

Sheila de la Guerra **Public Comment**

From: Lisa Brabo <Lbrabo@fsacares.org>
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To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment for April 13 Budget Workshop - Social Services
Attachments: 4-13-26 - FSA Public Comment for Budget Workshop - AAA Services.pdf

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Hello,
Please see the attached public comment for the BOS budget workshop on April 13, 2026.
Thank you,
Lisa

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Public Comment for April 13, 2026 Santa Barbara County Budget Workshop
Family Service Agency of Santa Barbara County
Social Services Budget – Match for 2026-27 Area Agency on Aging

Family Service Agency (FSA) is applying to be the new Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties. The AAA receives approximately \$4.45 million per year for services for older adults and caregivers in the two counties. In addition, the AAA receives about \$450,000 per year to administer the AAA. Match is required for both the service and administration funds. The service match is provided by the service agencies.

FSA is requesting help with the required administrative match, which is generally in the Department of Social Services budget. The total administrative match is \$138,855 per year, which equates to \$76,702 for SB County and \$65,153 for SLO County. FSA will be providing \$37,658 of the match, and is thus requesting the remaining \$55,900 from SB County and \$45,297 from SLO County for the 2026-27 fiscal year. Without the match, FSA would not be able to draw down the AAA funding, which primarily is comprised of the \$4.45 million in service funds for older adults and caregivers.

Santa Barbara County receives about 55.24% of \$4.45 million for services for older adults and caregivers, which is about \$2.46 million. San Luis Obispo County receives 44.76% of the service funds, which is about \$1.99 million.

The bottom line for Santa Barbara County, is that for \$55,900 in match, \$2.46 million is received for services for older adults and caregivers in the county.

SERVICES

This service funding pays for services to help people age 60 and older, as well as caregivers. Services are designed to help older adults stay healthy, safe, and independent in their homes and communities. Services are focused on those with greatest economic and social need, with a particular focus on people with low incomes.

Funds pay for important services like meals, transportation, caregiver support, resource connection, mental health counseling, and protection from abuse. Some services funded are required by the Older Americans Act, and some are determined based on a local needs assessment. Services provided are consistent with the Santa Barbara County Master Plan for Aging.

Approximately 6,000 older adults and caregivers in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties benefit from the direct services described below. Plus an additional 6,700 people living in long-term care facilities benefit from the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

Services for Older Adults

AAAs provide vital programs that promote health, safety and independence for older adults, including:

- **Home-Delivered and Congregate Meals:** Nutritious meals delivered to your home or served in community settings. Low-income older adults often can't afford food after paying other bills, and many older adults are no longer able to prepare food for themselves.
- **In-Home Support Services:** Help with everyday tasks such as bathing, dressing and light housekeeping. These services can allow older adults to continue living in their own homes.
- **Transportation:** Rides to medical appointments, grocery stores and community activities. Many older adults are no longer driving, and transportation services are critical to their ability to meet daily needs.
- **Health and Wellness Programs:** Classes and workshops that promote physical activity, chronic disease management and fall prevention. This also includes home modifications for safety and accessibility, such as grab bars and ramps. And support groups and counseling to help older adults and caregivers adjust to changing life circumstances.
- **Benefits Counseling:** Assistance navigating Medicare, Medicaid and other public benefits. This is a high-demand service given the complexities of insurance and benefits.
- **Information and Referral Services:** Help finding and accessing local resources. Meeting basic needs such as food, utility costs, rent, and prescriptions are frequent requests, in addition to transportation for doctor and other appointments.

Services for Caregivers

Caring for a loved one can be rewarding but also overwhelming. AAAs offer support and relief for caregivers through:

- **Respite Care:** Temporary relief services so caregivers can take a break.
- **Training and Education:** Workshops and resources to help caregivers build skills and confidence.
- **Support Groups and Counseling:** Emotional support and connection with others in similar situations.
- **Information and Referral Services:** Help finding and accessing local resources tailored to your caregiving needs.

AAAs also fund the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program, which monitors the care of residents in long-term care facilities. The Ombudsman also help families make decisions about level of care needed, as well as help families prevent evictions of loved ones who are living in facilities. Santa Barbara County has over 5,000 people living in long-term care facilities (nursing homes and assisted living facilities).