

Alameda County Area Agency on Aging Executive Summary

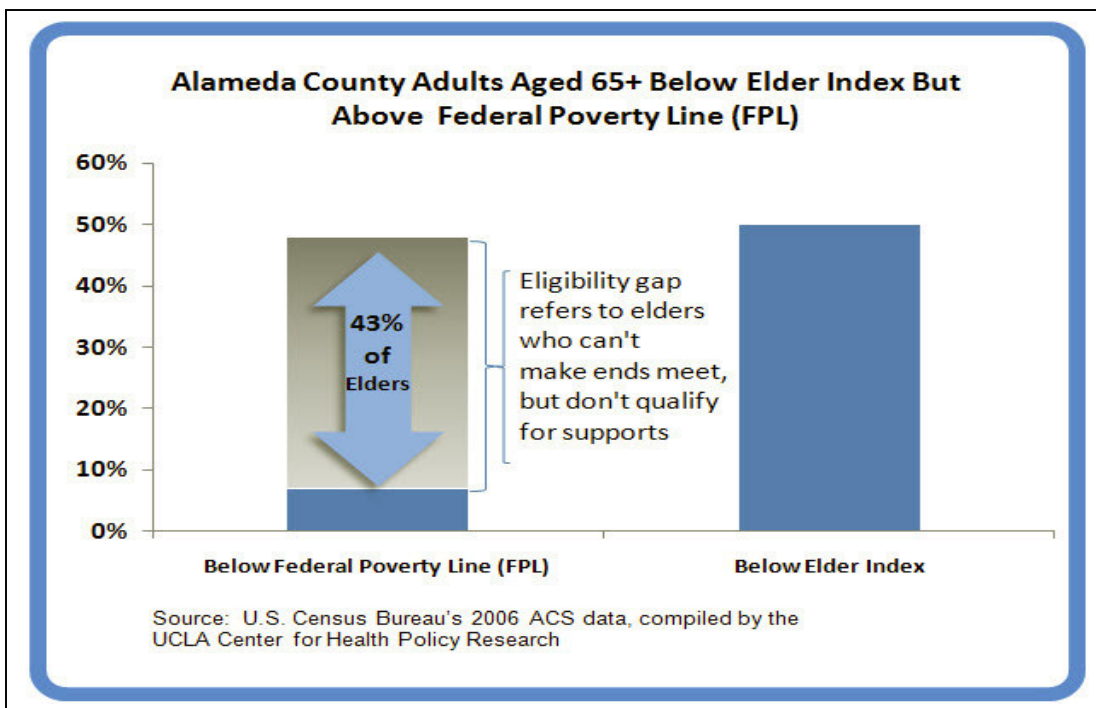
The Alameda County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) provides planning, support and service delivery to more than 25,000 seniors in the county. The AAA's services fall under the auspices of the Older American's Act of 1965, which established the Administration on Aging (AOA), and which authorized states to determine local planning units to address the needs of seniors. The AAA is one of 33 Area Agencies on Aging in the state of California.

The AAA's core responsibilities are to plan and provide services for seniors. The AAA's planning efforts include a needs assessment, which incorporates surveys, demographic data, and focus groups to develop a comprehensive picture of needs in the county. The needs assessment in turn influences the Area Plan as well as funding allocations for services.

The AAA's key projects for 2009-2010 include the continuation of its needs assessment, which began in January of 2009. Surveys have been developed and are being translated in multiple languages, and focus groups and key informant surveys will occur in the summer of 2009. The results of the needs assessment will be incorporated in the annual update of the Area Plan, for year 2010-2011. Information from the last needs assessment is included in this Area Plan.

The AAA will also launch a request for proposal (RFP) for services. The AAA anticipates that the RFP will be generated in December 2009, with the expectation that contracts will be awarded to begin in July 2010. The AAA currently contracts with 40 community-based organizations and manages more than 80 contracts. The new RFP will likely generate a wide response, and will involve the AAA staff, commissioners and outside experts who will serve on review panels.

This year's Goals and Objectives reflect several concerns, including transportation, mental health and poverty as key issues. In terms of the latter, the AAA is very engaged with the Insight Center for Community Economic Development's California Elder Economic Security Index, which provides information about the true measure of poverty. In Alameda County for example, the Federal poverty level is \$10,800, but for a single senior living in a rental, the true cost of living expenses is \$25,153¹. As the chart below shows, 50% of elders have income less than necessary to cover expenses. The AAA will continue its involvement to formerly adopt the Elder Economic Security Index as an accurate measure of the true cost of living in the county.



Finally, the AAA will continue its involvement with nonprofit groups and coalitions working to better the life of seniors. In an environment with substantial budget cuts, it remains critical to collaborate with other organizations to ensure that senior services remain available. Where possible, staff will contribute time and capacity building support to organizations, and will also work to identify other funding opportunities available.

¹ Analysis provided by the Insight Center for Community & Economic Development