

2010 Local Safety Net Initiative

California's recent budget cuts are being felt by seniors in every community in Alameda County. Decisions made in Sacramento have reduced or eliminated virtually every public service that helps vulnerable seniors live safely in their communities. Additional cuts may be coming, placing an increasing burden on local public safety services over the coming months. It is time for stakeholders in senior services to adjust our advocacy lens to examine the local level and direct efforts to preventing seniors from falling through the new cracks created by California's budget policy.

The purpose of the Local Safety Net Initiative

- **Facilitate** strategic connections, coordination and resource sharing among local service providers.
- **Develop** local asset maps that will describe the current status of seniors in the community in quantitative and qualitative ways, and will facilitate stakeholder discussions and coordination.
- **Inform** local elected officials about the status of seniors in their communities and practical actions they can take to protect the health and safety of their senior constituents.

The Local Safety Net Initiative identifies "service providers" as any organization or group that connects with seniors within a city in a meaningful way. Thus the Initiative includes:

- Nonprofit health and social services organizations
- Public/government entities
- Community centers (including libraries and recreation centers)
- Emergency responders such as fire and police
- Community and Neighborhood groups, both formal and informal/volunteer
- Faith-based organizations

Following an initial research and survey phase, the Senior Services Coalition selected the **cities of San Leandro and Hayward, and a City Council district in Oakland**, as the communities for the Initiative's focus. Convenings will be scheduled in the Fall.

Find out more about the Initiative at <http://seniorservicescoalition.org/safetynet>

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