



COVID-19 BUDGET STABILITY

The County urges the State to support initiatives that provide budget stability for counties experiencing revenue losses for realigned programs and to help counties recover from the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2020 State Budget Act included \$750.0 million to provide support for counties experiencing revenue losses for realigned programs with priority given to health and human services, entitlement programs, and programs that serve vulnerable populations. Los Angeles County was allocated with \$239.3 million of this relief funding.

The CARES Act appropriated \$150.0 billion to establish the Coronavirus Relief Fund to make payments to States and certain local governments to cover any necessary expenditures incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Los Angeles County received \$1.057 billion of this one-time funding. The 2020 State Budget Act also allocated \$1.289 billion to address the public health and public safety impacts of COVID-19 including homelessness, of which Los Angeles County received \$136.4 million.

With this funding, the County was able to bolster services to address the pandemic and better support residents, while sustaining key safety net services. In the short-term, one-time State and Federal emergency funds were vital in sustaining critical public services. However, this funding only addressed a portion of the County's current and future fiscal year deficits. Without additional future aid, the County could be forced to cut critical safety net services, further eroding our region's social and economic health.

The County encourages the State Legislature and the Administration to advance initiatives that provide budget stability for counties experiencing revenue losses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, including proposals that stabilize both 1991 and 2011 Realignment funding for critical programs by:

- Fully backfilling for lost Realignment revenue on an ongoing basis until such revenue recovers to pre-COVID-19 base levels; and
- Preserving and augmenting State funding for core safety net programs, entitlements and other critical programs.

COMBATting & RECOVERING FROM COVID-19

IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

On July 21, 2020, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a \$1.22 billion CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund Spending Plan to enable the County to continue responding to the ever-evolving COVID-19 public health emergency on several fronts, including:

- \$424.0 million for public health, health services and related costs for diagnostic testing, contact tracing, and personal protective equipment.
- \$214.0 million to house vulnerable people, including to support Project Roomkey and related housing efforts such as for medical sheltering, recuperative care, and to house vulnerable and at-risk clients released from jail.
- \$200.0 million for financial and other aid for County residents including to support: the Rent Relief Program, food distribution events, the Great Plates Deliver program, various food insecurity programs, and additional vouchers to serve low-income children.
- \$161.0 million to support small businesses affected by COVID-19, including micro-entrepreneurs, and nonprofits such as childcare providers.
- \$162.0 million to support staff performing COVID-19 related functions and services, including \$150.0 million to cover the cost of deploying more than 3,600 emergency response and disaster service workers.

As a result of the dire economic impacts of COVID-19, the Board of Supervisors and County Department Heads are continuing to assess ways to further reduce operating costs, while continuing to provide much needed services.

Recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic requires additional Federal and State investments to balance supporting public health while addressing the broader safety net service needs of the most vulnerable populations, particularly those of color, which data reveals have been disproportionately impacted.



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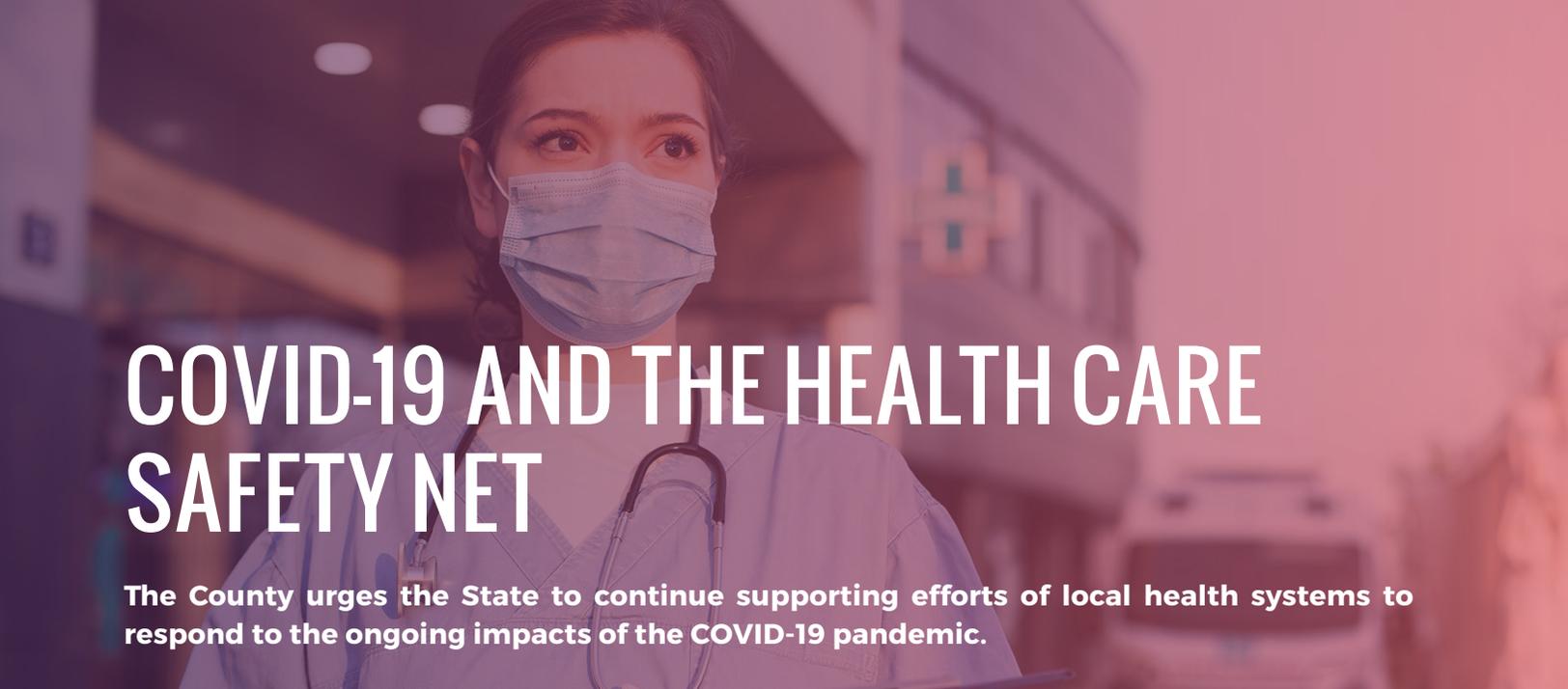
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COVID-19 AND THE HEALTH CARE SAFETY NET

The County urges the State to continue supporting efforts of local health systems to respond to the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to unprecedented demands on local health care delivery and public health systems as these systems work to respond to and mitigate the impact of the disease while also meet the ongoing health needs of the County's most vulnerable residents. Local health systems are the front lines for critical services to help slow the spread of COVID-19, including diagnostic testing; contact tracing; disease surveillance, management, and prevention services; and community outreach and education, particularly among the most at-need populations.

In response to the pandemic, these systems continue to confront the demands of surges at public hospitals and long-term care facilities, as well as the need for an adequate supply of personal protective equipment for health care and essential workers and vulnerable groups. Additionally, the local behavioral health system continues to see increasing demands for behavioral health services as a result of the impact of stay-at-home orders, physical distancing, economic hardships, and racial inequity.

The COVID-19 vaccine is one of the key medical countermeasures for the public health response, and it is critical that the State provide local health departments with the resources needed to disseminate the vaccine. Robust and streamlined vaccine planning and implementation are imperative for achieving herd immunity and for mitigating the continued impact on the public's health and local economies. Throughout this pandemic, local health systems have also been working tirelessly to adapt existing services to ensure that consumers can continue to access essential health care services safely, including adopting new care delivery methods such as telehealth.

The County requests the State Legislature and the Administration to advance proposals that provide funding to:

- Local health departments to prepare for and distribute COVID-19 vaccines in addition to the seasonal influenza vaccine;
- Support testing, contact tracing, personal protective equipment, staffing, information technology and data systems, and other necessary supplies to meet local needs;
- Prepare and respond to surges at local hospitals;
- Meet the increasing needs for behavioral health system services;
- Expand access to health care services through telehealth; and
- Address the inequitable outcomes on vulnerable communities, including addressing racial and economic justice.

COUNTY'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

The County's rapid response to the COVID-19 pandemic, includes but is not limited to:

- The County Department of Public Health implemented a Contact Tracing program and has identified nearly 3,000 contact tracers to date.
- The County has opened 27 County-operated testing sites and forged partnerships to add approximately 150 sites, focusing on the highest-risk communities.
- The County Department of Health Services has distributed personal protective equipment throughout the County, including approximately 42 million masks, 500,000 face shields and goggles, one million gloves, and 8.1 million gowns.
- The County's Community Health Worker Outreach Initiative mobilizes community health workers, also called Promotoras, in communities with higher burdens of transmission to conduct healing-informed grassroots community outreach.
- The County Department of Mental Health expanded its Help Line by creating two new lines—the Emotional Support line for callers experiencing increased challenges and stressors due to COVID-19, and the Veteran and Military Family Member line that connects veterans and military family members to resources including professional and peer support.
- The Departments of Public Health and Health Services, along with the County's Homeless Initiative collaborated to offer housing for people experiencing homelessness, allowing for quarantining and isolation.

From the start of the pandemic, County departments collaborated to offer housing for people experiencing homelessness, which combined with the robust testing in shelters and contact tracing tailored to this population may have contributed to lower than expected cases and deaths.



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A photograph of a person sleeping on a bench, huddled under a blanket. They are wearing a red knit hat and holding a red cup. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter.

HOMELESS SERVICES

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

According to the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count conducted in January 2020, over 66,000 people in Los Angeles County are homeless on any given night; and thousands of others are at risk of falling into homelessness. The COVID-19 pandemic and economic recession has further exacerbated the challenges many face in the region. The Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative, in partnership with cities, and hundreds of advocates and service providers, has made significant progress to address homelessness. Since the passage of Measure H in March 2017, the County has established a robust service system that has doubled the number of individuals moving from homelessness into permanent housing each year.

These countywide partnerships provided the foundation upon which the County successfully launched Project Roomkey. Since April 2020, the County entered into lease agreements with 38 motels and hotels which served as interim housing for over 8,000 people experiencing homelessness, who are vulnerable to hospitalization if they contract COVID-19. In Fall 2020, the County, in partnership with the State through Project Homekey, purchased 10 hotels and motels across the County with a combined 847 rooms. Nine of these properties began serving as non-congregate interim housing in December 2020 and January 2021; the tenth property began operating as permanent supportive housing in December 2020. All ten properties will be converted to permanent housing over the next two years.

In response to the pandemic, the infusion of one-time State and Federal emergency funding was critical in the short-term to bolster countywide efforts. But this funding is woefully insufficient to meaningfully address the long-term homelessness and housing crisis growing to catastrophic proportions across the County and the State.

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

- Provide new ongoing funding to combat and prevent homelessness;
- Expand the availability of interim, permanent supportive and affordable housing;
- Allow local jurisdictions to expand interim, supportive, and affordable housing by reducing restrictions and barriers to these types of housing; and
- Allow counties to maximize Federal, State, and local funds to provide services to individuals and families at risk of or experiencing homelessness, such as for Medicaid reimbursable services.

COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS TO HOMELESSNESS

IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Measure H, approved by local voters on March 7, 2017, established a 10-year countywide ¼ cent sales tax to raise dedicated revenue to prevent and combat homelessness.

This local revenue has led to a significant expansion of outreach, emergency shelter, rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing for disabled adults across all parts of the County.

Overall, dozens of homeless strategies have been implemented including many different services and interventions to address the unique circumstances people experiencing homelessness face.

Since July 2017, efforts implemented by Los Angeles County have resulted in:

- 23,692 individuals and family members being permanently housed, including 1,519 during the first quarter of Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21.
- 48,712 individuals and family members entered interim housing funded in whole or in part by Measure H, including 1,998 individuals during the first quarter of FY 2020-21
- 47,424 individuals were connected by Countywide Outreach Teams to services, including 7,499 during the first quarter of FY 2020-21.

Preventing and combatting homelessness requires a sustained, focused collaboration between the State, counties, cities, and continuums of care. Without an ongoing meaningful State financial commitment, the homeless crisis will likely continue to grow across California.



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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, help prevent housing instability or homelessness, and support innovative solutions to increase housing stock faster.

Housing Uncertainty

Skyrocketing rents, unjust evictions, and a lack of affordable housing have resulted in 547,030 severely rent-burdened households in Los Angeles County. More than 500,000 affordable homes are needed to meet the housing needs of the County's low-income households. Additionally, rental developments at risk of being converted to market-rate within the next five years have put the County at risk of losing over 8,873 existing affordable homes, unless action is taken to preserve them. These figures are expected to increase as the nation continues to grapple with the financial and housing insecurity that have resulted from the coronavirus pandemic. A recent California Housing Partnership COVID-19 Housing Fragility Survey found that 41 percent of all renters in California have "no confidence" or "slight confidence" that they can pay their rent next month or have a deferred payment. Further, a UCLA/USC COVID-19 Survey found that Los Angeles renters are more likely than homeowners to have lost work/income during the pandemic.

Increasing Affordable Housing Stock

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 grants programs. To that end, the County has reserved \$736.0 million dollars to invest in affordable housing development over the last five years.

The County requests that the State Legislature and the Administration advance proposals that provide:

- Funding to construct new affordable housing units and preserve existing affordable housing units;
- Extensions of affordability covenants on all State housing finance programs to a uniform 99-year term, ensuring communities can maintain their affordable housing stocks;
- Enforcement mechanisms for the State's tenant protections laws, such as for AB 1482 and SB 329;
- Rental and legal assistance for individuals and families at-risk of housing instability or homelessness, especially emergency COVID-19 assistance; and
- Down payment assistance to first-time homebuyers.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING EFFORTS

IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

COVID-19 Rent Relief Program – In August 2020, the County allocated \$100.0 million to this new program to provide rental subsidies to income-eligible, struggling households in the unincorporated areas of the County. Households at 30 percent of the median income were eligible for up to \$10,000, and households at 50 percent of the median income were eligible for up to \$7,500. The demand for assistance far outweighed the funding available. Of the over 88,000 applications, 40,279 were determined to be eligible for the lottery. The program will assist an estimated 9,000 families.

Stay Housed L.A. County Program (Eviction Prevention & Defense)

- Launched in September 2020, this \$12.7 million service delivery partnership between the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA) and over 20 tenant-led community-based organizations and legal services providers provides low-income tenants in the County with the information, services, resources, and support they need to stabilize their housing and prevent an eviction and potential homelessness. Specifically, the program provides the following free services: Public Awareness; Outreach & Education; Legal Services; and Rental Assistance.

Foreclosure Prevention and Mortgage Assistance – In response to the pandemic, the County's Foreclosure Prevention services were expanded to meet the needs of County residents and to support landlords with 15 or fewer units that are in distress and need support working with their mortgage lender or servicer. In September 2020, the Board of Supervisors allocated \$5.5 million to further expand this program and establish a Mortgage Relief Program, which is anticipated to launch in early 2021.

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



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A young person with short hair is looking down and to the left, standing behind a chain-link fence. The image has a purple and pink color overlay.

JUSTICE REFORM

The County urges the State to support efforts that advance Statewide justice reform as well as local efforts to find alternatives to incarceration and to transform the juvenile justice system.

The County's ongoing efforts to reform its justice programs continues to be at a critical stage, and its success will have monumental impacts locally and statewide. Reforming the larger adult and juvenile justice systems will require a truly robust multi-disciplinary and intersectoral effort, including a continued and expanded partnership with the State. As such, the County will advocate for proposals that continue advancing statewide and local efforts to transform the adult and juvenile justice systems, including proposals that would support the County's goals to:

- Divert adults and juveniles from incarceration and into rehabilitative, health-focused, and care-first systems;
- Mitigate racial and economic disparities in the justice system;
- Strengthen law enforcement transparency, accountability, and policing reforms; and
- Implement bail system reforms consistent with the County's care-first agenda, with adequate local control, time, flexibility and funding for services.

The County is currently looking to advance specific legislative proposals that will allow for the expansion of pre-plea and pretrial diversion programs, increased community-based treatment options for mentally ill justice-involved individuals, allow the County to move its juvenile justice programs out of probation and in to a care-first entity, as well as alternatives to incarceration for defendants facing lower level offenses.

The County encourages the State Legislature and the Administration to advance proposals that, where consistent with public safety and the best anti-recidivism practices, reduce State and local reliance on incarceration systems, including proposals that:

- Expand pre-plea and pre-trial diversion programs and other alternatives to incarceration such as by providing new statutory authorities and sources of funding;
- Provide the County the flexibility to restructure its juvenile justice system in order to shift to a rehabilitative, health-focused, and care-first system; and
- Decriminalize low-level, non-violent offenses.

TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE REFORM EFFORTS

IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

In March 2020, the Board of Supervisors created the Los Angeles County Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) Unit, which has begun putting into place the vision and strategies by which to create an effective and human-focused justice system as recommended by the County's ATI Work Group's "Care First, Jail Last" report. ATI will work closely with County justice, health, and social services departments, including the County's Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR).

ODR uses cutting edge clinical and harm reduction community-based care and support approaches to reduce the incarceration of those with serious mental disorders and/or substance use disorders; improves outcomes for those reentering society after justice-system contact; and diverts young people away from justice system contact.

On November 3, 2020, the voters of Los Angeles County approved Measure J which dedicates a minimum of ten percent of the County's locally generated unrestricted funding to address the disproportionate impact of racial injustice through community investments such as youth development, job training, small business development, supportive housing services and alternatives to incarceration. The directors of ATI and the County's Anti-Racism Diversity and Equity Initiative and a 17-member Measure J Reimagine LA Advisory Committee are developing a spending plan recommendation process and will coordinate with County departments to develop detailed budget requests in line with the identified community engagement priorities and Measure J goals. Measure J realigned funding will help offset some of the funding the County needs to transform its justice system.

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



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ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION & SUSTAINABILITY

The County urges the State to support proposals that protect people and the environment, address historic inequities in the distribution of pollution burdens on low income communities and communities of color, provide counties with funding for environmental mitigation, and support the transition away from fossil fuels to a cleaner and healthier economy.

Environmental hazards compounded by the impacts of climate change continue to place an unequal burden on low-income communities, particularly communities of color. Over the last several years, incidents involving lead contamination, hazardous substance releases, hazardous air quality, and deteriorating water supply infrastructure have required the County to intervene to ensure that the State is providing timely and strict enforcement of regulations as well as holding responsible parties accountable for quick cleanup actions.

Over the last several years, incidents threatening entire communities, such as wide-spread lead contamination, hazardous substance incidents, poor air quality, and deteriorating water infrastructure have required the County to convene State regulatory agencies to target environmental mitigation efforts 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: 1) advocating for solutions to mitigate historic and ongoing disproportionate exposure to environmental risks, especially from the production and use of fossil fuels; and 2) bolstering local authority to enforce corrective actions of businesses emitting hazardous substances, increase the State's regulation of hazardous materials and waste, improve the State's enforcement of environmental laws, reduce the use of fossil fuels, 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 public's health and the natural environment;
- Reduce the production and use of fossil fuels in order to limit resident's exposure to climate-related risks and assist communities in adapting to climate change;
- Prioritize complimentary goals of job creation, improved public health, social equity, technology innovation and regional policy collaboration; and
- Bolster local authority to enforce corrective actions on businesses emitting hazardous substances.

REUSE AND RECYCLING

IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

The County has seen several impacts over the last few years to the local recycling system. Higher standards for exports have led to increased processing costs at recycling facilities. Facilities are expending more money and effort to collect less materials that have a lower commodity value.

Concurrently, there has been a decrease in recycling and increased landfill disposal Statewide. These impacts have also led to forty percent of California's recycling centers closing in the last five years, with more than 100 closing in Los Angeles County.

In addition to traditional recycling infrastructure, 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.

This is straining the County's ability to sustainably manage municipal solid waste. The County has identified the steps needed to move our region forward in response to these challenges; however, 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 technologies). Such investments would help the State and local governments achieve recycling goals, combat climate change, and rejuvenate the economy.

In March 2020, L.A. County Public Works led the effort to establish Infrastructure LA, a platform for public and private collaboration on infrastructure strategies in the County. Participants include 151 cities, businesses, and organizations. Key initiatives include COVID-19, Sustainable Waste and Management, Construction Industry, and Agency/Municipality Construction.



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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 permanency safety, health, and well-being of all children; and enable vulnerable youth to transition to self-sufficiency and adulthood.

The County supports proposals that provide State, as well as Federal, assistance to advance efforts to successfully implement child welfare reform, including the Family First Prevention Services Act, without disruption to vital services.

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 38,000 foster youth in Los Angeles County. The Department has 20 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).

The State's support can help to further the positive results DCFS has achieved in recent years, including the:

- Launch of the innovative Child Abuse Reporting Electronic System (C.A.R.E.S.) followed by its expansion to other counties through the passage of County-sponsored Assembly Bill 1929 (2020).
- Provision of early care and education services to over 3,500 foster children through the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program since its inception in August of 2018 through September 2020.
- Collaboration with the County's Department of Mental Health to provide trauma-based training countywide to ensure that staff and providers utilize trauma-responsive practices.
- Implementation of the Student Information Tracking System, which includes 21 school districts, to monitor the educational progress of over 10,000 foster students.
- Creation of the Foster Care Search Engine System, allowing foster home placement requests to be viewed, confirmed, or cancelled from a mobile device.

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

- Increase investments for Transition-Age Youth and the Extended Foster Care Program;
- Support permanency and placement resources for foster children and youth;
- Fund initiatives that strengthen parenting skills and decrease child abuse and neglect;
- Ensure access to high-quality child development and early care and education programs; and
- Increase investments and resources to address the increased need for services resulting from the ongoing pandemic and provide relief for strained public systems.

CHILD WELFARE INITIATIVES

IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Major initiatives include:

- **Thriving Families, Safer Children** - Spearheaded by the U.S. Children's Bureau, Casey Family Programs, the Annie E. Casey Foundation and Prevent Child Abuse America, and in partnership with the California Health and Human Services Agency and the California Department of Social Services, assists four selected jurisdictions including Los Angeles County to create organizations that advance justice and equity for children and families and thereby significantly transform child welfare systems.
- **Core Practice Model** - Prioritizes child safety while emphasizing family strengths, underlying needs, and empowerment.
- **Continuum of Care Reform (CCR)** - Improves assessment of foster children for placement into home-based, family-like settings; establishes a simplified approval process for caregivers; and includes emergency placement stipends, tangible supports, and respite care.
- **Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC)** - In partnership with law enforcement, the CSEC program decriminalizes children and youth forced into commercial sexual exploitation and provides specialized services to treat and care for victims.
- **Family First Prevention Services Act** - Implementation efforts that 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 investing in services that support relative and other home-based placements in addition to increasing the availability of well-trained resource families via the Resource Family Approval and Foster Parent Recruitment, Retention, and Support programs; 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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ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The County urges the State to support proposals that promote equitable economic development, stimulate job growth in the region, and help lift economically disadvantaged residents experiencing barriers to employment out of poverty and into self-sufficiency.

To stimulate job growth in the region and help lift residents out of poverty, the County is strategically supporting small businesses in disadvantaged communities and in innovative workforce development programs in high growth sector industries that create a pipeline to well-paying jobs for the community. The County's economic development and workforce development programs seek to incentivize the growth of small businesses, build a more inclusive workforce, and provide targeted assistance to individuals facing the greatest barriers to economic success. 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.

The County believes it is critical for the State to encourage regional investment and private sector participation to support economic recovery for communities most impacted by COVID-19. Recovery must include strengthening safety nets for workers impacted by the pandemic, comprehensive re-training and re-employment, support to local businesses to avert layoffs, and sector partnerships to encourage industry specific hiring strategies. Across all of its departments, the County administers 34 workforce development and job training programs aimed at improving employment opportunities for at-risk and foster youth, students, veterans, individuals experiencing homelessness, residents from low-income communities, and individuals currently or formerly involved in the criminal justice system.

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

- The technology, health care, trade, manufacturing, construction, leisure and hospitality, bioscience, clean energy, and creative industries;
- Regional investment and encourage private sector participation;
- Incentives to grow and develop small businesses and social enterprises;
- Comprehensive employment and training programs with wrap-around supportive services, which remove barriers to employment, provide continued education, encourage businesses to hire unemployed or underemployed workers, improve the retention of workers, and support worker health and safety; and
- Economic relief to industries, small businesses, and individuals impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in order to support the County's economic recovery.

COVID-19 ECONOMIC RECOVERY

IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

The following economic recovery programs are helping to respond to the pandemic:

- **Los Angeles Regional COVID-19 Recovery Fund** – Assists microentrepreneurs, small businesses, and nonprofits throughout the County that are in need of recovery capital. An allocation of \$64 million has been authorized for this program, which is a collaborative effort between the City and County of Los Angeles to provide grants to small businesses, including nonprofit entities. The second phase of the program will include loans.
- **Small Business Revitalization Grant Program** – \$9.5 million was allocated to provide \$30,000 grants to small businesses that were disproportionately impacted by the disparities in the State and Local Health Orders. Eligible businesses included breweries and wineries with no kitchens, miniature golf parks, batting cage facilities, kart racing centers, and tanning salons.
- **Child Care Provider Grant Program** – \$10.0 million was allocated to create a Childcare Provider Grant Program, operated by the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA) for eligible licensed childcare operators in Los Angeles County who were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The LACDA plans to issue a total of 460 grants for Licensed Childcare Centers who are eligible to receive \$40,000, and Family Childcare Homes who are eligible to receive \$15,000.
- **Worker Resiliency Fund** – Provides small grants to underrepresented populations that are unable to receive assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic. 513 workers have already received a total of \$410,000 in funds to assist with expenses incurred from the onset of the pandemic.

Additional State funding would help the County better support workers, small businesses, and the larger regional economy recover from the COVID pandemic.



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INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

The County urges the State to work collaboratively to develop and implement a shared vision and long-term planning effort to modernize Los Angeles County's infrastructure to meet the region's current and future needs.

The Los Angeles County region serves as an economic engine for the entire nation – it is the nation's largest manufacturing and international trade center, as well as the center for aerospace research and development. The region will host the 2028 Summer Olympic Games, providing a catalyst for the need to further invest in sustainable and resilient public infrastructure. 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 a vision for modernizing infrastructure while assuring efficient resource management in the context of climate change and population growth, and has approximately \$1.6 billion in shovel-ready projects for transportation, water, parks, and beaches. Full funding for these projects could create over 20,000 jobs.

The County is using existing local and State voter-approved revenue measures to invest 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 and legislative actions from our State partners would greatly assist the County meet its larger infrastructure goals.

Strong economic activity in the region has resulted in a corresponding increase in waste generation. The coronavirus public health emergency has also created challenges for local governments on how they manage hazardous waste and the increasing volumes of single-use packaging in a safe manner. The County is focused on responding to the major paradigm shift in the waste management industry due to the urgency to combat climate change, new recycling laws, State mandates, and the recycling crisis.

The County encourages the State Legislature and the Administration to advance proposals that support counties and the State in improving and maintaining vital public infrastructure, including proposals that:

- Provide funding to maintain and upgrade water infrastructure;
- Fund the development of public infrastructure, transportation systems, enhanced mobility and safety, and programs that address population growth, the region's economic recovery, climate change, and public health;
- 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;
- Assist local governments' disaster prevention/mitigation efforts; and
- Increase digital infrastructure.

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE

IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

The County of Los Angeles is developing and implementing policies and programs that will make our communities and the region healthier, economically stronger, as well as more livable, equitable, resilient, and sustainable, including:

Oil Well Ordinance - In 2016, the County convened a Strike Team to assess the conditions, regulatory compliance and potential public health and safety risk associated with existing oil and gas facilities in unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. The County is updating its zoning code and associated regulations to ensure that oil and gas facilities may no longer operate by right in the unincorporated portions of the County; and to ensure that the regulations reflect best practices and current mitigation methods and technologies, minimize environmental impacts, and protect sensitive uses and populations. The County will be conducting public hearings on a draft ordinance in early 2021.

Minimizing Exposure to Pollution to Reduce Health Disparities - Highways and polluting facilities such as refineries, rail yards, and factories are often located in close proximity to low-income communities and communities of color in the County. These communities continue to face elevated health risks from pollutant exposure and have historically been overburdened and under-resourced. The County is partnering with Los Angeles County Metro, the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, and regional agencies along key freight corridors, as well as with private freight movers, to implement 'green goods movement' technologies, such as medium- and heavy-duty zero emission vehicle infrastructure, through initiatives like Metro's I-710 Corridor Project or use of County properties for refueling.

The Clean Power Alliance, a community choice aggregator created by the County of Los Angeles in 2017 and formed through a joint powers agreement made up of 32 public agencies across Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, is now providing 100 percent renewable energy to over 1 million residents in 14 cities in Los Angeles and Ventura counties.



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WILDFIRE & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE & RECOVERY

The County urges the State to enact proposals that provide resources to local jurisdictions to prepare for and respond to disasters and wildfires during COVID-19, by equipping firefighters with proper equipment and aid, resourcing inmate fire camps, and investing in prevention and preparedness.

Responding to wildfires and disasters amid COVID-19 has presented new challenges for Los Angeles County. The pandemic has further strained the County Fire Department's budget and financial resources, including by having to provide personal protective equipment (PPE) to firefighters and emergency medical responders to prevent and minimize exposure to COVID-19.

The pandemic has also impacted the County's Fire camps, a partnership with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention (CALFIRE), that deploys inmates to help fight wildfires. COVID-19 outbreaks among inmates have greatly reduced the population of available firefighting workers to the County. It is expected that there will be reductions of CDCR fire crews from 24 to approximately eight in Los Angeles County. The shortages in firefighting support could not have come at a more difficult time, when the County experienced two significant wildfire events: the Lake Fire in August 2020, which burned over 31,000 acres, and the Bobcat Fire in September 2020, which burned 114,000 acres and destroyed numerous residential structures.

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

- **Equip Firefighters to Respond to Wildfires** - COVID-19 has demonstrated the great demands on the County's Fire Department, which is charged with fighting wildfires on Federal, State, and local lands. Additional funding for mutual aid and advanced firefighting equipment can greatly assist first responders with the appropriate tools to respond to wildfires which continue to increase in frequency and severity. Additionally, more resources for Fire Departments to purchase PPE is critical during the pandemic.
- **Expand Inmate Fire Camps** - Establish eligibility in the State's Ventura Training Center reentry program for people sentenced under AB 109 in Los Angeles County who participated in the Fire Camp program while incarcerated; and ensure that the County Fire Department is fully compensated for their work with CDCR's Fire Camp Program.
- **Invest in Preparedness** - Invest in healthy forest management, enhance fuels reduction, and promote the hardening of homes through defensible space programs in order to prevent wildfires and minimize destruction especially in high fire risk areas.

All of these efforts are critical to slowing the spread of wildfires and improving the safety of firefighters defending them.



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DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE & RECOVERY

IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Responding to Disasters – With nearly 4,000 firefighters, the Los Angeles County Fire Department is responsible for providing fire protection and emergency medical service delivery to 4 million residents living in 1.23 million housing units in 60 cities and all 141 unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County.

The Los Angeles County Fire Department Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Bureau was created to address the growing EMS needs across the County. In total, EMS 9-1-1 calls comprise nearly 85 percent of the Department's responses. The Department is committed to providing prompt, clinically skilled, and caring medical service to ensure positive outcomes for everyone, every time.

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 Bobcat and Lake Fires 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.