



# County of Santa Cruz

**IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PUBLIC AUTHORITY**  
500 Westridge Drive, Watsonville, CA; P.O. Box 1300, Santa Cruz, CA 95061  
(831) 454-4036 FAX: (831) 763-8906

## Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda

### IHSS Advisory Commission

**Date:** Friday, February 27, 2026  
**Time:** 1:00PM to 3:00PM  
**Location:** 1400 Emeline AVE, Building K, Room 207. Santa Cruz, CA  
**Virtual (Public only):**

**Microsoft Teams Link:**

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/21753257370625?p=BSdbgpk6jHPQzVRmKQ>

**Meeting ID: 217 532 573 706 25 Passcode SQ6si9yN**

**Telephone +1 831-454-2222 Phone Conference ID: 289 863 481#**

*This meeting is being made available to the public via Microsoft Teams as a courtesy and is being recorded. Please be advised, if remote technology does not work, the in-person meeting will continue. In addition, the recording will be posted to the commission's website as part of the public record.*

### Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Agenda Review
4. Public Comment: *Anyone wishing to address the commission on any item within the jurisdiction of the Commission and not listed on the agenda may do so at this time. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes in duration.*
5. Consent Agenda
  - a. Meeting Minutes
    - i. January 23, 2026.....Page 3
  - b. Commission Vacancies
    - i. Four (4) – Consumer Representatives (A)
    - ii. One (1) – Provider (B)
    - iii. Two (2) – Representative of Advocate Organization or Representative of Commission on Disabilities (C)
6. Guest Speaker: Corinne Jones, Senior Network Services
7. Regular Agenda – Action Items
  - a. Letter of Opposition- IHSS Trailer Bills in the 2026–27 Jan Budget.....Page 7
  - b. Public Participation – IHSS Advisory Commission
  - c. Recruitment Strategies: IHSS Advisory Commission Vacancies

The County of Santa Cruz complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This meeting room is accessible for people with disabilities. If you wish to discuss reasonable modifications or accommodations, please call 454-4036 prior to the meeting. For the comfort of those with allergies and chemical sensitivities, please do not wear perfume or scented products to the meeting.

8. Regular Agenda – Information Items

a. Information Sharing

i. Announcements

ii. Topics & Speakers

b. Commission Budget.....Page 9

c. Registry Data.....Page 12

d. IHSS Provider Training Courses.....Page 14

e. IHSS Consumers

f. IHSS Providers

g. IHSS Program and Public Authority Updates

9. Report Outs

a. Legislative – Volunteer needed.

b. CICA Conference Calls

c. Seniors Commission

10. Future Agenda Items

a. Commission Re-Set: Goals and Objectives

11. Correspondence

12. Adjournment

**Next Regular Meeting:** March 27, 2026, 1:00PM – 3:00PM @ 1400 Emeline AVE, Building K, Room 207, Santa Cruz.



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## IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PUBLIC AUTHORITY

500 Westridge Drive, Watsonville, CA; P.O. Box 1300, Santa Cruz, CA 95061  
(831) 454-4036 FAX: (831) 763-8906

### IHSS Advisory Commission

#### Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, January 23, 2026  
Time: 1:00PM to 3:00PM  
Location: 1020 Emeline AVE, Building B, Room 259. Santa Cruz, CA  
Virtual (Public only): Recording of Meeting available on Commission Website  
Present: Lois Sones (Seniors Commission), Maria Arreola (Provider), Stephanie Auld (Consumer), Foster Andersen (Consumer)  
Excused: None  
Staff: Juan Magaña (Staff), Julie Gabriel (Staff), Bertha Z. Paredez (Staff)

*The use of facemasks is recommended for all attendees of the IHSS Advisory Commission meeting.*

#### Agenda

1. Call to Order
  - a. Meeting called to order at 1:03pm; a quorum was present.
2. Roll Call
3. Agenda Review
  - a. Staff struck item 8g. from the agenda; no updates received.
4. Public Comment:
  - a. Public comment from Ryan Althaus and Craig Ruble.
5. Consent Agenda
  - a. Meeting Minutes
    - i. November 21, 2025
  - b. Commission Vacancies
    - i. Four (4) – Consumer Representatives (A)
    - ii. One (1) – Provider (B)
    - iii. Two (2) – Representative of Advocate Organization or Representative of Commission on Disabilities (C)
  - c. Motion to approve consent agenda was called by:
    - i. First/Second: Arreola/Auld.
    - ii. Ayes: Sones, Arreola, Auld, Andersen.
    - iii. Noes: None.
    - iv. Abstain: None.
  - d. Motion passed unanimously.

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6. Guest Speaker: Sarah Emmert: County Strategic Plan: Community Care & Resilience
  - a. Presentation on the county's strategic planning, focusing on Community Care & Resilience, see attached presentation slides for information covered.
7. Regular Agenda – Action Items
  - a. Biennial Report – Review and Approval
    - i. Commission reviewed the biennial report and made updates.
    - ii. Motion to have staff finalize the report and submit to Board of Supervisors was called by:
      1. First/Second: Auld/Andersen.
      2. Ayes: Sones, Auld, Arreola, Andersen.
      3. Noes: None.
      4. Abstains: None.
    - iii. Motion passed unanimously.
  - b. Public Participation – IHSS Advisory Commission
    - i. Commissioners discussed ways to promote participation in Advisory Commission meetings.
    - ii. Motion for Sones to write a letter to be sent to IHSS recipients and providers to invite to participate in commission meetings via Zoom was called by:
      1. First/Second: Auld/Andersen.
      2. Ayes: Sones, Auld, Arreola, Andersen.
      3. Noes: None.
      4. Abstains: None.
    - iii. Motion passed unanimously.
  - c. Recruitment Strategies: IHSS Advisory Commission Vacancies
    - i. This item was not discussed.
8. Regular Agenda – Information Items
  - a. Information Sharing
    - i. Announcements
      1. Auld informed that she will be speaking at KSQS radio program on Monday, February 2, 2026, at 5pm.
      2. Commissioner Sones announced her retirement from Elderday effective May 2026; a recruitment to fill her position is underway.
    - ii. Topics & Speakers
      1. Commissioner Auld presented a list of possible IHSS Advisory guest speakers to be invited to next meetings; advised that the list was sent to staff.
        - a. Staff to begin working on scheduling presenters.

- b. Commission Budget
  - i. Commission budget was included in the meeting packet.
- c. Registry Data
  - i. Registry data was included in the meeting packet.
- d. IHSS Provider Training Platform
  - i. Staff provided information on the new training program for IHSS providers - training courses are available on-demand; participants will receive a \$20 gift card. The flyer for the training program was included in the meeting packet.
- e. IHSS Consumers
  - i. No report out.
- f. IHSS Providers
  - i. No report out.
- ~~g. IHSS Program and Public Authority Updates~~

## 9. Report Outs

- a. Legislative – Volunteer needed.
  - i. Staff provided the following updates regarding SB 707:
    - 1. Changes effective 1/1/2026 include:
      - a. Providing a copy of the Brown Act to all appointed members serving on commissions – an email was sent to commission members with a pdf version of the Brown Act as well as a link to the county website where the document can be found.
      - b. Internet Posting of Special Meeting Agendas – all Brown Act bodies must now post notices of Special Meetings on their website.
      - c. Continued Caution Using Social Media – commission can use social media to share or provide information to the public, but they cannot use social media platforms to discuss with each other any issues or matters that might fall within their jurisdiction.
      - d. Reasonable Accommodation for Disabled Members – codifies the Attorney General’s opinion from July 2024 which stated that a member who has a disability may participate in meetings via remote teleconferencing as a reasonable accommodation under the American Disabilities Act. Remote participation would require both audio and video technology and the member would need to disclose whether any other person over the age of 18 is present in the room.
        - i. Staff reported that a reasonable accommodation request must be made to staff prior to the meeting.

## 2. Changes Not Yet in Effect

a. Teleconferencing Meetings for “Eligible Subsidiary Bodies” – allows advisory bodies to conduct meetings entirely remotely. This provision requires Board of Supervisors to initially authorize the remote meeting option and every six months thereafter.

i. Staff encouraged commission members to reach out to their district supervisor to encourage them to approve remote meetings for this commission.

### b. CICA Conference Calls

i. No report out.

### c. Seniors Commission

i. Sones reported no meeting was held.

## 10. Future Agenda Items

a. Commission Re-Set: Goals and Objectives

## 11. Correspondence

a. No correspondence received.

## 12. Adjournment

a. Meeting adjourned at 3:02pm.

**Next Regular Meeting:** February 27, 2026, 1:00PM – 3:00PM @ 1400 Emeline AVE, Building K, Room 207, Santa Cruz.



# County of Santa Cruz

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## IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION

500 Westridge Drive, Watsonville, CA 95076  
P.O. Box 1300, Santa Cruz, CA 95061  
(831) 454-4036 FAX: (831) 763-8906  
LOIS SONES, CHAIR

February xx, 2026

Governor Gavin Newsom  
State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator John Laird  
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Caroline Menjivar  
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee 3 on Health and Human Services  
1021 O Street, Suite 6720  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Dr. Corey Jackson  
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 2 on Human Services  
1021 O Street, Suite 8130  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **Re: IHSS Trailer Bills in the 2026–27 Jan Budget – Oppose**

Dear Governor Newsom, Senator Laird, Assemblymember Gabriel, Senator Menjivar and Assemblymember Jackson:

On behalf of the In-Home Support Services (IHSS) Advisory Commission of the County of Santa Cruz we are writing to share our opposition on the several proposals impacting the IHSS program in the Governor's proposed January budget. The IHSS program provides vital services to older adults and individuals with disabilities, 3915 recipients of IHSS and 3781 providers of in home care in Santa Cruz County alone, to remain safe in their own homes rather than institutional care or urgent care, which is more expensive.

While we recognize the challenges posed by federal policy changes, economic uncertainty, and multi-year state deficit projections, we strongly believe that budget decisions must protect the health, stability, and independence of older adults and people with disabilities.

For these reasons, we oppose the following proposals included in the Governor's proposed budget:

**Shifting State IHSS Costs to Counties - \$233.6 million General Fund**

The IHSS Advisory Commission of the County of Santa Cruz is strongly opposed to the proposal to remove the state's share of costs for IHSS hours per case growth based on a statewide baseline average. Counties are unable to absorb the additional cost to fund the authorized IHSS hours per case that are greater than the baseline statewide average without negatively impacting other critical social services programs. This would ultimately result in the loss of hours for IHSS consumers that are vitally needed.

**Elimination of the IHSS Residual Program – \$86 million General Fund**

This program is a critical safety net that allows recipients to continue receiving services while reestablishing their Medi-Cal eligibility. Consumers may be disenrolled from Medi-Cal due to paperwork errors, missed deadlines, or administrative issues – not because they are ineligible for support. Without the Residual Program, these individuals would face automatic termination from IHSS, putting older adults and people with disabilities at serious risk of losing essential care and jeopardizing their ability to remain safe in their homes.

Ensuring that all Californians can live safely in their homes and communities is the responsibility of the government. We ask that you protect IHSS, support vulnerable populations, and oppose these budget cuts.

Sincerely,

Lois Sones  
Chair, IHSS Advisory Commission  
County of Santa Cruz

cc: Honorable Members and Staff, Assembly Budget Committee  
Honorable Members and Staff, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
Christine Aurre, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Kris Cook, Program Budget Manager, Department of Finance  
Ginni Bella Navarre, Deputy Legislative Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Juwan Trotter, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Kim Rothschild, Executive Director, California Association of Public Authorities for IHSS  
Justin Garrett, Senior Legislative Advocate, California State Association of Counties





JOHN A. WAGNER  
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • [www.cdss.ca.gov](http://www.cdss.ca.gov)



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER  
GOVERNOR

August 8, 2008

COUNTY FISCAL LETTER (CFL) 08/09-10

TO: COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
IHSS PROGRAM MANAGERS  
IHSS PUBLIC AUTHORITIES  
COUNTY FISCAL OFFICERS

SUBJECT: IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS) ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE EXPENDITURES

REFERENCE: CFL NO. 00/01-48 DATED DECEMBER 22, 2000; CFL NO. 06/07-02  
DATED JULY 7, 2006

This CFL is to remind counties that funding is allocated each fiscal year specifically for the direct support of the IHSS Advisory Committees. The authority for and the functions of the IHSS Advisory Committees are established in Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 12301.3 and 12301.4. The role of the Advisory Committee is to provide ongoing advice and recommendations regarding IHSS to the county board of supervisors, or any administrative body in the county that is related to the delivery and administration of IHSS.

Funds appropriated for the IHSS Advisory Committees are made available for the Committee's use, provided that those expenditures are used as intended under state statute and meet the federal requirements for the use of Title XIX funds, and in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-87. The federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services concur with the California Department of Social Services on the use of Title XIX funds for the administrative expenditures listed below. Administrative costs are defined by the Manual of Policies and Procedures Section 25-200.2 as "only those expenditures which are properly claimable and necessary to efficient administration." As with all county expenditures, funds must be approved by the local Board of Supervisors.

**Acceptable Advisory Committee expenditures include:**

- Postage and general office supplies
- Cost of photocopying/printing
- Phones and phone conferencing equipment, computers, office furniture, office/room rental
- Internet access and website maintenance
- Special equipment for the deaf/hearing impaired
- Readers and/or alternate formats (e.g., Braille)
- Translation/interpreter services
- Compensation to attendants for members participating in meetings

- Stipends, travel, mileage, parking fees
- Training on Advisory Committee responsibilities and duties
- Conference registration fees
- Meeting facilitator
- Costs to conduct surveys
- Staff time in support of the Advisory Committee
- Membership dues to state or federal organizations
- Newsletters
- Resource Fairs/Outreach
- Advertisement to recruit for committee vacancies or improve participation

### **Unacceptable Advisory Committee Expenditures**

Assembly Bill 1682 established the formation of Advisory Committees specifically to provide ongoing advice and recommendations to the county regarding the provision of IHSS. It was not intended to provide for any direct services or benefits to consumers such as attendant services not directly related to the Advisory Committee, or training for providers or consumers. In addition, OMB Circular A-87 prohibits the use of federal funds for provider recognition events or items such as small gifts, key chains, coffee mugs, or meals. While the procedures counties employ to review and approve expenditures are at each county's discretion, all costs claimed on the County Expense Claim are subject to OMB Circular A-87 principles which mandate that all costs be necessary and reasonable for the administration of the program.

### **Claiming**

Program Code (PC) 023 captures costs associated with the IHSS Advisory Committees and are tracked against the total IHSS allocation. Costs claimed to this code must be in accordance with allowable activities defined in this CFL. IHSS Advisory Committee expenditures must not be claimed to PC 025, IHSS Advisory Committee San Diego only, as this is no longer a valid program code.

If you have any questions regarding this CFL, please direct them to the Fiscal Systems Bureau electronic mailbox at [fiscal.systems@dss.ca.gov](mailto:fiscal.systems@dss.ca.gov).

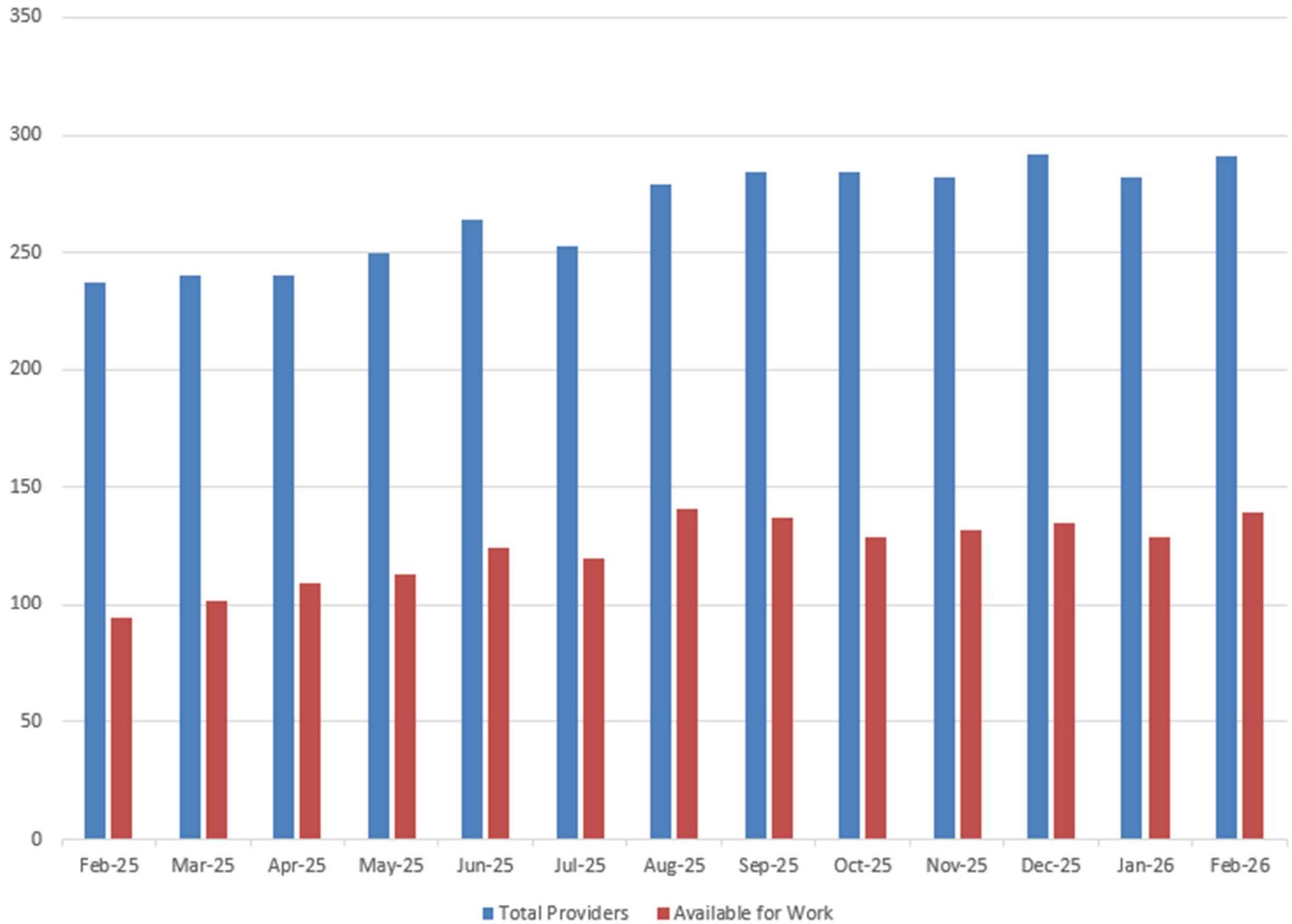
Sincerely,

### ***Original Document Signed By:***

ERIC FUJII  
Deputy Director  
Administration Division

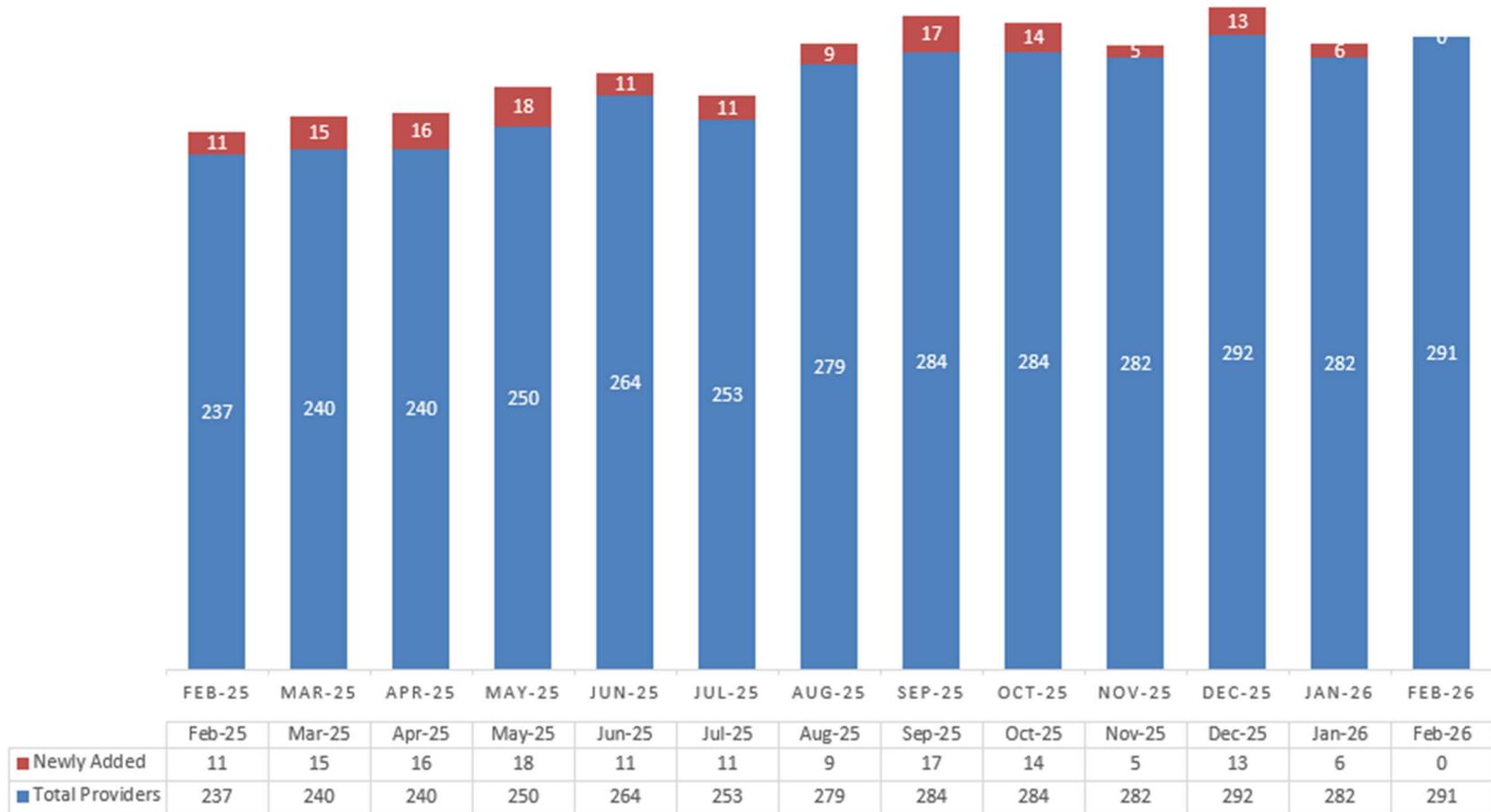
c: CWDA

## Registry Providers Available for Work



## REGISTRY PROVIDERS

■ Total Providers   
 ■ Newly Added



The classes currently available were selected by the IHSS Advisory Commission during the April 2025 meeting. The courses offered in both English and Spanish include:

- Anticipatory Grief
- The Aging Process
- Infection Control in the Home
- Chronic Conditions and Caregiving
- Nutrition and Food Handling
- Home Safety and Fall Prevention