

Dear friend,

You're invited! Please join me and my organization

The Care Agenda: Expanding CA's Long-term Supports and Services (LTSS) for All
A Town Hall with CA legislators and with other coalition partners

An event to share our stories of Long-term Services and Supports (LTSS), educate our policy makers and deepen our unity to win a new social insurance program to help all Californians can afford the Long-term Services and Supports- including Long-term Care- we need to live and age with dignity.

Date: September 19, 2019

Time: 9:45am-12pm PM

Location: SF Main Library, The Koret Auditorium

100 Larkin St, San Francisco, CA 94102

[Facebook event](#) and flyer attached

RSVP [here](#)

Program includes:

- A panel discussion with key policy makers that will be open to the press and will be live-streamed
- A discussion over lunch for our grassroots members and coalition partners that include seniors, people with disabilities, family caregivers and homecare and other LTSS workers, to deepen our unity.

Background:

The Problem: There is a crisis in our state facing people with disabilities, seniors and their families to access the long term services and supports they need to live and age in their homes and communities. People are living longer and the senior population will double by 2030. Already seniors are one-fifth and people with disabilities are 1 in 4 of the California population. Yet there are countless barriers to support people with disabilities and seniors who desire to live and age at home. Most of us will need at least one year of access to home care in our lives but few have the resources to afford it. The truly poor can access home care through Medicaid—one of the largest budget items in the state and a system that is facing unsustainable demands. Everyone else must either pay out of pocket or become very poor to access services and supports.

Furthermore, homecare workers are amongst the lowest paid which contributes to high turn over and a growing shortage relative to the need. According to a [2018 PHI study](#), there are 2.1 million U.S. home care workers who earn a median wage of \$11.03 an hour and \$15,100 a year. Thus, 20 percent of home care workers live in poverty, compared to 7 percent of all U.S. workers. And the majority don't have retirement savings to pay for the LTSS they will need.

The Solution: Organizations of seniors, people with disabilities, family caregivers and homecare workers are coming together with the goal of creating a new way to help Californians afford their long term services and supports: a new LTSS benefit. The benefit will specifically be for those who do not qualify for Medi Cal: middle class Californians. We believe that providing this benefit will not only increase opportunity and access for middle class people with disabilities, older adults, families and workers but it will help to increase the sustainability of the Medi Cal system and expand funds that could be used to raise wages in the industry..

Our Work: Paving the path towards this benefit takes long standing policy work and grassroots support. The experts of this problem, people impacted by this crisis such as people with disabilities, seniors, family caregivers and paid homecare attendants, must be the ones to inform the policy work. California's policymakers must hear from their constituents so they may learn from those directly impacted by the crisis of affording and accessing long term services and supports.

Join us for an important Town Hall with decision-makers so that we can learn from one another's experience and develop champions in the state legislature for affordable LTSS for all!

Who are we?

We are organizations of seniors, people with disabilities and family caregivers as well as homecare workers. We include members of the Grassroots Committee of the CA Aging and Disability Alliance and the Care Council of Northern CA. We include: Hand in Hand: The Domestic Employers Network, CA Domestic Workers Coalition, Ca Foundation for Independent Living Centers, Senior & Disability Action, United Domestic Workers- ASFME, CARA, Family Caregivers Alliance, Jobs with Justice SF, Elder Action, SEIU 2015 and many more.