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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alameda County Social Services Agency Celebrates 50 Years of Transformative Service

Oakland, CA., June 3, 2025 — As rising costs and proposed shifts in policy pose a potential risk to California’s social safety net, the Alameda County Social Services Agency (ACSSA) is marking a major milestone: 50 years of delivering critical support to the community.

Serving more than 523,000, representing nearly **one in three Alameda county residents**, ACSSA provides lifeline programs such as CalFresh, CalWORKs, Medi-Cal, General Assistance, Employment Services, Refugee and Immigrant Services, The Area Agency on Aging, Services for Seniors and Adults with Disabilities, Public Administrator, Public Guardian Conservator, Veterans Services, and Children and Family Services. The agency’s golden anniversary arrives as federal and state budget cuts could challenge eligibility and access to programs like CalWORKs and Medi-Cal, making ACSSA’s role in bolstering the community’s resilience more vital than ever.

“This milestone is a moment to listen more closely and respond more effectively to the people who rely on us every day,” said Andrea Ford, ACSSA Director. “From food and housing to job training and protective services, we are proud to meet the moment—past, present, and future.”

Since the 1930s, the County has been dedicated to offering support and resources to individuals and families across all stages of life. In 1975, the County established a social services agency solely to provide basic safety net services. Now, ACSSA has evolved into a central hub for community well-being. As it marks its 50th year, the agency will reimagine how it provides services to the community, focusing on innovation, strengthening partnerships, and supporting its workforce.

“Our next chapter is focused on making services more accessible, building trust through transparent communication, and partnering more deeply with the communities we’re here to support. We want every resident to know you are seen, you are heard, and we’re here to help,” Ford added.

Ford’s vision for the agency’s future is centered on a longstanding culture of celebrating

lived experiences, something that is reflected by the people who make up ACSSA's workforce. Many of the agency's employees were once clients receiving services.

"Over the last 50 years, ACSSA has evolved to reflect the changing face of Alameda County. As our immigrant and multicultural communities have grown, the agency has stepped up—offering linguistically and culturally competent services rooted in equity," said Alameda County Supervisor Lena Tam. "In a time of uncertainty and shifting resources, that commitment means everything to the people we serve."

The agency will mark its 50th anniversary with a commemoration honoring its staff and community partners who bring the agency's mission to life. During the event, Director Ford will present an achievement award honoring the agency's longest-tenured employee, Toma Green, who has served Alameda County for 58 years. Toma Green will also give the keynote address reflecting on the agency's legacy and impact. Community members are welcome to [watch the event](#) live on June 5 from 11 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

About Alameda County Social Services Agency (ACSSA)

The Alameda County Social Services Agency promotes the economic and social well-being of individuals, families, and communities across all stages of life. In partnership with community-based organizations, neighborhood groups, and policymakers, ACSSA serves approximately 31 percent of the county's 1.65 million residents—providing vital support to vulnerable populations including children, older adults, immigrants, refugees, and people experiencing homelessness. ACSSA serves the fourth most diverse county in the United States and the seventh largest in California. For more information, visit www.alamedacountysocialservices.org.

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