



COUNTY OF ORANGE

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Orange County Older Adults Needs Assessment Report Now Available

Santa Ana, Calif. (March 11, 2025) – The *Orange County Older Adults Needs Assessment Report* has been posted to the Board of Supervisors' March 11, 2025 agenda. This report is aimed at understanding and addressing the evolving needs of Orange County's growing older adult population.

"Ensuring the well-being of our older residents is a top priority," said Chair Doug Chaffee, Fourth District. "This assessment equips us with the data needed to make informed decisions that will enhance services and improve quality of life for seniors across the county."

Among the report's key findings, health-related concerns ranked as the top issues for older adults in Orange County. The five most pressing health concerns identified were Alzheimer's disease and dementia, arthritis, cancer, heart disease and stroke, and emotional well-being.

Vice Chair Katrina Foley, Fifth District, shares, "As our county residents grow older, we know that means a third of Orange County will be over 55 by 2050. We must plan for their housing, caregiving, and quality of life needs. The needs assessment kick starts our efforts to build a master plan for aging that allows future seniors of all backgrounds to live well in Orange County in their golden years."

Despite the challenges caregivers face, many expressed that their role brings them significant value and meaning.

"This report highlights the critical challenges our older residents face," added Supervisor Janet Nguyen, First District. "We must work together to create targeted solutions that improve access to healthcare, social services, and community support."

Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento, Second District, stated, "The needs outlined in the report highlight the significant work still required to ensure we are ready to provide the crucial services our aging population will need. Supporting seniors with dignity and respect throughout the aging process involves more than just delivering services; it also requires offering support to their families and caregivers."

Paid providers in Orange County identified several critical health and social issues affecting the older adult population. Among the most pressing concerns are Alzheimer's disease and dementia, caregiving, mental health and disability.

"This report reinforces our commitment to strengthening healthcare, caregiver assistance, and community services to help seniors live with dignity and independence," said Supervisor Donald P. Wagner, Third District.

Background



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In June 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom issued an executive order calling for the creation of a statewide California Master Plan for Aging (MPA). This plan affirms the priority of the health and well-being of older Californians and the need for policies that promote healthy aging. The MPA serves as a 10-year blueprint for state and local governments, the private sector, and philanthropy, ensuring California remains a leader in aging, disability, and equity.

As part of Orange County's process in developing its local Master Plan on Aging, a needs assessment was conducted to better understand the challenges, opportunities, and necessary resources for our aging population.

The report aligns survey findings within the state's five bold goals:

- **Goal 1** – Housing for All Ages & Stages
- **Goal 2** – Health Reimagined
- **Goal 3** – Inclusion & Equity, Not Isolation
- **Goal 4** – Caregiving that Works
- **Goal 5**- Affordable Aging

The Orange County Older Adults Needs Assessment Report includes surveys gathered in collaboration with local government agencies, nonprofit organizations and older adults themselves to ensure an accurate and inclusive representation of community needs. This report includes key findings from the assessment and provides critical insights that will help shape local policies and programs for years to come.

To read the report or for more information, visit <https://officeonaging.ocgov.com/master-plan-aging/orange-county-older-adults-needs-assessment>.

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