



## Chief Executive Office.

### COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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#### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Fesia A. Davenport

January 23, 2024

To: Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath, Chair  
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis  
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell  
Supervisor Janice Hahn  
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

From: Fesia A. Davenport   
Chief Executive Officer FAD (Jan 23, 2024 10:27 PST)

### **WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE – SUMMARY OF 2023 COUNTY ADVOCACY EFFORTS**

#### **Executive Summary**

The first session of the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress officially came to a close on January 3, 2024. Throughout the session, in consultation with the Board of Supervisors (Board) and in collaboration with County departments, the Chief Executive Office's Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations (CEO-LAIR) Branch advocated on over 50 federal legislative, budget, and administrative proposals aimed at protecting, supporting, and/or enhancing County operations, programs, and the well-being of constituents. The County's 2023 advocacy work included coordination of key meetings between the Board, the Administration, and Congressional members aimed at advancing the County's priorities. This report summarizes these strategic efforts and the Attachment highlights some of the County's notable advocacy activities.

#### **County Advocacy Highlights**

In 2023, the County's successful advocacy efforts led the advancement of major federal legislation and regulatory provisions that will result in significant federal resources and regulatory relief for the County. This includes new grant funding for housing and homelessness; new housing resources for homeless veterans, former foster youth, and individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of



homelessness; record allocations of funding to the State to close the digital divide; successful advocacy to protect American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) from Congressional efforts to rescind them and modifications to Treasury guidance to further protect these funds; and heightened awareness and federal support for behavioral health requirements, among others.

### **County-Advocacy Legislation**

CEO-LAIR worked closely with Board offices and impacted departments to review legislative proposals and to identify provisions that had the potential to impact County operations and programs. A summary of federal bills which the County actively advocated on and bills that the County closely monitored in 2023 can be found at [County of Los Angeles Bills of Interest](#). Additional details on other bills of interest to the County can be found at [County of Los Angeles Legislative Tracking System](#).

### **Other Legislative Efforts**

Throughout the course of the legislative session, CEO-LAIR participated in over 800 meetings in support of the County's federal programs and funding priorities, including: over 55 meetings that members of the Board and Department Heads participated in with the Administration and Members of Congress, to discuss the County's program and funding priorities; approximately 740 advocacy meetings that the Washington, D.C. advocates led and/or participated in to advance the County's legislative priorities; and monitored and/or attended over 60 Congressional hearings in support of the County's legislative priorities. CEO-LAIR staff also partnered with various organizations, including the National Association of Counties (NACo) on legislative and budget proposals to support county service-related programs and resources.

The second session of the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress began on January 3, 2024, but Congress did not convene for business until January 8, 2024. CEO-LAIR will continue to work with the Board of Supervisors and their staff, County departments, and other key stakeholders to advance the County's priorities throughout 2024 with the Congress, the Administration, and regulatory agencies.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me or Samara Ashley, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, at (213) 974-1464 or [sashley@ceo.lacounty.gov](mailto:sashley@ceo.lacounty.gov).

FAD:JMN:SA  
PC:sy

Attachment

c: All Department Heads



## 2023 WASHINGTON D.C. ADVOCACY



In 2023, the County's successful advocacy efforts led to the advancement of major Federal legislation and provisions that will result in significant Federal resources and regulatory relief. This included receiving and/or retaining over \$780 million in federal funds related to health care, as well as housing resources for homeless veterans, former foster youth, and individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness; among others.

This year's effective advocacy efforts focused on proposals that protect, support and/or enhance County operations, programs, and the well-being of constituents, including but not limited to the following:



### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

**988 Geo-routing:** Advocated with the County's congressional delegation to effectively improve 9-8-8 hotline geo-routing, resulting in the introduction of the Local 9-8-8 Response Act (H.R. 4974/S. 3444) by Representative Cárdenas and Senator Padilla.

### HEALTH

**Hospital Funding:** The House of Representatives passed the County-supported, H.R. 5378, that would delay cuts to Medicaid's Disproportionate Share Hospital program for two years, preventing an estimated fiscal loss to the County of \$662 million. The Senate Finance Committee also approved a two-year delay which is pending before the full Senate.



### COUNTY FUNDING

**Relief Funding:** CEO-LAIR led an effort in Washington D.C. that resulted in the publication of updated guidance from the U.S. Department of the Treasury on the obligation of COVID-19 relief funding awarded under the American Rescue Plan Act that clarified the ability of the County to sub-allocate funds.





### AFFORDABLE HOUSING & HOMELESS PREVENTION

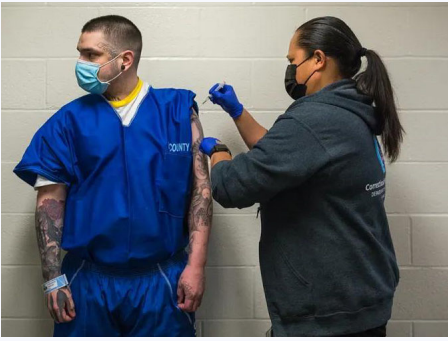
**Housing for Veterans:** The House Committee of Veterans Affairs amended H.R. 3848, the Housing our Military Veterans Effectively (HOME) Act, to remove provisions opposed by the County that would have changed the protections and enforcement mechanisms in the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 regarding uses on the West L.A. Veterans Administration campus. The legislation passed the House and is now pending consideration in the Senate.

**Combatting Unsheltered Homelessness:** The Los Angeles region was awarded \$60 million beyond its regular formula allocation from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to combat unsheltered homelessness. Of this total, the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA) is expected to receive \$19.95 million over three years for tenant-based grant assistance.

**Expediting Housing Placements:** HUD approved a waiver for the LACDA that will expedite the leasing process for homeless residents by reducing administrative requirements for moving into federally assisted housing.

**Housing Vouchers:** HUD awarded to the LACDA nearly 800 new housing vouchers to support homeless veterans, former foster youth, and individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.





## JUSTICE

**Health Support:** Advocated for and California received the first in the nation federal approval to offer a targeted set of Medicaid (Medi-Cal) services to youth and adults in state prisons, County jails, and youth correctional facilities for up to 90 days prior to release (currently Medicaid only provides these services following release).

**Hostage Support:** At the federal legislative and administrative level, supported the Board of Supervisors' and family's efforts to seek the release of Eyvin Hernandez, an attorney with the County Public Defender's office. On December 20, 2023, he was one of 10 Americans released from Venezuelan custody. Mr. Hernandez had been unlawfully detained by the Venezuelan government since March 2022.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

**Civil Works Projects:** In federal fiscal year (FFY) 2023, the County received \$36.8 million in funding for member-requested appropriations and civil works projects. In FFY 2024, Congress advanced 10 of the County's 28 appropriations requests and three civil works projects totaling \$39 million.

**Flood Control:** Secured an important legislative change in the Water Resources Development Act of 2022, conveying certain elements of the Los Angeles County Drainage Area flood control system from the Army Corps of Engineers to the Department of Public Works.

**Transportation Safety:** The U.S. Department of Transportation awarded two separate grants to implement transportation safety measures: one for \$21.49 million in Florence-Firestone; and one for \$3.9 million in Willowbrook and West Rancho Dominguez. These grants were funded through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021.

**Digital Divide:** California received the second highest nationwide allocation of federal funding to address the digital divide - \$1.864 billion - that was approved as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.