



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

2022



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

FEDERAL 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 (LARGER THAN THE COMBINED STATES OF DELAWARE AND RHODE ISLAND).



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 **THE NATION'S LARGEST MANUFACTURING CENTER.**



LOS ANGELES COUNTY'S

FEDERAL 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, and protecting the environment. Federal 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 nation.

In order to continue improving the lives of its residents and the economic vitality of the region, Los Angeles County needs on-going policy and funding support from Congress, and the federal government. Key priorities for Los Angeles County at the federal level include, but are not limited to:

- HEALTH, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND MENTAL HEALTH
- BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE
- CHILD WELFARE
- HUMAN SERVICES ENTITLEMENT PROGRAMS
- AFFORDABLE HOUSING
- HOMELESS SERVICES
- JUSTICE REFORM
- INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS
- ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY
- SUPPORT FOR IMMIGRANT RESIDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

HEALTH, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND MENTAL HEALTH

As public health and health care delivery systems continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, enhanced Medicaid and other federal funding is critical for protecting the safety net for the County's most vulnerable residents. This includes maintaining the enhanced Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP), which is the federal share of Medicaid; maintaining flexibility over the utilization of the Provider Relief Fund (PRF); increasing funding for public health and hospital infrastructure to serve clients whose needs remain unmet in the private market; repealing the Medicaid Institutions of Mental Disease (IMD) Exclusion which has inadvertently resulted in a serious shortage of mental health care beds in the region; and providing FMAP for Medicaid services for inmates during the pre-trial period and prior to release to link patients more effectively to the community-based continuum of care post-release.

The County will continue to support policies and proposals to:

- **increase FMAP payments to state Medicaid and foster care programs;**
- **maintain flexibility on the utilization of the PRF;**
- **increase funding for public health, pandemic response, and hospital infrastructure;**
- **repeal or ease the Medicaid IMD Exclusion and maintain Medicaid benefits for the incarcerated populations;**
- **expand or make permanent enhancements to Medicaid and other public healthcare access programs that expand healthcare coverage; and**
- **increase funding for infectious disease prevention and control, and health promotion efforts.**



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 federal legislation and regulations that would 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.

The County will support proposals to:

- **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.**



CHILD WELFARE

To promote the health, safety, and well-being of children, the County is investing in resources that prevent entry into the child welfare system, improve placement stability, strengthen families, and increase permanency for children in foster care. As the nation's largest public child welfare and adoption agency, the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services provides monthly child welfare services to over 38,000 children ages birth to 21 years. Recent state and federal legislative changes have enacted numerous reforms to improve the care and services provided to foster children. However, additional Congressional intervention is needed to provide sufficient resources and flexibility to support foster care services and prevention programs. Now more than ever before, State and local child welfare systems are under increased strain from the impacts of the ongoing pandemic that have expanded the need for services and support for vulnerable children and families.

The County will continue to advocate for proposals that strengthen and support families; promote the safety, permanence, health, and well-being of all children; and enable vulnerable youth to transition

to self-sufficiency and adulthood. This includes proposals that provide:

- **investments in upfront and various prevention programs;**
- **reforms that expand client eligibility for federal funding, such as the elimination of the 1996 look-back provision Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and modification of the Extended Foster Care eligibility and redetermination requirements;**
- **support for counties to help with the successful implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act, including exempting Qualified Residential Treatment Programs from the IMD exclusion;**
- **comprehensive services tailored to meet the unique needs of children, transition-age, and former foster youth and families;**
- **reform that invests in critical services to improve outcomes for vulnerable children, youth, and families involved or at risk of getting involved in the child welfare system; and**
- **an effective response to the increased risk of abuse and neglect in communities as a result of local, state, and national emergencies.**

HUMAN SERVICES ENTITLEMENT PROGRAMS

The health and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have made it more difficult for many low-income households to afford food and other basic needs. Since March 2020, states and local governments have been using temporary Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) administrative and programmatic flexibilities, pursuant to federal law, to:

- increase the monthly SNAP benefit by 15 percent and provide emergency and supplementary benefits to meet immediate rising needs;
- increase SNAP eligibility for college students;
- allow additional retailers to accept SNAP benefits for online food purchases;
- expand the certification periods and adjust reporting requirements;
- allow applicants to apply for SNAP benefits over the phone; and
- waive other program requirements.

However, these provisions were temporary and some expired at the end of 2021. Given that the public health efforts and economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic will likely continue for many months, it is important that the federal government continue to extend these vital administrative flexibilities and program enhancements.

Therefore, the County will continue to support preserving or increasing federal funding for human services entitlement programs, which assist low-income individuals and families. In addition, the County will continue to:

- **support permanent efforts to increase federal funding for SNAP and increase the minimum and maximum monthly SNAP benefit;**
- **oppose efforts to block grant SNAP benefits;**
- **oppose federal mandates requiring states to increase SNAP work requirements;**
- **oppose all efforts to restrict Able Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) work requirement waivers for states and counties;**
- **support efforts to preserve broad-based categorical eligibility;**
- **support outreach and enrollment for SNAP;**
- **support permanent efforts to ensure college students have access to SNAP;**
- **support permanent efforts to maintain administrative flexibilities and extend waivers for SNAP;**
- **reauthorize the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant and increase funding for the program, which has been maintained at the same level since its enactment in 1996.**

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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. To that end, the County has reserved \$736 million dollars to invest in affordable housing development and leveraged \$2.68 billion in public and private funds. The Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA) has helped low-income households retain housing through the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program, veterans with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) vouchers, and homeless families with Emergency Housing Vouchers. These vouchers help fulfill LACDA's commitment to prioritize housing for the County's most vulnerable populations, such as persons experiencing homelessness, the elderly, disabled, and families of very limited means.



The County will advocate for increased funding for vital federal programs and administrative flexibility to effectively administer programs that offer housing assistance to residents with limited means, including:

- increased federal funding to provide housing subsidies to eligible low-income families residing in the unincorporated areas of the County through its Section 8 HCV Program and Public Housing Agency (PHA);
- waivers of statutory and regulatory restrictions of housing and voucher programs to protect vulnerable individuals and families from becoming homeless;
- full funding for the maintenance, operation, and preservation of the County's public housing resources including the Capital Fund and Operating Fund;
- increased funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to allow the County and the participating cities it works with to provide major and minor home repairs; community, senior and youth services; and economic opportunities for the County's residents with limited means;
- increased funding for the HOME Investment Partnership Program to maintain and expand existing efforts to provide safe and affordable housing opportunities; and
- greater administrative fees for the Section 8 HCV program, to high performing PHAs that are prioritizing housing homeless and special needs populations.



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 Congress and the Administration to advance a comprehensive federal response to the homelessness and housing crisis, including significant increases in:

- HCV (Section 8) to ensure all currently eligible persons experiencing homelessness and those at-risk of homelessness can receive a voucher;
- rental subsidies and support services to match to new housing units local jurisdictions are bringing on-line with federal, State and local capital funding;
- emergency housing acquisition funding to assist local jurisdictions to purchase motels and other underutilized properties to convert into housing;
- re-entry vouchers and services;
- subsidized employment and training targeted to homeless individuals and families;
- mental health and other supportive services critical to help people experiencing homelessness secure housing and stay housed; and
- rental assistance for homeless veterans with case management and clinical services through the HUD-VASH program.



JUSTICE REFORM

including the mentally ill, as well as proposals that would help to divert vulnerable individuals away from detention and into community-based treatment and rehabilitation.

Therefore, the County will advocate for proposals that continue advancing nationwide, statewide, and local efforts to transform the youth and adult criminal legal systems, including proposals that would support the County's goals to:

- **divert adults and youth from incarceration and into rehabilitative, health-focused, and care-first systems;**
- **mitigate racial and economic disparities in the youth and adult criminal legal systems;**
- **strengthen law enforcement transparency, accountability, and policing reforms;**
- **implement pretrial reforms with adequate funding for services;**
- **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; and**
- **support funding for legal representation for indigent immigrants in removal proceedings.**

The County is committed to supporting meaningful reforms to federal, State, and local justice systems. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has made significant efforts to re-think and transform the various facets of the justice system lifecycle to include: enhancing law enforcement oversight and accountability, reforming arrest and pretrial detention practices, improving the systems of care in and outside of jail settings, and providing support to the formerly incarcerated so they can transition back into society. To that end, the County supports Senate action on the House-passed George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021 (H.R. 1280) or similar legislation, which would help strengthen national policing reform standards and address police misconduct. Additionally, the County supports policies that provide funding and flexibility to use federal health benefits for the incarcerated population,

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

The County will continue to advocate for Congress and the Administration to advance infrastructure investments, including new funding from the recently enacted bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Public Law 117-58) and projects that support counties and the State in improving and maintaining vital public infrastructure in the greater Los Angeles region. Additional investment and legislative actions from federal partners would greatly assist the County to meet its larger regional infrastructure goals, especially as the region prepares to host the 2028 Summer Olympics.

The County will also advocate for:

- **investments that are consistent with the County's goals to make communities more climate resilient,**

transform transportation systems, help local businesses and partner with community-based organizations, advance environmental justice and spur economic opportunity for disadvantaged communities, and advance racial and gender equity in the workforce; and

- **increased federal support to improve the physical infrastructure in the greater Los Angeles region, including highways, bridges, dams, flood protection, water delivery and conservation system, stormwater quality management, solid waste management facilities, airports, and public transit networks.**

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

Not only does the changing climate affect vital infrastructure systems, but it also significantly affects the daily lives of the residents of the County. Environmental hazards compounded by the impacts of climate change continue to place a disproportionate burden on low-income communities and communities of color. The County supports investments that transform 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. This includes new funding from the recently enacted Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Public Law 117-58) and other federal legislation with climate change provisions such as the House-passed Build Back Better Act (H.R. 5376).

The County will also support proposals that:

- **decrease greenhouse gas emissions;**
- **help 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.**



IMMIGRANT RESIDENTS & THEIR FAMILIES

To advance the well-being of immigrant residents and their families, the County is taking action to ensure that immigrants from around the world, from unaccompanied children to refugees, have the support and services they need to remain and thrive in the Los Angeles region. The County will continue to advocate for proposals that ensure all residents, regardless of immigration status, are treated humanely; afforded due process protections; provided access to necessary services without fear of immigration consequences; and given the opportunity to secure permanent immigration status.

This includes proposals that would provide:

- immigration reforms that include lawful immigration status, such as a path toward citizenship for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) or Temporary Protected Status (TPS) beneficiaries;
- access to basic public services and benefits, including pandemic relief, without impact to immigration status;
- protection for immigrants and their families from prolonged, inhumane, or otherwise inappropriate detention conditions;
- support to reunify families separated at the U.S.-Mexico border and support to unaccompanied children and their families;
- access to federal benefits and expedited permanent status to Afghan and Ukrainian refugees;
- relief from proposals or administrative actions that impede due process rights of non-citizens or limit their access to services; and
- federal resources to address the backlog of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) cases in the region.





BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' PRIORITIES



CHILD PROTECTION

Enhanced well-being and success for systems-involved youth

dcfs.lacounty.gov



HOMELESSNESS

Coordination of community-based services and housing resources

homeless.lacounty.gov



ALLIANCE FOR HEALTH INTEGRATION

Streamlined access to integrated health care

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



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OVERSIGHT & MONITORING

Monitoring for a cleaner and healthier environment

publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh



IMMIGRATION

Immigrant protection and advancement

oia.lacounty.gov



ANTI-RACISM, DIVERSITY AND EQUITY

An anti-racist Los Angeles County policy agenda

ceo.lacounty.gov/ardi



SUSTAINABILITY

Making our communities healthier, more livable, economically stronger, more equitable, more resilient, and more sustainable

ceo.lacounty.gov/sustainability



POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Aiming to establish sustainable and long-term poverty alleviation

ceo.lacounty.gov/pai

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Hilda L. Solis, First District

Sheila Kuehl, Third District

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