

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES**

**LONG-TERM CARE DIVISION**

**MONITORING AND OVERSIGHT SECTION**

**Briefing: The Assisted Living Wavier (ALW)**

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<b>Purpose</b>	The purpose of this document is to provide essential information regarding the implementation of the Assisted Living Waiver (ALW).
<b>Description</b>	<p>The ALW was created by Assembly Bill 499 (Arner, Statutes 2000, Chapter 557) to test the efficacy of providing assisted living as a Medi-Cal benefit and as an alternative to long-term placement in a nursing facility.</p> <p>The bill amends the Welfare and Institutions Code (§14132.26) and requires that assisted living be piloted in two settings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Licensed Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFEs)</li><li>• Publicly subsidized housing (PSH)</li></ul>
<b>Waiver Status</b>	CMS approved the ALW renewal application February 27, 2009. The renewal period is for five years.
<b>Test Sites</b>	<p>The ALW is being implemented in three counties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sacramento (representing urban, northern California)</li><li>• San Joaquin (representing rural, central California)</li><li>• Los Angeles (representing urban, southern California)</li></ul> <p>• Two counties will be added each fiscal year, beginning with Sonoma and Fresno in fiscal year 09/10.</p>
<b>Beneficiary Enrollment</b>	The ALWPP is currently serving 780 persons in 55 facilities. The waiver has the capacity to serve 1300 persons in 2009.

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## Briefing: The Assisted Living Waiver Pilot Project (ALWPP), Continued

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### Services

The benefits and services provided by the ALW include:

- The assisted living service array – provides all waiver beneficiaries with access to personal care services 24 hours a day seven days a week
  - Care Coordination – provides initial assessment, determination of tier of service and on-going assessment
  - Environmental Accessibility Adaptations – provides for physical adaptations to the living space to facilitate the transition of a person with a disability into the publicly subsidized housing setting
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### PSH

The PSH model is operational in Los Angeles County and in development in Sacramento County.

- *Alternative Home Care HHA* is implementing the project at *Owensmouth Gardens* and *South Bay Gardens* in Los Angeles. The HHA is planning to open two additional PSH sites. *Rx Staffing HHA* is developing a PSH site in Sacramento at the *Leisure Manor* housing site.
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### Website

The website for the ALWPP is:  
[www.dhcs.ca.gov/SERVICES/MEDI-CAL/Pages/ALWPPMedi-CalWaiver.aspx](http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/SERVICES/MEDI-CAL/Pages/ALWPPMedi-CalWaiver.aspx)

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