

CCoA
California Commission on Aging

AGEWATCH

Rising number of older workers to outpace growth of the overall workforce, Senate report finds

A December 2017 hearing of the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging focused on the challenges and opportunities of a growing number of older Americans in the workforce. The hearing, titled *America's Aging Workforce: Opportunities and Challenges*, examined the impacts of increasing numbers of older workers in the U.S. labor force, from 35.2 million older workers in 2016 to 42.1 million by 2026. The Committee's findings are detailed in the subsequent report, [America's Aging Workforce: Opportunities and Challenges](#), and include:

- The number of older workers is increasing faster than the overall rate of labor force growth. By 2026, the overall labor force is expected to grow by 0.6%, while the number of workers ages 65 to 74 is projected to grow by 4.2 percent annually and the number of workers ages 75 and above by 6.7 percent annually.
- Most employers acknowledge the trend of the aging workforce; few are offering more flexible scheduling or opportunities for part-time work.
- A growing group of aging workers are caregivers and some employers are implementing strategies to support them.
- Work is linked with improved health and well-being.

The report points to the percentage of retirees who later return to work (approximately 30%), with socioeconomic factors, health, and changes in the economy or government policies also factoring into an older individual's decision to remain working or to retire.

Looking ahead, the report recommends policy changes that can help workers leverage benefits and overcome the challenges in ways that benefit not only workers and their families, but their employers, their communities, and the nation overall. Such policies should:

- Allow flexibility so individuals can carve their own career paths and determine for themselves when and how they retire.
- Value and respect the decisions of older adults to continue working, to volunteer, or to find another way to achieve their personal and professional goals.
- Help workers remain financially secure while confronting challenges that may arise with age, such as caregiving responsibilities or health conditions.

To learn more about this work and view testimony from the hearing, click [here](#). To view the report, click [here](#).

Information from the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging, Dec. 6, 2017.



AGEWATCH is an occasional publication of the California Commission on Aging (CCoA) intended to inform, educate, and advocate. The CCoA is an independent state agency established in 1973 to serve as the principal state advocate on behalf of older Californians. The CCoA office is located at 1300 National Drive, Suite 173, Sacramento, CA 95834. (916) 419-7591 www.ccoa.ca.gov to Unsubscribe email coaagewatch@gmail.com

What's New for Medicare in 2018

Changes are coming in 2018 for Medicare beneficiaries. The National Council on Aging explains the changes to help older adults prepare:



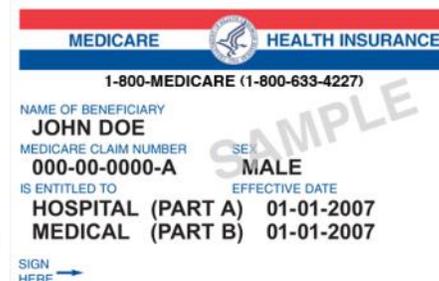
Medicare Cost and Coverage

- Generally Medicare Part B monthly premium and deductibles for 2018 won't change from \$134 (premium) and \$183 (deductible) this year. However, because of the size of the 2018 Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), approximately 42% of Medicare beneficiaries who were held harmless against the rising annual costs of Medicare in past years will see their premiums increase up to \$134.
- In addition, there have been changes to the Part B surcharge for individuals and couples with higher incomes, specifically if your income is at or above \$133,501 or if you're married with joint income above \$267,001.
- Medicare Part A inpatient hospital deductibles will also increase in 2018, going up by \$24, to \$1,340.

New Medicare Cards

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will begin issuing [new Medicare cards](#) in April 2018 that no longer include your Social Security number. The Social Security numbers will be replaced by a new Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI). The cards will be mailed to your address on file with the Social Security Administration, [so make sure your contact information is accurate](#).

It will take **12 months** to mail new cards to all Medicare beneficiaries. During this time, keep in mind that Medicare will never request personal or private information, so be wary of anyone contacting you about the new card or MBI. Once you receive your new card, destroy the old card immediately.



Special Enrollment Periods and Extensions

- Disaster Special Enrollment – Medicare beneficiaries in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands affected by the fall hurricanes and beneficiaries in the FEMA-declared emergency and major disaster areas of California may be eligible for a Special Enrollment Period that runs through March 31, 2018. Contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 or visit a local Social Security office to make an enrollment request due to disaster-related events.
- Part B Equitable Relief – If you delayed enrolling in Medicare Part B so you could stay in an Affordable Care Act Marketplace Qualified Health Plan (QHP), you may be able to enroll in Medicare Part B without penalty or with a reduced late enrollment penalty. You may be eligible for this equitable relief if you are enrolled in a QHP and you are enrolled in a premium-free Part A, AND your initial enrollment period (IEP) began April 1, 2013 or later OR if you were notified of retroactive premium-free Part A on October 2, 2013 or later. You have until Sept. 30, 2018 to request equitable relief from the Social Security Administration.

Changes Based on Star Rating – Medicare uses a star rating system to measure how Medicare Advantage and Part D plans perform. You can switch to a five-star rated Medicare Advantage Plan, Medicare Cost Plan, or Part D plan (if one is available in your area) once per year outside of annual open enrollment (Dec. 8 – Nov. 30). People in consistently low-performing Medicare Advantage or Part D plans (lower than three-star for three consecutive years) can request a Special Enrollment Period to enroll in a higher star rated plan throughout the year. *Reprinted from NCOA Week, January 3, 2018.*

The Flourish Care Model: Utilizing the Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP) to Implement a Shared-Care Approach to Health Care for Older Adults

The Aging and Disability Business Institute is hosting a webinar on the Flourish Care model. The Flourish Care model developed partnerships between primary care practices, local area agencies on aging and community coalitions to promote effective care coordination and quality care for older adults in rural areas. This is a shared-care approach to healthcare and functions from the belief that health is more than just visiting a primary care physician and taking medications. This webinar will share lessons learned from this partnership and report on preliminary results on care improvement for older adults with two or more chronic conditions. Two case studies will be presented to demonstrate how the Flourish Care model benefited rural older adults.

This webinar will take place on Tuesday, January 23 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. ET.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Information from NASUAD Friday Update, December 15, 2017.

Priced Out: The Housing Crisis for People with Disabilities

A new report from the Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) and the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Housing Task Force documents the nationwide housing affordability crisis experienced by people with disabilities. The report documents how in 2016, millions of adults with disabilities living solely on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) found that renting even a modest unit in their community would require nearly all of their monthly income. This report offers policy recommendations to address this crisis. To read the full report, [click here](#).

Information from NASUAD Friday Updates, December 15, 2017.

Promising Practices Papers Give States a Tool to Improve Long-Term Services and Supports

The AARP Public Policy Institute has released a new blog, *Giving States a Tool to Improve Long-Term Services and Supports*, in Health Affairs. This blog highlights how the Scorecard and Promising Practices reports aim to help states accelerate improvements to long-term services (LTSS) and supports for older adults, people with physical disabilities, and their family caregivers. The blog post describes how state performance varies widely; shows that progress in improving LTSS system performance has been uneven; promising practices can help states improve; and state strategies to reduce long nursing home stays.

To read AARP's summary of promising practices in the Health Affairs blog, [click here](#).

Information from NASUAD Friday Updates, December 15, 2017.

This tax season,
Support the work of the Triple-A Council of California
through
your California Voluntary Tax Contribution
Line 400
on your California Income Tax return,



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Cultivate your Leadership skills at ASA's 2018 Leadership Institute

In this time of changing policies and heightened need for advocacy, what qualities, skills, knowledge and talents do leaders in aging need to possess now and in the future? This web seminar roundtable brings together thought leaders representing different positions and viewpoints from across the field of aging to share their thoughts on these and other important questions. We don't have crystal balls but we do have fabulous ASA leaders to guide us. **The ASA Leadership Institute** is a five-day leadership development intensive that offers self-assessments of communication and leadership styles, presentations by recognized leaders in the field of aging, facilitated dialogue, networking opportunities, leadership literature and online learning. Program components are carefully designed to prepare the next generation of leaders in the field of aging.

The 2018 ASA Leadership Institute takes place during the Aging in America Conference in San Francisco, March 25-29, 2018. [Learn more and register.](#)

over
200
graduates to date



Now in its 5th year, the ASA Leadership Institute was developed in 2014 specifically for professionals and emerging leaders in the field of aging and aging-related careers.

Upcoming Events

January 8, Alzheimer's Women's Initiative. 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., California Museum for History, Women and the Arts, 1020 "O" St., Sacramento. 916-447-2731 to RSVP.

January 8-9, California Commission on Aging, Sheraton Grand Hotel, Sacramento.

www.ccoa.ca.gov for agenda.

January 24, Congress of California Seniors Convention—*Advocating for the Long-Term*, Holiday Inn Sacramento Downtown-Arena. www.seniors.org for information and to register.

February 21-22, Triple-A Council of California. Vagabond Hotel, Sacramento. www.4tacc.org for agenda and information.

February 12-14, LeadingAge California Policy & Leadership Summit. Visit LeadingAge CA website for information and to register.

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