



**CEO**

Chief Executive Office  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

# American Rescue Plan: Phase One

Board of Supervisors Meeting

*December 21, 2021*

*Item S-1*

# Where we have been

- Board adopted Phase One Spending Plan on **July 27, 2021**
- Three pillars:
  - Emerging from the Pandemic Better than Before Through Equity-Based Investments
  - Building a Bridge to an Equitable Recovery; and
  - Fiscal Stability and Social Safety Net
- **\$87.7 million** in investments supporting Care First Community Investments (formerly Measure J)
- **81 programs** administered by 17 departments

# LA County's innovative equity-based approach

- **April 20, 2021:** motion to create equity-based lens for disbursement of funding, including census block mapping
- **July 13, 2021:** motion to create equity principles and disbursement formula all departments must apply to ensure ARP funds help those most impacted by COVID-19 and affected by poverty.
- **September 15, 2021:** motion adopting Countywide Equity Guiding Principles, COVID-19 Vulnerability and Recovery Index, Equity Funding Formula, and strategies for engaging non-geographically concentrated communities.
- **November 30, 2021:** motion authorizing County departments to utilize an expedited solicitation process for ARP Phase One programs

# Lessons learned along the way

- Detailed program planning and metrics tracking are necessary to ensure compliance with federal guidelines and the Board's directives
- Need to build capacity to capture, track and report data
- Unlike Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) provided under the CARES Act, ARP federal solicitation requirements restrict local jurisdictions' ability to quickly contract
- Recent CSAC survey: about 65% of responding counties have obligated less than 25% of their ARP funds; and 95% have spent less than 25% of their ARP funds with all work completed
- Equity-based program design may require departments to "rethink" service delivery, target populations, output and outcomes metrics
- Achieving data-driven, measurable equity goals requires long-term, multi-faceted processes based upon deep engagement, training and consultation at the departmental level

# Implementation progress

## Dashboard and Mapping

- Built Equity Explorer mapping tool
- Tracking allocations and spend
- Mapping ARP projects and services
- Capturing project and equity metrics
  - Number of residents / families / businesses served
  - Jobs created
  - Census Tract/SD/SPAs served
  - Equity Formula

## Project Design and Reporting

- Conducting trainings/workshops for every department
- Providing equity reports
- Leveraging ARDI tools for Care First Community Investment

- Continuing to build infrastructure to align accounting, program tracking and reporting systems

## Website and Communication

- Created direct link to ARP contracting opportunities
- Developing a department site for tools, videos, trainings, templates, and resources

## Contracting

- Engaging philanthropy to help reduce barriers for CBOs and smaller contractors
- Aligning with Equity in County Contracting—training and templates for departments
- Expediting solicitation process

# Where are we headed

- Programs and departments are working to align existing and new programs with federal guidelines
  - ➔ ARP requires that projects have either an evidence-based intervention or program evaluation
  - ➔ Strongly recommends a community engagement plan
  - ➔ Requires efforts to increase awareness of services funded by ARP
- Majority of programs currently in the project design phase utilizing the COVID-19 Vulnerability and Recovery Index, Equity Explorer and Equity Funding Formula
- 9 programs authorized to launch totaling \$90,200,000 including homelessness and housing services and small business rent relief, among others
- Working with departments to expedite project design submissions and launch



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