



# Homeless Services

The County urges the State to support policies and ongoing funding proposals that comprehensively address the homelessness crisis, and promote regional collaboration and accountability.

Increasing rents, unjust evictions, and a severe lack of affordable housing have driven more people into homelessness than ever before. It is estimated that 59,000 people in the County experienced homelessness on any given night in 2019. In 2018, 133 people escaped homelessness daily, but 150 others became homeless.

The County's Homeless Initiative engages an array of public and private stakeholders in a multifaceted, countywide action plan to combat and prevent homelessness. Partnering with cities, service providers and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, the County's Homeless Initiative – funded primarily through Measure H revenues – has led a major expansion of outreach, emergency shelter, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing in all parts of the County. As a result, thousands of local families and individuals have been assisted with temporary and permanent housing, case management services, and supportive services.

While measurable progress is being made across all dimensions of the County's commitment to combat and prevent homelessness, it is a complex humanitarian crisis that will not be solved overnight. Although there was an increase in the County's homeless population between 2018 and 2019, the increase was much smaller than the increase experienced by surrounding counties, which can be directly attributed to the investments by Measure H.

**The County encourages the State Legislature and the Administration to advance proposals that:**

- **commit on-going funding for housing and services to reduce and prevent homelessness;**
- **provide financial resources and reduce restrictions and barriers to allow local jurisdictions to expand the availability of interim, supportive, and affordable housing; and**
- **allow counties to maximize Federal, State, and local funds, and support models like the County's Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool.**

# Creating Comprehensive Solutions to Homelessness

## IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

In August 2015, the Board of Supervisors launched the County's Homeless Initiative. Major outcomes include:

- In March 2017, County voters resoundingly approved Measure H, the landmark quarter cent increase to the County's sales tax. Measure H provides an ongoing revenue stream – an estimated \$355 million per year for 10 years – to fund services, rental subsidies and housing.
- Through September 2019, 34,920 individuals and family members entered crisis, bridge and interim housing; 17,805 individuals and family members secured permanent housing; and 22,098 individuals were newly engaged by outreach workers as a result of Measure H funding and the strategies coordinated by the County's Homeless Initiative.
- These initial outcomes have been possible through cultivation of local innovation and service collaboration between public agencies, non-profits, and hundreds of other partners. One such innovation is the County's Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool program that secures a broad range of permanent housing options, including move-in assistance, rental subsidy disbursement, intensive case management, wrap-around services, and relationship building with landlords, neighbors, and developers to support growth in housing units over time.

Preventing and combating homelessness requires a sustained focus and effort, in collaboration with our partners, to move those who are homeless into stable housing and to identify effective strategies to reduce the flow of individuals and families into homelessness.



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# Affordable Housing

The County urges the State to support proposals that finance and incentivize the creation and preservation of affordable housing, and support innovative solutions to increase housing stock faster.

Skyrocketing rents, unjust evictions, and a severe lack of affordable housing have resulted in 721,000 severely rent-burdened households in Los Angeles County. More than 517,000 affordable homes are needed to meet the current demand. In addition to rising rents, rental developments at risk of being converted to market-rate within the next five years have put the County at risk of losing over 10,000 existing affordable homes, unless action is taken to preserve them.

The County places a high priority on increasing the availability of affordable housing for renters, homeowners, and persons with special needs. The Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA), which finances the development and rehabilitation of a variety of housing options, provides capital funding, Section 8 Project-Based Vouchers, and project-based Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Vouchers for the creation and operation of permanent multi-family rental housing units and single-family housing from local revenue sources. LACDA also operates the County's first-time homeownership and home improvement grant programs.

To that end, the County has invested \$500.8 million and leveraged \$3.3 billion in public and private funds, toward the construction of over 5,700 affordable and special needs housing units over the last five years. The LACDA has also helped 23,000 low-income households retain housing through the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program and 2,700 veterans through VASH Vouchers.

**The County encourages the State Legislature and the Administration to advance proposals that:**

- provide funding to construct new or preserve existing affordable housing units;
- fund initiatives to ensure housing stability of youth, including those currently and formerly in foster care;
- allow local jurisdictions to extend local rent stabilization protections to long-term rental agreements for mobile homes; and
- create new financial incentives to facilitate the development of affordable housing around transit projects.

# Affordable Housing Investments

## IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

The County is exploring new innovative strategies, including:

- Creating a permanent rent stabilization program, which will go into effect in April 2020, that will aim to keep people in homes by limiting rent increases and providing just-cause eviction protections for renters in our unincorporated areas.
- Adoption of a mobile home park rent regulation ordinance to go into effect in April 2020, which caps mobile home space rental increases to 75 percent of the Consumer Price Index with an 8 percent maximum.
- Initiation of a Demonstration Project to Fast Track Housing Supply, which seeks to test, contextualize, and add to the existing affordable housing ecosystem by utilizing forward-thinking technology and methodology (such as tiny homes, prefabricated/modular, and 3-D printed construction) on LACDA-owned land.
- Launch of the Housing Innovation Challenge, a \$4.5 million program (funded by Measure H) designed to activate stakeholders across the region to contribute new, scalable and sustainable solutions to homelessness by developing and evaluating faster, cost-effective construction/rehabilitation and/or creative finance.

Increased funding and policy assistance from the State would help the County make even greater strides to increase affordable housing, and develop new housing models that can be used statewide.



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# Mental Health Care

The County urges the State to support proposals that improve the lives of those living with serious mental illness and increase access to critical services in the most appropriate setting.

As a result of limited system capacity to meet the growing needs of individuals with serious mental illness, it is imperative that the State focus on solutions to increase access to critical services at all levels of care.

## **Licensing for Interdisciplinary Facilities**

The County is building a Restorative Care Program prototype to provide comprehensive, community-based services that address the complex needs of those requiring care for mental illness and substance use disorders and who have medical comorbidities. Its goal is to facilitate successful community reintegration with ongoing outpatient services to break the cycles of incarceration and homelessness. A change in State statute could eliminate the need for acquiring different license types under this program, which is currently burdensome and duplicative. A streamlined licensing process for interdisciplinary facilities would allow similar restorative care programs to be more easily implemented across the State.

## **Board and Care Funding**

Board and care facilities continue to close at an alarming rate in Los Angeles County, leaving a system of care unable to meet the critical housing and service needs of those with serious mental illness who are at risk of institutionalization, incarceration, and homelessness. Since January 2016, 45 board and care facilities with 1,226 beds have closed in Los Angeles County, largely due to the low State reimbursement rates and high operating costs. Additional State funding would help address this crisis.

## **Peer Support Specialist Support Program**

Peer support specialists are those who can draw on lived experience with mental illness and/or substance use disorder and recovery, bolstered by specialized training, to deliver valuable support services. Peer support specialists help reduce client hospitalizations, improve client functioning, alleviate depression and other symptoms, and diversify the mental health workforce. A statewide peer certification program would establish standardized training, practice guidelines, and clinical supervision requirements for peer and family support specialists that would meet the Federal Medicaid standards. This would professionalize peer support specialists and enable the State to draw down additional Federal funding for these services.

The County encourages the State Legislature and the Administration to advance proposals to protect and expand the mental health safety-net, including proposals to:

- exempt existing licensing requirements to enable the creation of a Restorative Care Program that addresses the needs of those with mental illness and substance use disorders;
- invest State General Funds to stabilize and prevent the loss of additional board and care facilities that serve those with severe mental illness; and
- establish a statewide certification program for peer support specialists.

# Innovative Mental Health Services

## IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

- Los Angeles County operates the largest municipal mental health department in the nation.
- Through 85 directly operated sites, and approximately 300 co-located sites, and contracts with 1,000 organizations and individual practitioners, DMH treats more than 250,000 County residents every year.
- The Department of Mental Health's mission is to optimize the hope, wellbeing, and life trajectory of Los Angeles County's most vulnerable residents through access to care and opportunities that promote not only independence and personal recovery, but also connectedness and community reintegration.
- The Department's focus is to ensure thriving systems of care are in place to meet the various needs of its residents, including:
  - communities that are enriched, equitable, and inclusive to best meet human needs;
  - crisis systems that provide intensive services to prevent falling into isolation, homelessness, and justice involvement; and
  - institutions that are focused on those most deeply isolated, experiencing homelessness, and justice involvement.

Increased assistance from our partners at the State level is critical to meet the growing need locally for a comprehensive network of mental health services, including within the community, crisis systems, and institutions.



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# Health Care

The County urges the State to support proposals that protect and expand the health care safety net and improve the outcomes of vulnerable residents.

California has two Federal Medicaid Waivers –Sections 1115 and 1915(b)– that will expire by the end of 2020, and the State is in the process of developing its proposal, known as the Medi-Cal Healthier California for All initiative, to submit to the Federal government to renew these Waivers and implement other Medicaid funding mechanisms. These Medicaid Waivers have been critical to the financing and delivery of health, mental health, and substance use disorder care, and future Waivers must continue to meet the needs of the County’s safety-net system of care and the residents it supports.

The State’s initial proposal to reform the State’s Medi-Cal program seeks to leverage Medicaid as a tool to address complex challenges in California such as homelessness, access to behavioral health care, children with complex medical conditions, justice-involved populations with significant clinical needs, and the growing aging population. To do so, the State is proposing significant changes to the current organization, delivery, and financing of health care services in California.

The County is committed to the State’s goal to improve the value of care to Medi-Cal beneficiaries, and representatives from our Health Agency departments are actively participating in the State’s stakeholder process to influence the final proposal.

The County encourages the State Legislature and the Administration to protect and expand the health care safety net and improve health outcomes of vulnerable residents through the *Medi-Cal Healthier California for All* initiative, including proposals that:

- require Medi-Cal managed care plans to partner and coordinate with counties in the planning, design, and implementation of this initiative to ensure that the infrastructure for serving the safety-net population is fully leveraged and maximized;
- ensure that critical benefits and services, such as those in the Whole Person Care Program and Targeted Case Management, continue with limited gaps in care and service delivery for vulnerable populations;
- promote integration for clients with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders, including a sufficient transition period for the integration of the County’s unique behavioral health systems; and
- pursue the Institutions for Mental Disease (IMD) Exclusion Waiver to fund mental health beds for clients to receive acute and subacute care when needed.

# Comprehensive Health Services

## IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

- The County's Department of Health Services (DHS) is the second largest municipal health system in the nation. Through four hospitals, 25 health centers, and through partnerships with community-based clinics, DHS annually cares for about 750,000 patients.
- The Department of Mental Health (DMH) is the largest county-operated mental health department in the United States. Through 85 directly operated sites, and approximately 300 co-located sites, and contracts with 1,000 organizations and individual practitioners, DMH treats more than 250,000 County residents every year.
- The Department of Public Health (DPH) operates 39 programs and 14 public health centers with the support of over 4,000 public health professionals. DPH oversees environmental health, disease control, and community and family health programs countywide.
- DHS, DMH, and DPH work together to streamline access and enhance customer experience for those residents who need services from more than one specialty area, in order to deliver more patient-centered, responsive and effective services to residents.

The successful renewal of California's Federal Medicaid Waivers and pursuit of the IMD Exclusion Waiver are vital to maintaining local safety-net health services, and expanding those services to better treat the State's most vulnerable residents, including those suffering from mental illness and chronic ailments that can lead to economic losses, homelessness, and/or justice involvement.



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# Infrastructure Investment

The County urges the State to work collaboratively on a shared vision and long-term planning that would modernize Los Angeles County's infrastructure to meet the region's future environmental and economic needs.

The Los Angeles County region serves as an economic engine for the entire nation – it is the nation's largest manufacturing center, a top international trade center, and a center for aerospace research and development. Maintaining economic growth requires continued and increased investment in the State's infrastructure systems, such as roads and bridges, ports, water and flood control systems, transit, and other public facilities.

The County has approximately \$1.0 billion in shovel-ready projects for transportation, water, parks and beaches. Using existing local and state voter-approved revenue measures, the County is investing in local streets, roads, and bridges, which are vital to the region's economy, public safety, and our residents' quality of life. In 2018, County voters also approved a ballot measure to fund stormwater projects and programs that will modernize our 100-year old water system, protect public health and the environment, and maximize a cleaner, locally-controlled water system. However, investment, updates to public contracting laws, and legislative actions from our State partners would greatly assist the County to meet its larger infrastructure goals.

Strong economic activity in the region has resulted in a corresponding increase in waste generation. The County is also focused on responding to the major paradigm shift in the waste management industry due to the urgency to combat climate change, new recycling laws and State mandates. In addition, the County has responded to the recycling crisis triggered by the China National Sword Policy, which restricted imported recyclable materials.

**The County encourages the State Legislature and the Administration to advance proposals that:**

- fund the development of public infrastructure, transportation systems and programs that address population growth, the regional economy, and public health;
- provide funding to upgrade water infrastructure;
- incentivize alternative project delivery methods, increase change order limits with annual adjustments based on the Consumer Price Index, and expand delegated authority to expedite project delivery; and
- provide dedicated State funding of at least \$200.0 million per year for material recovery facilities, increase the loans made available through the State Recycling, and Market Development Zone Program.

# Reuse and Recycling

## IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

At the local level, the County has implemented a RoadMap to a Sustainable Waste Management Future.

- It is a framework of strategies and initiatives the County is implementing to maximize the recovery of products, materials, and energy from waste that would otherwise be disposed of at landfills.
- The new, sustainable approach involves rethinking the way the County approaches waste management. It also includes rethinking what is characterized as waste and which materials might be suitable for reuse and recycling.
- An increasing amount of materials previously characterized as waste will now be reduced, reused, or recycled, thereby minimizing the volume of materials remaining for disposal.
- There is a significant lack of organic waste recycling infrastructure throughout the nation. This is a tremendous challenge for Los Angeles County, which has the largest processing capacity shortfall of any county in California, to meet state regulations.
- Funding is needed to aid in the development of solid waste infrastructure and policies to support domestic markets for the remanufacturing of recyclable materials and alternatives to landfill disposal (such as conversion technology) would help the State and local governments achieve recycling goals.

Fortifying public infrastructure, under the County and State responsibility, would support new housing near transit, facilitate the growth of the regional economy, and decrease negative impacts on public health and quality of life.



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# Child Welfare & Early Childhood Development

The County urges the State to invest in proposals that strengthen and support families; promote the safety, permanency, health, and well-being of all children; and enable vulnerable youth to transition to self-sufficiency and adulthood.

The County also supports proposals that provide State, as well as Federal, assistance to advance the successful transition from the Title IV-E child welfare waiver to the Family First Prevention Services Act.

As the largest public child welfare and adoption agency in the nation, the County's Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is responsible for approximately 35,000 foster youth in Los Angeles County. The Department has 19 regional offices and multiple specialized service units that include Deaf, Medically Fragile, Native American, Runaway Outreach, Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC), and the Extended Foster Care program (also referred to as AB 12).

In recent years, positive results achieved by DCFS include:

- Approximately 9,000 children placed out-of-home reside with a relative, which is 52% of children, far exceeding the national average of 32%.
- A significant decrease over the last three years in the number of children placed in group homes or emergency shelters.
- Implementation, with law enforcement, of a new CSEC program to decriminalize children and youth forced into commercial sexual exploitation and human trafficking.
- In collaboration with the Department of Mental Health, trauma-based training is provided countywide to ensure that all staff and contracted providers utilize trauma-responsive practices.
- An increase of 58% in the participation of youth ages 18-21 years in the Extended Foster Care program since its inception in 2012.

The County requests the State Legislature and the Administration advance proposals that enhance the County's efforts to promote the safety, healthy development, and success of all children and youth, including:

- increasing investments for Transition-Age Youth and the Extended Foster Care program;
- supporting permanency and placement resources for foster children and youth;
- funding initiatives that strengthen parenting skills and decrease child abuse and neglect; and
- ensuring access to high-quality child development and early care and education programs.

# Key Child Welfare Initiatives

## IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Major initiatives include:

- **Core Practice Model** - Prioritize child safety while emphasizing family strengths, underlying needs, and empowerment.
- **Continuum of Care Reform (CCR)** - Seeks to better assess foster children for placement into home-based, family-like settings.
- **Resource Family Approval / Recruitment and Retention** - As part of CCR, establishes a simplified approval process for caregivers and includes emergency placement stipends, tangible supports, and respite care.
- **Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC)** - Provides specialized services to treat and care for victims of commercial sexual exploitation.
- **Family First Prevention Services Act** - Implementation planning efforts include the identification of evidence-based child abuse and neglect prevention services.
- **Invest LA** - Utilizes a strategic framework focused on three key areas:
  - strengthening children, youth and families;
  - workforce excellence; and
  - community and cross sector partnership.

Increased assistance from the State would help to ensure:

- All children under five, including foster children, have access to high-quality early care and education programs;
- Continued progress implementing CCR by increasing the availability of well-trained resource families via the Resource Family Approval and Foster Parent Recruitment, Retention and Support programs, and investing in services that support relative and other home-based placements; and
- The Extended Foster Care program has the capacity to serve all eligible youth 18-21 who need case management and housing services to successfully transition to adulthood.



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# Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

The County urges the State to enact proposals to better prepare local jurisdictions to respond to disasters and minimize destruction by investing in wildfire prevention and response activities, increasing mutual aid funding and providing more resources to prepare the most vulnerable populations.

As the most catastrophic fire in California's history ravaged the State, former Governor Brown remarked that "this is not the new normal...this is the new abnormal, and this new abnormal will continue, certainly in the next 10, 15, 20 years." In Los Angeles County, the three most destructive wildfires that occurred in 2019 all took place in October, the Tick, Getty, and Saddleridge Fires.

## **Advocating for Preparedness**

There is a continued need to invest in disaster preparedness and resiliency activities to prevent such disasters and minimize destruction especially in high fire risk areas by investing in healthy forest management, enhancing fuels reduction, and promoting the hardening of homes through defensible space programs. All of these efforts are critical to slowing the spread of wildfires and improving the safety of firefighters defending them.

## **Equipping Firefighters with the Resources They Need**

The County's Fire Department is charged with fighting wildfires on Federal, State, and local land which puts a great demand on our firefighters and resources. Additional funding for mutual aid and advanced firefighting equipment can greatly assist first responders with the appropriate tools. The County is also focused on leveraging all resources to ensure that firefighters have counseling and the peer support they need to help address the stress and trauma they face on the job.

## **Preparing for Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS)**

In October 2019, utilities like PG&E and Southern California Edison began implementing PSPS to deliberately shutoff electricity in high risk areas to prevent wildfires. These planned and unplanned power outages have the potential to compromise the health of thousands of County residents reliant on electricity for in-home medical equipment, especially older adults and those with disabilities. With the increasing frequency and magnitude of emergency situations, additional resources are needed to ensure the County is prepared to protect our most vulnerable populations.

The County encourages the State Legislature and the Administration to advance proposals that would provide more resources for increased:

- forest management, fuels reduction, and wildfire prevention activities;
- mutual aid and firefighting resources;
- preparation for counties to prepare for catastrophic disasters as well as Public Safety Power Shutoffs; and
- recovery resources from events like property tax backfills, debris removal, and other assistance.

# Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

## IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

**Responding to Wildfires** – As part of the Woolsey Fire, which was the most destructive fire in Los Angeles County's history:

- Thousands of Los Angeles County firefighters and partners joined efforts to contain the wildfire.
- Los Angeles County's Animal Care and Control provided care to over 800 displaced animals including horses, dogs, cats, pigs, and cows.
- The 211 LA County disaster call center fulfilled over 15,600 recovery support requests.
- Los Angeles County's Department of Mental Health offered free or low-cost mental health support services to fire survivors.
- The County, in partnership with FEMA, operated two Disaster Assistance Centers that served nearly 2,500 households.
- The County provided engineering advice on mud and debris flow to over 480 homeowners in burned areas.

**Recovering from a Disaster** – Following the response to a disaster, the County has a major role in the recovery process. In certain circumstances, Los Angeles County coordinates the debris removal process, takes inventory of recovery costs for Federal and State claims, and works to connect residents, businesses or entities with Federal, State, County, and non-profit resources.

The Woolsey Fire and other wind events demonstrate the need to invest in disaster preparedness and resiliency. Increased assistance from the State would help all local communities statewide to increase and improve prevention and response efforts, including by tailoring services to special needs populations.



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# Economic and Workforce Development

The County urges the State to support proposals that stimulate job growth in the region; incentivize the growth and development of small businesses and social enterprises; and provide pathways to the middle class for historically underserved populations.

The County's economic development priorities are organized to target high-growth industry clusters that are the most competitive and that will generate family sustaining career pathways. These include health care services, manufacturing, trade and logistics, leisure and hospitality, film and digital media, bioscience, and construction.

In addition, the County's economic and workforce development programs seek to incentivize the growth of small business, build a more inclusive workforce, and provide targeted assistance to individuals facing the greatest barriers to economic success.

To stimulate job growth in the region and help lift County residents out of poverty, the County is strategically investing in efforts to support small businesses and innovative workforce development programs in high growth sector industries. These in turn create pipelines to well-paying jobs for the community through innovative programming that include a Community Entrepreneur Center, and a high-road career pathway program for our County's homeless population.

Across all of its departments, the County administers thirty-four workforce development and job training programs aimed at improving employment opportunities for at-risk and foster youth, students, veterans, residents from low-income communities, and individuals with involvement in the criminal justice system.

**The County encourages the State Legislature and the Administration to advance proposals that:**

- support the technology, healthcare, trade, manufacturing, construction, leisure and hospitality, bioscience, clean energy and creative economies;
- support and incentivize the growth and development of small businesses and social enterprises; and
- promote economic self-sufficiency by supporting comprehensive employment and training programs that provide wrap-around supportive services, remove barriers to employment, provide continued education, effect job placement, encourage businesses to hire unemployed or underemployed workers, and improve the retention of workers.

# Improving Economic & Workforce Development Efforts

## IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

- The County launched several “high road employment” initiatives, which identify family-sustaining career jobs and match and prepare individuals with barriers to employment for those jobs (including justice involved individuals, homeless individuals, and transition youth).
- The County’s Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services Department reports that 16,191 job placements were made across high-growth and other sectors during the 2019 fiscal year.
- As the largest employer in Southern California, the County provides stable jobs, good benefits and career pathways. The County also has several programs that provide employment opportunities within its own ranks, including the Preparing Los Angeles for County Employment (PLACE) program.
- In conjunction with PLACE, the County is implementing a “Women in Trades” program, which seeks to establish County craft apprenticeship and to recruit and prepare women for apprentice jobs in the County to help address the historical inequities in this field.
- The County is also training homeless individuals for union jobs, launching a gender-responsive jail-based job center at the County’s women’s’ jail, and leads a Fair Chance Hiring Campaign that has reached over 4 million individuals in LA County.

State actions to promote economic development, stimulate regional investment and encourage private sector participation would help to lift those economically disadvantaged residents experiencing barriers to employment out of poverty and into self-sufficiency.



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# Justice Programs

The County urges the State to support proposals that continue advancing statewide and local efforts to transform the adult and juvenile justice systems into rehabilitative and care-first systems.

## Mental Health Diversion

The County has taken significant steps toward reforming its local justice system, including expanding programs that divert individuals away from formal detention into rehabilitative programs. Mental Health Diversion under AB 1810 of 2018, has provided the County with the opportunity to further expand diversion of individuals who are suffering from mental illness and charged with specified felonies and misdemeanors.

State funding for AB 1810 has been time-limited and addresses the needs of only a small, select population. This leaves a notable void for other, larger groups of individuals whose mental illness is likely to warrant diversion considerations in lieu of jail or prison detainment. While the County has already redirected significant funding into other mental health diversion programs, we are seeking the State's support to make further progress with AB 1810 and provide an opportunity to establish best practices that can be implemented statewide.

## Trial Court Security

The 2011 Public Safety Realignment shifted sheriff-provided court security responsibility and funding to the counties. Unfortunately, the realigned revenue source has not kept pace with the increasing costs to fully cover these statutorily required services. In the County, that funding gap is in the tens of millions of dollars. The County supports State action to provide underfunded counties with additional, on-going funding to cover adequate trial court security, and any other State actions that would further help ensure the State's trial courts are safe and secure for judicial officers and court staff as well as the public.

The County encourages the State Legislature and the Administration to advance proposals that:

- continue supporting the County's expansion of mental health diversion and other alternatives to incarceration by providing new and ongoing sources of funding;
- mitigate racial and economic disparities in the justice system;
- implement bail system reforms consistent with the County's care-first agenda with adequate local control, time, flexibility, and funding; and
- provide additional resources to adequately and equitably fund local trial court security.

# Transformative Justice Reform Efforts

## IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Los Angeles County's Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR), justice departments, health departments, partner agencies and community stakeholders have invested a considerable amount of time, resources, and funding to further diversion and recidivism reduction programs, including:

- Since August 2016, the ODR Housing Program has provided interim and permanent supportive housing to 1,728 homeless and seriously mentally ill individuals released from jail;
- Since October 2016, 1,238 individuals have been removed from jail and connected to community-based treatment and supportive housing programs under the County's Misdemeanor Incompetent to Stand Trial-Community Based Restoration program.
- In March 2019, the County implemented the Felony Mental Health Diversion program to divert individuals with serious mental illnesses who have the potential to be or are deemed Incompetent to Stand Trial on felony charges. To date, the County has diverted 78 individuals under this program.
- Recently, the County implemented the Misdemeanor Mental Health Diversion Pilot, in which the prosecution, defense, law-enforcement, and mental health treatment providers collaborate to divert qualifying mentally ill misdemeanor defendants into treatment. During the pilot's first three months, more than 60 individuals were successfully transferred from custody into community-based treatment.

Ongoing support from State partners would help advance efforts to safely and humanely divert mentally ill or otherwise vulnerable individuals away from the State and jail systems and into community-based treatment.



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# Environmental Protection & Sustainability

The County urges the State to support legislation to further protect the environment and provide counties with funding for environmental mitigation.

Environmental hazards exacerbate many existing environmental health challenges pertaining to air quality, water quality, wildfires, food safety, among other issues. Historic discriminatory land use planning in low-income communities and communities of color has led to disproportionate pollution burdens and limited access to economic opportunity, parks, open space, and other resources that increase vulnerability to climate change.

Over the last several years, public health threats such as community-wide lead contamination, hazardous substance incidents, poor air quality, and deteriorating water infrastructure have required the County to convene state regulatory agencies and ensure that responsible parties are held accountable for swift corrective action. In the case of the Sativa Water District, the County worked with the local agency formation commission to compel the State to dissolve the water district and install the County as its interim administrator. The County is committed to advocating for proposals which bolster local authority to enforce corrective actions of businesses emitting hazardous substances and other pollution; increase the State's regulation of hazardous materials and waste; improve the State's enforcement of environmental laws; and provide funding for remediation or administration of service provision.

**The County encourages the State Legislature and the Administration to advance proposals that:**

- **enhance the well-being of every community and address historic inequities while reducing the damage to the natural environment;**
- **prioritize complimentary goals of job creation, improved public health, and regional policy collaboration; and**
- **bolster local authority to enforce corrective actions on businesses emitting hazardous substances.**

# Improving the Quality of Life

## IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

In August 2019, the Board of Supervisors approved OurCounty, a regional sustainability plan that is the boldest county sustainability plan in the nation:

- It embraces the notion that sustainability is inherently intersectional and is organized around twelve cross-cutting goals and thirty-seven long range strategies that describe a shared vision for a sustainable region.
- The Plan, which was guided by more than 200 community meetings and briefings, recognizes the urgency and impacts of the climate crisis and proposes ambitious and innovative strategies to make the County an equitable, prosperous and resilient region.
- In particular, key priorities are to create a zero-emission I-710 goods movement corridor, increase setback requirements from oil and gas facilities, reduce natural gas usage in buildings, eliminate single-use plastics, advance transit and other alternatives to single-occupant vehicles, incent and streamline permitting for new affordable housing, and enhance urban heat island mitigation efforts.
- A copy of the plan can be found at [ourcountyla.lacounty.gov](https://ourcountyla.lacounty.gov).

Ongoing support from the State to support proposals that enhance local authority and assist communities in becoming more resilient to the impacts of climate change would help the County realize its regional sustainability plan.



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