



Los Angeles County urges the State to support ongoing funding for the development and expansion of broadband infrastructure and affordable networks to bridge the digital divide, provide connectivity, and ensure digital inclusion, particularly in underserved communities.

DIGITAL DIVIDE

The COVID-19 pandemic 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. Access to an internet connection has become a fundamental need, similar to other utilities. Yet, in Los Angeles County, over 365,000 households lack internet access. The areas where more than 20 percent of households lack broadband service are largely the same areas where the household income is less than \$50,000 a year, and where people of color are more likely to be the largest population of residents.

On November 16, 2021, the Board of Supervisors approved a motion to accelerate digital equity by investing in viable options to provide reliable, high-speed broadband service to households in underserved communities adversely impacted by the digital divide. These options include:

- **Agreements with Internet Service Providers and Telecommunication Companies**
The County will utilize Federal and/or State grants to fund the cost of residential access to existing broadband networks for up to 300,000 households. This option is expected to be a short-term solution, that will not likely exceed 3 years.
- **Community Wireless Network**
A 5-year proof of concept model utilizing public-private partnerships to deploy Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS) and/or millimeter wave technologies in delivering reliable wireless high-speed internet service to approximately 12,500 households. This option includes a workforce program to employ individuals from the impacted communities to serve as “Digital Navigators” to assist residents with broadband education, equipment set up, and troubleshooting.
- **County-Administered Municipal Broadband Service**
An investment in fiber optic networks through public and/or public-private partnerships to deploy reliable high-speed internet service, including fiber-to-the-home. The projected long-term benefits include more resilient internet for residential households and County facilities; catalyst for widespread deployment of fifth generation (5G) technology for wireless networks; and lower County operating costs at scale compared to alternative internet delivery methods.

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

- Remove barriers preventing households in underserved communities from accessing reliable, high-speed broadband service;
- Support the delivery of affordable and reliable high-speed internet service to communities that are adversely impacted by the digital divide;
- Provide funding and programs to develop the infrastructure necessary to provide low-income residents with affordable, high quality and high speed, and sustainable internet service;
- Provide funding for the development and expansion of broadband infrastructure and reliable, affordable networks to bridge the digital divide, provide connectivity and services, increase access to high speed internet to benefit as many households as possible, and ensure digital inclusion, particularly in underserved communities; and
- Utilize innovative, short-term and long-term strategies to provide free or low-cost high-speed internet and related devices to disadvantaged communities.

BRIDGING THE DIVIDE

in Los Angeles County

- On behalf of its residents, Los Angeles County has a vested interest to ensure equitable broadband deployment and access for all of its residents.
- The County's vision is to ensure digital equity across all of our communities.
- The County has undertaken a significant study of its underserved and unserved households, of which an estimated 365,000 lack internet service.
- Affordability is the biggest barrier for many of residents.
- The County is planning to implement a service specifically offered to low-income households in communities not well served by existing providers.
- In addition, the effective implementation of the Federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) can act as an accelerator for equity in communities.
- The County embarked on a multi-platform, multi-language campaign to inform residents about the sunseting Emergency Broadband Benefit as well as the upcoming ACP.

Access to affordable and reliable internet service in the 21st Century is a basic human right. Having the ability to participate in the digital economy is not a privilege it is essential for the welfare of society. The toll that communities are paying (e.g., loss of intellectual capital, decrease in life expectancy for people of color) is far greater than the cost to pay to ensure equal access.



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

Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations

1100 K Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 441-7888

ceo.lacounty.gov/legislative-affairs-and-intergovernmental-relations/



Los Angeles County urges the State to continue supporting efforts that expand and enhance the local health care safety net, reduce health inequities, and improve the population's health in the County.

HEALTH CARE & PUBLIC HEALTH

Local health systems are the front lines of delivering critical healthcare and public health services to treat and prevent physical and behavioral health conditions, particularly for the most disadvantaged communities and communities of color.

Medi-Cal is essential for providing access and delivering healthcare services for the County's most vulnerable residents, especially through California's Medicaid Waiver Sections 1115 and 1915(b) that aim to transform and improve the quality of care, access, and efficiency of health care services. It is imperative for the State to implement California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) - a multi-year initiative to initiate overarching policy changes across all Medi-Cal delivery systems - 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. The Medicaid Waivers have been critical to the financing and delivery of health care services, and future Waivers must continue to meet the needs of the County's safety-net system of care and the residents it supports.

The overall health and well-being of a community is critically important for preventing physical and behavioral health conditions and for reducing health inequities. A robust public health infrastructure is essential to not only preventing and responding to health emergencies, disasters, and emerging threats, but also to addressing root causes of physical and behavioral health conditions, including inequity, environmental justice, and community health, particularly for the most vulnerable populations.

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

- 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, including a well-trained workforce, scientific expertise, laboratory and clinical capacity, and data and information systems, that enhance health equity across the County;
- Effectively respond to current and future health emergencies, emerging threats, and other disasters;
- Support community health, disease prevention and control, and wellness efforts to address the root causes of physical and behavioral health conditions; and
- Support the enhancement of the substance use and mental health workforce to address growing behavioral health needs, with particular focus on improving both the quality and quantity of these workforces.

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. DHS annually cares for approximately 600,000 patients through its integrated system of 26 health centers and four hospitals.
- Since March 2020, DHS has provided critical care to over 9,136 COVID-19 hospitalized County patients, administered over 286,982 COVID-19 vaccines, and conducted more than 3,469,115 COVID-19 tests.
- DHS is committed to patients' safety and this is reflected in its workforce vaccination compliance with State and County Health Orders. As of December 2021, 94 percent of DHS workforce members are fully vaccinated.
- The Department of Public Health (Public Health) operates 39 programs and 14 public health centers with the support of over 5,000 public health professionals. Public Health oversees environmental health, disease control, and community and family health programs countywide.
- Public Health administered the distribution of more than 1.4 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines at Public Health-run vaccination sites and clinics. Via a network of COVID-19 vaccine providers, Public Health coordinated the distribution of more than 15 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to the county's hardest hit and highest-need communities.
- Since May 2020, Public Health has issued 95 health officer orders to reduce community exposures and protect essential workers, who have been disproportionately harmed by the pandemic. Public Health compliance teams have conducted 152,601 COVID-19 inspections and over 33,300 outbreak investigations to ensure safety measures were followed.
- The County's Community Health Worker Outreach Initiative helped Public Health to recruit and train more than 1,000 Community Health Workers (CHW). Since May 2021, using a variety of peer outreach models, CHWs have conducted over 350,000 outreach activities and have reached an estimated 2.3 million people.
- Public Health serves approximately 35,000 individuals in its specialty substance use disorder (SUD) treatment system and nearly 10,000 individuals in its SUD prevention system every year. Medi-Cal is the primary payer of SUD treatment services. Still, approximately 30 percent of the County's expenses on SUD treatment are not covered through Medi-Cal and require non-federal sources of funding.

The successful renewal of California's Federal Medicaid Waivers is vital to maintaining local safety-net health services and expanding those services to better treat the State's most vulnerable residents.



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

Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations

1100 K Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 441-7888

ceo.lacounty.gov/legislative-affairs-and-intergovernmental-relations/



Los Angeles County urges the State to support efforts that increase access to critical services for those living with severe persistent mental illness, as well as those whose mental health has been adversely impacted by a multitude of societal stressors.

MENTAL/BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE

The growing need of individuals with severe persistent mental illness and substance use disorder continues to outpace available resources for critical services at all levels of care, including inpatient, residential and outpatient programs. Additionally, the local behavioral health system continues to see increasing demands for behavioral health services as a result of the pandemic, economic hardships, and racial inequity.

The County appreciates the State's upcoming opportunities for one-time funding to expand behavioral health and community care infrastructure for its most vulnerable residents. However, the County continues to need ongoing funding to cover the operational costs required to operate an expanded infrastructure. To this end, we support efforts to revisit (and "refresh") the use of, and accountability framework for, mental health service act funds. In addition, we encourage the pursuit of the Institutions for Mental Disease (IMD) Exclusion Waiver at the State level to fund treatment beds when clinically necessary; of note, the County has been in discussion with the Administration to urge its support of legislation and immediate administrative action to provide relief for Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTPs) from the IMD exclusion. At the Federal level, the County has been working with our Delegation to seek repeal of the IMD exclusion, including through H.R. 2611 (Napolitano).

The County will continue to work with the Legislature and the Administration to improve (or replace) California's involuntary care protocols by diversifying the range of tools available, increasing the efficiency by which these tools (including LPS holds and conservatorship) are applied, and guaranteeing upfront resources (including housing and 24/7 access to a dedicated treatment team) for any individual engaged through an involuntary care tool.

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

- Support increased flexibility for Mental Health Services Act funding to more fully address the needs of communities within each county, using client outcomes defined by the state as target goals and tying accountability to achieving client outcomes to indicate success; and
- Support the State's pursuit of an 1115 waiver to permit Medicaid funding for treatment in Institutions of Mental Disease and thereby increase the bed capacity we are able to make accessible for individuals with serious mental illness or serious emotional disturbance; and
- Support proposals to provide dedicated funding to Public Guardians/Public Conservators.

INNOVATIVE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

in Los Angeles County

- Los Angeles County DMH operates the largest municipal mental health department in the nation, treating more than 250,000 County residents every year.
- DMH provides services in numerous community venues including schools, parks, libraries and streets in addition to its hundreds of clinics and residential facilities, as well as dozens of inpatient hospitals.
- DMH contracts with hundreds of community-based organizations and a massive countywide network of individual practitioners.
- DMH successfully moved an estimated 60 LPS conserved patients from the Department of State Hospital into the community to help the State accommodate Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial (FISTs) and other penal code clients.
- DMH provides treatment to thousands of system-involved youth (including youth engaged through both child welfare and probation) and trains thousands of community providers and county staff (including staff in DMH, as well as other departments) to promote trauma-informed care, resiliency and enhance foster-care placement stability.
- DMH successfully implemented a street-based Outpatient Conservatorship Pilot Program through its Homeless Outreach Mobile Engagement (HOME) teams that focused on engaging homeless individuals who were incapable of living safely as a result of having a serious and persistent mental illness but refused to accept care and or housing voluntarily; conservatorship referrals were made to the Office of the Public Guardian.
- DMH successfully implemented Full-Service Partnership (FSP) 2.0, a redesign of the FSP program with a focus on a multidisciplinary team/population approach with lower staff to client ratios, standardized rates and enhanced services and support to ensure successful transitions to lower levels of care.

Engaging individuals who are suffering from severe persistent behavioral health conditions and living in the street requires a tremendous amount of relentless outreach and engagement work. For some, the amount of time, energy and funding required to engage, outstrips efforts that are required to deliver treatment.



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

Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations

1100 K Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 441-7888

ceo.lacounty.gov/legislative-affairs-and-intergovernmental-relations/



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

HOMELESS SERVICES

Preventing and combating homelessness requires sustained partnerships between the State, counties, cities, and continuums of care. Local jurisdictions need help scaling up the right balance between interim versus permanent housing options, so individuals do not languish in shelter settings. Without an ongoing State financial commitment, the homeless crisis will continue to grow across California. The January 2020 Homeless Point-in-Time count found that there were 66,436 people experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County. This figure increased by 13 percent from 2019, and has more than likely increased during the pandemic.

The accelerating gap between increasing housing costs and lack of income growth is the primary driver of the homeless and housing crisis. Paying over 50 percent of their household income on rent, 492,000 of the very lowest renter households in Los Angeles County are severely rent burdened. Over the past 20 years, rents for the 1.8 million renter households in the County increased by 54 percent while their household incomes only increased 16 percent. This means hundreds of thousands of renter households are only one paycheck, one rent increase, one illness or car repair away from not being able to pay rent and face the prospect of homelessness.

The homeless crisis has grown despite dramatic increases in the number of individuals the County has housed. Since 2017, the Countywide homeless services system has doubled the number of individuals moving from homelessness into permanent housing each year. Interim Housing (shelters) can only work effectively enough when permanent housing options are attached to shelter beds. In Los Angeles County, as in most areas across the State, there are too few permanent housing options for every shelter bed, which means people languish longer in shelters, grow frustrated, and are more likely to return to the street.

Even though the recent large infusion of one-time State and Federal emergency funding has helped bolster countywide efforts, this funding is short-term and insufficient to address the scale of need. Until more on-going funding is available to make up for decades of inadequate public investments in affordable, permanent housing solutions, more individuals and families will continue to fall into homelessness faster than can be rehoused.

The County requests the State Legislature and the Administration advance proposals, to include funding to:

- Help cover the long-term costs of operating Project Homekey acquisitions and other interim and permanent housing options;
- Provide more rental subsidies to get more people into existing market rate housing, including shared housing; and
- Increase housing navigation and tenancy support services to help build strong partnerships between landlords and the families and individuals who need housing.

HOMELESS OUTCOME HIGHLIGHTS

in Los Angeles County

Los Angeles County, in partnership with cities, advocates, and service providers has made significant progress to address homelessness.

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

The following are key outcomes achieved during the first four years of Measure H:

- Over 82,000 people have been placed in permanent housing and almost 100,000 in interim housing, funded in whole or part with Measure H funds.
- An additional 20,000 people were prevented from becoming homeless and 31,000 increased their income through employment and benefit services.

Additionally, since Project Roomkey launched in 2020, the County, in partnership with the State and local partners, has provided almost 9,000 people experiencing homelessness with interim housing at 38 motels and hotels.

Through Project HomeKey Round 1, the County, in partnership with the State, purchased 10 motels and hotels with a combined 847 rooms and has provided interim or permanent supportive housing to almost 1,500 people since the sites became operational.

Preventing and combating homelessness requires sustained partnerships between the State, counties, cities, and continuums of care. Without a comprehensive, ongoing State financial commitment, the homeless crisis will continue to grow across California.



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

Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations

1100 K Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 441-7888

ceo.lacounty.gov/legislative-affairs-and-intergovernmental-relations/



Los Angeles County urges the State to support proposals that finance and incentivize the creation and preservation of affordable housing, and help prevent housing instability or homelessness.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The County places a high priority on increasing the availability of affordable housing for renters, homeowners, and persons with special needs (such as persons with developmental disabilities, mental illness, and those living with HIV/AIDS, among others). 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. The LACDA also operates the County's first-time homeownership and home improvement grant programs. Of note, over the last five years, the County has reserved \$813 million to invest in affordable housing development which has funded or will fund the construction of approximately 9,138 affordable units and has been used to leverage \$4.01 billion in public and private funds.

The LACDA has helped nearly 25,000 low-income households retain housing through the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program, 1,475 of which are reserved for veterans through VASH Vouchers. In addition, the County has expanded its portfolio of available vouchers to include 1,974 new Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) dedicated to serving homeless families, many of which enter the program with a much lower annual income, or none at all, and require increased case management, social service guidance, and housing navigation services, which are not covered under traditional HCV administrative fees. These new vouchers enhance the LACDA's commitment to prioritize housing for the County's most vulnerable populations, i.e. persons experiencing homelessness, the elderly, disabled, and families of very limited means.

Through its ability to leverage Federal, State, and local funds, the County prides itself in implementing 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.

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

- Provide funding to construct new affordable housing;
- 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.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING EFFORTS

in Los Angeles County



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

COVID-19 Rent Relief Program

During the COVID-19 pandemic, \$117.3 million in funding was allocated to provide emergency rental assistance grants to income-eligible County households economically impacted through job loss, furlough, or reduction in hours or pay. Emergency rental assistance grants are rental payments made on behalf of an income-eligible household, up to \$10,000 to maintain housing and/or to reduce rental payment delinquency in arrears as a result of economic downturn during the pandemic. Grants were given to 14,189 households, 91 percent of which were located in targeted zip codes.

Emergency Housing Voucher (EVH) Program

The EHV Program, approved through the American Rescue Plan Act, provides rental assistance to those most in need, including individuals and families who are: experiencing homelessness; at risk of experiencing homelessness; fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence or human trafficking; or were recently homeless; and for whom providing rental assistance will prevent the family's homelessness or having high risk of housing instability. The LACDA was awarded 1,964 EHV's and began leasing on July 1, 2021.

Project-Based Voucher (PBV) Program

The PBV Program provides assistance that is tied directly to a unit of an approved project. The PBV Program has proven to be a powerful tool in combating homelessness in Los Angeles County since these affordable units are developed for a specific special needs population which are often met with barriers when locating housing in the private market. In June 2021, the LACDA committed its latest infusion of 1,733 PBV's to affordable housing projects that are in development or under construction, adding to the LACDA's existing 1,745 PBV units, nearly doubling the Program. Ninety-eight percent of all future PBV units are set aside for the homeless, seniors, veterans, persons with disabilities, and Transitional Aged Youth.

The County is committed to keeping its most vulnerable residents housed and looks forward to working with the State and Federal government to explore additional resources to ensure residents are assisted.

Fesia A. Davenport
Chief Executive Officer

Samara Ashley
Assistant Chief Executive Officer

Brian J. Stiger
Chief Legislative Representative

Legislative Affairs and
Intergovernmental Relations

1100 K Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 441-7888

ceo.lacounty.gov/legislative-affairs-and-intergovernmental-relations/



Los Angeles County urges the State to support proposals that advance statewide and local alternatives to incarceration efforts; and promote behavioral health and rehabilitative services for individuals impacted by the criminal legal system.

JUSTICE REFORM

The County continues to take major steps toward reforming its local justice system by expanding programs that divert individuals away from formal detention into rehabilitative programs. Efforts to realize the “Care First, Jails Last” model continue to be at a critical stage, and its success will have a momentous impact regionally and statewide.

The County encourages the Legislature to advance efforts 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 into a care-first entity, as well as alternatives to incarceration for defendants facing lower-level offenses. Such reforms to the youth and criminal legal systems necessitate a robust multi-disciplinary effort, including a continued and expanded partnership with the State.

Accordingly, the County supports proposals to:

- Divert adults and youths from incarceration and into rehabilitative, health-focused, and care-first systems;
- Mitigate disparities in the youth and 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;
- 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 but not limited to, the areas of housing, mental health, substance use disorder, and employment and training for youth and adults impacted by the criminal legal system.

The County requests the State Legislature and the Administration to support the following County-sponsored proposals to:

- Eliminate the time limitation for retrospective Proposition 47 relief for cases in which a person convicted of a qualifying felony may file a petition to the court to have the sentence reclassified to a misdemeanor;
- Allow statutory changes for Los Angeles County to use its AB900 grant award towards non-custodial treatment facilities that would provide treatment, including behavioral health and other rehabilitative services to populations impacted by the criminal legal system within the community; and
- Provide additional funding, up to \$25 million, to repurpose and reimagine the Challenger Memorial Youth Center. The program will serve participants ages 18-25 who were involved with the criminal justice or foster care systems, or who are homeless; and who will live on campus while they are offered educational pathways and career training, as well as mental health services and robust life-skills instruction.

TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE REFORM EFFORTS

in Los Angeles County



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

Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations

1100 K Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 441-7888

ceo.lacounty.gov/legislative-affairs-and-intergovernmental-relations/

The Office of Justice Reform Initiatives is charged with countywide oversight of the Board of Supervisors' vision to transform its criminal justice system. It coordinates policy development and makes recommendations on funding and budget allocations to holistically implement the County's justice reforms. Key initiatives include: leading the development of a new pretrial release system that presumes release for certain charges and provides individuals with community-based supportive services to facilitate their appearance at court and community safety; developing a framework to transform the County's youth justice system into a community-based network of support; supporting the creation of re-entry job programs for individuals on parole or probation; and overseeing the closure of the County's Men's Central Jail.

The Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR) in the Department of Health Services is a critical component of the Board's "Care First, Jail Last" vision for implementing innovative models which use the County health systems to divert those with mental and/or substance use disorders to housing and holistic care; and to provide reentry support services and employment pathways and supports based on each individual's needs. ODR also houses the County's Youth Diversion and Development division which provides community-based care to young individuals to avoid arrest and incarceration.

The Public Defender is the oldest and largest Public Defender Office in the nation, committed to providing proactive client-centered legal and holistic defense to individuals accused of public offenses and who cannot afford private defense. The Public Defender's equity-driven programs provide mental health and substance use treatment linkages designed to address the underlying issues that lead to incarceration and safely return individuals to their communities.

The Alternate Public Defender (APD) represents approximately one-third of the 40,000-50,000 criminal cases filed in Los Angeles County, providing representation whenever the Public Defender has a conflict of interest. APD provides holistic representation, not only handling criminal trials but tangential issues by partnering with community-based organizations and other County departments that offer rehabilitative services and community reintegration.

The County is focused on preventing contact with the criminal legal system whenever possible, rehabilitation for those impacted by the justice system, and increasing access to health services and other resources needed for community reintegration.



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

CHILD WELFARE & EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

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 caring for approximately 40,000 foster youth in Los Angeles County. The Department has 20 regional offices and multiple specialized service units that include Deaf, Medically Fragile, Native American, Asian Pacific, Runaway Outreach, Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC), and Youth Permanency.

The State's support can help to further advance DCFS' efforts that include:

- **Extended Foster Care Program:** Serves more than 2,325 non-minor dependents ages 18-20 years-old, which is over 90 percent of the eligible population.
- **Kinship Care:** Countywide, more than half of the children who enter foster care are placed with relatives – this outcome is unmatched by any other large child welfare system in the nation. Of note, there is approximately 2 percent of foster children placed in congregate care.
- **LGBTQ+ Programs:** Champion of LGBTQ+ children, youth and their families whose efforts culminated in the County's recent investment of \$3.6 million ongoing for LGBTQ+ targeted services.
- **Amazon Connect:** The DCFS Child Protection Hotline (CPH) system upgrade allows continued operations in the event of a major disaster. DCFS is the first child welfare agency in the nation to implement this cloud-based technology.

The County will continue to advocate for proposals that enhance child safety, wellbeing, permanency, and strengthen families through access to services and support. Accordingly, the County continues to support proposals that:

- Increase investments for 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;
- 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;
- Increase investments and resources to address the increased need for services resulting from the ongoing pandemic and provide relief for strained public systems; and
- Successfully implement child welfare reform without disruption to vital services, (e.g., the Family First Prevention Services Act).

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

- Appropriate \$200 million in annual State General Fund, beginning in FY 2023, to Los Angeles County to mitigate a structural budget deficit and maintain critical child welfare services to vulnerable children and youth;
- Provide remedies to exempt Qualified Residential Treatment Placements (QRTP) from the Institutes of Mental Disease exclusion; and
- Support counties implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), including those that provide funding and/or protections against the loss of federal funding resulting from the enactment of the FFPSA.

CHILD WELFARE INITIATIVES

in Los Angeles County

Major initiatives include:

Eliminating Disparity and Disproportionality

Implemented Implicit Bias training and programming to safely decrease the number of Black and African American children entering out-of-home care by 10 percent.

Risk Stratification Pilot

In partnership with the University of Southern California's School of Social Work, the pilot identifies complex cases that can benefit from targeted resources and support, including the interventions to remedy identified bias in reporting, improved referral screenings, and increased family strengthening supports within the community.

National Partnership for Child Safety (NPCS)

Utilize information sharing and the application of safety science and data to reduce fatalities and other critical incidents. The goal is to stimulate innovation and identify strategies that focus on preventative interventions and upstream supportive services by evaluating child maltreatment as a public health issue.

Upfront Family Finding Program Expansion

By increasing the potential for child placement with relative caregivers there was a significant increase in kinship placement rate.

Child Care Vouchers

Los Angeles County allocated \$20 million in Federal CARES Act funding for child care vouchers which provided 6,017 early care and education services through partnership with the Child Care Alliance of LA.

LA County Early Childhood Education (ECE) COVID-19 Response Team

Helped keep early care and education programs open by distributing supplies, webinars, and vaccination of early educators.

Workforce Pathways LA

Distributed financial incentives to 1,219 early educators to improve their qualifications by completing trainings, college courses, permits or degrees.

Increased funding assistance from the State will help to ensure:

- **All children under five, including foster children, have access to high-quality early care and education programs.**
- **Los Angeles County maintains critical child welfare services that best support child safety, well-being, permanency, and a youth's successful transition to independence.**



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

**Legislative Affairs and
Intergovernmental Relations**

1100 K Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 441-7888

ceo.lacounty.gov/legislative-affairs-and-intergovernmental-relations/



Los Angeles County urges the State to advance infrastructure Investments that improve and maintain vital public infrastructure in the greater Los Angeles region.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

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 and the hub 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. Additionally, 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. Addressing the digital divide by providing reliable, affordable networks and connectivity and services, particularly in underserved communities, is imperative.

The County has a bold vision to modernize its infrastructure, while assuring efficient resource management in the context of climate change and equity. This vision includes approximately \$1.6 billion in shovel-ready projects for transportation, water, parks, and beaches, with full funding for these projects being able to create over 8,320 jobs. The County is utilizing 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 approved a ballot measure to fund stormwater projects and programs that will modernize its 100-year-old water system, protect public health and the environment, and maximize a cleaner, locally controlled water system. However, further investment and actions from State partners are necessary for the County to meet its larger infrastructure goals.

Accordingly, the County supports proposals that will make communities more climate-resilient, transform its transportation systems, advance environmental justice, spur economic opportunity for disadvantaged communities, and advance equity.

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

- Provide funding for recycling and organic waste facilities and programs to help local governments meet SB 1383 requirements;
- Ensure the safe collection and disposal of hazardous household products, such as batteries, by supporting the creation of manufacturer-run product stewardship programs, thereby reducing the environmental impact of these products and the costs that local governments incur in collecting and disposing of them;
- Fund projects identified by the local, multi-sector, collaborative planning efforts to reimagine the Los Angeles River;
- Advance zero-emission vehicle and charging infrastructure deployment in the State, while ensuring workforce development, economic development, equity, and other needs are met in this effort, particularly in communities most acutely affected by vehicle emissions; and
- Streamline the procurement and contracting process.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

in Los Angeles County

The County of Los Angeles delivers regional infrastructure projects which promote social equality, supports economic vitality, and improves the quality of life for more than 10 million people in local communities.

- Through the Los Angeles County Flood Control and Waterworks Districts, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (Public Works) is responsible for countywide water resource management, which includes flood risk management, water supply, and watershed health. Over the last 10 years, the County has increased the stormwater recharge capacity at its facilities by approximately 17,680 acre-feet per year; invested more than \$187 million in rehabilitating its dams and improving their operational efficiency; and invested more than \$58 million in enhancing the capacity and operational efficiency of its spreading grounds and seawater barriers.
- The County promotes mobility and multimodal transportation opportunities, managing over 4,200 centerline miles of County and contract city roads, transportation infrastructure, programs, and services. Public Works spends over \$200 million annually on street and road operation maintenance and safety programs.
- Public Works provides trash collection service for approximately 1.1 million unincorporated area residents and nearly 20,000 businesses through comprehensive waste collection franchises and Garbage Disposal District systems. Public Works also manages, operates, and maintains sewer infrastructure within the Consolidated Sewer Maintenance District and the Marina Sewer Maintenance District (Districts). The Districts provide services to a population of over 2 million people within the County unincorporated area and 37 cities.
- Public Works provides program/project management services for the County's Capital Projects Program, which includes the renovation of existing building facilities and the master planning, programming, and construction of new building facilities for many County departments. Currently, Public Works is managing approximately 133 active projects with a total project value of over \$3 billion. An example of a project that was delivered on time and on budget is the recently opened the Restorative Care Village at L.A. County Health Services' Olive View-UCLA Medical Center in the community of Sylmar. This \$100 million project, begun in early 2020, included the construction of an 80-bed mental health residential treatment program, a 48-bed residential recuperative care center, a mental health urgent care center and outpatient wellness center.

Public Works' mission is to deliver regional infrastructure and services that improve the quality of life for more than 10 million people in Los Angeles County.



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

Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations

1100 K Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 441-7888

ceo.lacounty.gov/legislative-affairs-and-intergovernmental-relations/



Los Angeles County urges the State to support proposals that stimulate regional investments; promote equitable economic development; incentivize entrepreneurship, small business and social enterprise growth; support economic health and safety, self-sufficiency, and mobility for all communities; advocate for racial and gender equity in the workplace; and provide economic relief to those disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The County seeks to advance an economic development strategy that attracts new, regional investments; unlocks the full economic potential of local industries, small businesses, workers, and community assets; creates more quality jobs, career pathways, and opportunities for wealth generation; prioritizes resources for those individuals facing the greatest barriers to success; and promotes an equitable, sustainable, and resilient future of work.

The County continues to realize these strategic priorities by:

- **Targeting investments in growing and emerging industries that offer career pathways with family sustaining wages** like healthcare, manufacturing, trade and logistics, hospitality, bioscience, technology, film and digital media, and construction.
- **Expanding and enhancing physical and social infrastructure** through High-Road Training Partnerships in advanced manufacturing, transportation and green technology, capital redevelopment projects, broadband access through the County's Delete the Divide initiative, and care economy investments.
- **Incentivizing entrepreneurship, small business and social enterprise growth and improvement**, including connecting to County contracting opportunities and other business resources and supports.
- **Preparing and hiring a qualified workforce** with dynamic and training, paid work experiences, and supportive services in opportunity sectors with high quality jobs and career pathways, including into County positions and registered apprenticeships with unions.
- **Supporting worker protections and helping businesses avert layoffs, and quickly rehire.**
- **Prioritizing resources, programs, and services for those workers and business owners with the greatest systemic barriers to economic success**, such as communities of color, women, LGBTQ+, foster and opportunity youth, veterans, justice-involved or unhoused individuals, and un- and underemployed workers, among others.

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

- Extend economic relief to industries, small businesses, and individuals most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic to support full economic recovery and long-term inclusive growth;
- Ensure prompt and appropriate deployment of the Community Economic Resilience Fund and other regional planning grants that recognize the unique needs of the greater LA County area and foster regional leadership;
- Prioritize direct investment for: clean energy/clean technology; public infrastructure that meets County goals for climate resiliency, environmental and economic justice; sectoral strategies that advocate for higher wages and job quality from traditionally low-wage industries; holistic job and training program models that demonstrate community voice, diverse candidate pipelines, quality jobs, and economic mobility; and placemaking efforts that incentivize entrepreneurship, small business growth, and new industry attraction; and
- Build flexibility into policy and programs for local and regional areas to prioritize high need individuals and communities, while offering funds to cover basic needs, paid training and transitional work, as well as incentives for hiring priority groups.

ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

in Los Angeles County



Since March 2020, the County has:

- Deployed more than \$47 million to provide 1,500 grants to small businesses and social enterprises, averting more than 6,000 layoffs and helping them retain more than \$100 million in revenue.
- Supported over 7,300 micro-entrepreneurs, small businesses, and non-profits with nearly \$100 million through the LA Regional COVID Fund.
- Provided up to \$1,800 in cash assistance to over 1,600 displaced workers, justice-involved individuals, immigrants, and vulnerable households.
- Connected more than 90,000 employees from over 1,400 businesses experiencing layoffs with benefits and services.
- Provided jobs for more than 29,000 workers in humanitarian relief, the hospitality industry, construction, aerospace, and healthcare, among others.
- Served nearly 2,500 small businesses through the Small Business Concierge; 13 businesses received \$113 million in government contracts.
- Established and deployed \$ 1 million of the County's Bioscience Investment Fund.

County planned efforts in 2022:

- **Pandemic Recovery Rapid Reemployment** - With \$20 million, will support 1,200 workers hardest hit by the pandemic, targeting BIPOC, women, and low-income workers, in connecting to skill development, paid on-the-job training, transitional work, and permanent jobs.
- **High-Road Training Partnerships (H RTP)** - Will leverage \$9 million to expand film and digital media H RTP and design new H RTPs for dislocated and underemployed workers in growing and emerging sectors, such as manufacturing, healthcare, tech, and early education and childcare.
- **Worker Equity Fund** - Will launch a \$1 million Worker Equity Fund for participants during training and job search, to provide stipends for care, housing, and tech as well as case management.
- **Homeless Hiring Tax Credit (H HTC)** - The new H HTC, which goes live in 2022, allows for up to \$30,000 a year in tax credits to businesses that hire up to three individuals who have experienced homelessness.
- **Legal Aid for Small Business Owners** - Will leverage \$1.5 million to partner with nonprofit legal service providers for legal counseling and landlord-tenant support for 800 small businesses.
- **Economic Mobility Initiative** - Will utilize \$15 million to partner with Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFIs) and community-based organizations to target investment in businesses in disadvantaged communities and to close the gender gap in entrepreneurship. This initiative includes an entrepreneurship academy, mentorship, capacity building, revolving loan funds, recovery navigators, and other critical supports.

Los Angeles County is building back better and creating a more equitable, sustainable, and resilient local and regional economy. The County looks forward to State partnership and investment in this bold economic development strategy.

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

Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations

1100 K Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 441-7888

ceo.lacounty.gov/legislative-affairs-and-intergovernmental-relations/



Los Angeles County urges the State to support proposals that focus on environmental justice; protect people and the environment; address inequities in the distribution of pollution burdens on low-income communities and communities of color; and provide counties with funding for environmental mitigation.

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION & SUSTAINABILITY

Environmental justice is a basic human right. Environmental hazards compounded by the impacts of climate change continue to place an unequal burden on low-income communities and communities of color. 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.

The County supports investments that transform the region's 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.

Accordingly, the County supports proposals to:

- Rapidly decrease greenhouse gas emissions and help local communities prepare for a changing climate;
- Improve water supply and quality, as well as support sustainable water infrastructure overall;
- Provide more open space;
- Mitigate historic and ongoing exposure to environmental risks;
- Enhance the electric grid infrastructure, as well as community-based solar and storage projects;
- Deploy Electric Vehicle infrastructure at County sites; and
- Prioritize the intersecting goals of job creation, protection of natural resources, improved public health, social equity, technology innovation, and regional policy collaboration.

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

- Comprehensively prepare Los Angeles for the dangers of extreme heat by funding projects and programs that protect the most vulnerable, such as local extreme heat demonstration projects, heat warning systems, and indoor worker heat-related protections;
- Support the local implementation of zero waste and single use plastics elimination; and
- Support equitable tree canopy development in urban areas by funding strategies to address underlying causes of tree canopy inequity, such as long-term maintenance and watering needs and depaving projects.

SUSTAINABILITY AND QUALITY OF LIFE

in Los Angeles County



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

**Legislative Affairs and
Intergovernmental Relations**

1100 K Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 441-7888

ceo.lacounty.gov/legislative-affairs-and-intergovernmental-relations/

The County has:

- Issued a groundbreaking study to analyze and map community-level climate vulnerability, and pinpoint where climate resilience resources should be focused.
- Co-led the Transportation Electrification Partnership, an unprecedented public-private partnership focused on advancing transportation electrification.
- Initiated a Just Transition Taskforce to support fossil fuel workers as the County implements its ordinance to eliminate oil extraction.
- Committed to delivering 100 percent renewable energy for unincorporated areas by 2022.
- Led regional climate collaboration by supporting the 88 cities of Los Angeles County with technical support on climate and sustainability.
- Supported the State by testifying for various legislative hearings and representing local government on the Insurance Commissioner's Climate Insurance Working Group.
- Spearheaded the creation of a stakeholder coalition for multi-benefit climate resilient infrastructure.
- Developed an innovative remote sensing pilot for early detection of and rapid response to pests that threaten urban and regional forests to and support a coordinated and efficient regional response.
- Continued to vocalize the importance of expedited closure of Aliso Canyon.

The County is the regional leader in advancing an equitable, sustainable Los Angeles in the face of climate change.