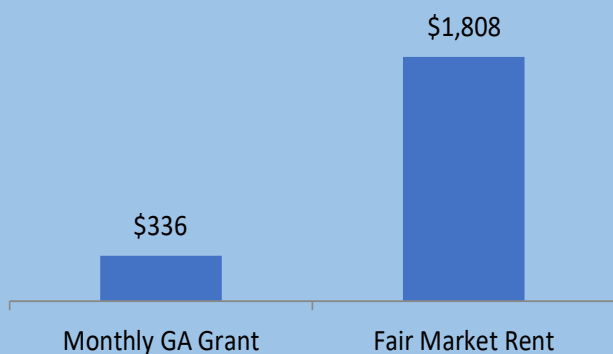
individuals receive GA benefits monthly in Alameda County



81%

of GA recipients are unemployable

Fair Market Rate for One-Bedroom Apartment



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, 2018; and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development FY 2020 Fair Market Rent

Looking Forward



Alameda County's most vulnerable residents, including older adults, individuals with disabilities and compromised immune systems, and homeless individuals, have been hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting recession. Unemployment is severe for low-income workers in retail, laundry services, manufacturing, and food industries. Now more than ever, critical services must continue to be provided in order to help vulnerable residents.

Mental Health — A large percentage of GA recipients are unemployable due to varying conditions, including mental illness. The FY 2020-21 State Budget rescinded changes to the Medi-Cal system that would provide early intervention to people with mental illness who are also experiencing homelessness. Mental health services are especially important during the County's Shelter in Place Order and are critical to those already experiencing mental health issues.

Homelessness — The FY 2019-20 State Budget provided \$25 million in funding for the Housing and Disability Advocacy Program, which provides outreach, case management, disability advocacy (assistance in screening and applying for SSI), and housing navigation and placement services to GA clients who are homeless. The program has been able to place 13 GA clients into temporary housing and six GA clients into permanent housing since July 2019. As the homeless population continues to increase due to the high cost of living in Alameda County, more State funding is needed to fight against this crisis.

Leland's Story

Leland found himself without work and homeless when he could no longer control his alcohol addiction. While receiving treatment, he was referred by his therapist to apply for General Assistance. He says he didn't have any family and just needed a break to help him get back on his feet. He volunteered for the CalFresh Employment & Training program and started an apprenticeship program in San Leandro and was trained to lay tile. He's thankful for the assistance he received and is hopeful he will soon be employed.

Medi-Cal

Medi-Cal is California's version of the federal Medicaid program. It is a public health insurance program that provides health care services for low-income individuals, families with children, seniors, persons with disabilities, foster care youth, and pregnant women. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) strives to improve both access to health care and the general health of all residents.



Human Impacts



356K

individuals receive Medi-Cal (approximately 1/4 of County's population)



80%

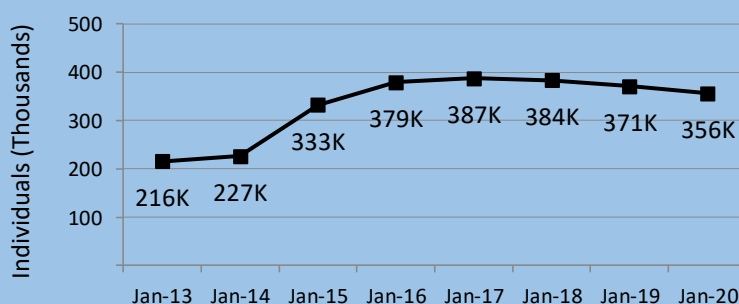
increase in Medi-Cal caseload since January 2014



3K

undocumented adults age 19–21 years receive full-scope Medi-Cal as a result of the expansion.

Alameda County Social Services Agency
Medi-Cal Caseload



Source: Alameda County SSA Caseload report (quarterly), January 2020

Looking Forward

During the first five weeks of the COVID-19 Shelter in Place Order, the County received **30% more** Medi-Cal applications than it received during the same time period over the past several years. In response to the economic impacts of COVID-19, the State FY 20-21 Budget provides a 16% increase in funding due to expected caseload growth, which is expected to peak in July 2020.

Funding — Despite the overall increase, the FY 20-21 State Budget makes a number of reductions, the withdrawal of previously proposed policies, and maintains the suspensions in the 2019 Budget Act. These changes could worsen health outcomes as well as undermine efforts to advance health equity. Impacted programs and proposals include:



- Full-scope expansion to undocumented older adults regardless of immigration status,
- Behavioral Health Quality Improvement program, and
- CalAIM.

Legislation — Alameda County supports Assembly Bill 683 (Carillo), which would increase the Medi-Cal “asset-test” for applicants whose eligibility is not determined based on Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI). AB 683 would increase the asset limit from \$2,000 to \$10,000 for an individual and from \$3,000 to \$15,000 for a couple, which would potentially increase the number of seniors and individuals with disabilities that would qualify for Medi-Cal.

Ms. Dodge's Story

Ms. Dodge, a 77-year-old applicant, received emergency surgery that left her with a large medical bill. She was granted full-scope Medi-Cal with a monthly share of cost over \$1,300, but she was unable to afford paying after other expenses. Her caseworker advised her about the *Hunt vs. Kizer* provision where she could claim unpaid medical bills and reduce the share of cost. She joyfully expressed her gratitude and stated that a weight had been lifted off of her shoulders.



Produced by the Alameda County Administrator's Office
in conjunction with
Alameda County Social Services Agency,
Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, *and*
Alameda County General Services Agency