

Frequently Asked Questions about Prop I and the Dignity Fund

September 11, 2016

1. What is the problem being addressed?

San Francisco seniors and adults with disabilities are a vital part of San Francisco. Throughout their lives, they've contributed to the City we know and love. But, for years, funding for programs and services hasn't kept pace with the growth of these populations.

- Right now, 24% of San Franciscans are aged 60 and over plus people living with disabilities. By 2030, that number will grow to over 30%.
- With many seniors and adults with disabilities living on fixed incomes, San Francisco's rapidly rising cost of living makes it even harder to get by.
- Approximately 50% of seniors and almost 70% of adults with disabilities live on less than 300% of the federal poverty level (FPL*).

**In 2015, FPL in San Francisco for a single person was \$11,770 -- and 300% of the FPL was \$35,310.*

2. What are the demographic projections* for seniors in San Francisco?

- 2016 - 163,912 (20%)
- 2020 - 204,705 (25%)
- 2030 - 249,601 (30%)

**There are no demographic projects for adults with disabilities.*

3. How will the legislation get enacted?

As Prop I, an amendment to San Francisco's City Charter, which must be approved by a majority of those who vote November 8th.

4. What will the Prop I do?

Prop I will: (1) stabilize funding for today's services and support; and (2) establish a dedicated fund - created with a percentage of the General Fund set aside to address currently unmet and emerging needs.

- The measure first creates a baseline of \$38 million for services for seniors and adults with disabilities, allowing them to remain at home and in the community.
- Then, to create the Dignity Fund, the City would set aside money from its General Fund to increase funding by \$6 million in the 1st year and \$3 million additionally each year for the next 9 years. For the following 10 years, the additional annual amount would be determined by changes in City revenues.

5. Specifically, who will benefit from Prop I?

- San Franciscans aged 60 and older
- Adults of all ages with disabilities
- Isolated LGBT older adults
- Veterans
- Caregivers
- Older adults living with HIV/AIDS
- Older adults living with dementia
- Those with other significant chronic conditions

6. What will happen if San Francisco does not increase funding for these services?

For ALL older adults and adults with disabilities:

- Increased private fundraising will not be possible.
- Much longer waitlists will be required.
- Reduced days of service will be required.
- Some smaller programs will close.
- More seniors will become homeless.
- Increased demand on:
 - Adult Protective Services and ER services.
 - Increased hospitalization re-admissions.
 - Increased involvement of the city jail system.

For people aging with HIV – who were not expected to live this long:

- Increased isolation.
- Little or no mental health services.
- Little or no psycho-social support.
- Greater levels of depression.
- Decreased food security.
- Increased evictions.
- Increased poverty.

For people with Alzheimer’s & Related Dementias:

- 40% are without close or any family support.
- ERs are now heavily used by demented people.
- Nursing Facility beds are nearly non-existent.
- There will be:
 - An increase of 10,000 people with dementia by 2030.
 - Higher rates of emergency hospitalization.
 - Increasing numbers of people:
 - With “no place to go” after a hospitalization.
 - On the streets with agitation/confusion–or in jail.

7. Which City department will be responsible to administer the Dignity Fund?

- The Department of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) would administer the Dignity Fund. DAAS would receive the funds and develop Requests for Proposals (RFPs) in order to seek programs and services in specific categories to better serve seniors and adults with disabilities. The RFPs would be published so that nonprofit service providers can respond with proposals for funding.

8. Who determines how funds will be spent, how oversight will be handled, how the need for new services be determined, and how equity will be ensured?

- DAAS will undertake a needs assessment every four years, as required by the State of California.
- An Oversight and Advisory Committee would be established to:
 - (1) Develop and oversee additional needs assessments;
 - (2) Undertake the planning and allocation process; and
 - (3) Ensure that the funds are spent equitably, and where the needs are highest
- The Oversight and Advisory Committee will build on the DAAS needs assessment to determine service gaps and address equity.
 - Opportunities will be created to obtain input about service needs from a cross-section of stakeholders: seniors, veterans, those aging with HIV, adults with disabilities, adults with other chronic illnesses, caregivers, nonprofit agencies, and other members of the public.

- The goal will be to distribute funds equitably among services for all eligible groups, regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or gender identity.
- In considering equity, the Committee will look at community needs – and how to meet them in the most culturally and ethnically appropriate ways.

9. What recommendations will the Oversight and Advisory Committee develop?

- Specifically, the Oversight and Advisory Committee will develop recommendations for DAAS and the Fund regarding:
 - Outcomes for services,
 - Evaluation of services,
 - Common data systems,
 - A process for making funding decisions,
 - Planning and evaluating services,
 - Leveraging dollars of the Fund, and
 - Use of the Fund as a catalyst for innovation.

10. Who will be on the Oversight and Advisory Committee?

This Committee will be comprised of a total of 11 members:

- 2 members of the DAAS Commission
 - Appointed by the Mayor
- 3 members of the DAAS Advisory Council
 - Appointed by the Board of Supervisors
- 3 members of the Long Term Care Council (LTCCC)
 - Recruited by the LTCCC
 - Appointed by the Mayor
- 3 members chosen at large
 - Appointed by the Mayor

11. Does the creation of the Dignity Fund raise taxes?

No, it does not raise taxes. It sets aside a small portion of the city's General Fund - a set amount in the first 10 years and then a percentage that the General Fund grows each year.

12. What are the benefits of set-asides?

Dedicated funding or “set-asides” are a way to set priorities in the City’s budget.

Set-Asides can:

- Provide a consistent source of funds for services that have not historically gotten sufficient support.
- Enable community agencies delivering these services to avoid competition for limited funds each year in the budget process.
- Set-asides guarantee needed funding for vital services – they have been used in the past to support services for: police, fire, libraries, transportation, and children.
- Just as families set aside funding for important expenditures like a home, or car, or education, so San Francisco can set aside a modest amount of funding to support 24% to 30% of the City’s population.

13. Has San Francisco already used set-asides to set budget priorities?

Yes, over the years, San Francisco voters supported set-asides for causes they think are under-funded. Some of these set-asides include:

- Children’s Fund – \$59.9 million

- Public Education Enrichment Fund - \$90.4 million
- Library Preservation Fund - \$46.1 million
- MTA Fund - \$297.8 million

14. What kinds of services will be supported?

- Home & Community-Based Care
 - Homemaker services, home health aides
 - Adult day health services, respite care
 - Prevention and wellness services
- Food & Nutrition Programs
- Consumer & Caregiver Education
- Empowerment & Support
- Community & Service Centers
- Self-Advocacy & Legal Services
- Health & Wellness Promotion
- Outreach & Planning
- Housing Support Services – *see below*.

15. What about housing – a much needed service?

The Dignity Fund will not have the resources to support housing construction, but it will be able to provide supportive services for seniors and adults with disabilities living in housing. Thousands of seniors and adults with disabilities live in housing units that are not physically accessible. Growing numbers of seniors find themselves homeless and needing temporary housing. Unmet and emerging needs could include:

- Stabilizing housing to enable people to age in place successfully through:
 - Eviction protection
 - Housing preservation
 - Housing modification for accessibility improvements
- Elevator repairs in SROs
- Temporary housing for homeless seniors

16. How does home and community-based care save money versus institutional care?

- Providing home and community-based care will result in fewer visits to the ER as well as delayed and shorter stays in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.
- A review of nursing home costs to Medicare by Brown University showed that for every \$1 spend on nutrition for seniors, \$50 is saved in skilled nursing cost.
- The U.S. spends \$48 Billion each year in healthcare costs related to “falls.” A national study showed that MOW programs/daily check-ins reduce falls risk by 20%
- MOWSF can provide a full year of service(s) to a client for the cost of one day of hospitalization or one week in a skilled nursing facility

Link to Needs Assessment:

<http://www.sfhsa.org/asset/ReportsDataResources/DAASNeedsAssessment2016Report2.pdf>