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## SEPTEMBER MARKS INAUGURAL CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL PACE MONTH

**SAN FRANCISCO (Sept. 8, 2017)** – For the first time, the nation will celebrate and recognize the work of Programs of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE®) by establishing September as National PACE Month. PACE coordinates and provides all needed preventive, primary, acute, and long-term care services to older adults allowing them to live at home in their communities.

The PACE model of [care](#) is a fully integrated, provider-based model that revolves around an interdisciplinary team of doctors, nurses, therapists, social workers, dietitians, drivers, and others who provide direct care and services to meet program participant needs. Despite serving a very frail nursing home-eligible senior population, only five percent of participants are living in nursing homes at any given time. More than 90 percent say that they are very satisfied with PACE and would refer PACE to a close friend.

“PACE is the right solution at the right time for older adults at heightened risk of nursing home placement who wish to continue to live independently,” said CalPACE Chief Executive Officer Peter Hansel. “PACE provides one-stop shopping, providing the full continuum of services to meet their health care and supportive services needs.”

The PACE model of care was developed by [On Lok](#) through a series of successful demonstrations in the 1980s. On Lok led a national demonstration effort testing the models across the country which culminated with the passage of The Balanced Budget Act of 1997, making PACE a permanent provider type under Medicare and a state option under Medicaid. Today, PACE has grown nationally to include 122 programs in 31 states, and PACE organizations in [California](#) serve more than 7,000 participants at 37 PACE Centers and Alternative Care Sites in 12 counties, including Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Humboldt, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, and Santa Clara. PACE programs also provide tremendous fiscal [benefits](#) to the state of California in savings of up to \$19 million per year.

“As we commemorate National PACE Month, we recognize the vision and hard work of On Lok’s founders who created the PACE model with the goal of assisting frail seniors obtain health and social services,” said Grace Li, On Lok Chief Executive Officer. “We are honored that the program On Lok pioneered has expanded into a nationally replicated program serving over 42,000 seniors nationwide.”

During National PACE Month, CalPACE and On Lok are taking the opportunity to [educate](#) the aging population, family caregivers, medical providers, and elected officials about the benefits of PACE. The program provides improved and sustained health to seniors and reduces family and caregiver burnout by offering a proven, cost-effective, and high-quality alternative to nursing home placement.

**Media, please note:**

For more information about PACE or to speak with an On Lok representative, please contact Gus Nodal at (415) 561-0888 or via email at [gus@landispr.com](mailto:gus@landispr.com).

**About On Lok**

On Lok is a family of nonprofit organizations founded in the early 1970s by a group of citizens concerned about the plight of seniors and the lack of long-term care options in the community. With 46 years of history and experience both creating innovative models of care and serving diverse senior communities through integrated health and social services, On Lok has a wide-reaching experience base and is a trusted partner in its communities. On Lok serves seniors in the community through its affiliated nonprofits, including On Lok Lifeways, 30th Street Senior Center and more. For more information, please visit [www.onlok.org](http://www.onlok.org).

**About CalPACE**

CalPACE, the California PACE Association, is an association dedicated to the expansion of comprehensive health care services to the frail elderly through the Program of All-inclusive Care for Elderly (PACE). PACE programs coordinate and provide all needed preventive, primary, acute, and long-term care services so older individuals can continue living in the community. The PACE model is centered on the belief that it is better for the well-being of seniors with chronic care needs and their families to be served in the community whenever possible. For more information, please visit [www.calpace.org](http://www.calpace.org).

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