

# Dignity Fund Coalition

## Keeping the Promise of the Dignity Fund



Handmade “Forget Me Nots” (pictures at left) part of the message in this year’s budget campaign

# Keep the Promise of the Dignity Fund

## Commitment Needed Now More Than Ever

- The Dignity Fund was a charter amendment passed by an overwhelming majority of voters in 2016 as Proposition I, with formal endorsements from more than 120 organizations.
- The legislation was to provide an additional allocation of approximately \$3 million each year to the Dept. of Disability and Aging Services.
- It represents a promise to the more than 120 Prop I endorsing organizations that the City would address the growing numbers and needs of San Francisco older residents and adults with disabilities.

# Promise of the Dignity Fund At Risk

- **The legislation** contains “trigger language” that allows **(but does not require)**, the City to freeze the annual \$3 million allocation.
- It has already happened twice before and earlier this year, it looked like it might be repeated again this year.

# So What Do We Want?

- Protect the \$3 million allocation in the budget for Year 1.
- Require \$3 million be secured in the budget for Year 2.
- Resist the pressure to find cuts elsewhere in the Dept. of Disability and Aging (DAS) budget. DAS and its non-profit contractors are still facing cuts in their existing contracts and budgets.

Funds for Year 2 are required by law, but there is no excuse - do what is fair, just, and really needed. **Assure that \$3 million is committed in Year 2, no matter what!**

# Advocacy Backed By the Data

Our Coalition's advocacy to preserve the promise of the Dignity Fund has grown out of the real fears of residents and the Needs Assessment data to support.

- Fear that their fixed income will not longer meet the increasing cost of housing, food, transportation and health care.
- Worry that their families no longer can afford to live in the City and so they are growing old alone and facing disabilities alone.
- Hopelessness for many who need homecare and other long term care and supportive services are not eligible for help. Their income is too high to qualify for benefits but too low to even begin to pay for help "out of pocket".

# Help Craft Our "Forget Me Not" Message

- Join the Dignity Fund Coalition's efforts, this year and beyond, to Keep the Promise of the Dignity Fund.
- You will find more details on how you can help on the Dignity Fund Coalition website, [www.sfdignityfund.org](http://www.sfdignityfund.org).

For more information and to receive more info on how you can help, email [flowerpower@sfcommunityliving.org](mailto:flowerpower@sfcommunityliving.org)