

Master Plan For Aging

Hope For The Central Valley to Age Well

Joy Moreno - Deputy Director, Fresno County DSS

Fresno County Department of Social Services

- DSS provides safety net services to over 500,000 Fresno County Residents
- Public assistance through Cal Works, Cal Fresh, General Relief, Medi-Cal determination and employment services and supports coordinated entry system in partnership with Fresno Madera Continuum of Care to support housing and homeless needs.
- Over 180,000 residents 60 years or older reside in Fresno County
- Each rural incorporated cities is home to at least 500 older adults, so there are 50,000 older adults living outside of the Fresno Metro service area

Adult Services Branch

- Adult Protective Services received over 4,000 reports of elder abuse in 2020.
- In Home Supportive Services Program serves over 21,731 recipients
- County Veterans Service Office serves over 4,000 veterans per year
- The Public Authority maintains a Registry of providers (891) to match with recipients who need a caregiver in IHSS.

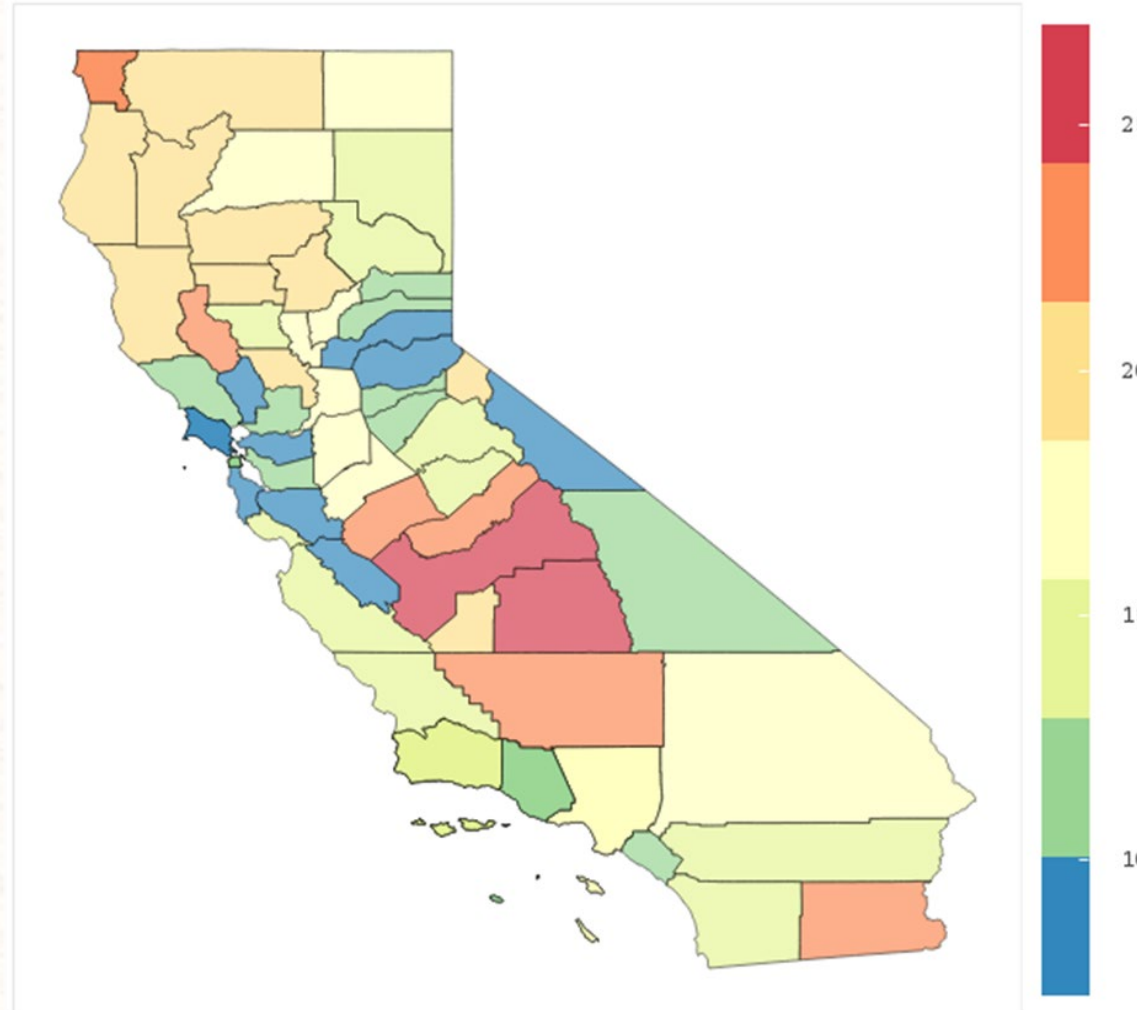
Kathy Greenlee, Assistant Secretary for Aging, said that **self-neglect** is a sign of “not aging well because of a number of circumstances”. She described that “over time certain things affect people and if they don’t have the housing, support or money to take care of it, or they remain isolated, then it suddenly becomes a crisis situation.”

She also said that APS can’t do this work alone.

Poverty Rate: Implications to Aging Well

- National rate: 13.7%*
- California rate: 15%*
- At 27%, Tulare County a central valley county has highest poverty rate in California *
- At 25 % Fresno County has second highest poverty rate in California, broken down, rural areas in general have a much higher rate*
- This can result in older adults needing to make painful and life impactful decisions on how to spend what little income they have to live on.
- While disability prevalence increases with age, cost burdened adults may not be able to afford to prepare or repair their home to address their needs which may further complicate their safety and well being.
 - These situations contribute to “self-neglect” types of referrals.
- *www.welfareinfo.org

California Percent of Population Below Poverty Rate By County



Challenges in Fresno County

- Lack of Affordable and Safe Housing
- Food insecurity
- Support Caregivers more
- Isolation
- Affording aging
- Accessibility to service needs, digital divide, broadband access, technology, resources
- Access to health care, especially preventative
- Transportation

OPPORTUNITY:

- The MPA as “door not the destination.”
- Allowing our community to identify what it wants to focus on among the five priority goals
- Support independence and self determination throughout the aging process and prevent institutionalization
- Reorganization at higher levels in government to support infrastructure for the MPA, workforce development and bold long-term services and supports

HOPE

- Pandemic has exposed the challenges and the needs of older adults
- Our county has an opportunity to move forward on the Master Plan for Aging and break barriers
- Sharing a goal and vision for the future
- Thinking BIG and beyond our own agencies for our Community
- Funding to support Central Valley counties who face tougher challenges due to extreme poverty
- Intervention and prevention focus of services through partnerships on what is possible
- Increase Older Americans Act Funding

Participate

- Use the Master Plan for Aging Local Playbook
- Begin considering your own work or needs and how it will fit in to the goals
- Contribute your ideas
- Reimagine our work – to create communities for the future of aging well

Wishes for the Future

- I want to be happy
 - Contribute
 - Enjoy friends
 - Be successful at life
 - Do well financially
 - Be passionate about what I do
 - Continue to develop
-
- Let's do this!