STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Budget Change Proposal - Cover Sheet
DF-46 (REV 03/25)

Fiscal Year	Business Unit Number	Department
2026-27	4170	California Department of Aging

Hyperion Budget Request Name	Relevant Program or Subprogram
4170-020-BCP-2026-GB	3890100 – Congregate Nutrition

Budget Request Title
Meal program: senior citizens (AB 1476)

Budget Request Summary
The California Department of Aging requests $152,000 General Fund in 2026-27 and ongoing to support 1 position for increased oversight responsibilities for the Older American's Act Title III-C Nutrition Program pursuant to Chapter 302, Statutes of 2025 (AB 1476).

Requires Legislation (submit required legislation with the BCP)	Code Section(s) to be Added/Amended/Repealed
☐ Trailer Bill Language ☐ Budget Bill Language ☒ N/A	N/A

Does this BCP contain information technology (IT) components? ☐ Yes ☒ No *If yes, departmental Chief Information Officer must sign.*	Department CIO	Date
	N/A	N/A

For IT requests, specify the project number, the most recent project approval document (FSR, SPR, S1BA, S2AA, S3SD, S4PRA), the approval date, and the total project cost.

Project No. N/A **Approval Date:** N/A

Project Approval Document: N/A **Total Project Cost:** N/A

If proposal affects another department, does other department concur with proposal? ☐☐N/A
Attach comments of affected department, signed and dated by the department director or designee.

Prepared By	Date	Reviewed By	Date
Denise Likar	1/9/2026	Mark Beckley	1/9/2026
Department Director	**Date**	**Agency Secretary**	**Date**
Susan DeMarois	1/9/2026	Kim Johnson	1/9/2026

Department of Finance Use Only

Additional Review: ☐ Capital Outlay ☐ ITCU ☐ FSCU ☐ OSAE ☐ Dept. of Technology

Principal Program Budget Analyst	Date submitted to the Legislature
Shelina Noorali	1/9/2026

A. Problem Statement

The Older Americans Act (OAA) Title III-C Nutrition Program provides meals and other nutrition services to older adults through two programs. Title III-C1 provides meals and services in a group setting and the Title III-C2 program provides meals and services in the home. The programs also provide nutrition screening, nutrition education, and, in some areas, nutrition counseling. The primary goals of the Nutrition Program are to reduce food insecurity and improve the health and well-being of older adults by providing nutritious meals and opportunities for socialization.

AB 1476 updates the OAA Title III-C Nutrition Program Act to require increased oversight and support of the Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) administering the Title III-C1 and Title III-C2 programs, particularly pertaining to the implementation of to-go meals. To-go Meals are defined as meals picked up at a local congregate site by participants 60 years of age or older (or their agent), or meals delivered to participants 60 years of age or older who prefer to not dine in a congregate meal setting. While to-go meals are allowed under both the Title III-C1 and Title III-C2 programs, AAAs have the discretion based on their community's needs to decide if to-go meals are offered within their Planning and Service Area. Under the Title III-C1 program, to-go meals may be served in a virtual congregate setting to complement, not replace, in-person congregate meal dining. AAAs implementing to-go meals under the Title III-C1 program may require additional support to establish and maintain virtual programming such as seeking guidance and information on allowable virtual activities and approval to purchase programs and equipment to meet the virtual requirement.

Resource History
(Dollars in thousands)

Program Budget	**2020-21[1]**	**2021-22[2]**	**2022-23[3]**	**2023-24[4]**	**2024-25[5]**	**2025-26[6]**
Authorized Expenditures	$143,190	$220,394	$164,887	$229,426	$221,354	$222,901
Actual Expenditures	$134,325	$211,038	$160,706	$202,976	$187,910	TBD
Revenues	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Authorized Positions	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Filled Positions	3.4	5.6	6.0	4.0	6.0	TBD
Vacancies	2.6	0.4	0.0	2.0	0.0	TBD

[1] 2020-21 includes one-time funding of CARES, California Appropriations Act (CAA), and Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA).
[2] 2021-22 includes one-time funding of CARES, CAA, FFCRA and American Rescue Plan.
[3] 2022-23 includes one-time funding of American Rescue Plan.
[4] 2023-24 includes one-time funding of American Rescue Plan and Modernizing the Older Californian's Act (Mod OCA).
[5] 2024-25 includes one-time funding of American Rescue Plan and Mod OCA.
[6] 2025-26 includes one-time funding of Mod OCA.

Justification

A primary goal of Title III-C1 is to provide a meal to food-insecure older adults while promoting and enhancing socialization. The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated that socialization could still happen in a virtual setting and be impactful in a cost-effective way of providing an increased number of meals. Additionally, a virtual congregate setting allows older adults with complex needs, such as being required to take medication with their meals, the option to socialize and still receive a meal.

To implement the provisions of AB 1476, the California Department of Aging (CDA) requires 1 Health Program Specialist (HPS) I position. The HPS I would be responsible for collaborating with local AAAs to plan and implement virtual congregate meal programs and would provide ongoing monitoring, training and technical assistance. The HPS I would provide the necessary support to effectively oversee the Title III-C1 and Title III-C2 programs to meet the increased requirements of the legislation.

B. Departmentwide and Statewide Considerations

CDA's vision and mission of leading innovative, person-centered, and outcome-based programs is designed to transform aging for all Californians by promoting inclusion, equity, and increasing individual choice and well-being. A key objective of CDA's Strategic Plan involves providing older adults and adults with disabilities with information and tools to support their health and well-being.

C. Outcomes and Accountability

Support of an additional HPS I with nutrition expertise, such as a Registered Dietitian, will allow CDA to provide increased oversight, technical assistance, training, and support to the AAAs to comply with AB 1476. Specifically, CDA will be able to fulfill the following goals and objectives:

- Development of policy and procedures, monitoring and tracking tools, and best practices for the following: evaluation of to-go meals consumed outside of an in-person or virtual congregate setting; assurance that all meals provided by the AAAs comply with federal requirements; oversight of technical, conforming changes that align with AB1476 provisions with the Older Californians Act (OCA) and federal requirements.
- Development of tools and training for the AAA program staff, in addition to more frequent AAA outreach and technical assistance related to virtual congregate nutrition.
- Development and presentation of webinars to provide information, guidance, and technical assistance to the AAA program staff to improve AAA virtual congregate to-go meal services.

D. Implementation Plan

Effective July 1, 2026, CDA will work to recruit and onboard the HPS I to provide increased oversight, technical assistance, training, and monitoring for the OAA Title III-C services at local AAAs.

E. Supplemental Information (If Applicable)

Appendix A: Workload Analysis

1.0 Health Program Specialist I

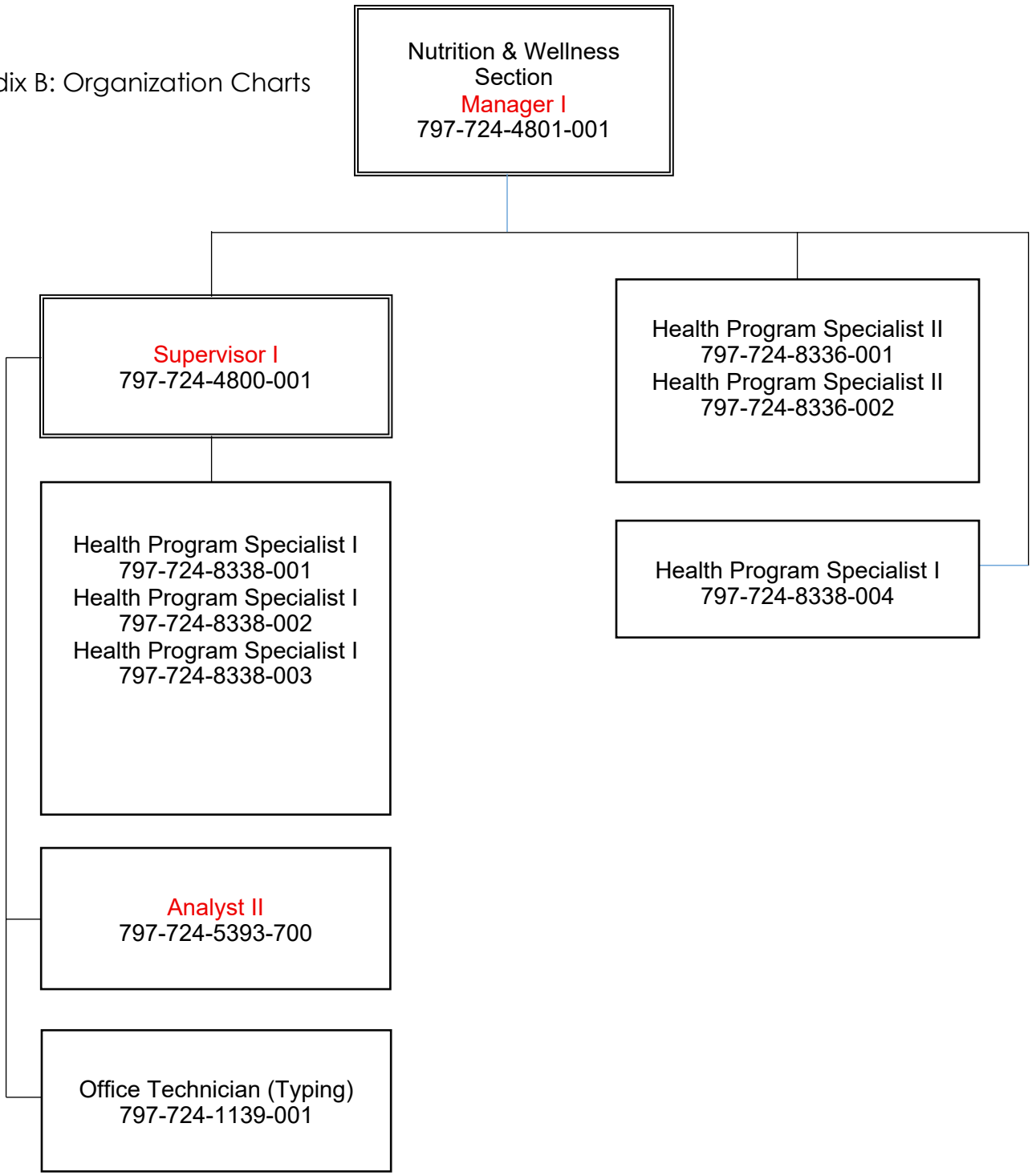
Task Description	Annual Number of Items	Hours per Item	Total Hours
• Develop, review, and update statewide nutrition services standards, nutritional requirements of meals, food safety policies, and health promotion standards. • Provide specialized technical assistance on nutritional requirements for older adults, chronic disease prevention considerations, and incorporating ethnic and cultural dietary preferences. • Review and analyze legislation, regulations, and federal guidance for program impacts; prepare policy summaries and recommended program adjustments. • Review AAA area plans and support documentation for compliance with program requirements. • Participate in statewide quality assurance and continuous improvement activities related to performance standards. • Contribute to the development of tools, templates, and guidance to support program planning, quality monitoring, and outcomes tracking. • Assist with project management and program coordination activities, including planning, implementation, and tracking of workplan deliverables for projects. • Contribute to strategic planning discussions; assist in identifying resource needs, drafting timelines, and monitoring progress toward program goals. • Support the development of formative research activities used to inform policy memos, technical assistance tools, and program materials.	45	10	450

Task Description	Annual Number of Items	Hours per Item	Total Hours
• Support the monitoring, evaluation, and analysis of program activities to verify compliance with federal and state requirements. • Provide technical assistance to AAAs and nutrition service providers on meal planning, nutrient analysis processes, food safety standards, specialized dietary needs of older adults, and chronic disease–related nutrition considerations. • Support AAAs in developing nutrition service plans, quality improvement strategies, menu reviews, and corrective action plans related to nutrition requirements. • Deliver webinars, workshops, and written training materials on program requirements, food safety, program implementation, and evaluation practices. • Assist with procurement-related technical guidance, including nutrition services contracts, food service specifications, and documentation requirements for nutrition services.	40	10	400
• Respond to inquiries regarding program policies, reporting expectations, menu standards, and health promotion related components. • Assist in developing and delivering training materials and presentations related to programs as assigned. • Participate in cross-sectional teams to support program evaluation, data review, and continuous improvement activities. • Assist AAAs with procurement-related tasks as assigned (e.g., contributing to Request for Proposal (RFP) development or review). • Respond to programmatic questions from internal and external partners regarding food assistance initiatives, outreach and education, and other programs assigned.	35	10	350
• Conduct research on nutrition and aging topics such as malnutrition risk, fall prevention, food insecurity, food safety, cultural dietary considerations, and chronic disease management. • Review literature and best practices to inform policy updates and program improvements related to senior nutrition services. • Analyze program data (e.g., meal counts, participant characteristics, nutrition risk profiles) to identify service gaps, trends, and opportunities for program enhancements.	30	10	300

Task Description	Annual Number of Items	Hours per Item	Total Hours
• Prepare written reports, data summaries, and presentations to support program planning, legislative analysis, and evaluation of nutrition services effectiveness.			
• Track and analyze changes in federal and state nutrition-related policies and assess implications for CDA programs. • Support identification and evaluation of innovative strategies to engage older adults as assigned. • Monitor changes in federal and state policies or legislation that affect nutrition and wellness programs; prepare summaries or analyses for Section leadership.	30	10	300
• Represent the Section in workgroups, meetings, and trainings as assigned, in collaboration with senior staff and upper management. • Assist in coordinating and facilitating meetings with CDA staff, state agencies, contractors, and community partners.	25	10	250
• Participate in interagency collaboration efforts related to older adult nutrition and wellness, such as partnerships with CalFresh, Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program, Chronic Disease Self-Management programs, and food safety coalitions. • Content creation, marketing, and outreach associated with maintaining and enhancing the IIIC Nutrition and IIID Health Promotion webpages at aging.ca.gov. Enhancing the information available online will further advance CDA's marketing, outreach, and rebranding efforts by providing comprehensive nutrition and health promotion information to the AAAs, their service providers, and to the public.	20	10	200
Total hours required			**1,800**
Number of positions requested (1,800 hours = 1.0 Position)			**1.0**

Appendix B: Organization Charts

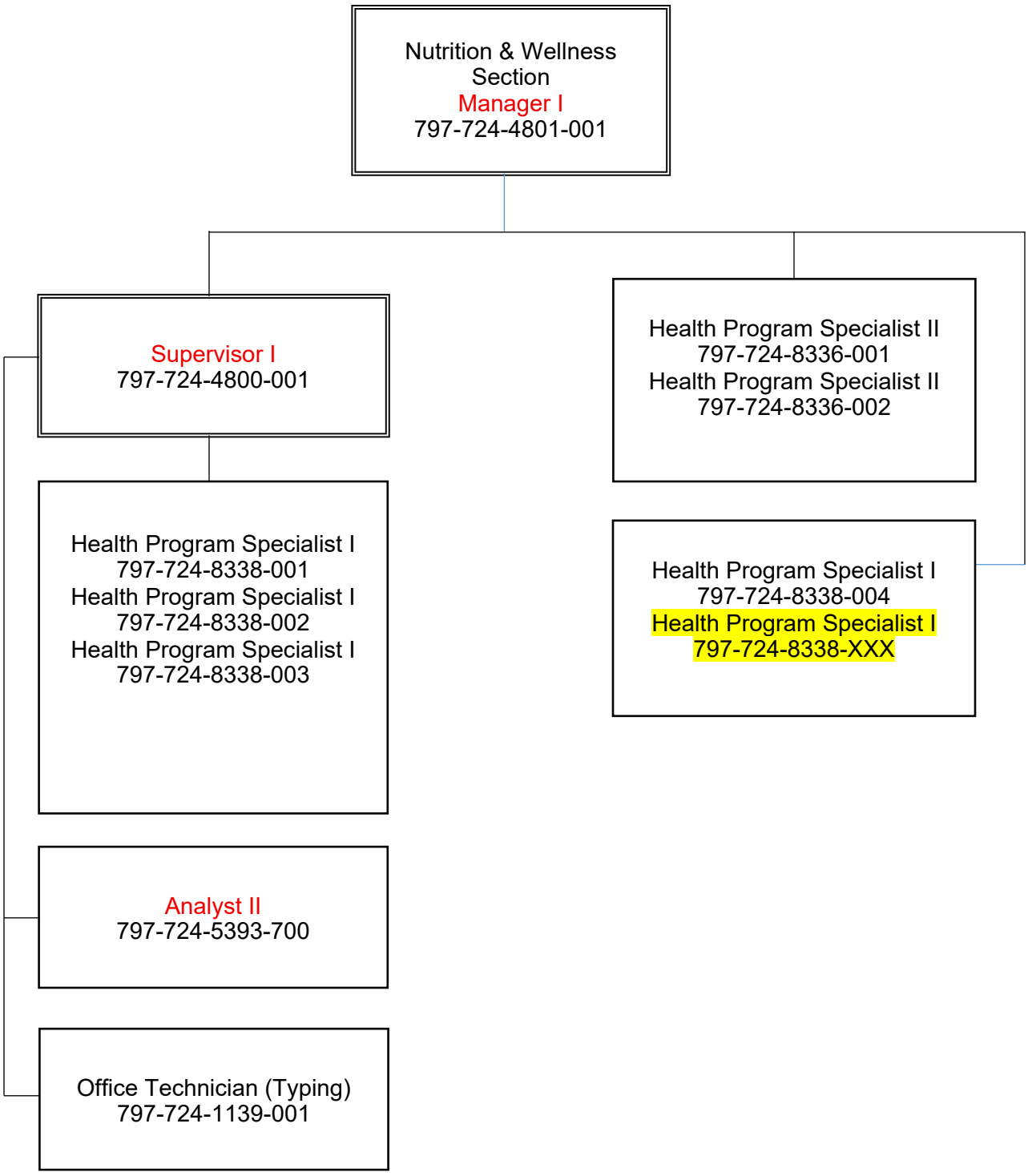
Current



Legend:

* Supervisor position with no staff
(1) Blanket Permanent
(2) Limited-Term Position
(3) Limited-Term Appointment
(4) Retired Annuitant (RA)
(5) Student Assistant (SA)
(6) Training & Development
(7) Mandatory Right of Return
(8) Exceptional Allocation
(9) Employee in Retirement Blanket
(10) Budget Letter 24-20

Proposed



Legend:

* Supervisor position with no staff
(1) Blanket Permanent
(2) Limited-Term Position
(3) Limited-Term Appointment
(4) Retired Annuitant (RA)
(5) Student Assistant (SA)
(6) Training & Development
(7) Mandatory Right of Return
(8) Exceptional Allocation
(9) Employee in Retirement Blanket
(10) Budget Letter 24-20

BCP Fiscal Detail Sheet

(Dollars in Thousands)

BCP Title: Meal program: senior citizens (AB 1476)

BR Name: 4170-020-BCP-2026-GB

Budget Request Summary

Personal Services

Personal Services	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
Positions - Permanent	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Total Positions	**0.0**	**1.0**	**1.0**	**1.0**	**1.0**	**1.0**
Salaries and Wages Earnings - Permanent	0	89	89	89	89	89
Total Salaries and Wages	**$0**	**$89**	**$89**	**$89**	**$89**	**$89**
Total Staff Benefits	0	44	44	44	44	44
Total Personal Services	**$0**	**$133**	**$133**	**$133**	**$133**	**$133**

Operating Expenses and Equipment

Operating Expenses and Equipment	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
5301 - General Expense	0	1	1	1	1	1
5302 - Printing	0	1	1	1	1	1
5304 - Communications	0	1	1	1	1	1
5320 - Travel: In-State	0	5	5	5	5	5
5322 - Training	0	2	2	2	2	2
5324 - Facilities Operation	0	4	4	4	4	4
5346 - Information Technology	0	5	5	5	5	5
Total Operating Expenses and Equipment	**$0**	**$19**	**$19**	**$19**	**$19**	**$19**

Total Budget Request

Total Budget Request	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
Total Budget Request	**$0**	**$152**	**$152**	**$152**	**$152**	**$152**

Fund Summary

Fund Source

Fund Source	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
State Operations - 0001 - General Fund	0	152	152	152	152	152
Total State Operations Expenditures	**$0**	**$152**	**$152**	**$152**	**$152**	**$152**
Total All Funds	**$0**	**$152**	**$152**	**$152**	**$152**	**$152**

Program Summary

Program Funding

Program Funding	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
3890100 - Congregate Nutrition	0	152	152	152	152	152
Total All Programs	**$0**	**$152**	**$152**	**$152**	**$152**	**$152**

Personal Services Details

Positions

Positions	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
8338 - Hlth Program Spec I (Eff. 07-01-2026)	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Total Positions	**0.0**	**1.0**	**1.0**	**1.0**	**1.0**	**1.0**

Salaries and Wages

Salaries and Wages	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
8338 - Hlth Program Spec I (Eff. 07-01-2026)	0	89	89	89	89	89
Total Salaries and Wages	**$0**	**$89**	**$89**	**$89**	**$89**	**$89**

Staff Benefits

Staff Benefits	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
5150900 - Staff Benefits - Other	0	44	44	44	44	44
Total Staff Benefits	**$0**	**$44**	**$44**	**$44**	**$44**	**$44**

Total Personal Services

Total Personal Services	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
Total Personal Services	**$0**	**$133**	**$133**	**$133**	**$133**	**$133**