



Dignity Fund

When San Francisco voters overwhelmingly approved [Proposition I, the Dignity Fund, in November 2016](#), they helped establish a path for stabilized funding for services & supports for seniors & people with disabilities. However, for the past 4 years we have had to continuously fight against suspension of the dedicated \$3 million annual allocation of the Dignity Fund and actively urge our elected officials to keep the promise of the voter approved Dignity Funds.

Unlike most other set asides, the Dignity Fund legislation included language that the annual allocation *could* be suspended if the City's budget had a significant shortfall, but not *required*. Starting during the

Impact of Allocation Cut

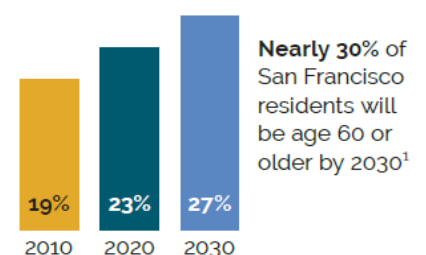
Fiscal Year	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32	32-33	33-34	34-35	35-36	\$ millions lost
DF Base (\$ millions)	44.1	47.1	50.1	50.1	53.1	56.1	56.1	56.1*												
Millions lost in Baseline					3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	\$48
								3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	\$39
									3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	\$36
Expected Loss to Date																				\$123

* decision on 24-25 will be made from the Controller's Update report 3/24 - if the City has a \$200 million deficit, the annual allocation will be suspended again – budget projections for the next few years suggest this loss will continue

pandemic, the annual allocation has been suspended and continues to be threatened while millions in funds have been awarded to other non-senior & disability related areas. **This loss is cumulative.** The annual allocation is added to the baseline and continues each year of the Dignity Fund legislation. Suspension of the allocation from FYS 21, 23, and 24 represents a **loss of \$123 million in services and supports for older adults and adults with disabilities.**

The needs of older adults and people with disabilities have historically been overlooked, even though older adults and adults living with a disability represent about 25% of the population. With 30% of this segment living alone, their health and well being is further constrained due to poverty and the ever-increasing costs of living in the City.

Older Adults are the Fastest Growing Age Group





Impact on the Senior and Disability Community:

Since its establishment in 2017, the Dignity Fund has expanded needed services and supports to older adults and adults with disabilities, including targeted services to communities of color, LGBTQ individuals, and neighborhoods which have historically been left behind.

Based on DAS's recently approved Dignity Fund Services and Allocation plan, services cut from the 2023-2024 budget without the \$3 million allocation included **Case Management & Care Navigation**, and **Community Connection & Engagement**. Proposed services under Case Management & Care Navigation would have **better met the needs of the LGBTQ+ and BIPOC communities, reduced wait lists, and helped support higher acuity clients**. Currently, the citywide case management program has a waitlist of 167 clients with an average wait time of 2 months.

Without the 2024-2025 allocation, service cuts will impact **Access & Empowerment, Caregiver Support**, and **Housing Support**. These programs help older adults, adults with disabilities, and caregivers **access available services and resources, with a focus on the City's diverse communities**. It would also have implemented recommendations from the recent **Aging and Disability Affordable Housing Needs Assessment, including home modifications and housing subsidies** that support these populations in maintaining safe housing.

How You Can Support:

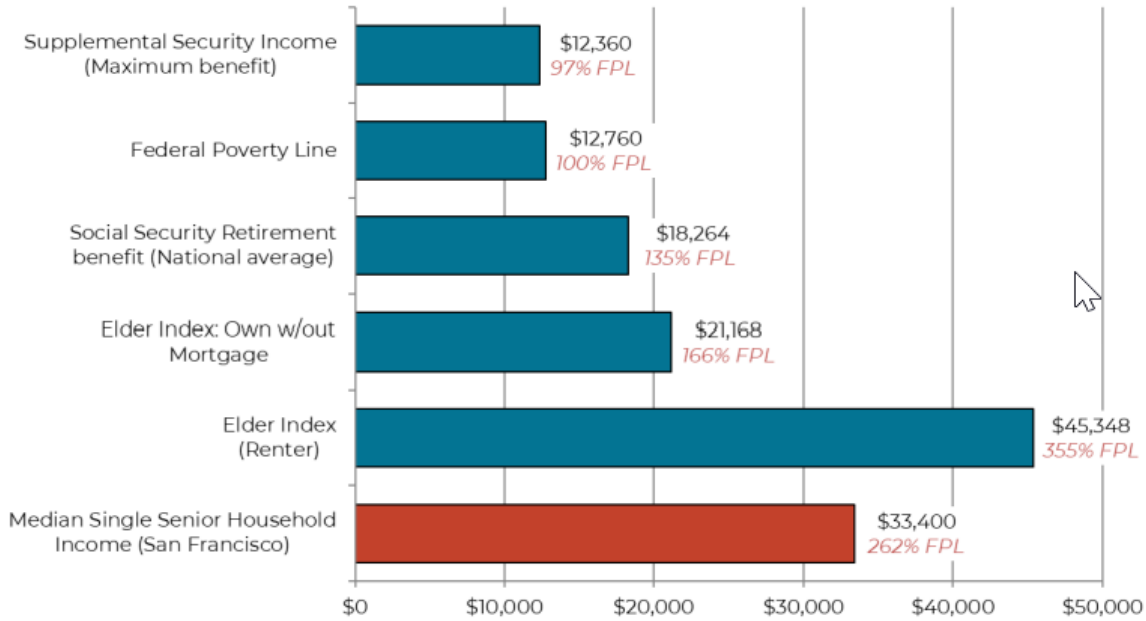
The Dignity Fund provides pragmatic solutions in the form of programs and services to support older adults and adults with disabilities in living well in community. We need our civic leaders to keep the promise of the voter approved Dignity Fund and allocate funds to avoid disruption of services. The senior and disabled community of San Francisco was hit hard by the pandemic, struggled through the recovery, and represents the fastest growing homeless population. That times are tough should not translate into leaving our most at risk behind but a challenge to do more to lend a helping hand.

This is an opportunity for you to support some of your most at-risk constituents and ensure continuity of programs & services that enable them to age with Dignity. We urge you to put this issue on the table in your deliberations with the Mayor's Office. Finding a way to restore this annual budget allocation and continue the annual \$3 million allocation of the Dignity Fund to the [Dept of Disability and Aging Services \(DAS\)](#) to administer the funds and ensures delivery of critical services based on a most thorough needs assessment process funded by the Dignity Fund.



Older Adults Living in San Francisco

The Cost of Living in San Francisco Far Exceeds Federal Poverty Guidelines and Government Benefits



Sources: Social Security Administration, Supplemental Security Income in California, 2020
 U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, 2020 Poverty Guidelines
 Social Security Administration, Monthly Statistical Snapshot, October 2020
 UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, Elder Economic Security Standard Index 2019
 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (accessed via IPUMS)

Chart A. San Francisco Seniors (Age 60+)
 Total = 187,679

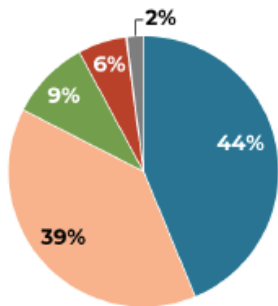
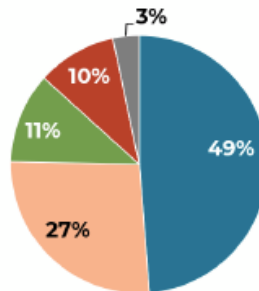


Chart B. San Francisco Seniors (Age 60+) in Poverty
 Total = 23,870



Source: American Community Survey 2020 5-Year Estimates. Accessed through University of Minnesota IPUMS-USA datasets.



Poverty by Age

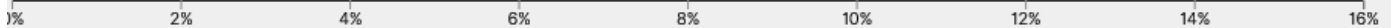
in San Francisco County, California

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Under 18 years - 5.7%

18 to 64 years - 9.9%

65 years and over - 15.7%



Show Table Display Margin of Error

S1701 | 2022 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

District	Eligible Population: Older Adults 65+	Eligible Population: Low-to-Moderate Income Older Adults 65+	Eligible Population: Adults with Disabilities 18-64	Eligible Population: Low-to-Moderate Income Adults with Disabilities 18-64
1	13,207	3,364	2,920	614
2	9,887	1,818	1,570	226
3	14,486	7,200	3,756	1,308
4	15,031	2,896	2,550	405
5	11,621	4,645	4,101	1,400
6	10,097	6,338	7,570	3,795
7	13,574	2,138	1,954	319
8	9,706	2,241	2,803	647
9	10,376	3,441	4,425	1,043
10	10,001	3,707	3,831	1,272
11	14,748	4,085	3,412	511
San Francisco	132,734	41,873	38,892	11,540

Data Sources: IPUMS NHGIS, American Community Survey, 2019 5-Year Estimates (Table B17024 - Age by Ratio of Income to Poverty Level in the Past 12 Months, Table C18130 - Age by Disability Status by Poverty Status).