

September 3rd, 2019

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council,

We are writing on behalf of Long Beach residents for your support in maintaining the Office of Aging staff member for Fiscal Year 2020.

The City of Long Beach must remain vigilant about the fact that not everybody has equal access to resources in the community. When talking about populations that are in need of resource equity, one of the most vulnerable populations are older adults. There are several unique issues older adults face, including isolation, loneliness, depression, as well as economic and housing insecurity. To cut funding to such an integral part of the community is not acceptable.

As the second most diverse city in the nation, our older adult population is an important part of this fabric of the community. Nearly 40% of the population within the city is made up of older adults and persons age 50 or more. This population is expected to increase by 22 % by 2025. Furthermore, 52% of these individuals live alone, while 38% live with a disability. These numbers are only going to continue to increase. Long Beach is in critical need of housing, transportation, health, safety and quality of life services for this population.

The current Long Beach Strategic Plan for Older Adults is a collaboration between the Department of Health and Human Services and the community to address the growing needs for this population. In this plan is a gap analysis that addresses mapping the older adult's journey, adoption of an age-friendly mindset, senior volunteerism, just-in-time systems, integration of social services, coordination of services, scalability of co-located services, and inclusion of vulnerable communities. This plan discusses the next steps for these issues including the needs and opportunities that currently exist.

The Office of Aging is critical infrastructure that is needed not only for this population, but also for those who are caretakers for these residents. This office allows for individuals who utilize the services to remain as independent as possible while connecting them to resources. While currently there is only one staff member providing services to this entire population, cutting that person will be detrimental to the community. Removing this position reduces the cultural awareness and sensitivity of older adults living in our city.

We encourage you to maintain the Office of Aging staff member through one time funds to continue connecting older adults to the resources needed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Martha Miranda
Resident Services Supervisor
HumanGood-Covenant Manor

Life. It's personal.

