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**AAA4 Secures \$450,000 Grant to Strengthen Regional Health Data Connectivity**

*Funding paves the way for enhanced coordination of services*

March 25, 2024 [Sacramento, CA] — The Agency on Aging Area 4 (AAA4) is pleased to announce the acquisition of a significant \$450,000 grant under the California Data Exchange Framework (DxF) program, an initiative of California's Health & Human Services Agency Center for Data Insights and Innovation (CalHHS CDII), to help health and social services providers and other health care entities understand and implement DxF requirements. The framework is the first-ever, statewide data sharing agreement that will accelerate and expand the exchange of health information among health care entities and government.

The grant will support AAA4's efforts to conduct an internal/external gap analysis among service partners and pave the way for enhanced health information exchange capabilities, marking a crucial step forward in enhancing regional health data connectivity across the seven-county region, covering Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sierra, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba.

California's health care system faces challenges due to fragmented data exchange systems, hindering progress in equity, quality, and patient access to personalized health records. Despite the widespread availability of secure electronic data transfer, a small but important minority of Californians' medical information is stored or shared on paper. When that medical information is shared between providers, much of it happens by mail, fax, or, most likely, by the patients themselves, who frequently carry their records from appointment to appointment.

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# AGENCY ON AGING AREA 4

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The Data Exchange Framework aims to address these issues by establishing a statewide data sharing agreement. From an operational perspective, data-driven efforts to better coordinate human and social supports with the medical and health care sectors provide opportunities to deliver services that are more client centered, efficient, effective, and tailored. While electronic health information exchange cannot replace provider-patient communication, it can greatly improve the completeness of patient records, which can have a significant effect on health and wellness outcomes.

This grant builds upon the agency's efforts to provide a 'No Wrong Door' (NWD) approach to care, which is intended to streamline access to long-term services and support (LTSS) options for older adults and individuals with disabilities.

"We have spent many years building local No Wrong Door systems of care so that individuals and families can get the services they need when they need them most," states Pam Miller, Executive Director. "Establishing channels for the secure exchange of consumer information is the next step in the evolution of that system. This DxF grant will allow us to get there."

This grant award aligns with the DxF program objectives of contributing to the development of a comprehensive technology solutions assessment to improve service coordination across counties, elevate data privacy protocols, provide real-time data exchange for enhanced coordination of services, and streamline regional health services.

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**About Agency on Aging Area 4:** Agency on Aging Area 4 (AAA4) is one of 33 agencies on aging in California designated by the State to develop, coordinate, and fund programs designed to help older adults and people with disabilities maintain their health and independence. We fund and monitor programs provided by local community-based organizations with funding under the Older Americans Act. We also provide direct services using available grant sources and collaborate with other organizations where there is opportunity and need. Learn more at [www.agencyonaging4.org](http://www.agencyonaging4.org).