



# LOS ANGELES COUNTY 2023 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## The County urges Congress and the Administration to advance proposals that:

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND HOMELESS SERVICES



Increase assistance for housing subsidies available to eligible low-income families through the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program; waive or ease regulatory and statutory restrictions in Federal housing programs, such as the percentage cap on Project Based Vouchers; preserve funding for public housing resources; and increase funding for the Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnerships Programs.

### CHILD WELFARE

Support successful implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act, including exempting QRTPs from the IMD exclusion; reauthorize programs under Title IV-B of the Social Security Act, that would expand and increase funding for primary prevention and capacity building efforts; and provide reforms to expand client eligibility for Federal funding, such as the elimination of the AFDC income eligibility threshold for foster care and modification of Extended Foster Care eligibility and redetermination requirements.



### DIGITAL DIVIDE



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 devices to disadvantaged communities; and expand and modernize Wi-Fi at County facilities to help close the digital divide.

### ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Further decrease greenhouse gas emissions; develop infrastructure (e.g., organic waste processing capacity) and community-scale programs (e.g., resilience hubs, extreme heat risk communication strategies), as well as funding to address imminent health risks; enhance the local water and electric grid infrastructures; remedy abandoned orphaned oil wells; and incentivize production technologies that advance climate resiliency by providing sufficient funding.



### HEALTH AND PUBLIC HEALTH



Preserve and strengthen the Medicaid program, including support for safety net providers; extend Medicaid benefits to incarcerated populations and advance legislation or grant California's Section 1115 waiver proposal that would lift the Medicaid inmate exclusion; ensure continued access to free COVID-19 vaccines, testing, and therapeutics for uninsured and under-insured individuals; strengthen local public health infrastructure and increase funding for disease prevention and control, public health protection and health promotion programs.

### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Repeal or ease the Medicaid IMD Exclusion to permit Medicaid funding for treatment and thereby increase the beds available for individuals with serious behavioral health conditions; use Section 1115 waiver authority to give states and counties the maximum flexibility needed to care for individuals with serious behavioral health conditions; and fund programs that grow the behavioral health workforce.



### HUMAN SERVICES ENTITLEMENT PROGRAMS



Ease SNAP benefits eligibility for college students; eliminate burdensome initial certification, reporting and recertification requirements for SNAP and other public assistance programs; reauthorize and increase funding for the TANF block grant; make permanent the increases and changes made to the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit; and exclude cash aid from publicly funded guaranteed income programs from the income calculations of all public assistance programs.

### INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

Improve the region's physical infrastructure, including highways, bridges, dams, flood protection, water delivery and conservation systems, stormwater quality management, solid waste management facilities, airports, energy, electric-vehicle infrastructure, and public transit networks; and help local businesses to partner with local governments and community-based organizations in accelerating racial and gender equity in the workforce.



### JUSTICE REFORM



Divert adults and youth from incarceration and into rehabilitative, health-focused, and care-first systems; mitigate disparities in the criminal legal systems; strengthen national policing reform standards; increase funding and flexibility to use federal health benefits for the incarcerated population; implement pretrial reforms with adequate funding for services; and increase funding and eligibility for supportive resources for justice-involved individuals.

### SUPPORT FOR IMMIGRANT RESIDENTS

Offer lawful immigration status and increased visa opportunities; provide access to basic public services and benefits regardless of immigration status; end civil incarceration of noncitizens for immigration proceedings; ensure adequate funding for legal representation for indigent immigrants in immigration court proceedings; support reunification of families separated at the border; and provide permanent status for Afghan and Ukrainian refugees.

