



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

2022



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

**STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

ABOUT

# LOS ANGELES COUNTY



LOS ANGELES COUNTY HAS THE LARGEST POPULATION OF ANY COUNTY IN THE NATION - WITH **OVER 10 MILLION RESIDENTS, WHO ACCOUNT FOR 27 PERCENT OF CALIFORNIA'S POPULATION.**



MORE THAN ONE MILLION RESIDENTS LIVE IN **APPROXIMATELY 120-125 UNINCORPORATED AREAS**, WHOSE MUNICIPAL SERVICES ARE PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY.



THE OTHER 9.3 MILLION RESIDENTS LIVE IN **88 CITIES** WITHIN THE COUNTY, LOCATED THROUGHOUT 4,084 SQUARE MILES.



A DIVERSE COUNTY, WITH **MORE THAN 140 CULTURES** AND AS MANY AS 224 LANGUAGES.



HOME TO THE LARGEST PORT COMPLEX IN THE NATION, A THRIVING AEROSPACE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SECTOR, THE ENTERTAINMENT CAPITOL OF THE U.S., AND IS **THE NATION'S LARGEST MANUFACTURING CENTER.**



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY'S**

# STATE PRIORITIES

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors oversee a comprehensive government structure that provides vital public services, including health and human services, public safety, fire protection, and essential infrastructure services to 88 cities and approximately 120-125 unincorporated communities.

The County is proactively engaged in enhancing the physical, social, and economic well-being of its residents through fundamental safety-net services, as well as proactive local programs, including those geared towards combating homelessness, reforming the adult and youth justice systems, protecting the environment, among others. State investments in the County's critical services and initiatives help to maximize efficiencies and cost savings in programs that aid the most vulnerable populations. Investing in the County's residents and physical infrastructure will also result in greater social and economic gains throughout the State.

In order to continue improving the lives of its residents and the economic vitality of the region, Los Angeles County needs on-going legislative and funding support from the Administration, State Legislature, and agency partners. Key priorities for Los Angeles County at the State level include, but are not limited to:

- **DIGITAL DIVIDE**
- **HEALTH, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND MENTAL HEALTH**
- **HOMELESS SERVICES**
- **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**
- **JUSTICE REFORM**
- **CHILD WELFARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT**
- **INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS**
- **ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**
- **ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY**



## DIGITAL DIVIDE

The COVID-19 pandemic has emphasized the importance of access to high-speed broadband internet and related resources as an essential means to access health services, education, economic resources, and job opportunities. In Los Angeles County, areas where more than 20 percent of households lack broadband service are largely the same areas where household income is less than \$50,000 a year, and where people of color are more likely to be the majority of residents. The County will advocate for State funding for the development and expansion of broadband infrastructure and reliable, affordable networks to bridge the digital divide, provide connectivity and services, and ensure digital inclusion, particularly in underserved communities.

The County supports proposals that will:

- **incentivize private investment in broadband infrastructure in historically underserved and rural communities;**
- **create workforce development pipeline programs in the broadband, fiber, and related telecommunications infrastructure industries;**
- **utilize innovative, short-term and long-term strategies to provide free or low-cost high-speed internet and related devices to disadvantaged communities; and**
- **expand and modernize Wi-Fi at County facilities to help close the digital divide for residents in disadvantaged and broadband poor communities.**

## HEALTH, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND MENTAL HEALTH

The overall health and well-being of a community is critically important to preventing physical and behavioral health conditions and to reducing health inequities. Medi-Cal is essential for the provision of healthcare for the County's most vulnerable residents.

The County will continue to support and advocate for proposals that:

- **protect and expand Medi-Cal funding, eligibility, and covered services, including through the implementation of the CalAIM initiative and the State's 1115 and 1915(b) waivers and related funding mechanisms;**
- **strengthen the local public health infrastructure, well-trained workforce, scientific expertise, clinical capacity for programs that enhance health equity across the County;**

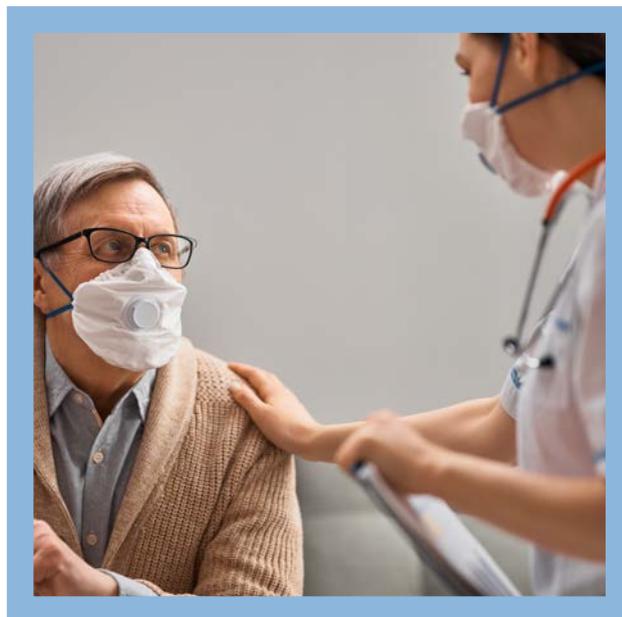
- **effectively respond to current and future health emergencies, emerging threats, and other disasters; and**
- **advance community health, disease prevention and control, and wellness efforts to address the root causes of physical and behavioral health conditions.**

The growing need of individuals with serious mental illness and substance use disorder continues to outpace resources for critical services at all levels of care, including acute inpatient, outpatient, and residential facilities. The County has initiated a reuse initiative for the LAC+USC Medical Campus to create a mental health and well-being village to support integrated services for the most vulnerable populations and the County looks forward to additional State funded

opportunities for behavioral health infrastructure and community care expansion of facilities treating our most vulnerable citizens. These capacity building efforts will only be optimized through the provision of Medi-Cal services.

**Therefore, the County will also continue to support:**

- **the State's pursuit of an 1115 waiver to permit Medicaid Institutions of Mental Disease treatment and increased bed capacity for serious mental illness or serious emotional disturbance;**
- **proposals to ensure that individuals with mental illness have access to critical services in the most appropriate, least restrictive setting, including maintaining Mental Health Services Act funding for the behavioral health system and expanding funding for behavioral health services and placements/housing; and**
- **the enactment of County co-sponsored AB 988 to successfully implement the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020 (NSHD).**

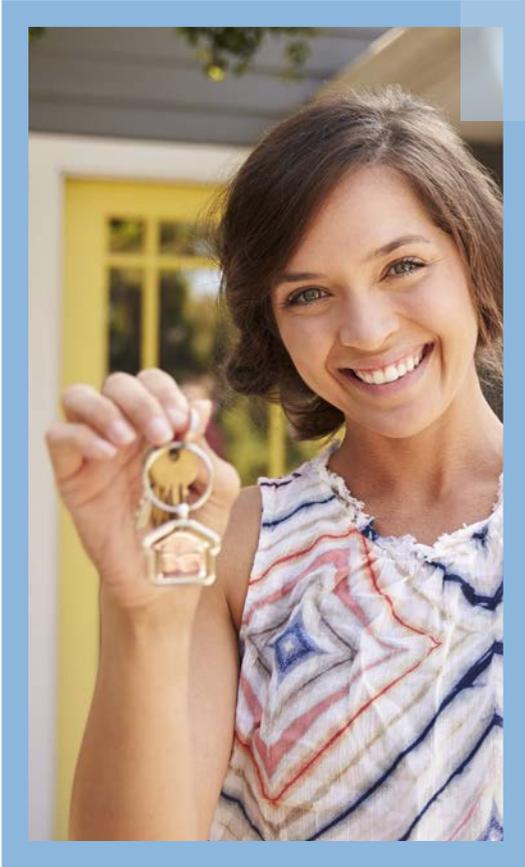


## HOMELESS SERVICES

The County partnered with the State of California, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, community and faith-based organizations, and other local agencies to implement a comprehensive and multipronged plan to reduce homelessness among the most vulnerable people in our communities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the County was at the forefront of helping thousands of people experiencing homelessness secure non-congregate shelter options while also undertaking innovative housing solutions. Despite the unprecedented Federal, State, and local investments to prevent and address homelessness in the past two years, more individuals and families continue to fall into homelessness due to the slow economic recovery and the high cost of housing in the region. The County remains focused on moving those experiencing homelessness into stable housing and implementing effective strategies to reduce the flow of individuals and families into homelessness.

**The County encourages the State Legislature and Administration to advance a comprehensive response to the homelessness and housing crisis include:**

- **ongoing funding to reduce and prevent homelessness beyond the two-years of Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention funding included in the FY 2021-22 State Budget Act which only temporarily and partially addresses the statewide homeless and housing crisis;**
- **expanding the availability of interim, permanent supportive and affordable housing and reduce State restrictions and barriers to flexible local use of these types of housing; and**
- **allowing counties to maximize Federal, State, and local funds to provide services to persons experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, such as for Medicaid reimbursable services.**



## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Through its ability to leverage Federal, State, and local funds, the County prides itself in developing new solutions, and forming partnerships with private and public agencies to increase the availability of affordable housing or preserve existing affordable housing for residents of limited means. To that end, the County has reserved \$736 million dollars to invest in affordable housing development over the last five years; \$490 million of which has been allocated to affordable housing developments, has funded or will fund the construction of approximately 6,355 affordable units, and has been used to leverage \$2.68 billion in public and private funds.

**The County will continue to support and advocate for proposals that:**

- **provide funding to construct new affordable housing units;**
- **provide funding to preserve and rehabilitate existing affordable housing units;**
- **provide rental assistance and legal assistance for individuals and families at-risk of housing instability or homelessness;**
- **provide down payment assistance to first-time homebuyers; and**
- **fund initiatives to ensure housing stability for youth, including those currently and formerly in foster care.**

## JUSTICE REFORM

The ongoing reform of the County's justice programs and efforts to realize the Board of Supervisors' "Care First, Jails Last" model continues to be at a critical stage, and its success will have a momentous impact locally and statewide. The County is taking the next steps to develop a new model for pretrial services and transforming the youth and adult criminal legal system. Such major reforms necessitate a robust multi-disciplinary effort, including a continued and expanded partnership with the State.

**As such, the County will advocate for proposals and funding that continue to advance statewide and local efforts to transform the adult and youth criminal legal systems, including proposals that would:**

- **divert adults and youths from incarceration and into rehabilitative, health-focused, and care-first systems;**
- **mitigate disparities in the juvenile and adult criminal legal systems based on racial, economic, or immigration status;**
- **strengthen law enforcement transparency, accountability, and policing reforms;**
- **implement pretrial reforms and associated best practices to reduce detention while maintaining public safety;**
- **reduce the reliance on jails and mass incarceration;**
- **promote and streamline access to criminal records clearing services; and**
- **support increased funding and eligibility for resources and support, including housing, for individuals impacted by the criminal legal system.**

## CHILD WELFARE & EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

The County is committed to collaborating and partnering with stakeholders to increase resources that improve outcomes for children, youth, and families involved or at risk of getting involved in the child welfare system; support programs and services that strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect; and promote optimal childhood development and learning by investing in high-quality, accessible early care and education programs. Recent State budget and legislative efforts to support vulnerable children and families and assist them with access to critical services have been vital to addressing the increased need for services resulting from the ongoing pandemic. However, additional State investments and resources are still necessary to provide relief for strained systems while meeting the increased demand for prevention, child welfare, early care and education services, and support to resource families and community partners.



**The County will continue to advocate for proposals that enhance child safety, wellbeing, and permanency, and as well as strengthen families through access to services and support to include:**

- **services and funding for case management, mental health, educational attainment, career development, and stable housing that promote self-sufficiency among transition-age foster youth, non-minor dependents, and former foster youth**

- **enhanced child welfare services;**
- **evidence-based child abuse and neglect upfront and prevention services; and**
- **high-quality early care and education programs.**

In addition, advocacy efforts will continue for State and Federal proposals that advance the County's efforts to successfully implement child welfare reform without disruption to vital services, (e.g., the Family First Prevention Services Act).

## INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

The County will continue to advocate for the Legislature and the Administration to advance infrastructure investments and projects that support counties and the State in improving and maintaining vital public infrastructure in the greater Los Angeles region and that are consistent with the County's goals to make our communities more climate resilient, to transform our transportation systems, to help local businesses and partner with community-based organizations to advance environmental justice and spur economic opportunity for disadvantaged communities, and advance racial and gender equity in the workforce.

**The County will advocate for proposals that include, but are not limited to:**

- **new and ongoing sources of funding to enhance mobility and safety;**
- **funding to maintain and upgrade water and stormwater infrastructure;**
- **disaster prevention/mitigation assistance for local governments;**
- **funding for the development of public infrastructure, transportation systems, and programs that address population growth, the regional economy, climate change, and public health; and**
- **providing infrastructure equity to disadvantaged communities, among others.**



## ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The County is strategically investing in supporting small businesses and 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 will advocate for proposals that promote 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. This includes proposals that would:**

- **support technology, health care, trade, manufacturing, construction, leisure and hospitality, child care, bioscience, clean energy, and creative economies, to include television, film and digital media;**
- **stimulate regional investment and encourage private sector participation;**
- **support and incentivize the growth and development of entrepreneurs, small businesses and social enterprises;**
- **support comprehensive employment and training programs that support diversity, equity and inclusion and provide wrap-around supportive services, remove barriers to employment, provide continued education, affect job placement, encourage businesses to hire unemployed or underemployed workers, improve the retention of workers, and support worker health and safety; and**
- **provide economic relief to industries, small businesses, and individuals impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in order to support the County's economic recovery and foster sustained regional growth.**

## ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

The County's vision is to make the region healthier, more equitable, more resilient, more livable, and economically stronger. The changing climate has affected vital infrastructure systems, as well as the lives of the residents of the County. Environmental hazards compounded by the impacts of climate change continue to place an unequal burden on low-income communities and communities of color. The County supports investments that transform our energy, water, food, and transportation systems, protect and increase native biodiversity, help overcome past inequities that have resulted in disproportionate pollution burdens and health outcomes for communities of color, help local businesses, organizations, and residents in disadvantaged communities adapt to climate change, and advance racial and gender equity.

To address these environmental issues to make Los Angeles County a sustainable region, the County will advocate for proposals that promote clean energy infrastructure, advance environmental justice, and invest in climate resiliency.

### **The County will continue to support proposals that will:**

- decrease greenhouse gas emissions;
- help our communities prepare for a changing climate by developing infrastructure and community-scale programs, such as resilience hubs and extreme heat risk communication strategies, to address imminent health risks;
- increase local water supply and improve water quality as well as support sustainable water infrastructure overall;
- expand acreage and access to open space;
- mitigate historic and ongoing exposure to environmental risks;



- enhance the electric grid infrastructure and expand community-based solar and storage projects;
- deploy Electric Vehicle infrastructure at County sites and in communities;
- support efforts to properly abandon orphaned oil wells and conduct site remediation when no responsible party can be identified;
- provide funding and other support to ensure the just transition of fossil fuel workers to new job opportunities;
- strengthen regional food supply chains and improve urban access to fresh local foods; and
- prioritize the intersecting goals of job creation, protection of natural resources, improved public health, social equity, technology innovation, and regional policy collaboration.



# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' COUNTY PRIORITIES



## **CHILD PROTECTION**

Enhanced well-being and success for systems-involved youth  
[dcfs.lacounty.gov](https://dcfs.lacounty.gov)



## **HOMELESSNESS**

Coordination of community-based services and housing resources  
[homeless.lacounty.gov](https://homeless.lacounty.gov)



## **ALLIANCE FOR HEALTH INTEGRATION**

Streamlined access to integrated health care  
[ceo.lacounty.gov/alliance-for-health-integration](https://ceo.lacounty.gov/alliance-for-health-integration)



## **CARE FIRST, JAILS LAST**

Alternatives to incarceration and reduced involvement with the justice system for vulnerable adult and youth populations  
[ceo.lacounty.gov/justice-reform](https://ceo.lacounty.gov/justice-reform)



## **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OVERSIGHT & MONITORING**

Monitoring for a cleaner and healthier environment  
[publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh](https://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh)



## **IMMIGRATION**

Immigrant protection and advancement  
[oia.lacounty.gov](https://oia.lacounty.gov)



## **ANTI-RACISM, DIVERSITY AND EQUITY**

An anti-racist Los Angeles County policy agenda  
[ceo.lacounty.gov/ardi](https://ceo.lacounty.gov/ardi)



## **SUSTAINABILITY**

Making our communities healthier, more livable, economically stronger, more equitable, more resilient, and more sustainable  
[ceo.lacounty.gov/sustainability](https://ceo.lacounty.gov/sustainability)



## **POVERTY ALLEVIATION**

Aiming to establish sustainable and long-term poverty alleviation  
[ceo.lacounty.gov/pai](https://ceo.lacounty.gov/pai)

# Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

**Holly J. Mitchell**, Chair Second District

**Hilda L. Solis** First District

**Sheila Kuehl** Third District

**Janice Hahn** Fourth District

**Kathryn Barger** Fifth District

**Fesia A. Davenport** Chief Executive Officer

**Samara Ashley** Assistant Chief Executive Officer

**Brian J. Stiger** Chief Legislative Representative

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