



PROTECT THE MEAL

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET REVISION SEEKS TO CUT \$111 MILLION

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. **The proposed cut would result in an estimated 17.2 million fewer meals across California.** This accounts for an annual reduction of **5.7 million** meals without accounting for inflation, wait lists, unfunded meals, and a growing demand in which we cannot address across the state.



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 top-notch services for seniors.



Funding Shortfall

One in three programs in California currently has a waiting list, leaving seniors waiting an average of three months for meals. These cuts will make matters worse, resulting in more waitlists, greater hunger, and a higher number of malnutrition-related deaths among seniors who may lose their only consistent meal.



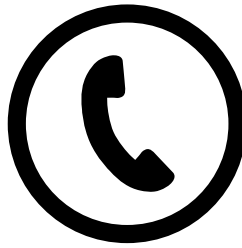
Proven Solution

Meals on Wheels keeps seniors healthy, independent, and out of costly institutional care, saving public funds. Expanding medically-supportive meal programs like Meals on Wheels nationwide could prevent 1.6 million hospitalizations, saving insurers \$13.6 billion annually.

Make a Difference: Support Seniors



Email your local legislature and communicate with them. Sign on to the draft letter of opposition below using the QR code.



Call the local and state office and speak with staff to oppose this recommendation.



Visit your legislature at both your local and statewide office to communicate opposition.

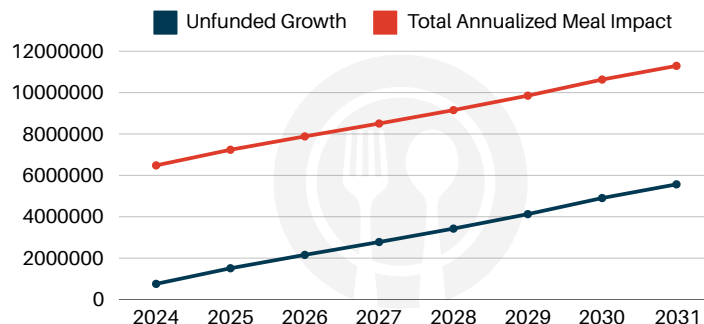
[Find your legislature](#)

BY THE NUMBERS

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Total 60+	9,420,858	9,593,193	9,740,690	9,882,735	10,030,567	10,190,332	10,367,911	10,519,172
Net 60+ Growth	172,372	172,335	147,497	142,045	147,832	159,765	177,579	151,261
% Annual growth	1.86%	1.83%	1.54%	1.46%	1.50%	1.59%	1.74%	1.46%
Unmet Seniors to maintain 1.2% rate	2,068	2,068	1,770	1,705	1,774	1,917	2,131	1,815
Yearly Unmet Meals	754,989	754,827	646,037	622,157	647,504	699,771	777,796	662,523
Cost of Unmet Meals	\$4,877,229	\$4,876,184	\$4,173,398	\$4,019,135	\$4,182,877	\$4,520,519	\$5,024,562	\$4,279,900
Total Cut + Unmet Need	\$41,877,231	\$41,876,184	\$41,173,398	\$41,019,135	\$41,182,877	\$41,520,519	\$42,024,562	\$41,279,900
Total Annualized Meal Impact	-6,482,543	-7,237,370	-7,883,407	-8,505,564	-9,153,068	-9,852,839	-10,630,635	-11,293,158

POPULATION PROJECTIONS PREPARED BY DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH UNIT, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, MARCH 2024.
PERCENTAGE AND COST OF UNMET MEALS AND IMPACT DETERMINED THROUGH LATEST COMPLETE 20/21 DATA FROM CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING'S HOME-DELIVERED NUTRITION PROGRAM FACT SHEET.

HELP PROTECT CALIFORNIA'S GROWING SENIOR POPULATION



Sign our letter of support