



MOW 2025 SURVEY

14/58 Counties = Representing 24.1% of Counties

14/32 Planning and Service Area (PSA) = Representing 43.75% of PSA



KEY FINDINGS

- Client Increases in last 5 years reported - 18,090
- Reporting an average increase of 182% in last 5 years
- Average Rate of inflation reported 18% across respondents
- 62% Reported existing wait-lists
- 59% reporting a plan implementation for a wait list within the next year.



Growing Population

By 2030, older adults will outnumber children for the first time in U.S. history. The Census Bureau predicts that by then, 21% of the population will be seniors, with **1 in 4 adults** over 60 in California alone. This growth reflects the increasing need for addressing increasing needs of older adults.



Growing Waitlists

One in three programs in California currently already has a waiting list according to Meals on Wheels America. Of those reporting in MOW California Survey, **62% had one and 59% of those without one plan to in the next year.**



POPULATION GROWTH, DIVESTMENT & INFLATION

As California's 60+ population increases by an average of 157,000 annually for the next seven years, Meals on Wheels programs across the state grapple with a widening disparity between existing funding and surging demand. Stagnant funding has resulted in a downward trend of overall ability to meet needs of the increasing older adult population growth. Since 2021, we have seen a **20.45% inflation** on food costs. Inflation alone accounts for a reduction of **4.2 million meals**. This does not account for statewide wait lists of unfunded meals, nor the growing demand that cannot be addressed without additional resources.



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