

Creating a More Age and Disability-Friendly Salinas Valley:

Our Journey Towards an Inclusive Future

A Landmark Initiative for Older Adults and People with Disabilities in Monterey County

The Alliance on Aging (AOA) is proud to announce a significant milestone in our mission to support the older adults and people with disabilities, and their families, in the Salinas Valley. Thanks to a generous grant from the California Department of Aging, we are moving forward in developing a Local Age and Disabilities Action Plan (LADAP). The geographic scope of the plan includes the following zip codes within the city of Salinas, North and South Monterey County: 95039, 93426, 93450, 93901, 93902, 93905, 93906, 93907, 93915, 93925, 93926, 93927, 93930, 93932, 93960, 95004, 95012, 95076. This plan aims to identify existing resources and address critical needs across social participation, health and community supports, transportation, housing, outdoor spaces, disaster preparedness and services, civic participation and employment, and communication and information domains, especially for the diverse communities of older adults and people with disabilities who live in our agricultural heartland.

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Our Approach: A Community-Centric Blueprint

Our goal is to create a consumer-driven blueprint that not only addresses current challenges but also anticipates future needs.

To achieve this, we have been collaborating with our local Area Agency on Aging, our local Aging and Disabilities Resource Connection (ADRC) and 3 Advisory Committees comprising stakeholders with lived experience and representatives from various sectors including housing, healthcare, transportation, senior services, education, the faith community, the farmworker community, government, business, and most importantly, older adults and people with disabilities.

The diverse and comprehensive advisory committees are guiding the development of our action plan, starting with a comprehensive community assessment to identify the specific needs and priorities of priority populations in the city of Salinas and North and South Monterey County. We will engage with local organizations, community leaders, and residents themselves to ensure the plan is rooted in real-world insights and experiences, builds on existing resources and services, and is tailored to local priorities.

Looking Ahead: Implementation and Sustainability

The final plan will be subject to approval by the Advisory Committees and local jurisdictions, with the aim of integrating it into the broader planning framework of Monterey County's services for older adults and people with disabilities. This plan will not only serve as a roadmap for AOA but will also inspire and guide our partners and collaborators in their ongoing and future efforts to support age- and disability-friendly communities in the Salinas Valley.

About Alliance on Aging

For over 52 years, the Alliance on Aging has stood as Monterey County's premier non-profit organization dedicated to serving

the needs of older adults and people with disabilities. From our humble beginnings as a volunteer-driven initiative, we have grown into a multi-faceted agency providing a wide range of services and programs designed to ensure older adults can live safely, with dignity and independence, in their own homes. Our programs include Medicare Counseling & Education (HICAP), Senior Peer Counseling, Nursing Home Information & Advocacy, Tax Counseling for the Elderly, Benefits Checkup, a Senior Outreach Luncheon, and the Salinas HUB One-Stop Center. With offices in Salinas and Monterey, and outreach efforts spanning the county, we are committed to making Monterey County a better place for older adults and people with disabilities.

Join Us in Shaping a Brighter Future

We invite you to join us in this vital initiative. Whether you are an older adult, a person with a disability, a caregiver, a community leader, or simply someone who cares about the future of Monterey County, your support and involvement are crucial. Together, we can build age-and disability-friendly communities that honor the dignity and contributions of all its members.

For more information, to get involved, or to offer your support, please contact tsullivan@allianceonaging.org

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