



May 14, 2020

Aneliza Del Pinal, CEO  
Sourcewise  
3100 De La Cruz Blvd, Suite 310  
Santa Clara, CA 95054

Dear Ms. Del Pinal,

We, the undersigned, write to share our concerns and request a dialogue about Sourcewise's plans regarding the future use of senior nutrition and Older Americans Act funding. We are a coalition of organizations and individuals involved in providing services to seniors and others in need in this County. As you know, meeting the demands of this population under normal circumstances is a steep challenge requiring a significant amount of coordination and cooperation among stakeholders and service organizations. The additional challenges the COVID-19 crisis presents to providing these services to seniors make it all the more necessary for this partnership to function effectively.

We are concerned that Sourcewise's plans for how to allocate the federal funds it receives for senior nutrition may fracture this effort and jeopardize the health and well-being of those we serve. We have outlined our concerns in more detail below.

First, we understand Sourcewise has notified the County of its intent to discontinue, as of July 1, 2020, its funding of the Senior Nutrition Meals on Wheels Program and operate its own program. With an annual budget of roughly \$2.25 million, this program provides 1.23 million meals each year to older adults in the County. In the current fiscal year, Sourcewise provided about one-third of these funds.

This seems a particularly inopportune time to upend the existing service delivery model. After our County's 370,000 seniors began sheltering in place on March 16, the Senior Nutrition Program closed 40 congregate meal sites and began using them as to-go meal pickup locations. It also expanded capacity for home-delivered meals, providing 72,884 meals in April, a 29% increase at an additional cost of \$450,000. During the same month, a needs assessment identified a countywide deficit of 20,000 meals *per day*. This suggests a need for service providers to leverage every efficiency possible to meet the increasing demand. We are concerned that Sourcewise's decision to discontinue funding the Senior Nutrition Program will needlessly hamper these efforts and reduce the amount of food available to those in need.

We are also aware that, as the designated local Area Agency on Aging, Sourcewise will be receiving approximately \$3.3 million in federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act and CARES Act funding. Local service providers have collaborated to build an effective service delivery model in order to meet the increasing demand for senior meals during the current pandemic emergency. We encourage Sourcewise to use the supplemental federal funds to increase capacity in the existing model, rather than spending any of these crucial funds on startup costs, unnecessary administration, or untested concepts. At a minimum, Sourcewise should spend all of these funds to purchase senior meals and related supplies.

Additionally, we encourage Sourcewise to be transparent about its use of federal senior nutrition and emergency relief funds. Sourcewise's decision to operate a separate senior nutrition program raises a number of questions which Sourcewise should appropriately answer, as this decision involves the use of public funds and impacts the community. How does Sourcewise plan to notify existing beneficiaries and vendors about this change? How will Sourcewise serve the needs of existing beneficiaries? Does it expect to serve all existing beneficiaries? How will it do so without the County's matching funds? How will Sourcewise coordinate with the County and other service providers to prevent any disruption in service resulting from this change?

We encourage Sourcewise to hold a public meeting to discuss the use of federal senior nutrition and emergency relief funding, present its plans, and seek feedback from beneficiaries, stakeholders, and the public. We also encourage Sourcewise to post information about the use of supplemental federal funding, including transfers for uses other than senior nutrition, to its website. And we encourage Sourcewise to communicate and collaborate with other senior service providers and the County Emergency Operations Center.

We are eager to hear about your plans and would appreciate the opportunity to meet in order to discuss them. Sheri Burns, Co-chair of the Aging Services Collaborative and the Long-Term Services & Supports Committee of Santa Clara County, will be contacting you soon to schedule a meeting.

Sincerely,



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Amy Andonian  
President & CEO  
Avenidas



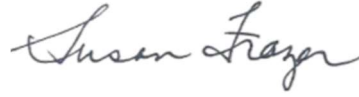
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Bob Brownstein  
Strategic Advisor  
Working Partnerships USA



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Sheri Burns  
Co-chair  
Aging Services Collaborative



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Susan Frazer  
Regional Director, Community Living  
Institute on Aging



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Greg Kepferle  
Chief Executive Officer  
Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County



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Michele Lew  
Chief Executive Officer  
The Health Trust



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Christine M. Tomcala  
Chief Executive Officer  
Santa Clara Family Health Plan

CC: Jeff Tepper  
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Senator Jim Beall  
Assemblymember Ash Kalra  
Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren  
Supervisor Cindy Chavez  
Supervisor Joe Simitian