



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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FESIA A. DAVENPORT
Chief Executive Officer

November 9, 2021

To: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

From: Fesia A. Davenport
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
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First District

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Second District

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Third District

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REPORT BACK ON ESTABLISHING A LOS ANGELES COUNTY POVERTY ALLEVIATION POLICY AGENDA AND CREATING A COUNTYWIDE GUARANTEED INCOME PROGRAM (ITEM NO. 20, AGENDA OF MAY 18, 2021)

On May 18, 2021, the Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted a motion directing the Chief Executive Office (CEO) to establish a ninth Board-Directed Priority, the Poverty Alleviation Initiative (PAI), and report back in 90 days on developing a strategic plan, incubating PAI with other key initiatives housed within the CEO, drafting a set of policy recommendations for closing the racial and gender wealth gaps, coordinating with the City of Los Angeles and other Los Angeles County (County) jurisdictions interested in poverty alleviation efforts, and recommending relevant legislative policies that reduce racial disparities and support Guaranteed Income (GI) programs that do not negatively affect other State and federal benefits. The motion also directed the CEO to, within 60 days, establish a GI pilot program that includes identifying appropriate funding and administrative support for the pilot to serve 1,000 residents for three years; work with a consultant to identify a target population (including considering the inclusion of women recently released from incarceration, transition age youth, and domestic violence survivors), engage the community, and develop a mechanism for disbursing funding; hire a consultant to evaluate the pilot; and, within 180 days, develop a recommendation for the long-term Countywide administration of this type of program.

An initial progress report was submitted to the Board on August 18, 2021; this is a follow-up progress report addressing these directives.

Progress

The PAI is developing a strategic plan for alleviating poverty across the County. A series of listening sessions are being conducted across the County to engage residents in the development of the plan. To date, over a dozen community meetings have been held across the County, reaching more than 300 participants. Neighborhoods have included Lancaster, Palmdale, East Palmdale, Lake Los Angeles, Pacoima, Cudahy, Carson, Compton, West Athens, Watts, Broadway Manchester, Walnut Park, East Los Angeles, South El Monte, El Monte, Southeast Los Angeles, South Gate, Wilmington, and Hawthorne.

Participants have included County residents from a variety of backgrounds, including African American, Latinx, Caucasian, monolingual Spanish speakers, undocumented County residents, former foster youth, college students, seniors, new mothers, fathers, those with physical challenges, formerly justice involved, former special education students, and parents with children accessing regional center services. Many of the participants discussed facing ongoing issues of economic insecurity. Additional community meetings are being scheduled over the next three months to include representatives from other groups such as Asian/Pacific Islander, indigenous people, people experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, domestic violence survivors, other County neighborhoods, as well as community providers, stakeholders, and advocates working with those struggling with economic and food insecurity. The PAI is targeting completion of the strategic plan by spring 2022.

The PAI is also connecting with several partners and other jurisdictions to ensure coordination and alignment across the various efforts working towards poverty alleviation. Initial relationships have been formed with the cities of Los Angeles, Long Beach, West Hollywood, Santa Monica, Pasadena, and Pomona to start, with additional cities to come. The PAI is also engaging various stakeholders on opportunities to partner, which will be reflected in the strategic plan. A website for PAI has been launched at: <https://ceo.lacounty.gov/pai>; it can also be found by typing *pai.lacounty.gov* into a search engine.

The PAI is also leading the implementation of the Countywide GI project. Contracts are being finalized with the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Guaranteed Income Research (CGIR) as the lead research team, Mayors for Guaranteed Income to provide technical assistance, and a program administrator to help with community outreach and ongoing participant engagement and support. The County's Department of Consumer and Business Affairs will manage the distribution of funds to participants. The Department of Public Social Services applied to the State requesting a waiver from guaranteed

income payments being included in the income calculation for California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids benefits, on behalf of the project.

Outreach to community residents about this project began on October 1, 2021. As mentioned, over a dozen community meetings have been held reaching more than 300 County residents. A more comprehensive community outreach plan will be developed in partnership with the program administrator once their contract is executed. Outreach efforts to philanthropy are also underway to explore opportunities for raising private funding from foundations to support the project.

The Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative's Equity Tool is being used to help determine the eligibility criteria for the project, and the Internal Services Department is developing the online application screening tool for identifying program eligibility. The project team will work on developing a set of operating procedures that will guide the implementation of the project once it is launched.

The Board motion further directed the PAI, within 180 days, to develop a recommendation for the long-term Countywide administration of this type of program. A plan will be most effective if it is developed after the Countywide GI project has launched and there are available outcome data to demonstrate whether it is effective. Therefore, we will submit this recommendation to the Board, and will report back with it, after sufficient outcome data is obtained.

The PAI will provide the Board with an updated progress report on these ongoing efforts by February 28, 2022.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me or Carrie Miller, PAI Executive Director, at (213) 262-7823 or cmiller@ceo.lacounty.gov.

FAD:JMN:TJM
CDM:ma

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
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