



## FACT SHEET

### **Behind Gary and Mary West's Mission to Enable Successful Aging for America's Seniors**

*Advancing successful aging in America through the development of healthcare delivery models and support services that enable seniors to age in place*

[West Health](#) is a family of nonpartisan, nonprofit organizations focused on healthcare research, policy and philanthropy solely funded by successful entrepreneurs [Gary and Mary West](#) to lower the cost of healthcare and help our nation's seniors successfully age in place with access to high-quality, affordable health and support services that preserve and protect their dignity, quality of life and independence.

- Approximately 49 million people in the U.S. are now 65 years or older, representing more than 15 percent of the population. [By 2035, seniors are projected to outnumber children](#), and over the next 15 years, there will be 73.1 million seniors, representing more than 20 percent of the population and marking one of the largest demographic shifts in U.S. history.
- This dramatic shift in population is putting new pressures on the U.S. healthcare system and community-based services. As a result, seniors and their families are facing significant medical and non-medical challenges to living out their years in the best way possible.

Gary and Mary West have committed their fortune to successful aging and addressing the unsustainable cost trajectory of the U.S. healthcare system, which they believe is a threat to our individual health, financial security and the American economy. For too long, Americans have been paying too much for healthcare and getting too little in return.



Seniors, especially the most vulnerable, bear the brunt of the high cost of healthcare, and we have seen this first-hand through the work at West Health's [Gary and Mary West Health Institute](#) and [Gary and Mary West Foundation](#) in San Diego, and the [Gary and Mary West Health Policy Center](#) in Washington, D.C.

Gary and Mary West have committed hundreds of millions of dollars over the past decade to making a real difference in the lives of seniors and all Americans through investments in community-based care models of excellence that show how high-quality, low-cost care can be delivered effectively.

- These models include Serving Seniors' [Gary and Mary West Senior Wellness Center](#) and the [Gary and Mary West Senior Dental Center](#) in San Diego, as well as California's first geriatric-accredited [Gary and Mary West Emergency Department at UC San Diego Health](#), among many other initiatives..

## The Gary and Mary West Health Institute

Established in 2009 by the Gary and Mary West Foundation, the [Gary and Mary West Health Institute](#) is a 501(c)(3) medical research organization that works with a wide range of leading healthcare providers, research institutions and advocacy organizations to create and support more effective ways of delivering care to seniors.

Research focuses on acute and chronic models of care delivery and supportive services. This includes home-centered and community-based healthcare social service delivery models, long-term services and supports (LTSS), oral health, family caregivers, telehealth, palliative care, geriatric emergency care, care coordination and health economics. The organization's capabilities include clinical and healthcare delivery research, as well as data-centered research through its data-science core team.



## The Gary and Mary West Foundation

The Gary and Mary West Foundation, established in 2006 and solely funded by Gary and Mary West, provides outcomes-based funding to support successful aging initiatives with collaborators that include leading academic institutions and senior-focused nonprofit organizations. The Foundation, which celebrated its 10-year anniversary in 2016, has awarded 498 grants totaling almost \$200 million since its inception. The Foundation accepts grant applications by invitation only.

## Gary and Mary West Health Policy Center

Solely funded by Gary and Mary West and based in Washington, D.C., the nonprofit and nonpartisan West Health Policy Center provides research and education to create and foster new integrated healthcare delivery models. The Policy Center is working in several areas affecting lower-income seniors including: home-centered care, which includes [Independence at Home](#); chronic disease and care coordination; access to oral healthcare; geriatric emergency care; LTSS; and family caregiver support.



For more information, visit [westhealth.org](http://westhealth.org) and follow [@WestHealth](https://twitter.com/WestHealth).

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