

Dignity Fund Coalition Budget Update *May 28, 2017 Update*

In 2015, the Dignity Fund Coalition launched its campaign to win support for a ballot measure to provide stable and increasing funding for services and support for seniors and adults with disabilities. As part of its campaign, it identified over \$50 million dollars in unmet need in a wide range of service areas.

SF Voters passed the Dignity Fund – Proposition I - on the November 2016 ballot. This measure set aside and protected \$38 million in current funding. It also promised an annual increase to expand services, starting with \$6 million in fiscal year 2017-18. The process to recommend how to allocate the initial \$6 million has been carried out with community involvement outlined in the legislation, with weekly meetings of the Oversight and Advisory Committee and detailed presentations from the Dept. of Aging and Adult Services. The specific recommendations provide detail about specific programs and services, including those targeting veterans, those aging with HIV, caregivers and more. A summary of their recommendations to the Mayor is as follows:

Home and Community-based Long Term Care & Support	\$ 550,000
Food and Nutrition Programs	\$ 500,000
Consumer and Caregiver Education, Empowerment & Support	\$1,260,000
Senior/Disabled Community and Service Centers	\$1,200,000
Empowerment, Self-Advocacy and Legal Services Programs	\$1,000,000
Health and Wellness	\$ 150,000
Targetted Services	\$ 460,000

One final item, the annual cost of doing business increase or CODB, is currently estimated at \$880,000 for all currently funded DAAS programs identified as Dignity Fund eligible and will likely be more. The Mayor's Budget Office is requiring, as a matter of policy, that these annual increases come out of the increases in the Dignity Fund. Earmarking new additional funds for Cost of Doing Business increases is something that Oversight and Advisory Committee, the Dignity Fund Coalition, CASE and other groups oppose. This is because, over time, a greater portion of the annual increase will go for cost of doing business increases rather than to expand services. Support for CODB is strong in each body – **but it should be provided from the general fund, not whittle away at the set-aside.**

The Oversight and Advisory Committee worked diligently and with great debate and discussion to come up with a proposal that will provide meaningful increases to much needed services. But at the end of the day, it was only \$6 million and not

enough to keep pace with the growing number of seniors and people with disabilities in need.

Dignity Fund Coalition is grateful for the hard work of the OAC and supports their recommendations, but feels strongly that our work is not done. Three areas of high need that have not yet been adequately addressed are Food and Nutrition, Housing Subsidies, and Group Van Transportation. The Dignity Fund Coalition joins the Coalition of Agencies Serving the Elderly (CASE), the Long Term Care Coordinating Council and the Food Security Task Force in continued advocacy for the following:

Housing Subsidies for Seniors and Adults with Disabilities	\$3,000,000
Expand Funding for Group Van Paratransit Services	\$ 510,000
Food Security, including	
Home Delivered Meals	\$4,480,000
Home Delivered Groceries	\$3,900,000
Congregate Lunch Meals	\$1,350,000

We support other smaller requests, like funding for the Golden Compass Program that provides support for those Aging with HIV (\$250,000) and the Home Modification Program whose funding has been eliminated for the coming year. We hope, if not in the Mayor's budget to be released June 1, these funds can be added during the add-back process.

All of the funds, whether the new Dignity Fund dollars or those added in the final budget, will need to follow the City's process for RFP's and contract modifications. The Dignity Fund Coalition will be monitoring this process closely to help assure that our early goals to assure funds are used to help veterans, caregivers and those aging with HIV are reflected in allocation process. Moreover, the neighborhoods and communities that have not received their fair share of funding should get some help in the final analysis.

The Dignity Fund Coalition members will continue to communicate with the Mayor's Office and the Dept. of Aging and Adult Services during the remainder of this year's budget process to advocate as outlined above and will be part of a **Budget Hearing at City Hall on Monday, June 19 starting at 10:00 am**

The next meeting of the Dignity Fund Coalition will be **Wednesday, June 28, 2:30 to 4:30 at ILRC, 825 Howard Street.**

For more information, visit www.sfdignityfund.org or email info@sfdignityfund.org.