



County of San Diego

2023 Annual Recovery Plan

Performance Report (FY 2022-23)

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

July 27, 2023

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the lives of individuals, businesses, and communities across San Diego County. Since the beginning, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) has been committed to taking action to protect the health of the public and provided resources to individuals, families, and local businesses. The County of San Diego (County) has secured past federal and State stimulus funds to use toward the COVID-19 response efforts, including \$388 million in CARES Act - Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) utilized for public health response activities as well as a range of investments to support the community and promote economic recovery of the region. However, additional resources were still required to support the County's ongoing efforts toward addressing and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

To guide the distribution of COVID-19 response and recovery-related federal, State, and local funding and resources, the County used an equity lens and a data-driven approach to prioritize and integrate explicit consideration of racial and gender equity where possible. This approach, along with input from community workshops and stakeholders, consideration of other available funding sources, and the U.S. Treasury's Interim Final Rule helped to inform the spending priorities of the nearly \$650 million in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) allocated to the County through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). These priorities are organized in the County's ARPA Framework first adopted by the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors on June 8, 2021.

After its original inception, the Board reevaluated the County ARPA Framework based on projected spending levels and re-prioritized the framework to ensure full utilization of funds and to maximize impact to the community. The revised framework includes new priorities to support the economic recovery of San Diegans from the pandemic, specifically related to childcare, housing, and behavioral health. The Board also approved utilizing the revenue loss strategy to enable the County to utilize other funds in support of items within the ARPA Framework. Those projects, while listed in the ARPA Framework, are not required to be reported on as part of US Department of Treasury reports as they do not utilize ARPA funds.

County of San Diego's ARPA Framework

Prior and On-Going COVID-19 Response (\$241.8M)

Premium Pay for Government Essential Workers (\$27.6M)

Mental Health Services (\$32M)

- Behavior Health Services Support for Children and Youth (\$30M)
- In-Home Supportive Services: Technology for Social Inclusion and Wellbeing (\$2M)

Homeless Services (\$85M)

- Housing, Shelter, Including Acquisition of Facilities and Wrap-Around Services (\$70M)
- Housing Vouchers & Local Rent Subsidy Program & Services (\$10M)
- LGBTQ Homeless Services/Housing (\$5M)

Food Assistance (\$20M)

- Food Distribution Programs (\$9M)
- Expansion of Mas Fresco More Fresh Nutrition Incentive Program (\$2M)
- Nutrition Incentives Beyond Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to Medi-Cal (\$1M)
- Community Food Production Projects (\$7M)
- Food System Sustainability and Equity Procurement Guidelines (\$1M)

Senior & Youth Services (\$10M)

- Career Pathways for Foster Youth (\$5M)
- No-Cost Transportation to Youth and Seniors (\$3M)
- Grant Program for Youth Sports and Youth Camps (\$2M)

Child Care Subsidies (\$15.5M)

- Child Care Workforce Investment (\$10M)
- Child Care Bridge Program (\$1.5M)
- Child Care Shared Services Alliance (\$2M)
- Child Care Facility Development and Improvement (\$2M)

Direct Stimulus Payments (\$17.5M)

- Innovation in Foster Care: Cash Transfer for Youth At-Risk Families (\$7.5M)
- Direct Cash Assistance for Populations Disproportionately Impacted (Recovery Action Fund for Tomorrow (RAFT)) (\$10M)

Legal Services (\$13.6M)

- Coordinated Eviction Counseling Program (\$3.6M)
- Tenant Legal Services (\$10M)

Small Business & Non-Profit Stimulus Payments (\$55.5M)

- Small Business & Non-Profit Stimulus Program (\$33M)
- Restaurant Fee Waivers (\$7M)
- Special Event Fee Waiver (\$1.5M)
- Arts & Culture (Augment Community Enhancement Funds) (\$5M)
- Rental Assistance for Small Landlords with no Other Source of Rental Assistance (\$5M)
- Security Deposit Assistance Program (\$4M)

Infrastructure (\$30M)

- Broadband for County Region (\$10M)
- Investments in Stormwater, Sewer and Drinking Water (\$13M)
- Investment in Electric Vehicle Replacement/Infrastructure (\$3M)
- Invest in Local, Independent Fire Districts (\$4M)

Other (\$105M)

- Assistance for Homeworkers and Childcare Workers (\$1.5M)
- Evergreen Fund (\$79M): (\$15M) Behavioral Health Renewable Fund, (\$64M) Housing and Behavioral Health
- Project Homekey (\$24.5M)

Note: Some programs will be funded via a revenue loss strategy.

The catalog of projects under the County's ARPA Framework strives to address economic and other impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic while balancing the ongoing need for a robust public health response. Additionally, the County recognizes that programs supporting environmental justice, sustainability, climate adaptation, and the food system are critical to the region's resiliency. Therefore, the spending plan addresses the complex factors that influence health and equity, including education, housing, transportation, and neighborhood safety.

Community Engagement is core to the [General Management System \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/cao/gms.html). As projects were created and continue to be developed, robust input is gathered from stakeholders and the community through a variety of methods, as appropriate. A priority for the County is ensuring that community engagement efforts are culturally appropriate and accessible to best serve the targeted population. With equity as a key value, the County is dedicated to applying multiple strategies towards achieving an equity lens to appropriately design programs and services to best serve its residents. When possible, the County has prioritized projects that are based on evidence-based practices or will be conducting assessments and evaluations for those that employ new and innovate approaches. Project performance management occurs at the project level and metrics are detailed in the project inventories.

Link to website:

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/cao/gms.html>

This report serves as the third Annual Recovery Plan and Performance Report. Projects may be added, removed, or expanded from the framework to ensure alignment with rules and regulations.

Uses of Funds

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) has been committed to taking action to protect the health of the public and provided resources to individuals, families, and local businesses. The County of San Diego (County) had secured past federal and State stimulus funds to use toward the COVID-19 response efforts, including \$388 million in CARES Act, Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) revenue utilized for public health response activities as well as a range of investments to support the community and promote economic recovery of the region. However, additional resources were still required to support the County's efforts toward addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and support a strong and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn. In anticipation of receipt of the future federal and State stimulus funds, in early March 2021, the Board directed the Chief Administrative Officer to return to the Board with a framework for the use of future funds toward the County's COVID-19 pandemic response efforts. Soon after, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) was signed into law and the County of San Diego was allocated nearly \$650 million in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) also known as American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, with expenses eligible starting on March 3, 2021.

With input from community workshops held in March 2021 as well as from other correspondence received from advocates, the County ARPA Framework was developed with the understanding that as final federal guidance is released, projects may be added or removed from the framework to ensure alignment with rules and regulations. The framework was first adopted by the Board on June 8, 2021. As the framework has been implemented, several strategies have been and continue to be utilized to maximize the impact of the work. Strategies include engaging in public-private partnerships or contracting with organizations who have the subject matter expertise or ability to serve identified populations to address equity and leveraging other State and federal funds, including funds through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

After its initial inception, the Board reevaluated the County ARPA Framework based on projected spending levels and re-prioritized the framework to ensure full utilization of funds and maximize impact in the community. The revised framework includes new priorities to support the economic recovery of San Diegans from the pandemic, specifically related to child care, housing, and behavioral health. The Board also approved utilizing the loss revenue strategy to enable the County to utilize other funds in support of items within the ARPA Framework. Those projects, while listed in the ARPA Framework, are not required to be reported on as part of US Department of Treasury reports as they do not utilize ARPA funds.

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A summary of how funds are being utilized is below, categorized by SLFRF Expenditure Categories (EC), however, further details can be found in the Project Inventories.

Public Health (EC 1)

The largest portion of the funds has been allocated toward Prior and On-Going COVID-19 Response efforts that covered a range of costs including testing, tracing, safe isolation services, vaccination efforts, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies, outreach and education, media, public health efforts, and administrative costs. A majority of these projects are under the Public Health EC. The County developed a robust COVID-19 response that is rooted in health equity. Through examining the data, the County identified disparities among race/ethnic groups, age, zip code and other factors. This data helped to inform strategies to ensure equity. Components of the COVID-19 response included the Test, Trace, Treat Strategy (T3), a large-scale population health-based strategy which uses collaborative effort to achieve collective impact in protecting the public's health and ensuring the continuity of such protection throughout all stages of the region's reopening. The T3 Strategy included accessible COVID-19 testing, culturally competent disease investigation, and assistance with safe isolation with individualized services. The vaccination efforts utilized a mix of County-hosted vaccination sites, super stations, mobile clinics, and sites in which the County partnered with hospitals, clinics, and city fire agencies to ensure that those living in the lowest health equity quartile and those disproportionality effect by COVID have access to vaccinations. Active engagement of community sectors, region-wide vaccine messaging and focused community outreach have also been key as they supported the most vulnerable and prevented the healthcare system from being overwhelmed.

Mental Health Services:

The pandemic had many impacts to behavioral health. On December 7, 2021, the U.S. Surgeon General issued an Advisory on Protecting Youth Mental Health to highlight the urgent need to address the nation's youth mental health crisis exacerbated by COVID-19 and calling for a swift and coordinated response to improve the mental health of children, adolescents, and young adults. The County has invested funds in creating the Screening to Care Initiative to address mental health treatment needs for middle school students. This program would offer universal screening to students facilitated by staff, regardless of insurance status.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted older adults and those living with a variety of disabilities and health conditions. To prevent unnecessary exposure to COVID-19, many older adults and persons with disabilities had been experiencing less in-person social contact than prior to the pandemic. Further, the pandemic had resulted in fewer opportunities for older adults and persons with disabilities to receive in-person mental health services. The County invested ARPA funds in increasing access to technology, technology training, Internet/data, telemedicine, and social engagement/mental health resources support that will allow older adults to increase social connection and decrease loneliness and barriers to mental health care.

Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2)

The County is using ARPA funds to respond to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency, including through the provision services to households (such as housing supports, access to nutrition and childcare), small businesses, non-profits, and impacted industries. A large portion of County ARPA Framework is dedicated to projects aligned with the Negative Economic Impacts EC.

Homeless Services:

Many people in the County are currently experiencing or at risk of homelessness, which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. To address these needs, the County allocated significant portion of the funds for a variety of housing resources including funding of affordable housing developments, wraparound and supportive services, emergency vouchers, flexible funding mechanisms, rent subsidy programs, and housing programs affirming and responsive to the needs of the LGBTQ population. All of these programs align with the County's Framework for Ending Homelessness.

Food Assistance:

Food assistance was one of the highest priorities that resulted from the County-held community workshops. San Diego Hunger Coalition estimates that, as of March 2021, approximately 1 in 3 San Diegans experience nutrition insecurity, or are unable to provide three, nutritious meals per day for themselves and/or their families. This is up from an estimated 1 in 4 San Diegans in 2019. Programs in the County's ARPA Framework aligned with this expenditure are providing low-income families and seniors with nutritious food. Additionally, the Community Food Production program aims to disseminate funds to support a variety of community-led projects with the intended purpose of increasing food sovereignty in low-income communities and communities of color.

Senior & Youth Services:

To support youth and seniors in overcoming the economic challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, a specific Senior & Youth Services component was built into the County ARPA Framework. With transportation being identified by the community as a major barrier for both age groups in economic independence, the County invested in transportation programs to provide free bus passes for youth and other free transportation services for qualified seniors who struggle with access. Additionally, many youth lost out on the opportunity to participate in sports and camps during the shutdowns and even after as their families struggled financially. The Youth Sports and Camps Waiver Program provided youth with the opportunity to participate in recreational sports or camps for free or at a reduced cost. It was designed to reduce financial barriers that could otherwise limit or prevent kids and teens from participating in these activities.

Foster youth are particularly vulnerable to negative economic impacts of the pandemic. Several programs with the County's ARPA framework are geared towards supporting these youth. Aligned with this expenditure category, there is a program in development that aims to provide foster youth with career assessment, employable skills and knowledge, and financial incentives to current/former foster youth, who are interested in pursuing careers with the County of San Diego.

Child Care Subsidies:

As the region re-opened and more people went back to work there has been an increasing need for access to childcare. However, San Diego County childcare providers were already struggling to fill vacant staff positions pre-pandemic. Staff turnover can be expensive for providers and detrimental to children's development and relationship with caregivers. Several projects under the Child Care Subsidies component of the County's ARPA Framework align with the Negative Economic Impacts expenditure category. The projects aim to provide business infrastructure and workforce support to local childcare providers, provide childcare vouchers to families involved with the County's Health and Human Services, Child and Family Well-being department who are working toward reunification with their children.

Direct Stimulus Payments:

The Direct Stimulus Payments component of the County's ARPA framework aims support the populations that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. The Innovations in Foster Care: Cash Transfer Program for Youth and At-Risk Families provides economic assistance to support the basic needs of families with children ages 0 to 17 years who are at risk of entering foster care, particularly those disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and communities of color with higher rates of poverty. Program design also includes a focus on communities within the 39 Health Equity Zip codes of San Diego disproportionately affected by COVID 19, California Health Places Index, and/or zip codes with high rates of child abuse referrals.

Legal Services:

The COVID 19 pandemic has created a great deal of economic uncertainty and has affected lower income families with housing needs. The Tenant Legal Services Program provides eviction counseling and outreach/prevention legal services for tenants and landlords in financial need. The Coordinated Eviction Prevention Program will use data and targeted outreach activities to identify households at-risk of being evicted. Services include providing tailored support to households facing the threat of eviction with the goal of preventing unnecessary evictions, including preventing evictions from untraditional tenant situations.

Small Business and Non-Profit Stimulus Program:

The Small Business and Non-Profit Stimulus Program component of the County's ARPA framework aims to provide economic assistance, primarily to help businesses and nonprofit entities impacted by COVID-19. The Small Business Stimulus Grant provides grants to qualified small businesses and non-profit organizations with twenty (20) or fewer full-time equivalents (FTEs), including sole proprietorships and independent contractors, based and operated within San Diego County. The County previously allocated \$27.5M in CARES Act CRF funding for a similar small business grant assistance program (for organizations with 100 or fewer employees) in 2020. Given the tremendous demand for the program, the County allocated additional funding of \$20M from its own General Fund in 2020. The ARPA funds help continue this program for struggling businesses and nonprofits.

Recognizing the impact the pandemic had on San Diego County's food industry businesses, ARPA funds were being used to waive restaurant and bar annual health permit renewal fees for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 in order to help them succeed in rebuilding. Annual health permit renewal fees for business types of Restaurant Food Facility, Low Risk Food Facility, and Restricted Food Service Facility were waived upon the permit renewal date during FY 2021-2022 from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. Additionally, the meeting and events industry is an essential economic driver for the San Diego region. The events industry has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The County utilized ARPA funds to waive special event permit fees for nonprofit organizations and commercial businesses holding public special events such as festivals, parades, runs/walks, and other planned public events at County parks and facilities, as well as temporary food event and vendor permit fees in the region during Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

Another industry impacted by the pandemic is the Arts and Culture industry. According to a report from Americans for the Arts, COVID-19 Pandemic's Impact on The Arts: Research Update (May 17, 2021), artists remain the most severely affected segment of the nation's workforce. 99% of producing and presenting organizations have cancelled events and financial losses to nonprofit arts and culture organizations are \$16.5 billion. Among organizations yet to reopen at that time, 42% lacked the funds needed to restart in-person programming. The County's existing Community Enhancement program funds cultural activities, museums, visitor and convention bureaus, economic development councils, and other similar institutions/organizations, including County programs and projects, which promote and generate tourism and/or economic development within San Diego County. The Community Enhancement program is typically funded with a combination of local Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) and County General Fund resources. ARPA funding is being used to augment these funding sources for the expansion of this program.

The housing rental industry was significantly impacted during the pandemic, particularly smaller landlords who are not able to access any other source of governmental COVID-19-related financial assistance that would compensate for lost rental income, including local rental assistance programs developed by the County and incorporated cities. Funds under this component were used to develop the County's Rental Assistance for Small Landlords (RASL) program. This program aimed to help small landlords that have not been able to access federal, State, or local financial assistance for loss of rental income. RASL was available to landlords that operate less than five rental units and have at least three months in rental arrears per request. Additionally, the Security Deposit Assistance Program (SDAP) helped eligible County residents with a security deposit payment. The program provided one-time payment assistance for renters unable to pay for a security deposit through a security deposit voucher program and aimed to assist low- or moderate-income households who have experienced negative economic impacts resulting from the pandemic.

Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity (EC 3)

The County has used ARPA funds to the to support public sector workforce and capacity, including public sector payroll, and building of public sector capacity. Funds

were being utilized specifically to cover the payroll costs associated with staff performing activities related to the COVID-19 pandemic response. Additionally, ARPA funds within this expenditure category are being used to develop and implement a Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Program and Policy for the County and its food service providers. Research suggests that focusing public funds towards purchases that consider principles such as sustainability, equity, and local food systems, supports institutions in offering healthier, more sustainably produced foods, which can potentially lead to healthier outcomes. A food sourcing policy that takes into account values, such as the regional food system and local economy, would support producers and/or businesses run by members of historically marginalized communities.

Premium Pay (EC 4)

The COVID-19 pandemic presented the County and its workforce with unprecedented new challenges. In recognition of these efforts the County's Department of Human Resources – Labor Relations Division held a number of meetings with County labor organizations to determine appropriate qualifications for hazard pay and has worked with each County department to confirm all eligible employees. Based on available funding sources such as Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Coronavirus Relief Fund, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and ARPA, County leadership determined that the premium pay provision of the American Rescue Plan offers the most appropriate funding alignment for this program. Hazard pay for eligible County employees was made available in two levels: a \$2,500 one-time lump sum payment to employees who worked for an extended period of time in facilities where COVID-19 exposure was more likely (such as detention and medical facilities), and a \$1,500 one-time lump sum payment for employees who worked in conditions where exposure was not as likely, but still elevated due to interaction with the public and other employees.

Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure (EC 5)

Infrastructure

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need for regional infrastructure improvements. Projects funded under the Infrastructure component of the ARPA Framework include the development of a comprehensive broadband plan for assessing and identifying broadband gaps and community needs in the unincorporated areas in the region. Broadband access to rural and unincorporated communities will increase ability to access online services like distance learning, remote work and telehealth. Rural and unincorporated communities will not need to drive to these services which will reduce the County's overall carbon impact.

A portion of ARPA funding has been allocated to variety of stormwater, sewer, and drinking water projects including:

- The Water and Wastewater Technology Launchpad Platform focuses on sewage and wastewater infrastructure, technology, policy and/or practice through research, data collection and analysis, mapping and outreach.

- With the Utility Bill Data Capture and Analysis project, data will be used to identify census blocks, neighborhoods, or commercial districts that are struggling to pay their current utility bills as a result of the pandemic. This information will then be used to target federal or state grants that will fund infrastructure projects to improve efficiency, affordability, and reduce the likelihood of future bill default.
- The Green Infrastructure Demonstration aims to create improvements in stormwater infrastructure in San Diego County's unincorporated area. Improvements offer not only reduced flooding during times of high rainfall, but also improved climate resilience, water quality improvement, and the potential to recycle water and mitigate wildfire risk. These infrastructure upgrades can be deployed in targeted locations to help redress historical inequities in public investment. This project addresses stormwater challenges, climate change resilience, community equity, wildfire risk, and water quality issues by identifying, piloting, and deploying an innovative green infrastructure demonstration project
- The Green Streets Clean Water Plan documents a multi-part project identification and quantification approach to optimize the potential benefit of project opportunities, evaluate opportunities across a large study area, and objectively rank and prioritize them. This approach complements the objectives in multiple Water Quality Improvement Plans, which identify distributed green infrastructure (such as green streets) as a critical strategy in achieving numeric water quality goals through pollutant load reduction while also providing multiple community benefits. In addition to water quality benefits, location within underserved and low-income communities, potential for pedestrian improvements, flood management, and water supply were among the other benefits that were factored into the ranking and prioritization process.
- The Camp Lockett-Drinking Water System Improvements project provides funding to nonprofit organizations that are part of the Camp Lockett Interest Group (CLIG) within the Camp Lockett Master Plan area to establish water and sanitary sewer services, improve the safety and reliability of potable water and wastewater infrastructure, and improve drainage facilities to protect public safety and property.
- The Tijuana River Valley project would restore habitat, as well as remove an abandoned structure and debris from a 5-acre site in the Tijuana River Valley. The goal of the project is to improve water quality in the Tijuana River Valley through stormwater improvements or infrastructure. The project will build on prior efforts in the Tijuana River Valley by implementing projects to address stormwater, water quality, and transboundary flow concerns.
- Community-Focused Stormwater Improvement Partnerships seek to provide multi-benefit water quality improvements on unincorporated private properties. Pollution can be reduced by installing features such as permeable pavement, rainwater capture, biofiltration, or similar practices. These types of projects are supportive of local climate resiliency. Projects are designed to also benefit the public by creating additional park space, expanding the urban tree canopy,

creating community garden space, or addressing other needs as identified by a robust community engagement process.

Revenue Replacement (EC 6)

The County has applied \$43 million in ARPA revenue replacement funds towards the provision of existing government services. Funds were applied to county operations that are 100% funded with the use of County General Purpose Revenue in the Department of the Public Defender and the Behavioral Health Services and Self Sufficiency Services departments in the Health and Human Services Agency.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes

Equity is a key value of the County and as such, the County is dedicated to applying an equity lens to appropriately design programs and services so that underserved communities have equitable opportunities as well as using data driven metrics, lived experiences and the voices of our community to weave equity through all policies and programs.

This value is threaded through all projects in the County's ARPA Framework. The framework supports the most vulnerable residents in the San Diego County region with an equity lens and quantitative and qualitative data-driven approaches used to prioritize and integrate explicit consideration of racial and gender equity, where possible. The broad range of projects under the County's ARPA Framework strives to address the complex factors that influence health and equity including educational attainment, housing, transportation options and neighborhood safety. Additionally, the County recognizes that programs supporting environmental justice, sustainability, climate adaptation, and the food system are critical to the region's resiliency.

Examples of how projects funded by the ARPA Framework promote equitable outcomes includes:

- Contracting with subject matter experts will be engaged in various projects to provide expertise in ensuring evaluation designs are guided by an equity lens.
- Utilizing the California Healthy Places Index (HPI) to identify underserved communities' interventions and services. HPI is a tool, developed by the Public Health Alliance of Southern California, to assist in exploring local factors that predict life expectancy and comparing community conditions across the state. The HPI provides overall scores and more detailed data on specific policy action areas that shape health, such as housing, transportation, education and more. Using case line list data through October 3, 2020, it was identified that out of the 47,077 COVID-19 cases, 39% live in the lowest HPI quartile, which indicates less health opportunities. Additionally, the County utilized the HPI to identify 39 zip codes that were within the lowest quartile and had the highest burden of

COVID-19 defined as a cumulative case rate of at least 10,000 COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population.

San Diego County Health Equity Zip Codes (39 Zip Codes)							
91901	91915	91948	91980	92058*	92083	92110	92173*
91905*	91917*	91950*	92004	92060	92084	92113*	92259
91906*	91934*	91962	92020	92066*	92086*	92114	92536
91910	91935	91963	92027	92070	92102*	92139	92672
91911	91945	91977	92055	92081	92105*	92154	

*California Department of Public Health (CDPH) assigned Vaccine Equity Metric Quartile 1 zip codes

- Analyzing data by geography, age, and race/ethnicity.
- Examining data for trends of inequities. For example, data shows disproportionality for children in foster care is an issue both locally and nationally, resulting in a greater percentage of African American and Native American children involved in the foster care system. These disparities can be seen across nearly every metric within the child welfare system. Children of color tend to be reported to the child abuse hotline, investigated, removed from their parents at a far greater percentage than their occurrence in the general population
- Utilizing GIS mapping to determine density and location of key services in target communities.
- Focusing programs on disproportionately impacted populations and communities and/or business and nonprofits that serve these populations. Examples include:
 - Older adults and homebound persons with disabilities
 - low-income minority older individuals, older individuals with Limited English Proficiency, and older individuals residing in rural areas.
 - Youth experiencing mental health issues
 - Adults with substance use disorder and/or co-occurring conditions who are experiencing homelessness
 - Individuals and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness
 - Individuals and families experiencing food insecurity
 - The LGBTQ community
 - Foster youth and families involved in Child Welfare Services
 - Rural communities
- Investing in infrastructure projects that prioritize environmental justice and sustainability.
- Ensuring outreach, materials and applications are accessible in multiple languages.

Additional information on how individual projects promote equitable outcomes can be found in the project inventories, as applicable.

Community Engagement

Access is a key value of the County and community engagement is core to how the County conducts business. The County is committed to building trust with the residents we serve through transparent communication and neighborhood engagement that is accessible in the languages, facilities and methods that meet their needs. The County believes that all that we do should be for, and created in partnership with, the people we serve.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the County leveraged the strategic foundations for healthy, safe, and thriving communities set by <https://www.livewellsd.org/>, the County's long-term strategy that focuses on improving population health and achieving collective impact through public-private partnerships. There are nearly 550 *Live Well San Diego* recognized partners who represent all sectors – from government, to business, to schools, to faith-based and community organizations – and represent the diverse communities of San Diego County. These partners convened during the COVID-19 pandemic to participate in the [Community Sector Support \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community_epidemiology/dc/2019-nCoV/CommunitySectors.html). Through these sectors, the County communicated sector-specific COVID-19 information virtually to thousands of stakeholders to facilitate transparency, ensure accessibility, and keep the public informed of the latest information related to local response efforts.

Link to website: Community Sector Support

https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community_epidemiology/dc/2019-nCoV/CommunitySectors.html

Through community workshops and other community input opportunities, the County has been able to obtain critical public input on the use of future federal and State COVID-19 stimulus funding. In anticipation of passing of ARPA and the receipt of the SLFRF, the County hosted five virtual 90-minute community workshops between March 15, 2021 and March 19, 2021. These workshops gave the public the opportunity to provide feedback on the potential uses of anticipated funds. A total of 386 individuals from across the San Diego County region participated and arrangements were made to provide interpretation in Arabic, Chinese, Filipino, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Based on categories identified in ARPA, participants were able to engage with an online polling feature within the virtual meeting and rank the categories in order from highest priority to lowest and provide suggestions on the use of the funds.

Incorporating the feedback received, a proposed ARPA “In-Concept” framework was presented at the April 6, 2021 Board meeting. As part of this public meeting, the community had the opportunity to provide both written and oral comments. Additionally, after the release of the Interim Final Rule to implement ARPA, a revised County ARPA Framework as presented at the June 8, 2021 Board meeting and again, public comments were received. Subsequently, a similar process was followed for the August 30, 2022 revision to the County ARPA Framework. As necessary, projects have

been presented to the Board during public meetings in which the community could provide both written and oral comments.

As projects continue to develop, feedback from the community is incorporated through various methods. A priority for the County is ensuring that community engagement efforts are culturally appropriate and accessible to best serve the targeted population. Written communication is translated into multiple threshold languages and translators are available for oral communication.

Methods for community engagement include but are not limited to:

- gathering public comments through the public Board meetings;
- engaging the County’s Citizen advisory boards;
- utilizing existing community engagement/listening sessions;
- connecting with existing recipients of services and service providers;
- engaging with stakeholder and community groups;
- print and online media such as flyers, handouts, websites, and newsletters;
- conducting focus groups;
- conducting surveys;
- obtaining support from contractors or consultants; and
- connecting with youth-led groups.

Additional information on community engagement can be found in the project inventories, as applicable.

Labor Practices

Per the guidelines, workforce practices must be reported on for projects being pursued under SLFRF Expenditure Category 5: Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, as well as other projects with total expected capital expenditures of over \$10 million. Projects will follow the California Public Contract Code, including requirements to utilize a skilled and trained workforce through prevailing wage. The strong labor standards as outlined in the California Public Contract Code promote effective delivery infrastructure projects while supporting employment opportunities for a range of workers. Reporting on labor practices can be found in the project inventories.

Use of Evidence

The SLFRF defines evidence-based interventions as those with “strong or moderate” evidence. A third category is defined as “preliminary”. Preliminary evidence means the evidence base can support conclusions about the program’s contribution to observed outcomes. The evidence base consists of at least one non-experimental study. Moderate evidence means that there is a reasonably developed evidence base that can support causal conclusions. The evidence base consists of one or more quasi-experimental studies with positive findings on one or more intended outcomes OR

two or more non-experimental studies with positive findings on one or more intended outcomes. Strong evidence means that the evidence base can support causal conclusions for the specific program proposed by the applicant with the highest level of confidence. This consists of one or more well-designed and well-implemented experimental studies conducted on the proposed program with positive findings on one or more intended outcomes.

The County values both evidence-based interventions and innovative approaches. The County ARPA Framework is intended to be a mix of innovative approaches that leverage preliminary evidence. Some ARPA Framework projects will conduct evaluations. For example, for the Innovation in Foster Care: Cash Transfer Program for Youth and At-Risk Families project, a randomized control trial evaluation will follow participating families during the two years of receiving cash disbursements and up to two years afterwards to determine the sustainability of protective factors, resiliency, and the effectiveness of guaranteed income as a means of reducing the risk for child abuse and neglect. Additionally, an evaluation for the Shallow Rent Subsidy Program for Older Adults will be conducted.

Details on the level of evidence for each project can be found in the project inventories, as applicable.

Performance Report

The County's mission is to strengthen communities with innovative, inclusive, and data-driven services through a skilled and supported workforce. Data and performance management is critical to ensuring the delivery of services that best meet the needs of our communities and achieve the intended goals. Information on metrics can be found in the project inventories and are managed at the project level. Additional updates on data will be provided in subsequent Annual Recovery Plans and are reported in the quarterly Project and Expenditure reports.

PROJECT INVENTORIES

Project 1a: COVID-19 Vaccination

Funding Amount:

A total of \$241.8 million has been earmarked for a range of COVID-19 public health response activities including vaccinations (project 1a), testing (project 1b), contact tracing (project 1c), personal protective equipment (project 1d), other COVID-19 public health expenses (project 1e), community health workers (project 1f), payroll costs for public health, safety, other public sector staff responding to COVID-19 (project 1g), and administrative expenses (project 1h). Funding is used to meet the public's needs in each area and changes as needs evolve.

Use of ARPA funding for response activities has decreased over the last year consistent with need, and consistent with the shift of these projects to reflect a more permanent, ongoing, endemic operational structure. The majority of the spending currently is on trace activities as surveillance continues for testing, case counts, hospitalizations, deaths, and vaccination. Outbreak investigations also continue in high-risk settings.

The County has worked to transition certain activities into our ongoing public health operations and has also transitioned some costs to public health grant funding. With the end of FEMA eligibility on May 11, 2023, ARPA funds remain available to help transition our response work post emergency, and work towards sustainable funding sources as needed for the future.

Project Expenditure Category: 1.1, COVID-19 Vaccination

Project Overview:

The County of San Diego's (County) COVID-19 vaccine efforts focused on providing accessibility to the vaccine through the support of a robust ecosystem of vaccination providers. Focus was placed on ensuring the vaccine reached underserved communities as well as communities identified low in the California Healthy Places Index (HPI). The effort to identify populations in the Strategies included but were not limited to:

- Launched Project SAVE (Scheduling Assistance for Vaccine Equity) this improved vaccination rates among impacted communities by utilizing community health workers for outreach and schedule vaccine appointments for residents
- Created Vaccine Support team in 2-1-1 to help address equity issues—follow-up calls were arranged if clients faced barriers to scheduling or were unable to access appointments.
- Implemented the Homebound San Diegans program to provide in-home vaccinations to homebound individuals.
- Partnered with Fire Agencies to provide vaccinations to special populations such as those in rural communities and senior facilities.

- Partnered with healthcare systems to set up the State’s first Vaccination Superstations which provided large-scale vaccination events to over 5,000 individuals a day per site.
- Engagement of local Clinical leaders through the Clinical Advisory Committee.

Link to website:

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/coronavirus/>

Uses of Funds:

The vaccination efforts utilized a mix of County-hosted vaccination sites, super stations, mobile clinics, and sites in which the County partnered with hospitals, clinics, and city fire agencies to ensure that those living in the lowest health equity quartile and those disproportionately affected by COVID have access to vaccinations. Active engagement of community sectors, region-wide vaccine messaging and focused community outreach have also been key as they supported the most vulnerable and prevented the healthcare system from being overwhelmed.

Throughout all COVID-19 response activities, multiple strategies have been employed including:

- a focus on equity;
- early, active, and sustained engagement of community partners;
- utilization of scientific evidence and data;
- proactive transparency and communication;
- clear goals and measurable results; and
- culturally responsive hiring and staffing practices.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

Vaccine equity is one of the key values of the County and as such, the County has been dedicated to applying an equity lens to ensure appropriately designed COVID vaccine activities and services so that underserved communities have equitable opportunities as well as using data driven metrics, lived experiences and the voices of our community to weave equity through all COVID vaccine projects, activities and offerings.

County vaccine efforts utilizes the California Healthy Places Index (HPI) to identify underserved communities’ interventions and services. HPI is a tool, developed by the Public Health Alliance of Southern California, to assist in exploring local factors that predict life expectancy and comparing community conditions across the state. The HPI provides overall scores and more detailed data on specific policy action areas that shape health, such as housing, transportation, education and more. The County utilized the HPI to identify 39 zip codes that were within the lowest quartile and had

the highest burden of COVID-19 defined as a cumulative case rate of at least 10,000 COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population.

The County analyzes vaccine data by geography, age, and race/ethnicity. For example, the County tracks overall testing rates, case rates, hospitalizations and deaths and vaccination progress, with much of this by geography, age, and race/ethnicity. Through this data, it was found that the Hispanic/Latino community carried a large burden of COVID-19 disease in the County. The County examines the data for trends of inequities. For example, data shows that children in foster care are disproportionality impacted, which is an issue both locally and nationally. The data saw higher rates of African American and Native American children involved in the foster care system. These disparities can be seen across nearly every metric within the child welfare system. Children of color tend to be reported to the child abuse hotline, investigated, removed from their parents at a far greater percentage than their occurrence in the general population. In addition, they data shows that they reunify at a decreased rate and are more likely to languish in care for longer periods of time.

Community Engagement:

In addition to the community engagement detailed in the Community Engagement Section of this report, the County utilizes staff fluent in the threshold languages as well as in person interpreters and utilization of the language line in order to offer COVID services and provide COVID focused educational materials to the diverse communities in San Diego County.

Performance Report:

Number of County Residents Receiving Their First Dose (including J&J) by HPI Quartile and Date Range

HPI	March 1, 2021 - June 30, 2023		July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	588,155	28%	60,675	41%
2	507,697	24%	36,285	25%
3	493,332	24%	24,386	17%
4	488,348	24%	25,250	17%
Total	2,077,532	100%	146,596	100%
Missing HPI	194,260		19,621	

Project 1b: COVID-19 Testing

Funding Amount:

A total of \$241.8 million has been earmarked for a range of COVID-19 public health response activities including vaccinations (project 1a), testing (project 1b), contact tracing (project 1c), personal protective equipment (project 1d), other COVID-19 public health expenses (project 1e), community health workers (project 1f), payroll costs for public health, safety, other public sector staff responding to COVID-19 (project 1g), and administrative expenses (project 1h). Funding is used to meet the public's needs in each area and changes as needs evolve.

Use of ARPA funding for response activities has decreased over the last year consistent with need, and consistent with the shift of these projects to reflect a more permanent, ongoing, endemic operational structure. The majority of the spending currently is on trace activities as surveillance continues for testing, case counts, hospitalizations, deaths, and vaccination. Outbreak investigations also continue in high-risk settings.

The County has worked to transition certain activities into our ongoing public health operations and has also transitioned some costs to public health grant funding. With the end of FEMA eligibility on May 11, 2023, ARPA funds remain available to help transition our response work post emergency, and work towards sustainable funding sources as needed for the future.

Project Expenditure Category: 1.2, COVID-19 Testing

Project Overview:

The testing component of the County's T3 Strategy aimed to provide accessible COVID-19 testing. Multiple approaches were employed to achieve this goal including a focus on building excellence in the public health laboratory and regional testing system; developing expanded and equitable capacity for testing; conducting effective and culturally tailored communication and outreach; providing timeline and quality data analysis; and implementing flexible, culturally responsive hiring and staff practices. The first County testing site was opened on March 16, 2020, at a local sports stadium, allowing for drive-up testing in a large-scale setting. On April 27, 2021, the COVID-19 County Laboratory Testing Task Force was established to provide a forum for hospitals and health systems to facilitate laboratory testing and engage in mutual problem solving.

As time progressed laboratory capacity needed to expand, a partnership with a private laboratory (Helix Laboratory) was initiated on July 3, 2020. Through summer and fall, continuing process improvements were undertaken with Helix to improve the testing process. The County's laboratory continued to make improvements throughout the response, expanding its testing platform with Perkin Elmer, innovating with genome sequencing, and implementing technology advancements such as Electronic Lab Reporting. County testing reached an average of 10,000 tests per day in December 2020.

In April 2021, the County received an Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Grant to support COVID-19 testing among other COVID-19 functions. Partners were also involved in building and assuring adequate laboratory capacity. The County Laboratory Testing Task Force was formed for this purpose. The Public Health Laboratory, hospitals, and private laboratories all worked together to help ensure equitable distribution of testing resources, timely reporting of results, utilization of state-of-the-art laboratory equipment, and facilitation of open communication and collaboration.

To continue testing access and availability, the County partnered with Mobile Xpress Clinics (MXC) to maintain COVID-19 testing-throughout multiple regions of San Diego County. The County utilized the Healthy Places Index (HPI) to identify communities ideal for mobile testing locations, testing at community events as well as utilizing County foot teams to offer COVID testing at shelters and community events. Reoccurring mobile events were established at several places of worship in underserved communities and community centers.

Link to website:

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/coronavirus/>

Performance Report:

COVID-19 Tests Administered

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
County of San Diego and CalFire COVID-19 Tests Administered	567,608	3,228
State Testing Sites	543,729	77,836
County Contracted Sites (MXC) and City of Chula Vista	201,512	69,997

Project 1c: COVID -19 Contact Tracing

Funding Amount:

A total of \$241.8 million has been earmarked for a range of COVID-19 public health response activities including vaccinations (project 1a), testing (project 1b), contact tracing (project 1c), personal protective equipment (project 1d), other COVID-19 public health expenses (project 1e), community health workers (project 1f), payroll costs for public health, safety, other public sector staff responding to COVID-19 (project 1g), and administrative expenses (project 1h). Funding is used to meet the public's needs in each area and changes as needs evolve.

Use of ARPA funding for response activities has decreased over the last year consistent with need, and consistent with the shift of these projects to reflect a more permanent, ongoing, endemic operational structure. The majority of the spending currently is on trace activities as surveillance continues for testing, case counts, hospitalizations, deaths, and vaccination. Outbreak investigations also continue in high-risk settings.

The County has worked to transition certain activities into our ongoing public health operations and has also transitioned some costs to public health grant funding. With the end of FEMA eligibility on May 11, 2023, ARPA funds remain available to help transition our response work post emergency, and work towards sustainable funding sources as needed for the future.

Project Expenditure Category: 1.3, COVID-19 Contact Tracing

Project Overview:

The COVID-19 Contact Tracing ("Trace") project is part of the County's Test, Trace, Treat (T3) Strategy and continues to include the direct focus of disease surveillance and disease control operations. Key operational areas include disease reporting, intake and processing of reported COVID-19 cases and lab results, case investigation, pre-outbreak assessment, outbreak investigations, data analysis and data reports, and health education and promotion.

Although the local and state emergency for COVID-19 has ended effective February 28, 2023, many of the COVID-19 Contact Tracing efforts continue. A number of state and federal disease reporting and response requirements are still in effect. Therefore, this project area continues:

Current strategies include:

- Disease reporting, intake and processing of reported lab results, cases and outbreaks
- Site assessments and field response to clusters and outbreaks at skilled nursing facilities and long-term care facilities.
- Surveillance activities
- Wastewater surveillance

Link to website: [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/coronavirus).

www.sdepi.org.

Use of Funds:

Funding that supports the COVID-19 Contact Tracing project area is used to ensure adequate staffing, focused contracted services, and supplies all of which are aligned to identify and respond to ongoing threats from this disease.

Examples of how the funding is used includes:

- Temporary staffing to register reported cases, respond to outbreaks, and conduct site assessments in high-risk settings.
- A temporary lodging program to house positive and infectious persons who are experiencing homelessness and have been discharged from the hospital with no other shelter or place to safely isolate.
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) services to geocode COVID-19 case data and determine geographic regions of impact and priority need.
- Health education and promotion materials in multiple languages.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

The Isolation Support Nurse Help Line (ISNHL) links San Diego County residents with Public Health Nurses to provide them with support during their COVID-19 diagnoses. ISNHL is comprised of nurses that offer information regarding isolation and health information regarding the virus and symptoms they may experience to confirmed COVID positive individuals.

The COVID-19 response activities include a focus on high-risk settings, persons experiencing homelessness, and persons over the age of 65 years. In addition, analysis of the COVID case data, hospitalizations and deaths continued to be used to direct vaccination priorities to the population groups that were most impacted.

Community Engagement:

In addition to the community engagement detailed in the Community Engagement Section of this report, trace continues to work with and engage partners within the community, including hospitals, clinics, laboratories, border health, military, schools and institutions of higher education. These partners including local, State and federal entities.

Performance Report:

TRACE COVID-19 Response Outcomes

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
Number of COVID-19 Outbreaks	4,675	2,036
Number of Pre-outbreak Assessments	666	28
Number of Pre-outbreak reports received by the business and school reporting web page	111,946	36,327
Number of Contacts Traced	92,336	N/A
Number of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases	726,957	158,886

Project Id: Personal Protective Equipment

Funding Amount:

A total of \$241.8 million has been earmarked for a range of COVID-19 public health response activities including vaccinations (project 1a), testing (project 1b), contact tracing (project 1c), personal protective equipment (project 1d), other COVID-19 public health expenses (project 1e), community health workers (project 1f), payroll costs for public health, safety, other public sector staff responding to COVID-19 (project 1g), and administrative expenses (project 1h). Funding is used to meet the public's needs in each area and changes as needs evolve.

Use of ARPA funding for response activities has decreased over the last year consistent with need, and consistent with the shift of these projects to reflect a more permanent, ongoing, endemic operational structure. The majority of the spending currently is on trace activities as surveillance continues for testing, case counts, hospitalizations, deaths, and vaccination. Outbreak investigations also continue in high-risk settings.

The County has worked to transition certain activities into our ongoing public health operations and has also transitioned some costs to public health grant funding. With the end of FEMA eligibility on May 11, 2023, ARPA funds remain available to help transition our response work post emergency, and work towards sustainable funding sources as needed for the future.

Project Expenditure Category: 1.5, Personal Protective Equipment

Project Overview:

Personal Protective Equipment, (PPE) is routinely used in health care settings such as hospitals, outpatient clinics, long term care facilities, and ancillary healthcare entities. When used properly, PPE acts as a barrier between infectious materials such as viral and bacterial contaminants and your skin, mouth, nose, or eyes (mucous membranes). This PPE barrier has the potential to block the transmission of contaminants from blood, body fluids, or respiratory secretions.

The County of San Diego's (County) Medical Operations Center (MOC) logistics section processes and delivers requests for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that are submitted by all healthcare facilities and first responder agencies that could not procure their supplies through normal channels. All deliveries have been handled within 72 hours of the request being received. Items are purchased from vendors to support all healthcare partners in the county.

Link to website:

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/PublicHealthPreparednesandResponse.html>

Uses of Funds:

Funds were used to purchase PPE and other supplies to support all healthcare partners in our community. Many smaller clinics and long-term care facilities were unable to obtain supplies that were needed to protect their workers, patients, and visitors. PPE requests received by the MOC were handled in an equitable manner to ensure all facilities, large and small, in all areas of the County, received what they needed until they were able to support themselves.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

All requests for PPE were handled in the same equitable manner. The logistics section gathered information on current inventory on-hand, burn rates, and anticipated usage. Fulfillments were made based on this dialogue and how to best support all facilities given their unique circumstances such as location, patient population, number of COVID positive patients or residents they had, and how able they were to obtain supplies on their own.

Community Engagement:

In addition to the community engagement detailed in the Community Engagement Section of this report, the disbursement and fulfillment of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was in response to a facility or organization’s written request to the Logistic Section of the Medical Operations Center (MOC). The email address for PPE was provided for all sectors of our population through multiple channels of communication, including but not limited to Weekly and monthly web briefings, COSD COVID-19 Web Page. In addition to email, the Logistics Section was able to respond to requests via phone calls. These phone and email requests would be sent to the MOC’s fulfillment team for processing and delivery. During this time, all requests were able to be fulfilled.

All facilities, regardless of their type or financial level, who requested PPE were provided guidance from manufacturers on the proper use of it. This PPE was utilized to protect healthcare workers, patients, residents, and visitors in all the facilities that it was provided to and used in, from disease spread and contamination.

Performance Report:

Items of PPE Fulfilled:

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
Items of PPE fulfilled	17,900,562	426,557

Project 1e: Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses

Funding Amount:

A total of \$241.8 million has been earmarked for a range of COVID-19 public health response activities including vaccinations (project 1a), testing (project 1b), contact tracing (project 1c), personal protective equipment (project 1d), other COVID-19 public health expenses (project 1e), community health workers (project 1f), payroll costs for public health, safety, other public sector staff responding to COVID-19 (project 1g), and administrative expenses (project 1h). Funding is used to meet the public's needs in each area and changes as needs evolve.

Use of ARPA funding for response activities has decreased over the last year consistent with need, and consistent with the shift of these projects to reflect a more permanent, ongoing, endemic operational structure. The majority of the spending currently is on trace activities as surveillance continues for testing, case counts, hospitalizations, deaths, and vaccination. Outbreak investigations also continue in high-risk settings.

The County has worked to transition certain activities into our ongoing public health operations and has also transitioned some costs to public health grant funding. With the end of FEMA eligibility on May 11, 2023, ARPA funds remain available to help transition our response work post emergency, and work towards sustainable funding sources as needed for the future.

Project Expenditure Category: 1.7, Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)

Project Overview:

A range of public health response activities are covered in this area and include but are not limited to communications, coordination of medical services related to the response, on-site response and assistance to the community, costs associated with administering public health hotels including activities such as daily wellness checks, and costs for temporary nursing services as needed.

Uses of Funds:

The County of San Diego (County) developed a robust COVID-19 response that was rooted in health equity. Through examining the data, the County identified disparities among race/ethnic groups, age, zip code and other factors. This data helped to inform strategies to ensure equity.

The County has engaged in robust marketing efforts to inform communities about COVID19 testing sites, vaccination sites and general COVID-19 educational efforts that reach the County's ethnic and diverse communities, various target groups, as well as the general population by employing marketing strategies that reflect the cultural values, beliefs, and norms of a targeted audience. The County continues to provide a 24-hour comprehensive Information and Referral service to provide callers with quick, free access to information about community, health and human services, and disaster services. From March of 2020 until the program's end in June 2022, the goal of the

Temporary Lodging Program or Public Health Hotels (non-congregate shelters) was to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus across the County / region by linking individuals to isolation support. This was done through establishing, managing, and sustaining COVID-19 isolation, quarantine, and shelter locations in a non-congregate setting such as hotels to care for affected individuals and families requiring isolation/quarantining. Wrap around services were provided to individuals including medical, behavioral health, daily wellness checks with nurses and all hotel accommodations. Guests received three meals per day, laundry services and had 24/7 security on site. This program transitioned to a narrower focus after June 2022, and no longer uses ARPA funding. The Isolation Support Nurse Help Line (ISNHL) linked San Diego County residents with Public Health Nurses providing them with support during their COVID-19 diagnoses. ISNHL was comprised of nurses who offered information to confirmed COVID positive individuals regarding isolation and health information, the virus and symptoms they may experience. The ISNHL team also provided available resources to these individuals while in isolation during the pandemic.

Through our ConnectWellSD referral system, Help Line staff provided information and/or created referrals for resources such as rental assistance, food banks, locating primary care providers, applications for Medi-Cal, CalFresh, CalWORKS, as well as General Relief, to those impacted by COVID-19. This included referring qualifying individuals and/or families residing in the County of San Diego Public Health hotels for temporary lodging if needed. County of San Diego staff who operated the call center worked directly with their contracted partners to provide transportation to the hotels, customized rooms for lodging and connected directly with the hotel operations and clinical teams at the isolation locations. Staff collaborated with local hospitals, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), homeless service providers and other community partners to prevent spread in congregate settings and throughout the community.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

Efforts to promote equitable outcomes for activities under this project are reflected in the Promoting Equitable Outcomes section of this report.

Community Engagement:

Efforts for community engagement for activities under this project are reflected in the Community Engagement section of this report.

Performance Report:

Individuals Served in Isolation/Quarantine Support:

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
Total served	14,574	57

Project 1f: Community Health Workers

Funding Amount:

A total of \$241.8 million has been earmarked for a range of COVID-19 public health response activities including vaccinations (project 1a), testing (project 1b), contact tracing (project 1c), personal protective equipment (project 1d), other COVID-19 public health expenses (project 1e), community health workers (project 1f), payroll costs for public health, safety, other public sector staff responding to COVID-19 (project 1g), and administrative expenses (project 1h). Funding is used to meet the public's needs in each area and changes as needs evolve.

Use of ARPA funding for response activities has decreased over the last year consistent with need, and consistent with the shift of these projects to reflect a more permanent, ongoing, endemic operational structure. The majority of the spending currently is on trace activities as surveillance continues for testing, case counts, hospitalizations, deaths, and vaccination. Outbreak investigations also continue in high-risk settings.

The County has worked to transition certain activities into our ongoing public health operations and has also transitioned some costs to public health grant funding. With the end of FEMA eligibility on May 11, 2023, ARPA funds remain available to help transition our response work post emergency, and work towards sustainable funding sources as needed for the future.

Project Expenditure Category:

2.19, Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators

Project Overview:

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the County of San Diego (County) quickly mobilized a new Community Health Worker (CHW) model to provide tailored outreach and education to residents who had been traditionally hard to reach due to factors such as linguistic and cultural differences, geographic isolation, or historic distrust of government. As trusted messengers, CHWs were connecting communities impacted by long-standing health disparities to needed services and systems of care. Over 250 CHW's were deployed, who spoke 26 languages and served all six regions of San Diego County. They were focusing on underserved communities including Black and African American, Latino/Latinx, refugee, and Asian and Pacific Islander. CHWs were reaching people through focused individual outreach efforts, multimedia outreach, and referrals. Community Health Workers not only provided vital information, but assisted families in finding resources, scheduling vaccine, and testing appointments, walking individuals through testing/vaccination sites and overall provided a trusted support system. Evaluation efforts which are currently underway will help define what County-led CHW efforts look like moving forward, as a sustainable model in supporting all communities to be healthy, safe, and thriving.

As of June 30,2022, this project was completed.

Uses of Funds:

Through the deployment of CHWs, the County was able to rapidly disseminate information to historically underserved communities, increase testing and vaccine equity, and provide resources to those who may not otherwise be reached by traditional communication methods. The strategies utilized by contractors for COVID-19 education and outreach included, but were not limited to: community engagement sessions or events; community education, individual or small group outreach; online/virtual communication; paid media; earned media such as radio, television and/or newspaper interviews or stories; printed materials, direct mail, social media; virtual townhalls and other specific communication appropriate for specific populations most impacted by the pandemic in San Diego County and in the six unique and diverse geographic regions of the County. Contractors utilized education and communication to also promote specific testing and/or vaccination locations and assist individuals to schedule a testing and/or vaccination appointment. CHWs provided in-person site assistance at testing and vaccination walk-in sites and appointments. This included accompanying residents to provide translation to ensure client understands testing/vaccination procedures and feels supported, along with providing any transportation to testing and/or vaccination sites.

To mitigate negative economic impact, CHWs also assisted in completing [County of San Diego's COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program \(ERAP\)](#) applications for the priority populations who experienced financial hardships due to COVID-19 to pay rent and past-due utility bills. CHWs also referred clients and helped them apply for the [COVID-19 Positive Recovery Stipend Program](#) and [Great Plates Delivered](#).

Link to websites:

1. Emergency Rental Assistance Program
<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/sdhcd/community-development/COVID-19-Emergency-Rental-Assistance-Program.html>
2. COVID-19 Positive Recovery Stipend Program
https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/ssp/COVID_19_Positive_Employee_Recovery_Stipend_Program/
3. Great Plates Delivered
<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/ais/Older-Adults/Meals-Senior-Dining.html>

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

Goals: The goal was to reach historically underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected groups in San Diego County including Black and African American, Latino/Latinx, refugee, and Asian and Pacific Islander by leveraging existing CHW

organizations' connection and trust with the community. Contracted organizations were engaged to bring additional knowledge of the six regions of the county and used available data to help identify adversely affected groups by additional demographic characteristics such as geography and age, to meet the needs of these specific communities.

Awareness: CHW organizations have longstanding relationships with the communities they serve and are trusted messengers. As trusted messengers, CHWs were able to quickly and effectively connect with their focus communities to share information, resources and services funded by the SLFRF. They delivered these messages in a culturally and linguistically appropriate ways that increased receptiveness and facilitated rapid access to essential services and information.

Access and Distribution: CHWs ensured increased access and reduced disparities in application processes by offering assistance in completing applications and other services that remove barriers such as language, technology and transportation. By removing or reducing these barriers, CHWs were connecting communities impacted by long-standing health disparities to needed services and resources.

Outcomes: Through this connection to care and culturally and linguistically appropriate information, CHWs built upon existing community relationships and work to enhance education, outreach, communication, vaccination, and testing services for their organization's priority population. They serve as a key resource for public health and medical providers in bridging the gap between emerging COVID-19 guidelines and the communities most impacted. CHWs have lived experiences and knowledge of cultural norms, beliefs, and practices of their respective communities, and use these skills to build understanding using clear, fact-based health information, which in turn results in improved health outcomes and reduced disparities for communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

Funding was focused on historically underserved and hard to reach communities that have been and continue to be disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. San Diego County's rural and minority communities have fared worse than their urban White counterparts in almost every aspect of the pandemic – deaths, case rates, vaccination rates, job losses, and deteriorating mental health outcomes. By contracting with organizations who serve as cultural brokers for these hard-hit communities, the County hopes to see increases in access to reliable and up to date information and in turn increased acceptance of public health orders and recommendations given by local, state and federal institutions. Progress can be tracked by looking at COVID-19 case, testing and vaccination rates within these communities and ensuring they are consistent with rates seen throughout the county.

In addition to COVID-19 health impact disparities, members of the priority populations that CHW organizations serve have experienced the brunt of the pandemic's

economic impact. They are more likely to be employed in occupations that increase risk for COVID-19 exposure. As trusted messengers CHWs are able to connect community members to organizations and government programs that can reduce disparities and increase access and utilization of support services including housing/rental assistance, Cal Fresh, MediCal, and [COVID-19 Positive Recovery Stipend Program](#) (ended June 30, 2021).

Link to website: COVID-19 Positive Recovery Stipend Program

https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/ssp/COVID_19_Positive_Employee_Recovery_Stipend_Program/

The County of San Diego was working towards promoting health equity and equitable outcomes throughout San Diego County by engaging underserved and hard to reach communities with the implementation of Project SAVE (Scheduling Assistance for Vaccine Equity). Project SAVE was developed as an effort to overcome health and information disparities in marginalized communities caused by historical mistrust in the government and by language and cultural barriers. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Project SAVE utilized strong regional partnerships within the community to respond and lead in the rapid dissemination of information as well as provide one on one appointment scheduling assistance for community members. The project utilized a Community Health Worker (CHW) model to assist the County in communication and outreach efforts geared toward marginalized communities. The CHW model included contracting with local CHW organizations to provide county wide outreach and education. The CHWs are trusted messengers to the communities they reach, by providing insight and clarification to the COVID-19 protocols and education.

CHW contractors utilized the Healthy Places Index (HPI) data to identify focus areas to provide communication and outreach. Communities within the 4th Quartile (less healthy) zip codes were identified when determining where to place Project SAVE sites as an effort to promote equity in areas that may be experiencing larger health disparities than others. Between February and June 2021, fourteen (14) County-hosted sites were created to act as permanent venues where the public could ask questions and receive assistance from CHWs in scheduling their vaccine appointment(s). In addition to these sites, CHWs were able to host their own outreach and vaccination events in locations such as grocery stores, churches, parks, and faith-based organizations that were frequently visited by members of their community. To date, 4,662 first-dose appointments have been scheduled through Project SAVE outreach efforts by CHWs.

The fourteen (14) contracts were procured with either a population specific or geographic focus. The initial seven (7) contracts each have a specific focus population – Asian Pacific Islander, Black/African American, Latino/Latinx or the refugee community. With the expansion of the CHW outreach efforts mid-2021, an additional

seven (7) contractors were brought on board to do regionally specific outreach. The regions align with the [County's HHS regional model](#) of service delivery. All contracted CHW partner organizations have longstanding community relationships and have documented experience serving historically marginalized populations. The CHWs offer unique skills and knowledge and have a deep investment in the communities they serve, which in turn gives them strong credibility given their shared lived experiences with the individuals and families they serve. This insight allows CHWs to effectively reach those most in need in their focus communities.

Link to website: County's HHS regional model:

https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/HIV%2C%20STD%20%26%20Hepatitis%20Branch/HIV_Website/Forms/Map%20of%20HHS%20Regions.pdf

Community Engagement:

CHW organizations were encouraged to provide feedback and suggestions to continually improve the collaborative partnership. Contractors had monthly one on one meetings with the County program and contract team to share success, challenges and updates. Contractors also submitted monthly written progress reports to document all efforts around contract work. Lines of communication between the County team and contractors were always open and collaboration between contractors was encouraged and supported in any way possible.

Feedback and collaboration were also facilitated through the hosting of the bimonthly COVID-19 Communications and Outreach (C&O) Collaborative meeting. This meeting was created in September 2020 as the means for the CHW contractors and their subcontractors to come together to plan, share and learn in the most efficient and effective way to disseminate information. The C&O Collaborative consisted of contractors and their subcontractors who have established connections to priority populations, collectively these partners deployed more than 250 CHWs into communities.

Through this collaborative gathering CHW organizations were able to share best practices, collectively problem solve and share current efforts to avoid duplication. CHWs were able to share resources including linguistically and culturally appropriate materials (the outreach and education materials are posted on the [CHW Outreach Materials](#) County website). They gathered feedback from each other and gain knowledgeable insights and new approaches or strategies to reach priority populations. This collaboration provided a valuable forum that facilitates the exchange of ideas and helped CHW organizations build capacity. There have been several instances where these community-based organizations have leveraged their partnership with the County and these other CHW organizations to secure additional capacity-building funding and resources through local, state and federal entities.

Link to website: COVID-19 Community Partner Outreach Materials
https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community_epidemiology/dc/2019-nCoV/materials/Community_Collaboration/

Use of Evidence:

The use of Community Health Workers or Promotoras to promote positive health outcomes has been recognized as a best practice, especially in Hispanic/Latino communities. The CDC recommends using ‘community champions’ to build vaccine confidence. The County has employed the use of Community Health Workers in communities disproportionately affected by COVID-19 to boost the uptake of the vaccine.

Performance Report

This project concluded on June 30, 2022.

Community Health Workers Metrics:

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
Number of vaccination referrals made to disproportionately impacted individuals	57,642	N/A
Number of individuals assisted in scheduling a testing and/or vaccination appointment	19,066	N/A
Number of languages outreach conducted in	23 Highest language needs: Spanish, English, Arabic, Somali, Karen, Amharic, Swahili, Tagalog, Burmese, Kurdish, Vietnamese	N/A
Number of activities reaching disproportionately impacted communities	34,944	N/A
Number of people reached by individual communication	393,932	N/A

Number of outreach views using multimedia approaches	18,350,064	N/A
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Project 1g: Payroll Costs for Public Health, Safety, and Other Public Sector Staff

Funding Amount:

A total of \$241.8 million has been earmarked for a range of COVID-19 public health response activities including vaccinations (project 1a), testing (project 1b), contact tracing (project 1c), personal protective equipment (project 1d), other COVID-19 public health expenses (project 1e), community health workers (project 1f), payroll costs for public health, safety, other public sector staff responding to COVID-19 (project 1g), and administrative expenses (project 1h). Funding is used to meet the public's needs in each area and changes as needs evolve.

Use of ARPA funding for response activities has decreased over the last year consistent with need, and consistent with the shift of these projects to reflect a more permanent, ongoing, endemic operational structure. The majority of the spending currently is on trace activities as surveillance continues for testing, case counts, hospitalizations, deaths, and vaccination. Outbreak investigations also continue in high-risk settings.

The County has worked to transition certain activities into our ongoing public health operations and has also transitioned some costs to public health grant funding. With the end of FEMA eligibility on May 11, 2023, ARPA funds remain available to help transition our response work post emergency, and work towards sustainable funding sources as needed for the future.

Project Expenditure Category: 3.1, Public Sector Workforce: Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or Human Services Workers

Project Overview:

This project refers to staff that are responding to COVID-19, but who were not easily allocable to a specific category. Costs include staff responding at the County of San Diego's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Medical Operations Center (MOC), performing activities such as creating and distributing communications regarding COVID-19 activities within the county to stakeholders and coordinating and providing recommendations and guidelines to the healthcare community. Staff assisting with overall EOC/MOC administrative functions are also included, as well as staff working on various other planning, development and implementation of COVID-19 initiatives and activities.

Uses of Funds:

Funds for this project directly cover costs related to the County of San Diego's COVID-19 response. Costs include salary and benefits for staff responding at the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Medical Operations Center (MOC) performing activities such as creating and distributing communications regarding COVID-19 activities. Staff assisting with overall EOC/MOC administrative functions are also included, as well as staff working on various other planning, development and implementation of COVID-19 initiatives and activities.

Performance Report:

This project category is used for administrative expenses of payroll. No metrics are required for reporting.

Project 1h: Administrative Expenses

Funding Amount:

A total of \$241.8 million has been earmarked for a range of COVID-19 public health response activities including vaccinations (project 1a), testing (project 1b), contact tracing (project 1c), personal protective equipment (project 1d), other COVID-19 public health expenses (project 1e), community health workers (project 1f), payroll costs for public health, safety, other public sector staff responding to COVID-19 (project 1g), and administrative expenses (project 1h). Funding is used to meet the public's needs in each area and changes as needs evolve.

Use of ARPA funding for response activities has decreased over the last year consistent with need, and consistent with the shift of these projects to reflect a more permanent, ongoing, endemic operational structure. The majority of the spending currently is on trace activities as surveillance continues for testing, case counts, hospitalizations, deaths, and vaccination. Outbreak investigations also continue in high-risk settings.

The County has worked to transition certain activities into our ongoing public health operations and has also transitioned some costs to public health grant funding. With the end of FEMA eligibility on May 11, 2023, ARPA funds remain available to help transition our response work post emergency, and work towards sustainable funding sources as needed for the future.

Project Expenditure Category: 7.1, Administrative Expenses

Project Overview:

Administrative Expenses included County staff time and other resources required to administer our pandemic response that do not fit neatly into another expenditure category including costs such as fiscal claiming support, data processing and mapping services to aid in the vaccination effort, and various temporary administrative staffing support.

Uses of Funds:

Administrative Expenses included County staff time and other resources required to administer our pandemic response that do not fit neatly into another expenditure category including costs such as fiscal claiming support, data processing and mapping services to aid in the vaccination effort, and various temporary administrative staffing support.

In addition to ARPA SLFRF, funding sources including other ARPA revenue streams, FEMA, and Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) are being used for overall pandemic response and recovery in San Diego County.

Performance Report:

This project category is used to charge administrative expenses that do not fit in any other expenditure category. No metrics are required for reporting.

Project 2a: Hazard Pay for County Employees

Funding Amount: \$27.6 million

Project Expenditure Category: 4.1, Public Sector Employees

Project Overview:

In recognition of employee's efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic, hazard pay for eligible County employees was made available in two levels: a \$2,500 one-time lump sum payment to employees working for an extended period in facilities where COVID-19 exposure was more likely (such as detention and medical facilities), and a \$1,500 one-time lump sum payment for employees who were working in conditions where exposure was not as likely, but still elevated due to interaction with the public and other employees. Most payments were distributed in August 2021, with some payments being made upon the return of certain employees who were on leave of absence at that time. These figures are well within the limits of \$25,000 per employee and \$13/hour of essential work set in ARPA CSLFRF guidance. Most payments were distributed in August 2021, with certain payments being made upon the return of employees who had completed essential work eligible for hazard pay during the public health emergency, but who were on leave when payments were distributed in August 2021.

Use of Funds:

The COVID-19 pandemic presented the County and its workforce with unprecedented new challenges. In recognition of these efforts the County's Department of Human Resources – Labor Relations Division has held a number of meetings with County labor organizations to determine appropriate qualifications for hazard pay and has worked with each County department to confirm all eligible employees. Based on available funding sources such as Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Coronavirus Relief Fund, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and ARPA, County leadership determined that the premium pay provision of the American Rescue Plan offers the most appropriate funding alignment for this program. Approximately \$36 million is allocated to this component of the framework. Hazard pay for eligible County employees has been made available in two levels: a \$2,500 one-time lump sum payment to employees working for an extended period of time in facilities where COVID-19 exposure was more likely (such as detention and medical facilities), and a \$1,500 one-time lump sum payment for employees working in conditions where exposure was not as likely, but still elevated due to interaction with the public and other employees.

Performance Report:

County Employees – Hazard Pay Received

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
Hazard Pay Received	9,313	6

Project 3a: Behavioral Health Support for Children and Youth

Funding Amount: \$30 million

Project Expenditure Category: 1.12, Mental Health Services

Project Overview: The Screening to Care initiative is a new program that is designed to address the mental health treatment needs for middle school students, in partnership with the San Diego County School Board Association and school districts across the county. These services will use a multi-tiered approach, which includes universal screening of students facilitated by middle school staff, regardless of the child's insurance status.

Based on the screening results, students will be stratified into three different tiers of intervention: Tier 1) school community and classroom-based intervention; Tier 2) small group intervention; and Tier 3) referral to behavioral health treatment available through the BHS SchoolLink programs or the student's managed care provider (private or Medi-Cal). Upon implementation and evaluation of outcomes of the initial program, an expansion to elementary school and high school students would be explored. Additional funding sources, including Medi-Cal funding and Mental Health Services Act funding, and available State funding for schools will also be leveraged when possible.

Uses of Funds: The ARPA funding is being utilized to fund services within the Screening to Care Initiative to address mental health treatment needs for middle school students by offering universal screening to students facilitated by staff, regardless of insurance status. During the Covid-19 pandemic, information emerged about the social emotional struggles by students and the importance of identifying and addressing emerging mental health needs. On April 5, 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved a competitive solicitation for the procurement of Screening to Care mental health services for middle school students in school districts and 4 of the 5 contracts were awarded early 2023, with the fifth pending 3rd procurement cycle. Contracts will provide services across the region. Behavioral Health Services (BHS) is developing the database elements to record services, obtain screening data, as well as establishing parameters for an evaluation plan.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes: The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Services (BHS) serves children, youth and families ages 0 through age 21 to ensure they have coordinated services that result in improved outcomes consistent with System of Care (SOC) values and principles as evidenced by:

- Collaboration of four sectors- Coordination and shared responsibility between child/youth/family, public agencies, private organizations, and education.

- Integrated- Services and supports are coordinated, comprehensive, accessible, and efficient.
- Child, Youth, and Family Driven- Child, youth, and family voice, choice, and lived experience are sought, valued, and prioritized in service delivery, program design and policy development.
- Individualized- Services and supports are customized to fit the unique strengths and needs of children, youth, and families.
- Strength-based- Services and supports identify and utilize knowledge, skills, and assets of children, youth, families, and their community.
- Community-based- Services are accessible to children, youth and families and strengthen their connections to natural supports and local resources.
- Outcome driven- Outcomes are measured and evaluated to monitor progress and to improve services and satisfaction.
- Culturally Competent- Services and supports respect diverse beliefs, identities, cultures, preference, and represent linguistic diversity of those served.
- Trauma Informed- Services and supports recognize the impact of trauma and chronic stress, respond with compassion, and commit to the prevention of re-traumatization and the promotion of self-care, resiliency, and safety.
- Persistence- Goals are achieved through action, coordination, and perseverance regardless of challenges and barriers.

This framework ensures services developed and implemented promote equitable outcomes for the families and students. Through partnerships with school districts, Screening to Care will screen middle school students to determine social-emotional need and provide prevention and early intervention supports utilizing the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), regardless of insurance status throughout the County of San Diego. The program design promotes equity by screening all youth at the designated schools in the designated grades and respecting and adhering to the youths/students' needs by creating different levels of services depending on the identified risk.

All services are intended to be delivered in a culturally appropriate and culturally relevant manner. The program also employs staff in the roles of Promotoras to enhance family, community, and school partnerships. The Promotora work with parents, school, and the community to determine prevention needs and provide resources and or connection to services that focus on family wellness, strengthening resilience, reducing disparities in accessing substance use and mental health services, reducing stigma and discrimination, and helping families make connections with the schools and other services/supports in the community. These services primarily provided to the parents aim to increase the protective factors and resilience of the family unit, reduce family isolation, and increase parent engagement with the schools.

Community Engagement:

To support the Screening to Care initiative and increase parent participation at the designated public schools, the Promotora model will be utilized to enhance Family, Community, and School partnerships. The Promotora model employs a parent (utilized broadly as a term for all caregivers) from the community to serve as a bridge

between schools and the communities. The Promotora have had or have children at the designated schools and reflect the diversity of the families within the community, including language, ethnicity, gender, and age diversity.

The Promotora work with parents, school, and the community to determine prevention needs and provide resources and or connection to services that focus on family wellness, strengthening resilience, reducing disparities in accessing substance use and mental health services, reducing stigma and discrimination, and helping families make connections with the schools and other services/supports in the community. These services primarily provided to the parents aim to increase the protective factors and resilience of the family unit, reduce family isolation, and increase parent engagement with the schools. Parents who obtain services from the Promotora will be provided with a survey to outline their satisfaction levels as well as obtain feedback and comments.

Use of Evidence:

The project design for the Screening to Care Initiative meets the preliminary evidence. The overarching goal of the Screening to Care Initiative is to implement an evidenced based screener for middle school students to determine social-emotional need and provide prevention and early intervention supports utilizing the **Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)** Framework.

In San Diego, Screening to Care supports a shift in the balance of our resources, expanding the reach of prevention and early intervention and connecting to outpatient services for those in need. As this program is new, updates will be provided in future reports.

Performance Report:

The program is new, and metrics will be reported in future reports. Proposed metrics include:

TIER 1 Screening
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total Number of Enrolled Students
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Students who completed mySAEBRS screening
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of students that completed mySAEBRS Screening
TIER 2 SMALL GROUPS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of students that received Tier 2 Services on school campus within 30 days of establishing a partnership with school.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of unduplicated students receiving Tier 2 services (group or individual that lasted at least 30 minutes each)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Tier 2 group sessions provided
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Hours of Tier 2 group sessions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Check in (individual) Services provided
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of unduplicated students that completed satisfaction survey
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of students that completed satisfaction survey

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of unduplicated students that completed satisfaction survey report gaining useful knowledge and skills as a result of their participation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of students that completed satisfaction survey report gaining useful knowledge and skills as a result of their participation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of parents who received outreach within 15 days whose child was identified as needing Tier 2 services
TIER 3 CONNECTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of unduplicated clients referred to Tier 3 Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of unduplicated students who were provided outreach for care coordination
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of unduplicated students connected to Tier 3 services evidenced by student attending 1 treatment session as a result of contractor's coordination
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of unduplicated students who were determined to already be actively connected to sufficient care to meet the identified needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of unduplicated students who were unable to be connected to Tier 3 care services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of unduplicated students identified as needing Tier 2 support while connection to Tier 3 is explored or as an ancillary service
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of unduplicated students who were confirmed participating in ancillary Tier 2 supports
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of unduplicated parent/caregivers who received outreach within 15 days of screening whose student's screening results identified a need for Tier 3 services
PROMOTORA SERVICES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Promotora services offered per month
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Promotora services provided per month
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Promotora hours provided at school
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of unduplicated parents who engaged in or received a Promotora service
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of outreach and engagement sessions with parents/caregivers to enhance a connection between parents/caregivers and the school.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of trainings/education sessions to ensure that parents/caregivers have tools to be active partners in their child's school experience.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of unduplicated parents who were satisfied with services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of unduplicated parents who were satisfied with services

Project 3b: IHSS: Technology for Social Inclusion and Wellbeing

Funding Amount: \$2 million

Project Expenditure Category: 1.12, Mental Health Services

Project Overview:

The Tech2Connect program aims to reduce social isolation and improve mental health of In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) recipients and Individual Providers (Ips) by linking them to technology, training, and resources. Participants are offered technology, such as tablets and associated accessories, internet access and/or data plans, and in-home training to use this technology. Program staff also share information about mental health and social engagement resources.

The IHSS program provides personal care assistance to eligible individuals who are receiving Supplemental Security Income or who have a low income and need help in the home to remain independent. Caregiving services are conducted by Individual Providers (Ips) who may be family members, friends, or caregivers identified via the Public Authority. IHSS recipients face challenges that put them at risk of social isolation—especially those who live alone. Some IHSS Ips also experience isolation due to the intensive nature of their work. Social isolation and loneliness increase the risk of mental health conditions, such as depression. The COVID-19 pandemic has intensified isolation for many, especially older adults and persons with disabilities who are particularly vulnerable to serious, life-threatening outcomes if exposed to COVID-19. Some IHSS recipients may struggle to access mental health and social engagement resources—especially those who do not have access to technology. Access to resources that improve mental health has been shown to reduce stress, reduce feelings of isolation, and enhance the quality of life.

Uses of Funds:

Services are being provided via a contractor that was selected through a competitive procurement process. By providing access to technology (e.g., tablets, data, etc.), training, and information on social engagement/mental health resources, the program aims to positively impact participants' mental wellbeing, reduce loneliness/isolation, and reduce barriers to access mental health resources and support. Participants are also being connected to other resources in order to sustain the program's impact, such as the Affordable Connectivity Program.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

IHSS participants are among the most vulnerable in our community, all of whom require in-home care to continue living safely at home due to disability, illness, or frailty. IHSS participants qualify for Medi-Cal and are considered low-income. The Tech2Connect program aims to serve those IHSS recipients who are among the most isolated. Individuals who live alone are currently being prioritized and offered enrollment. Outreach to non-English speaking individuals who live alone will be offered services in their preferred language (either through bilingual staff or through

language line translation) over the coming months. IHSS providers will also be offered service once IHSS recipients who live alone have been invited to participate.

Community Engagement:

Feedback from two focus groups with key program staff (IHSS Social Workers and IHSS Public Authority representatives) and a survey with approximately 100 IHSS caregivers helped to inform the development of the program. In addition, participants can voice their feedback through a customer satisfaction survey. The contractor has regular contact with participants and will be responsive to feedback throughout the contract period.

Use of Evidence:

The design of the IHSS: Technology for Social Inclusion and Well Being project is based on research showing strong evidence that access to increased information and communication technology for older adults can decrease loneliness and social isolation.

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Impact of Internet Use on Loneliness and Contact with Others Among Older Adults (Cotton et al)	Journal of Medical Internet Research	The purpose of this study was to examine how Internet use affects perceived social isolation and loneliness of older adults in assisted and independent living communities. Results indicated that using the Internet may be beneficial for decreasing loneliness and increasing social contact among older adults in assisted and independent living communities.	Cross-Sectional Analysis
Internet Use and Depression Among Retired Older Adults in the United States: A Longitudinal Analysis	Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences	This study examined the association between Internet use among retired older adults in the United States and changes in a commonly used predictor of depression. Data from four waves of the Health and Retirement Survey was analyzed. Results indicated a positive contribution of Internet use to mental well-being of retired older adults in the U.S.	Longitudinal Analysis

Performance Report:

The Tech2Connect program began conducting outreach to eligible IHSS recipients in March 2023. As of June 30, 2023, County staff have sent targeted outreach materials to approximately 2,300 IHSS recipients. 302 referrals have been made to the contractor and 161 individuals are currently enrolled in the program and are receiving services.

IHSS Technology for Social Inclusion:

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
Individuals Sent Outreach Materials	2,300	2,300
Referrals Made to Contractor	302	302

Individuals Enrolled	161	161
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Intended outcomes include:

- Increased access and reduced barriers to technological connectivity
- Increased ability to engage with technology
- Reduced social isolation
- Reduced barriers to care
- Increased quality of life
- Satisfaction with the program

Project 4a.1: Housing, Shelter, Including Acquisition of Facilities and Wrap-Around Services: Specialized Funding for Imminent Needs Program

Funding Amount: \$3 million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.18, Housing Support – Other Housing Assistance

Project Overview:

The Specialized Funding for Imminent Needs (SFIN) program goal is to remove financial barriers that prevent households from obtaining and sustaining housing by incorporating a flexible funding mechanism as part of the homeless services teams conducting outreach and case management. Adding a flexible funds component to these teams would enhance the ability to provide support for core needs such as emergency night stays, clothing, medicine, hygiene items, storage, and immediate payments at grocery and convenience stores. These funds could also be used to pay for expenses such as security deposits, rental payments, moving expenses, fees to obtain identification documents, transportation, auto repairs and health care expenses.

Uses of Funds:

Funds will be used to provide immediate assistance to individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness to provide support for core needs such as emergency night stays, clothing, medicine, hygiene items, storage, and immediate payments at grocery and convenience stores. These funds could also be used to pay for expenses such as security deposits, rental payments, moving expenses, fees to obtain identification documents, transportation, auto repairs and health care expenses. Each individual from the target population referred by authorized County of San Diego staff is eligible to receive the maximum funding of \$2,500 per fiscal year.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

The program is focused on reducing barriers for unsheltered people experiencing homelessness (PEH) and assisting them in meeting basic needs which will reduce negative health impacts. The program provides needed supports for individuals who are disproportionality overrepresented in the homeless system. In general, the incidence of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) experiencing homelessness mirrors the disparities found at the broader community levels. Any programs addressing homelessness have a significant and direct responsibility to ensure they are assessing their impact through a racial and equity lens by collecting, analyzing, and acting on data. The County has developed an equity tool that is in the process of being implemented across all programs. The intent is to measure access to services and outcomes of services by race and ethnicity to indicate if different racial and ethnic groups are receiving services proportionate to their prevalence in the homeless system and to ensure that any disparities are addressed.

County outreach staff collaborate with the contractor to make timely payments for critical expenses that reduce barriers to housing for the target population, individuals or families who are experiencing homelessness (or are at-risk of homelessness) within San Diego County. The services are provided in all regions throughout the County. Decisions on eligible expenses are informed by how effectively the funding will directly or indirectly support access to housing or housing stability for the target population. The funds can directly support achieving housing access or stability directly, for example, by paying a security deposit, rent, moving costs or utilities, or indirectly by helping to pay for such costs as transportation, childcare, or car repairs.

Community Engagement:

The contractor will initiate partnerships with retailers and motels/hotels, which may include linkage agreements, such as Memoranda of Understanding (MOU), and establish procedures that shall ensure reliable partnerships. These MOU shall be designed to facilitate emergency housing placements, which will be prioritized, and expedite payments for goods and services to support access directly or indirectly to housing or housing stability for individuals and families experiencing and at-risk of homelessness throughout San Diego County. The County will work with the contractor on collecting information on program improvements from participating retailers and motels/hotels.

Use of Evidence: Preliminary evidence has supported positive outcomes from providing flex funds for immediate needs such as housing, utilities, move-in costs, healthcare, transportation, etc. Similar programs have allowed individuals who were in danger of losing their homes due to the pandemic to get back on their feet and remain housed and have helped individuals referred from local homeless encampments to exit to permanent housing. This evidence has also shown the positive correlation between flex fund accounts and housing stability. Providing flexible spending funds helps fill the gaps for those experiencing homelessness and facing additional barriers that occur within this demographic, such as poverty, unequal access to healthcare, and other inequities.

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Catholic Charities of Harris County Recovery Assistance	7.27_SLFRE_Recovery_Plan_FIN_AL.pdf (harriscountytexas.gov)	HCRA received 203,998 applications and distributed \$6.6 million dollars to 4,407 low-income households that experienced economic hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic. These participants were at or below the 60% poverty line threshold and at immediate risk if homelessness. Of the 1,413 participants enrolled 25% of those individuals were permanently housed.	Quasi-Experimental
Hayward Navigation	Hayward-City-of-PER.pdf (ca.gov)	Of the Prop 47-eligible individuals who participated in the HNCP47 program (45), 53.33% completed all program requirements	Quasi-Experimental

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Center Proposition 47		(24), and 37.78% completed the program and exited to permanent housing while still actively receiving services (17), totaling 91% of residents who completed the program requirements. Nearly 7% of residents are still enrolled and active at HNCP47 (3). Only one resident exited without completing program requirements. Of the 42 residents who completed the program 47.62% are in their own rental with rapid rehousing (RRH) or equivalent subsidy (20). Over 19% exited to another type of housing or situation (8), 14.29% are staying with family or friends permanently (6), and 11.91% are staying in an emergency shelter or motel/hotel paid for by a shelter (5). The remaining 7.14% of residents are in a psychiatric facility or substance use treatment facility, or rental with ongoing housing subsidy (4). There were nearly 62% of residents who exited to permanent housing (26).	
Flexible Funding as a Promising Strategy to Prevent Homelessness for Survivors of Domestic Violence	Flexible Funding as a Promising Strategy to Prevent Homelessness for Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence – Cris M. Sullivan, Heather D. Bomsta, Margaret A. Hacskeylo, 2019 (sagepub.com)	<p>The complex Interrelationship between intimate partner violence (IPV) victimization and housing instability has been well established. IPV is a leading cause of homelessness for women, and once someone is homeless, their lives often spiral downward quickly. A brief intervention that includes flexible funding can restore a family's equilibrium and prevent the devastating repercussions associated with homelessness. The sample was comprised of 55 IPV survivors who contacted the District Alliance for Safe Housing in Washington, D.C., for housing assistance between March 2014 and August 2015, and who received flexible funding for 6 months to facilitate either remaining in their homes or obtaining safe and permanent housing. These funds covered move-in costs such as security deposits, utility deposits, and additional needed fees and supplies. Program suggest the use of FLEX spending accounts as a form of intervention increases housing stability by 94% over a 6-month period.</p>	Non-Experimental

Performance Report:

Key outputs and outcomes include:

- Ninety percent (90%) of requests to locate and make arrangements for immediate emergency housing placements shall be completed during the same business day.
- Reducing barriers to housing, by providing financial supports

Specialized Funding for Imminent Needs (Program launched February 2023):

Required Performance Metric: Housing Support:

- Number of households receiving eviction prevention services (including legal representation) – 19
- Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed – N/A (this program does not affect affordable housing units)

Households Served in Specialized Funding for Imminent Needs Program:

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
Households Served	150	150
Total Household Members	251	251

Project 4a.3: Housing, Shelter, Including Acquisition of Facilities and Wrap-Around Services: Palm Avenue Domestic Violence Shelter

Funding Amount: \$6.2 million

Project Expenditure Category: 7.2, Transfers to Other Units of Government

Project Overview:

Expand emergency housing options including capacity for domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault survivors. The Palm Avenue Domestic Violence (DV) shelter was developed in collaboration with the City of San Diego (City) to create a shelter for survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault, a deficiency that adds significantly to the region's population of unsheltered people. A primary need from domestic violence survivors is access to housing.

The City has acquired property that can be used to operate an emergency shelter for this population. It will provide a secure location with 44 rooms for individuals or families that are fleeing violence so that they can have a safe place to be until the next steps are determined. There will be on-site case management, including safety plans, housing stability plans, counseling services, behavioral health and trauma-informed care services, legal services, childcare, immigration support and language services.

Uses of Funds:

The County will grant up to \$6,200,000, which will fund \$263,000 in capital improvements to the City of San Diego for the Palm Avenue site and up to \$2,930,000 each year for two years of operations for the shelter. This would provide a secure location with 44 rooms for individuals or families that are fleeing violence and can have a safe place to be until the next steps are determined. There would be on-site case management, including safety plans, housing stability plans, counseling services, behavioral health and trauma-informed care services, legal services, childcare, immigration support and language services.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

The project is still in development. Promoting Equitable Outcomes will be reported in future reports.

Community Engagement:

In addition to the activities listed in the Community Engagement section of this report, the City of San Diego will conduct additional community engagement on this project.

Performance Report

This project is still in development. Metrics will be reported in future reports.

Project 4a.4: Housing, Shelter, Including Acquisition of Facilities and Wrap-Around Services: Emergency Housing Options

Funding Amount: \$46.05 million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.16, Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons

Project Overview:

The Compassionate Emergency Solutions and Pathways to Housing (CESPH) programs are designed to provide emergency interventions for persons experiencing homelessness in San Diego County with a focus on Unincorporated Areas while also providing access to services necessary to secure stable housing. These programs include interim shelter such as sleeping cabins, non-congregate shelter, safe camping (RV camping) and safe parking programs as well as other emergency housing with the intent of securing permanent housing solutions for individuals experiencing homelessness. Participants will have access to case management and housing navigation through a single site, low barrier model to address homelessness at no cost to the participants, while proving a trauma informed housing first approach using evidence-based interventions that reduce harm and provide onsite services such as case management and behavioral health supports. The program shall connect with community partners and resources such as libraries, homeless court, housing subsidy voucher programs, and public benefits to assist participants in obtaining safe parking and subsequently stable housing. It is anticipated that all projects shall be operational by the end of federal fiscal year (FFY) 2023-24.

Uses of Funds:

Funds will be used to identify potential sites, infrastructure planning and execution for site preparation, purchase of site structures, and all services and operations costs to operate the housing interventions. Core on-site emergency shelter services will include case management, mental health counseling, housing navigation, meals, internet access, laundry, security, safe storage, trash and refuse disposal, and daily wellness checks with crisis response capacity as needed.

Over the past several years, the County has made significant investments in outreach, treatment, and housing services to people experiencing mental illness, substance use disorders and homelessness. However, the number of unsheltered people within unincorporated areas exceeds the number of shelter beds available, and the numbers are projected to continue to rise year over year. Recent data shows that in the San Diego Region, for every 10 people experiencing homelessness that are housed, 13 more enter homelessness each month. By providing supportive services and supports such as connections to benefits, employment, credit repair and homeless court, the

economic benefits will increase as more individuals are served by these programs which leads to permanent housing solutions, working with landlords and property management companies and supplementing with housing vouchers for a positive economic impact to the communities. The program will provide compassionate emergency housing options to the unsheltered population who are extremely vulnerable to COVID and other health related challenges. To help mitigate this, these interventions will include safe parking, emergency sleeping cabins and emergency shelters. These efforts will provide safe non-congregate housing, mental and physical health interventions, and pathways to permanent housing. This program will help reduce negative public health impacts to those unsheltered by providing safe housing options.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

The Regional Taskforce on Homelessness Point-in-Time Count identifies the number of individuals living on the streets or in emergency shelters on one specific designated day of the year. In the 2020 Point-in-Time Count, 7,638 individuals were identified as living on the streets or in shelters throughout the county. Of those who were unsheltered, 58% reported having a disability and 27% were 55 years or older. People of color are disproportionately impacted among those experiencing homelessness, with 27.2% identifying as Black or African American which is approximately five times the proportion of African Americans in the region, 3.4% identifying as American Indian or Alaska Native which is nearly three times the proportion in the region, and 2.8% identifying as Asian. 28% of persons experiencing homelessness in San Diego County are Hispanic. Individuals at-risk of or experiencing homelessness, impacted residents, community partners and other key stakeholders were engaged during the development of the plans for compassionate solutions, and their feedback was sought and incorporated.

Ensuring racial and social equity in all aspects of homelessness prevention and response is one of the key principles that guide the County's Framework for Ending Homelessness and all items that fall under its strategic domains. Our contracted partners are required to train all staff, volunteers, and subcontractors in cultural awareness of populations including older adults, persons living with disabilities, LGBTQ+, and Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color (BIPOC) among other populations. These programs are required to track data on protected status such as race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation of each participant which will be analyzed to ensure that traditionally underserved populations are receiving the services offered through these programs.

Community Engagement:

Individuals at-risk of or experiencing homelessness, impacted residents, community partners and other key stakeholders were engaged during the development of the plans for compassionate solutions, and their feedback was sought and incorporated through surveys and requests for information meetings. Surveys shall continue to be

collected throughout the programs operational period to further improve and identify gaps in services. Our contracted service partners shall be required to develop a Quality Assurance Plan (QAP) which addresses process improvement for service provision, including demonstrating inclusion of the input of people with lived experience and shall be shared with the County for oversight and collaborative improvement. Additionally, our partners are required to adopt the federal Office of Minority Health (OMH) Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) National Standards to ensure equal access to quality care by diverse populations. We encourage our partners to hire bilingual staff and require them to have access to language translation services including ASL interpreter services.

Use of Evidence:

Although this program does not meet the criteria for strong or moderate evidence, it is based on a Preliminary Evidence Base. The programs listed below have similar components to those under the compassionate solutions array of programs and have published reviews. Providing viable housing options to those experiencing homelessness, a trend which was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, have produced positive outcomes in the community.

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Safe Parking LA	SPLA_2022ImpactReport_FINAL_Web.pdf (safeparkingla.org)	634 were served using this program with 26,193 safe nights accounted for. 100% of participants who parked safely overnight were connected to case management services, 160 (25%) clients transitioned into housing, and 588 program participants received an average of \$239 in financial assistance for a total of \$140,288 total funds awarded to those in need. Safe Parking LA served 61% more people from July 2021-June 2022 and increased the number individuals sheltered by 47% from the previous fiscal year.	Quasi-Experimental
Jewish Family Services of San Diego's Safe Parking Program	UCSD-JFS-Safe-Parking-Evaluation-2022.pdf (jifssd.org)	Among households that enrolled in the program between February 1, 2019, and November 30, 2020, 18.4% had "positive exits" (meaning they exited to permanent or temporary housing). Of the 874 households who exited between February 1, 2019, and November 30, 2020, 175 returned to the program once (20%), 38 returned twice (4.3%), 8 returned three times (0.9%), and 2 returned four times (0.2%) through March 31, 2021.	Non-Experimental

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Move Mountainview	Safe Parking Mountain View, CA	Safe Parking Programs show approximately 30-50% of participants (data mostly on passenger cars) can obtain interim or permanent housing as their next step after Safe Parking. MOVE MV serves an average of 160 individuals per night with 60% being families.	Quasi-Experimental
Catholic Charities	www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/affordablehousing/?utm_campaign=ahbwak&utm_source=housingpg&utm_medium=website&utm_type=cta&utm_content=121322	Catholic Charities provides 34,580 units for low to moderate households and housed 11,070 seniors in 2022 Nationwide. Seniors make up 33% of all unhoused individuals.	Quasi-Experimental
Housing Program: SAFER Program Aid for Elderly Renters	www.bchousing.org/housing-assistance/rental-assistance-programs/SAFER	Approximately 25,000 seniors' households in British Columbia received SAFER benefits as of March 31, 2021. SAFER funds more than 10,900 assisted living and supportive seniors' units allowing them to avoid homelessness.	Quasi-Experimental
Santa Rosa Homelessness Solution Plan 2023-2027	www.srcity.org/DocumentCenter/View/37088/Final-Santa-Rosa-Homelessness-Solutions-Plan?bidId=	The system currently has the rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing capacity to absorb 582 people over a 12-month time frame, resulting in a permanent housing gap of about 827 units (the difference between 1,409 and 582)	Non-Experimental
Cuyahoga County Office of Homeless Services-Rapid Rehousing Program	www.huduser.gov/portal/pdredge/pdredge-featd-article-051418.html	The progressive engagement model has successfully reduced the average shelter stay in Cuyahoga County by 23%, increasing the number of shelter beds available at any given time.	Quasi-Experimental
Temporary Modular Housing "Modular Supportive Housing"	https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/temporary-modular-housing.aspx	A satisfaction evaluation of the program was conducted of the 192 residents. Of those who responded: 80% reported their overall well-being has improved 57% report better physical health, 43 % reported better mental health, and 52% have improved financial situations, and 47% have better access to employment opportunities. 94% of residents remained housed six months after move-in	Non-Experimental
British Columbia Housing Program:	www.bchousing.org/sites/default/files/rcg-documents/2022-04/Surrey-Modular-	95% of Residents who participated in the program remained housed after 6 months. 81% of participants reported improvements to their overall wellbeing.	Quasi-Experimental

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Surrey Temporary Modular Buildings	Supportive-Housing-Resident-Outcomes-Report%20%281%29.pdf	60% reported improvement in their living skills. 59% respondents reported improved access to employment opportunities and employment support services	

Performance Report:

Most of these projects are in planning, design and development stage. It is anticipated all projects will be fully operational by the end of FFY 2023-24.

Common Outputs and Outcomes include:

- Number of individuals connected to Behavioral Health Services
- Amounts and types of flexible funding available to support direct and indirect costs of securing housing
- Number of individuals who maintained or increased income while in the program
- At least 30% of participants will exit into a more stable housing situation
- Less than 20% exited due to non-compliance with program rules
- Number of individuals connected to housing retention programs

Project 4a.5: Housing, Shelter, Including Acquisition of Facilities and Wrap-Around Services: Construction of Extremely Low-Income Housing

Funding Amount: \$12 million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.15, Long-term Housing Security: Affordable Housing

Project Overview:

This project will create permanent supportive housing for extremely low-income households earning 30% or below the Area Median Income who are at the greatest risk of experiencing homelessness. The program funding will provide developers with the capital necessary to build new permanent supportive housing units. These units will remain affordable to extremely low-income households for 55-years.

Uses of Funds:

Many people in the region are currently experiencing or at risk of homelessness, which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. To address these needs, the County allocated significant portion of the funds for a variety of housing resources. This program provides funding, via a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), for developers to apply for funding to acquire sites and build housing developments that include units available for extremely low-income households. The five developments have been awarded the \$12.0 million and will include 74 units reserved for extremely low-income households.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

Funding provided to support the creation of affordable housing units supports the needs of historically underserved populations, including persons experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. This allocation of funding is an opportunity for the County of San Diego to increase permanent supportive housing options for the most vulnerable populations, providing not just housing, but ensuring that resources for supportive services are made available to residents.

Community Engagement:

In addition to the community engagement detailed in the Community Engagement section of this report, development partners are encouraged to facilitate site specific community engagement and outreach as a good neighbor.

Use of Evidence:

Although this program does not meet the criteria for strong or moderate evidence, funding the development of affordable housing is a widely accepted practice for increasing affordable housing opportunities.

Performance Report:

Time Frame:

- 2025 – 2029

Required Performance Metric: Long-Term Housing Security:

- Number of households receiving eviction prevention services (including legal representation) – 0
- Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed – 74 planned.

Affordable Housing Development:

The table below provides information about the developments that received an award of ARPA funds, the number of ARPA (Extremely Low Income units), and the status of the development.

Project	City/ Community	AMI Range	Total Units	Extremely Low Income Units 0-30% AMI	ARPA Funds Awarded	Status
Iris Avenue Trolley	San Diego - Otay Mesa West	30% - 50%	64	23	\$3,000,000	Awarded- Conditional
Messina	San Diego - Clairemont Mesa	30% - 70%	79	9	\$1,865,920	Awarded-In Construction
Taormina (Mt. Etna)	San Diego - Clairemont Mesa	30% - 80%	136	15	\$2,205,511	Awarded-In Construction
The Grant at Mission Trails	San Diego - Grantville	20% - 80%	48	14	\$2,750,000	Awarded- Conditional
Villa Serena Phase II	San Marcos	30% - 60%	63	13	\$2,178,569	Awarded- Conditional
		Total	390	74	\$12,000,000	

Project 4a.7: Housing, Shelter, Including Acquisition of Facilities and Wrap-Around Services: Shallow Rent Subsidy for Seniors

Funding Amount: \$2.75 million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.2, Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid

Project Overview:

Shallow Rent Subsidy Program (SRSP) improves housing stability for low-income older adults who need immediate financial assistance to remain in their homes by providing them a time-limited shallow rental subsidy. SRSP would serve approximately 220 households by providing a \$500 monthly subsidy over a period of 18 months. Participants will also receive light case management services. Eligibility for this program will include households with a head of household that is 55 years of age or older, are very low income, and are severely rent-burdened.

Uses of Funds:

The program will provide housing stability for low-income older adults who need immediate financial assistance to remain in their homes by providing them a time-limited shallow rental subsidy. This population is extremely vulnerable to COVID and other health-related challenges as they are at risk of being homeless. This program will help reduce negative public health impacts to those at risk of being homeless by providing a subsidy so they can stay in their home.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

The County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency, Department of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities' (HSEC) mission is to ensure equity among all San Diegans, foster a community that is welcoming to new residents, and reduce homelessness in the region. HSEC, is dedicated to addressing the root causes of homelessness and providing equitable access to preventative and supportive services for vulnerable residents. Of the nearly 3.4 million people currently residing in San Diego County, approximately 959,000 are adults aged 55 or older. By 2030, the number of adults aged 55 years or older in San Diego County is expected to increase to more than 1.1 million. San Diego County's age 55 or older population is projected to grow faster than any other age group, thus the County recognizes the crucial importance of addressing homelessness and has taken the needs of the region's older adults into account as the County plans for the future.

The County, in partnership with our community contractor, intends to serve persons experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness throughout San Diego County, including participants with disabilities, youth up to 24 years of age, seniors, families, justice involved, and/or with special service and housing needs. The County contractor

will provide services to the focus population living in San Diego County. Housing will be obtained equitably for all six (6) HHSA regions: North Coastal, North Inland, North Central, Central, South, and East. This will improve accessibility, as well as options for safe placement of homeless participants within the communities in which they wish to live but can also afford. The services will be delivered throughout San Diego County directly by the contractor or through appropriate subcontractors. The intended outcomes are focused on closing gaps reaching universal levels of service through tailored goals that meet participant needs through ensuring that 100% of eligible applicants are supported to provide a complete application to the Shallow Rental Subsidy Program (SRSP). The contractor will serve 222 participants by providing a subsidy paid directly to landlords at a rate of \$500 per month over an 18-month period.

The Department of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities', Office of Homeless Solutions (HSEC-OHS) has developed an equity tool that is in the process of being implemented across all programs. The intent is to measure access to services and outcomes of services by race and ethnicity to indicate if different racial and ethnic groups are receiving services proportionate to their prevalence in the homeless system and to ensure that any disparities are addressed. Phase I of this tool, measuring access to services, will be completed by June 2023. Data will be collected and reviewed quarterly.

Community Engagement:

The County held two webinars for the community to share information about the Shallow Rental Subsidy program, provide application support, and answer questions about the program and the eligible criteria for the program. The webinars provided the opportunity to obtain feedback from the community and service providers and allowed the County to hear community input to help inform the application and enrollment process for the program before the application period began and made available to the community.

The County contractor relies heavily on continuous quality improvement facilitated by feedback from their partners, funders, and those they support. The contractor will obtain this feedback through a variety of means including one-on-one discussion, team meetings, focus groups, and surveys. These methods ensure every stakeholder's voice is heard and that all services are accessible and provided thoroughly, and that needs are met. In addition to surveys, their self-assessment includes feedback loops, so we are continuing to learn, adjust as we go, and make sure we are staying the course when things are going well.

Additionally, our contractor will utilize a Quality Measurement Tool (QMT), a quarterly assessment completed by the project leadership, to assess operational conformance to requirements, and to company policies and procedures. We review all performance metrics, key performance indicators, contract finances, and staff training. This emphasis on quality, data, and outcomes sets us apart. Our contractor's QMT process

allows us to identify program strengths and weaknesses in all areas of program operations and build strategies for continuous program improvement.

Use of Evidence:

Program Goal:

The goal of the Shallow Rental Subsidy Program (SRSP) is to keep older adults at risk of homelessness in their homes, and out of the homeless system, by providing payment assistance to older adults on fixed income. The County of San Diego SRSP gives older adults a set amount of rent at \$500 a month for 18 months, payable directly to landlords. This program may improve housing stability for older adults who need ongoing financial assistance. The contractor will assist in determining participant eligibility; shall administer ongoing monthly payments to landlords; and shall assist in administering an evaluation of the SRSP program.

Preliminary Evidence:

The average monthly rental cost in the United States is \$1,715-\$1,870, and 30% of all U.S. renter households are living at or below the poverty line. The Choice Voucher Program assists very low-income families, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. Housing Choice Vouchers reduce the cost of housing for low-income households. Catholic Charities offer various services for low-income older individuals who require help with various issues. These three programs show how providing services and vouchers to seniors and those at or below the poverty line on the brink of eviction prevents homelessness.

References

1. Housing Choice Voucher Program.
https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/affordablehousing/?utm_campaign=ahb_wak&utm_source=housingpgg&utm_medium=website&utm_type=cta&utm_content=121322
2. Catholic Charities.
<https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/our-vision-and-ministry/affordable-housing/>
3. BC Housing Research Center. SAFER Program.
<https://www.bchousing.org/housing-assistance/rental-assistance-programs/SAFER>

Performance Report:

The Shallow Rental Subsidy Program (SRSP) is still in the enrollment phase. The anticipated performance indicators will be available in the third quarter of 2023. The key performance indicators for the program include the number of people served, case management through engagement with the Office of Homeless Solutions,

Direct Service Team (OHS-DST), housing payments by start date, housing payments by end date, housing payment amount by month, the housing payment cumulative total amount expended, and the total number of housing subsidies paid.

Project 4b: Housing Vouchers & Local Rent Subsidy Program & Services: Housing Navigation and Housing Stability Case Management Services

Funding Amount: \$5.2 million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.16, Long-Term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons

Project Overview:

The program serves individuals and families of all backgrounds, including those with significant barriers, low incomes, limited English, and other traditionally underserved groups. The program receives referrals from the Regional Homeless Assistance Program (RHAP) and the Agency's Compassionate Emergency Solutions and Pathways to Housing (CESPH) programs, which are the County's interim emergency shelters serving people experiencing homelessness in the unincorporated communities. The program empowers individuals and families to obtain permanent housing, connect to resources, and build self-sufficiency. The program aligns policies and procedures with nationally recognized best practices of housing first, progressive engagement, harm reduction, strengths-based case management, and critical time intervention. The program serves clients aged 18 and above in identifying, securing and maintaining safe and affordable housing for individuals experiencing homelessness or at risk of homeless. The program includes flex funding to support client housing readiness needs, including fees to obtain identification cards or birth certificates, client move-in fees, and security deposits. Upon placement in housing, the program assists with acquiring furnishings and household supplies to ensure households are successful in their housing placements. Case managers conduct housing stability needs assessment with each client household and provide services tailored to assist the client household in maintaining housing stability. The program assists those experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness by providing housing navigation services to locate available units and case management services to ensure housing stability. The services provided in this program will increase access to safe and affordable housing for clients previously experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness and ensure that clients maintain stable, permanent housing after placement. The County contracted the provider, Alpha Project for the Homeless, to provide Housing Navigation and Case Management Services Program (HNCM).

Uses of Funds:

In response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, funding is used to provide housing navigation and housing stability case management services to households experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. Additional funding is used to augment these services, including provision of motel vouchers. The funds are used to assist low-income households and households experiencing a reduction of income, or other financial hardship, due to or during COVID-19 pandemic experiencing who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness maintain stable, permanent housing after placement. The program utilizes flexible spending dollars to help

participants overcome barriers to accessing services and permanent housing including but not limited to obtaining documents, security deposits, transportation, basic household items, and work readiness materials.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

The Housing Navigation and Housing Stability Case Management Services provider, Alpha Project for the Homeless (Alpha Project), is committed to equity and inclusion as both an employer and a service provider. They provide their staff with trauma-informed training, as well as training on implicit bias.

Alpha Project ensures that the program recruits, hires, and retains bilingual, peer support, and culturally diverse staff reflective of the clients served. Alpha Project employs bilingual individuals to ensure that clients who do not speak English as their first language can effectively communicate their needs and work with staff to access appropriate services. In addition to having staff members who are bilingual and ethnically, culturally, and racially diverse, Alpha Project has a long history of employing formerly homeless individuals throughout the agency, from direct line staff to directors. Alpha Project understands the need to hire staff who can relate to those experiencing homelessness and act as role models for those making changes in their lives. Alpha Project has experience staff working with individuals experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness and have provided housing navigation, landlord advocacy, and case management services. All services provided will be client-centered to respond to the needs of the individuals and households served through the program.

Community Engagement:

The program collaborates and receives feedback from many community-based organizations to serve people with significant barriers. Alpha Project works with community-based organizations to assist households with a smooth transition from emergency shelter to permanent housing. Alpha Project facilitates regular case conferencing with community-based organizations and the County to obtain feedback and ensure consistency of care. The program is committed to helping households stabilize in their community of choice where they can connect and make themselves at home. Furthermore, the program conducts a needs assessment to guide households to tailored community-based resources. Participant goals and feedback are the foundation of the case planning process. Each case meeting is an opportunity for participants to provide feedback on their goal plan and services offered. The program builds capacity and receives feedback through partnerships with other direct service providers that support participants' diverse needs including but not limited to Legal Aid Society of San Diego, Family Health Centers, San Diego Workforce Partnership, Salvation Army, San Diego Food Bank, Feeding San Diego, County Behavioral Health Services, and other partners. Alpha Project participates in many community meetings and forums such as Continuum of Care Membership, Metropolitan Area Providers of Social Services, Community Information Exchange,

Community Faith Based Organization Roundtable, San Diego Women’s Foundation Philanthropic Fellowship, and Public Regional Outcomes and Standards working group. Through this community collaboration, the program learns best practices, open communication, and reduce systemic barriers to accessing services. Alpha Project also submits written proposals to private funders, foundations, and organizations to learn about social services and participate in regional solutions.

Use of Evidence:

Although this program does not meet the criteria for strong or moderate evidence, many of the services provided are based on national best practices.

Performance Report:

Alpha Project for the Homeless: Households Served

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
Number of households received housing navigation services	0	39
Number of households received case management services	0	257

Project 4b.2: Housing Vouchers & Local Rent Subsidy Program & Services: Housing Vouchers

Funding Amount: \$8.9 million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.17, Housing Support: Housing Vouchers and Relocation Assistance for Disproportionately Impacted Communities

Project Overview:

On May 19, 2020, the County of San Diego (County) took steps for short-term and long-term solutions to address homelessness in the unincorporated areas, including the implementation of a local tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA) program. The Local Rental Subsidy Program (LRSP), that will provide up to 2 years (24 months) of rental assistance and case management services, for persons transitioning out of County emergency shelter programs in the unincorporated area, including the Regional Homeless Assistance Program (RHAP). The LRSP adheres to the Housing Choice Voucher guidance contained in HUD's [PIH Notice 2021-14](#) and [PIH Notice 2021-15 \(HA\)](#). Eligible participants must be experiencing homelessness in the Unincorporated Area of the San Diego region, and transitioning out of County emergency shelter programs, including the Hotel/Motel Voucher program. The goal is to move people experiencing homelessness out by moving them from interim shelter supports to permanent supportive housing with ongoing retention and sustainability services to prevent a return to homelessness.

Link to websites:

1. Notice PIH 2021-14 (HA)
<https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/PIH2021-14.pdf>
2. Link to website: Notice PIH 2021-15 (HA)
<https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/PIH2021-15.pdf>

Uses of Funds:

This program was created in direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic and preceding state of emergency in the County of San Diego. Persons experiencing homelessness are vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus due to many having chronic health conditions and an inability to social distance or to self-isolate. These increased risk factors created the urgency to address the housing needs of this vulnerable population. By providing interim shelter through the hotel/motel voucher program and a subsidized housing vouchers from the LRSP, the County generated revenue for both local hotels and motels at a time when tourism significantly decreased. The LRSP directly supports landlords and property management companies with ongoing stable revenue, while at the same time preventing previously unhoused residents from returning to the streets.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

The Regional Taskforce on Homelessness Point-in-Time Count identifies the number of individuals living on the streets or in emergency shelters on one specific designated day of the year. In the 2020 Point-in-Time Count, 7,638 individuals were identified as living on the streets or in shelters throughout the county. Of those who were unsheltered, 58% reported having a disability and 27% were 55 years or older. Unified under a County of One approach, the County of San Diego is dedicated to addressing the root causes of homelessness and providing preventative and supportive services to the most vulnerable residents.

People of color are disproportionately impacted among those experiencing homelessness in San Diego, with 27.2% identifying as Black or African American-roughly five times the proportion of African Americans in the region-3.4% identifying as American Indian or Alaska Native-which is nearly three times the proportion in the region-and 2.8% identifying as Asian. 28% of persons experiencing homelessness in San Diego County are Hispanic. Individuals at-risk of or experiencing homelessness.

Community Engagement:

Individuals at-risk of or experiencing homelessness, impacted residents, community partners and other key stakeholders were engaged during the development of the plans for compassionate solutions, and their feedback was sought and incorporated through surveys and requests for information meetings. Surveys shall continue to be collected throughout the programs operational period to further improve and identify gaps in services. Our contracted service partners shall be required to develop a Quality Assurance Plan (QAP) which addresses process improvement for service provision, including demonstrating inclusion of the input of people with lived experience and shall be shared with the County for oversight and collaborative improvement. Additionally, our partners are required to adopt the federal Office of Minority Health (OMH) Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) National Standards to ensure equal access to quality care by diverse populations. We encourage our partners to hire bilingual staff and require them to have access to language translation services including ASL interpreter services.

Use of Evidence:

Although this program does not meet the criteria for strong or moderate evidence, many of the services provided are based on national best practices. The studies listed below indicate access to a Housing Voucher model supports solutions to homelessness.

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Catholic Charities	www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/affordablehousing/?utm_campaign=ahbwak&utm_source=housingpg	Catholic Charities provides 34,580 units for low to moderate households and housed 11,070 seniors in 2022 Nationwide. Seniors make up 33% of all unhoused individuals.	Quasi-Experimental

	&utm_medium=website&utm_type=cta&utm_content=121322		
Santa Rosa Homelessness Solution Plan 2023-2027	www.srcity.org/DocumentCenter/View/37088/Final-Santa-Rosa-Homelessness-Solutions-Plan?bidId=	The system currently has the rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing capacity to absorb 582 people over a 12-month time frame, resulting in a permanent housing gap of about 827 units (the difference between 1,409 and 582)	Non-Experimental

Performance Report:

The ARPA component of this program has not started. Metrics will be reported in future reports.

Project 4c: LGBTQ-Affirming Homeless Services/Housing

Funding Amount: \$5 million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.18, Housing Support- Other Assistance

Project Overview:

The LGBTQ Homeless Services/Housing project aims to provide innovative housing and support for vulnerable populations experiencing homelessness, including affirming resources for people identifying as LGBTQ+ and are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. The LGBTQ populations is historically underserved and marginalized, which was exacerbated by the COVID-19 epidemic. This program attempts to mitigate these challenges and barriers, and thus creating pathways to sufficient services and housing resources.

The three focused efforts, through three separate procurements, include:

1. Training curriculum for providers, planning groups, and units of government;
2. Wrap-around and supportive services, and;
3. Housing supports and linkages.

This set of three programs over three years will provide innovative and diverse housing, affirming supports and resources for people identifying as LGBTQ+ experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. In addition, the program will provide capacity building for providers, government entities, and homeless planning bodies to educate them on how to serve the populations better. All efforts will be delivered in a safe, welcoming, understanding, affirming, culturally competent, and linguistically appropriate manner.

Uses of Funds:

There are three portions of the budget for this project:

1. Capacity Building (\$250K for two years): Develop and provide an interactive and educational in-person and online LGBTQ+ capacity building skills curriculum for services and housing providers and planning and funding organizations that serve persons experiencing or are at-risk of homelessness within the San Diego County region.
2. Enhanced Case Management Services (\$2.7M for three years): Enhanced affirming support services to people who identify as LGBTQ+ and who are currently experiencing or are at-risk of homelessness. These services will include but are not limited to: linkages to healthcare services navigation (including access to specialty pharmacies and medications), transition-related healthcare, locating specialty physicians, behavioral healthcare services, HIV

and STD services, family-of-choice reunification, mediation, and supportive employment.

3. Housing Interventions (\$1.8M for three years): Innovative housing and affirming supports for vulnerable populations experiencing or at-risk of homelessness, including affirming resources for people identifying as LGBTQ+.

Funds will allow for this program to offer housing linkages and case management to vulnerable groups at risk of or experiencing homelessness and LGBTQ+ training for providers and aims to improve service delivery and reduce negative experiences and outcomes for this population.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

The LGBTQ+ Programs will provide capacity building, enhanced case management services and customized housing resources. The programs will serve individuals and families who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness throughout the county, including the 18 cities and unincorporated communities. This resource that will positively impact persons experiencing homelessness by providing increased knowledge to best serve LGBTQ+ populations, access to services to best support one's unique needs and housing solutions to secure stable solutions. Key outcomes include increased knowledge, improved quality of life and housing placement outcomes. There are a variety of pathways to access these resources including self-referrals, 2-1-1 San Diego referrals, etc. All programs shall serve all the San Diego County region.

In the 2022, the Point-in-Time Count, reported 8,427 individuals identifying living on the streets or in shelters throughout San Diego County. Of the 4,106 who were unsheltered, 25% were 55 years of age or older, 8% were youth and 15% reported chronic homelessness. People of color are disproportionately impacted among those experiencing homelessness, with 24% identifying as Black or African American which is roughly five times the proportion of African Americans in the region; 3% identify as American Indian or Alaska Native, which is nearly three times the proportion in the region. This information was used to best understand the needs of those that will be served via the LGBTQ+ program.

The programs are in their early phases and have not yet reported outcomes.

Community Engagement:

The County has conducted internal and external community engagement, including a Request for Information (RFI – “Industry Day”); the entities present included service providers, leaders, philanthropy and persons with lived experience of homelessness. As part of the County's ongoing work to ensure persons with lived experience, there were multiple and continuously on-going efforts to engage with persons experiencing homelessness. This engagement occurs via a lived experience contractor to solicit feedback, outreach staff interviews as well as program participant feedback.

Use of Evidence:

Although this program does not meet the criteria for strong or moderate evidence, participants in LGBTQ+ programs that are able to access key resources to support their unique needs and stable housing solutions produce positive outcomes. The programs listed below have similar components to those under the LGBTQ+ Housing model.

Moderate Evidence Based Programs and Research

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Missed Opportunities in Youth Pathways Through Homelessness: Voices of Youth Count	Samuels, G. M., Cerven, C., Curry, S., Robinson, S. R., & Patel, S. (2019). Missed Opportunities in Youth Pathways through Homelessness. In Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.)	Voices of Youth Count advises communities, CoCs, homeless providers, child welfare systems, and school systems across the country to engage in more sensitive data collection. In their study of young adults, ages 18 to 25 who identified as LGBTQ, they found rates of homelessness twice the rate of their heterosexual peers.	Quasi-Experimental

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Federally funded transitional living programs and services for LGBTQ-identified homeless youth: A profile in unmet need	Prock, K. A., & Kennedy, A. C. (2017). Federally funded transitional living programs and services for LGBTQ-identified homeless youth: A profile in unmet need. Children and Youth Services Review, 83, 17–24.	Adolescents who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ) are overrepresented among runaway and homeless youth (RHY) and experience increased rates of sexual victimization, mental health issues, and substance use in comparison to their heterosexual and cisgender peers.	Non-experimental
Homeless, hopeless, and hungry in Central Virginia: a case study on wrap-around intervention	Smith Ramey, J., Passetti, L., & Onafowokan, A. (2021). Homeless, hopeless, and hungry in Central Virginia: a case study on a wrap-around intervention targeting youth homelessness. Social Work in Mental Health, 19(3), 203–219.	The purpose of this case study is to investigate the development and accomplishments of Central Virginia’s Agreements to Benefit Homeless Individuals (CABHI) and the successful implementation of the services they provide to the homeless population, in particular homeless youth. These services, provide generalized lessons and case management that other agencies may not consider when tackling youth homelessness, such as mental health, substance use, housing, and employment.	Non-Experimental

Summary/Conclusion

These programs provide data that shows that the LGBTQ community is underrepresented when it comes to access to stable housing options. The Voices of Youth program reported that LGBTQ youth had over twice the rate of early death

among youth experiencing homelessness and are at more than double the risk of homelessness compared to their non-LGBTQ peers. This study also showed that youth who identified as both LGBTQ and black or multiracial had some of the highest rates of homelessness, and that LGBTQ young people reported higher rates of trauma and adversity, and that transgender youth often face unique and more severe types of discrimination and trauma when it comes to finding housing showcasing the importance of having housing options that are dedicated or inclusive to this specific demographic. The Federally funded transitional living programs and services for LGBTQ-identified homeless youth: A profile in unmet need study showed the lack of support that the LGBTQ community receives with less than 43% of transitional living programs providing services to this population, these vital services include case management, and skills that can improve their chances of being adequately housed. The CABHI study in Virginia shows the importance of the implementation of case management to address the specific issues of homeless youth, the study provided information showing that of the 177 participants of the program roughly 67 participants were connected to permanent and stable housing. This information proves the importance of implementing case management into housing programs to provide additional services that are often overlooked such as dentistry and different therapeutic services findings identified gaps in TLP regional location and LGBTQ-specific service availability for these homeless youth, therefore signifying the need for the implementation of programs specifically for LGBTQ persons.

Performance Report:

This program is still in development and metrics will be reported in future reports. The performance report will be based on three separate efforts: 1) Capacity Building; 2) Enhanced Case Management; and 3) Innovative Housing and Supports.

Performance reports may include the following:

- Types and number of entities that have received capacity building training
- Training evaluation outcomes
- Improvement in quality of life, after receiving enhanced case management services
- Number of persons placed into housing; including housing types

Project 5a.1: Food Distribution Programs (Food Banks)

Funding Amount: \$4.5 million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.1, Household Assistance: Food Programs

Project Overview

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, families, children, and seniors are faced with unprecedented food access challenges. Food distribution programs and services provided by The Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank and Feeding San Diego are critical services that provide nutritious, healthy food for families and individuals in need. The Food Banks' Pantry Food Box and Backpack programs provide pre-packaged food boxes and easy-to-carry bags/backpacks filled with nutritious food to ensure families, school-age children, and seniors have access to locally sourced fresh fruits and vegetables and healthy staple items throughout the week and help bridge the gap between weekday school meals. These Food Banks' food distribution programs help meet the food needs of our most vulnerable populations throughout the region, as well as help support local agricultural businesses. The programs were implemented in January 2022.

Uses of Funds:

Food assistance was one of the highest priorities that resulted from the County-held community workshops for the County ARPA Framework. San Diego Hunger Coalition estimates that, as of March 2021, approximately 1 in 3 San Diegans experience nutrition insecurity, or are unable to provide three, nutritious meals per day for themselves and/or their families. This is up from an estimated 1 in 4 San Diegans in 2019. The Food Banks Pantry Food Box and Backpack programs provide pre-packed food boxes and easy-to-carry bags/backpacks filled with nutritious food to ensure families, school-age children, and seniors have access to locally sourced fresh fruits and vegetables and healthy staple items throughout the week and help bridge the gap between weekday school meals. These Food Banks food distribution programs help meet the food needs of our most vulnerable populations throughout the region, as well as help support local agricultural businesses.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

This program serves communities that have been impacted by COVID-19 by providing access to food to low-income communities that experienced increased food insecurity. The program provides services that are split up into two different programs to serve the community: The Pantry Food Box Program and the Food Backpack Program.

The Pantry Food Box Program serves low-income and underserved communities as well as specific community and food distribution sites. The target population focuses

on households whose income is below the federal poverty level or recipients who earn 60 percent less than the area median income (AMI) of San Diego County.

The Food Backpack program targets San Diego Public Schools with 80% or more of the school’s student population participating in free or subsidized school meal program to establish the Food Backpack program. Eligible students will come from low-income households who are food insecure and display signs of chronic hunger for participation in the program.

Community Engagement: Customer satisfaction surveys will be conducted on a semi-annual basis to obtain points of view of participants receiving food distributions. The purpose of the surveys are to gather feedback regarding distribution as well as evaluating the impact of the Pantry Food Box and Backpack Food program in achieving increased fruit and vegetable consumption among participants in economically disadvantaged communities, particularly families, school-age children, and seniors who have been impacted most by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Use of Evidence: Although this program does not meet the criteria for strong or moderate evidence, utilizing a food box/backpack model to reduce food insecurity has shown promising evidence of positive impacts.

Performance Report:

Food Bank Distribution:

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
Pantry Food Boxes	67,212	48,060
Backpacks	25,905	19,895

Project 5a.2: Food Distribution Programs (Senior Nutrition Program)

Funding Amount: \$4.5 million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.1, Household Assistance: Food Programs

Project Overview:

The Senior Nutrition Program provides free nutritionally sound meals to individuals aged 60 and older. Meals are provided to seniors a minimum of five days per week via congregate meal sites, home delivery, or as take-home meals. The Senior Nutrition Program is meant to promote health and prevent disease, malnutrition, nutrient deficiencies, and food insecurity. The County's Aging & Independence Services (AIS) partners with fourteen contracted providers to deliver services countywide. The Senior Nutrition Program assists older adults to live independently by promoting better health and quality of life.

Uses of Funds:

Food assistance was one of the highest priorities that resulted from the County-held community workshops for the County ARPA Framework. San Diego Hunger Coalition estimates that, as of March 2021, approximately 1 in 3 San Diegans experience nutrition insecurity, or are unable to provide three, nutritious meals per day for themselves and/or their families. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic created additional hardships for older adults who are more vulnerable and at-risk to the COVID-19 virus, and as a result, more likely to stay home to prevent exposure to the virus. Home-delivered and take-home meals are critical services that our older adult community depends on to ensure access to healthy, nutritious food and that help to improve senior food security and reduce risk of chronic diseases.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

Although services are provided countywide, the Senior Nutrition Program requires resources be prioritized to individuals 60 years of age and older with an emphasis on those with greatest economic and social need. This is defined as an individual having a physical or mental disability, language barriers, and cultural or social isolation caused by, among other things, racial and ethnic status, sexual orientation, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) status, gender identity, or gender expression. When competitively procuring the existing contracts, the department conducted an extensive planning process that included an analysis of the need for services and historical data of service demand to ensure the program is supporting the region's most vulnerable communities to address food insecurity, improve nutrition, and reduce social isolation.

Community Engagement:

Feedback from participants is collected through customer satisfaction surveys administered by each senior nutrition contractor. Additionally, public hearings during the development of AIS' four-year Area Plan allow residents the opportunity to

comment and provide recommendations to further the department’s mission of developing and coordinating community-based systems of services for all older adults in San Diego County.

Use of Evidence:

Program does not meet guidelines for strong or moderate evidence. However, utilizing a meal distribution model to reduce food insecurity has shown preliminary evidence of positive impacts.

Performance Report:

This program was implemented on January 1, 2022. As of June 30, 2023, contracted Senior Nutrition providers have provided approximately 430,400 meals with the additional funding.

Senior Nutrition Program Supplemental Meals Served:

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
Meals Served	430,400	242,621

Project 5b: Community Food Production Projects

Funding Amount: \$7 million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.22, Strong Health Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Project Overview:

The purpose of the Community Food Production Projects is to increase food sovereignty in low-income communities, specifically Black, Indigenous and other People of Color (BIPOC) by funding variety of sustainable food system community-led projects. Projects to be funded include urban agriculture, direct-to-consumer food models, school and community garden infrastructure, processing and distribution infrastructure, policy interventions to remove barriers to food access, and food and farm-based educational initiatives. Additionally, funding will be made available to County department administered projects that have the same target populations and objectives as the Community-led projects.

A grant agreement with the San Diego Foundation (SDF) was signed on June 28, 2022, for a total of \$6M to lead implementation of the program and dissemination of the funds to the community.

It is anticipated that funds will be expended by December 31, 2024.

The seven County department administered projects consist of the following:

- Health and Human Services Agency (HHS)A
 - Aging & Independence Services “Older Adult Community Food Production Projects”
 - Child Well-being and Family Services Polinsky Children’s Center “Polinsky Children’s Center Urban Farming and Utilization”
- Land Use and Environmental Group (LUEG)
 - Department of Public Works Solid Waste Planning and Recycling “Healthy Food Starts with Soil – Compost and Mulch Giveaways”
 - Department of Parks and Recreation “Calavo Park Community Garden”
 - Department of Parks and Recreation “Collier Park Community Garden”
- Public Safety Group (PSG)
 - San Diego County Probation Department “Operation Positive Growth”

Uses of Funds:

Community Food Production grantee programs will focus on the following population: nonprofits and school districts that are in or serve populations in the zip codes of the Healthy Places Index (HPI) COVID-19 3rd and 4th quartiles. County

led projects will also provide services to the geographic areas of HPI COVID-19 least healthy quartiles.

COVID-19 directly impacted food access for many households due to reduction in income. With rising costs on food, it created even more of a burden for households with limited resources, thus furthering the food insecurity gap. These effects were experienced through a disruption of food access, shifts in consumer demand for cheaper foods with lower nutritional value, and instability in food prices. It also impacted businesses/organizations that produce and distribute food to marginalized communities. This funding provides critical support to communities of San Diego that have been affected the most, by increasing organization's capacity to help sustain and/or expand their operations allowing for communities to secure healthier food options.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

Community food production grants were developed to address health inequities in accessing healthy foods for systematic marginalized communities. Funded projects must meet eligibility criteria for providing services to the HPI Quartile 3 and 4. The goal of the project is to increase the amount of food grown or produced, increase the number of individuals with access to locally produced food, and increase the number of community- oriented food-related policies, events, or programs.

The SDF community grants will be provided to a variety of small-scale and large-scale projects to increase the bandwidth of nonprofits working to increase food sovereignty, especially in low-income communities and communities with limited access good food. County-led projects will have similar target populations and objectives as Community-Led projects. This could include, but is not limited to, establishing community gardens or food forests on County-owned properties, sustainable agricultural projects in local juvenile and adult correctional settings, or funding distribution of container gardens for individuals and families to produce their own food.

The goal of the projects is to support the region's most vulnerable communities, specifically those who have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, by addressing issues of food insecurity, improving nutrition, and supporting local agriculture in San Diego County, with the overall goal of improving the health of the communities.

Community Engagement:

SDF hosted two (2) virtual Community Engagement Sessions on October 24, 2022, and November 1, 2022, and distributed an email survey to solicit broad community engagement and input on the need and types of projects. Participation in the sessions and the survey responses was to create a space where community members could contribute ideas openly, (2) to obtain input on questions related to the

Community Food Production Program funding opportunity and application, and (3) to ensure that community feedback is woven throughout the process of funding and application development. This input informed the criteria and application development for the Community Food Production Projects grants. The SDF also convened an Advisory Council to allow stakeholder from across the County to share expertise into the development of the criteria and application for funding. The Advisory Council met December 8, 2022, to provide input on the Grant Guidelines.

Virtual office hours were also held, and in-person workshops began the first week of the application period to review key components of the application including SMART objectives, project evaluation, and project budget. These workshops provided a space for small, grassroots organizations to work through worksheets with peer applicants and to ask questions. Workshops were held across the County at partner organization locations to ensure accessibility for applicants located region wide.

Use of Evidence:

Although this program does not meet the criteria for strong or moderate evidence According to the County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, there is evidence that community gardens in general improve access to and consumption of fruits and vegetables, as well as increased physical activity. Additionally, they have the potential to increase food security, reduce obesity, and improve mental health and social connectedness.

Performance Report:

Community-Led Food Production Projects Output measures:

- Number of partners engaged in the input process:
 - Two (2) community sessions were conducted on October 24, 2022, with 77 attendees, 5 breakout rooms (Spanish translation included) and November 1, 2022, with 76 attendees, 6 breakout rooms (Spanish translation included). The goal of the sessions were to: (1) create a space where community members could contribute ideas openly by having facilitated small break out rooms, (2) to obtain input on questions related to the Community Food Production Program funding opportunity and application, and (3) to ensure that community feedback is woven throughout the process of funding and application development.
 - Virtual office hours were also held, and in-person workshops began the first week of the application period. SDF engaged with 30+ organizations throughout office hours and 40+ organizations through in-person workshops. SDF offered three in-person workshops, to review key components of the application including SMART objectives, project evaluation, and project budget. These workshops provided a space for small, grassroots organizations to work through worksheets with peer applicants and to ask questions. Workshops were held across the

County at partner organization locations to ensure accessibility for applicants located region wide.

- Number of applications received:
 - SDF received 131 applications totaling \$22M+ in grant requests in response to the CFGP funding opportunity. Applicants spanned the county geographically and represented organizations ranging from grassroots organizations to multi-million-dollar institutions. After screening all applications, SDF determined 112 project proposals met eligibility criteria.

- Number of projects funded:
 - Forty-three (43) projects were selected for funding, totaling \$5,563,500.00.

County-Led Food Production Projects Output measures:

- Number of projects applying for funding: 7 projects
- Number of projects receiving funding: 6 projects, 1 project shifted plans, funding was shifted to one of the existing projects to expand efforts.
- Project Updates:

	Department/Group	Project Name	Project Updates
1	HHSA – Aging and Independence Services	Older Adult Community Food Production Projects	In planning phase.
2	HHSA - Child Well-being and Family Services Polinsky	Polinsky Children's Center (PCC) Urban Farming and Utilization	In planning phase.
3	LUEG - Department of Public Works-Solid Waste Planning & Recycling	Healthy Food Starts with the Soil-Compost and Mulch Giveaways	Compost and mulch giveaways benefitting 21 parks, community gardens, and school gardens have been completed. An additional three (3) are in progress.
4	LUEG - Department of Parks and Recreation	“Calavo Park Community Garden”	Package submitted to Planning and Development Services for review and permitting in Jan. 2023, plans are still in review.

	Department/Group	Project Name	Project Updates
5	LUEG -Department of Parks and Recreation	“Collier Park Community Garden	In planning phase.
6	PSG San Diego County Probation Department	Operation Positive Growth	In planning phase.

Outcome Measures: Grants are being finalized the metrics listed below will be reported in future reports.

- Pounds of food grown or produced through funded projects.
- Number of community-oriented events led by partners at project sites.
- Number of individuals with increased access to good food.

Project 5c: Expansion of ¡Más Fresco! More Fresh Nutrition Incentive Program

Funding Amount: \$2 million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.1, Household Assistance: Food Programs

Project Overview:

The expansion of the ¡Más Fresco! More Fresh Nutrition Incentive Program provides nutrition incentives to low-income families to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at participating retailers and farmers markets but does not require enrollment in federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or CalFresh benefits. The nutrition incentive program will help low-income families and individuals reduce food insecurity, increase access to healthy foods, and improve nutrition and health status, as well as help support local agricultural businesses in San Diego County.

Uses of Funds:

Food assistance was one of the highest priorities that resulted from the County-held community workshops for the County ARPA Framework. San Diego Hunger Coalition estimates that, as of March 2021, approximately 1 in 3 San Diegans experience nutrition insecurity, or are unable to provide three, nutritious meals per day for themselves and/or their families. ¡Más Fresco! More Fresh Nutrition Incentive Program maximizes programmatic impact to achieve effective, efficient, and equitable outcomes, by employing several strategies that include targeted outreach and identification of the most underserved and vulnerable community members in the County of San Diego who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Efforts include collaboration with local health clinics, community organizations, and social service agencies to gather data and identify individuals and communities in need. The programs reach is enhanced through community engagement with community partners, health clinics, grocery stores, community markets, farmer's markets, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and other potential venues. and ensure increased access to fresh fruits and vegetables for better health. Community awareness efforts include educational opportunities related involving workshops, distributing educational materials, or leveraging online platforms to disseminate valuable information about healthy eating habits, cooking techniques, and the benefits of consuming fruits and vegetables.

The funds allocated to the program support the community by addressing specific needs, such as increasing access to fresh and nutritious food, improving health outcomes, and promoting overall well-being of low-income families and seniors in the communities most disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 in San Diego County.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

To provide assistance to the adversely affected communities hardest hit by COVID-19, a fair and equitable approach was adopted to prioritize the allocation of funds for COVID-19 response and recovery for targeted areas. These 39 zip codes, referred to as Health Equity Impact zip codes, are home to individuals who are identified as the most in need of support.

This program aims to provide assistance to the needs of San Diego County's most vulnerable and underserved community members, who have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19, including low-income families and seniors in the communities. The goal of this program is to enhance the purchasing power of low-income families in vulnerable populations by closing gaps and reducing food insecurity.

The ¡Más Fresco! More Fresh Nutrition Incentive Program collaborates with a range of partners, such as community health clinics, to raise awareness among community members about the availability of nutrition incentive vouchers and produce prescription vouchers. These partnerships also provide information on where individuals can obtain and redeem these vouchers, ensuring that they can access fresh and healthy foods conveniently and efficiently. By implementing these nutrition incentive programs, the goal is to assist low-income families, seniors in the communities most disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 in reducing food insecurity, enhancing access to nutritious foods, and improving their overall nutrition and health conditions.

Community Engagement:

Twice a year, surveys are conducted to gather the opinions of participants regarding the services provided by the program. These surveys aim to assess customer satisfaction and can aid in identifying how to better serve individuals with significant barriers to services. The responses of program participants are carefully evaluated to gauge the effectiveness of the programs in encouraging greater consumption of fruits and vegetables among program participants.

Use of Evidence:

Using a community-engaged, collective impact approach, ¡Más Fresco! Plus brings together partners from the community, health, and food systems, including community-based organizations (CBOs), health clinics, local farms, and retailers, to support the health and well-being of community members experiencing food insecurity and health disparities. Key goals and objectives include: Increase access to and consumption of healthy foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables, among community members who are experiencing health disparities, including food insecurity and diet related chronic disease. Improve nutrition and health status among program participant households. In lieu of evidence based interventions, program evaluation includes updated program overview, participant enrollment, overview of program success on various levels and opportunities for program growth.

Performance Report:

¡Más Fresco! Enrollees:

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
Number of ¡Más Fresco! Enrollees	1,041	1,041

Project 5d: Nutrition Incentives Beyond SNAP to Medi-Cal

Funding Amount: \$1 million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.1, Household Assistance: Food Programs

Project Overview:

Approximately 337,000 residents in San Diego County participate in the federal SNAP/CalFresh program, which provides food assistance benefits to low-income families and individuals to help supplement their food budget and allow them to buy nutritious food. Increased access to fresh fruits and vegetables significantly improves nutrition and leads to better health outcomes of adults and children in food insecure households. The University of California, San Diego (UCSD), through contracted funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, delivers the ¡Más Fresco! More Fresh Nutrition Incentive Program to provide nutrition incentives for families enrolled in SNAP to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at participating retailers, with an emphasis on locally-sourced food, resulting in an increase in food security levels. UCSD will enhance ¡Más Fresco! by providing Nutrition Incentives Beyond SNAP to Medi-Cal to provide Medi-Cal recipients and others affected by COVID-19, particularly those suffering from cardiovascular disease, including hypertension, as well as obesity, type 2 diabetes, and other chronic diseases, with Produce Prescriptions from their healthcare providers for fresh fruits and vegetables to be filled at participating grocery, community markets and stores, with an emphasis on locally-sourced food.

This program will provide Medi-Cal recipients and others affected by COVID-19, particularly those suffering from chronic diseases, with produce prescriptions from their healthcare providers to be filled for free at participating grocery stores and farmers markets. These nutrition incentive programs help low-income families and individuals reduce food insecurity, increase access to healthy foods, and improve nutrition and health status, as well as help support local agricultural businesses in San Diego County. The Produce Prescription_Program is one of three components that comprise the Mas Fresco Plus Program.

Link to website:

<https://masfrescoplusproduce.org/>

Uses of Funds:

The Nutrition Incentives Beyond SNAP To Medical program provides Medi-Cal recipients and other community members affected by COVID-19 pandemic, particularly those suffering from cardiovascular disease and other chronic diet-related health diseases with a directly delivered farm fresh produce box from a local San Diego farm to participating members household. The program will start with a cohort every 12 months and recipients will receive a produce box from a local San Diego farm every 2 weeks for a period of 12 months. The program is targeted to have 3 cohorts for

the duration of contract term. This nutrition incentive program partners with local community health clinics and other community-based organizations across San Diego County for referral and screening of individuals who are experiencing chronic health disparities including cardiovascular disease, hypertension, obesity, diabetes and other chronic diet related diseases regardless of their status as CalFresh or Medi-Cal Recipients. The goal of this program is to increase access and consumption of healthy foods among community members who are experiencing health disparities while leading to an improved nutrition and health status among program participants.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

To provide assistance to the communities hardest hit by COVID-19, a fair and equitable approach was adopted to prioritize the allocation of funds for COVID-19 response and recovery. These 39 zip codes, referred to as Health Equity Impact zip codes, are home to individuals who are identified as the most in need of support.

The aim of this program is to offer free produce prescriptions to Medi-Cal recipients and other individuals impacted by COVID-19 in these areas, with a specific focus on those dealing with chronic diseases. By implementing these nutrition incentive programs, the goal is to assist low-income families and individuals in reducing food insecurity, enhancing access to nutritious foods, and improving their overall nutrition and health conditions. Additionally, these programs contribute to supporting local agricultural businesses within San Diego County. Several efforts involve targeted outreach involving culturally linguistically appropriate outreach, community partnerships, educational awareness, and program evaluation through participant evaluation.

Community Engagement:

Twice a year, surveys are conducted to gather the opinions of participants regarding the services provided by the program. These surveys aim to assess customer satisfaction and can aid in identifying how to better serve individuals with significant barriers to services. The responses of program participants are carefully evaluated to gauge the effectiveness of the programs in encouraging greater consumption of fruits and vegetables among program participants.

Use of Evidence:

Using a community-engaged, collective impact approach, ¡Más Fresco! Plus brings together partners from the community, health, and food systems, including community-based organizations (CBOs), health clinics, local farms, and retailers, to support the health and well-being of community members experiencing food insecurity and health disparities. Key goals and objectives include: Increase access to and consumption of healthy foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables, among community members who are experiencing health disparities, including food

insecurity and diet related chronic disease. Improve nutrition and health status among program participant households. In lieu of evidence based interventions, program evaluation includes updated program overview, participant enrollment, overview of program success on various levels and opportunities for program growth.

Performance Report:

¡Más Fresco! Plus Enrollees:

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
Number of ¡Más Fresco! Plus Enrollees	706	706

Project 5e: Food System Sustainability and Equity Procurement Guidelines

Funding Amount: \$1 million

Project Expenditure Category: 3.4, Public Sector Capacity - Effective Service Delivery

Project Overview:

The purpose of the Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Program is to establish and implement a comprehensive values-based food purchasing Program and Policy within the County that will ensure public dollars are being invested in more sustainable, equitable, and local food systems. This program focuses on public sector capacity and effective service delivery by improving the meals served by County of San Diego. This program has the potential to impact the more than 10 million meals each year (at a cost of approximately \$20 million annually) the County serves to youth and adults residing in public hospitals and detention facilities, seniors, foster youth, individuals living with HIV/AIDS, and County employees. The Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Program and Policy comprises two components.

- A program to assess current practices and develop a comprehensive set of tools, technical support, and action plans to support the various County food service operations in becoming more sustainable, equitable and focused on local food sourcing.
- The development of a County-wide policy in collaboration with partners across the County enterprise to guide food sourcing and purchasing. This policy will be built off the assessments in the program component.

Both components are being implemented with cross-enterprise collaborations including in partnership with the County's Food Services Leadership Committee, comprised of all departments that provide meals, and representatives from the County's *Live Well San Diego* Food System Initiative.

Uses of Funds:

Food assistance was one of the highest priorities that resulted from the County-held community workshops for the County ARPA Framework. San Diego Hunger Coalition estimates that, as of March 2021, approximately 1 in 3 San Diegans experience nutrition insecurity, or are unable to provide three, nutritious meals per day for themselves and/or their families. The County's Food Acquisition Program framework will guide the sustainability of the local food economy; provide equitable consumption of healthy, affordable, and culturally relevant foods; and promote the opportunity to source food in a manner that elevates labor standards and minimizes carbon intensity.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

By centering equity and sustainability in the County's food procurement, the County has the potential to direct public funds to positively impact the food system for local food producers, workers, and businesses owned, operated, and/or run by marginalized

communities. Implementing a comprehensive, Values-based Food Procurement program would ensure that institutional food practices, including purchasing, advances an equitable, healthy, fair, local, humane, and sustainable food system. Additionally, sustainability and equity focused institutional food purchasing can provide a long-term strategy to reduce health disparities through improving quality of food served to vulnerable and under-resourced communities.

Community Engagement:

The County’s contractor Karen Karp & Partners (KK&P) hosted meetings with each County food service operation and their food vendors to inform a Landscape Analysis of County food purchasing. They also requested food procurement data from each County food service operation to conduct baseline assessments for County food service operations on food purchases within Board of Supervisor identified value categories.

In addition, KK&P hosted meetings or have a meeting scheduled with staff from all County food service operations for individual program Action Planning sessions utilizing the data from the baseline assessments to collaboratively develop tailored action plans with each food service operation to help each operation increase purchases in each of the value categories.

Use of Evidence:

Although this program does not meet the criteria for strong or moderate evidence, implementing food procurement guidance for sustainability, prioritizing local food production and equity has shown the benefit of directing public funds to create a healthier food system and is being encouraged and supported by the Center for Disease Control and USDA.

Performance Report:

Program is working with contractor in the data collection and planning phase see updates below. Outcome measures will be provided in future reports.

Outputs	Progress Updates
Number of baseline assessments completed.	<p>Obtained complete food procurement data from the vendors from one (1) County food service operation and are close to finalizing the procurement data collection from the vendors of six (6).</p> <p>Baseline procurement data assessment from four (4) food service operations will be completed by the end of April.</p>
Number of implementation plans developed and implemented.	In progress.
Number of County food service operations that have improved a point in at least one procurement value or have	Not yet started.

demonstrated progress towards a point in at least one procurement value.	
Number of annual assessments conducted.	Not yet started.
Outcome Measures	Progress to Date
Dollar amount diverted towards procurement of foods in each of the five procurement values.	Not yet started.
Percent food spend diverted towards procurement of foods in each of the five procurement values.	Not yet started.

Project 6a: Youth Services Fund - Career Pathways for Foster Youth

Funding Amount: \$5 million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.13, Healthy Childhood Environments: Services to Foster Youth or Families Involved in Child Welfare System

Project Overview:

The Career Pathways for Foster Youth project will provide career assessment, employable skills and knowledge, financial incentives to current/former foster youth based on their individual goals, interests and circumstances. Youth will be supported in attaining high-school diplomas, enrolling in post-secondary education and/or occupational/technical skills training and designing plans to prepare for your selected career pathways. Services are provided in partnership with San Diego County Office of Education, community colleges and universities, and other providers that assist in attaining post-secondary degrees and/or industry recognized certifications. To increase work experience and skills, youth participate in employability training, internships and supportive job opportunities that help them take the first steps to a successful career.

Eligible youth who are enrolled in high school, vocational/certificate programs, or college/university will receive additional financial support (scholarships, educational related expenses) to ensure continuation/completion of their program while participating in Career Pathways.

Uses of Funds:

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have significant impacts across the nation, causing high levels of unemployment and disconnection from work and school. Youth are an impacted class given the impacts to in-person learning, challenges finding jobs, and other negative impacts on young people because of the pandemic.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

The transition from adolescence to adulthood is a critical developmental stage as youth learn the skills needed to be healthy, self-sufficient, and productive adults. This process can be complex for youth with foster care experience. Surveys and administrative data show that young people with foster care experience are falling behind their peers who have not experienced foster care. This is particularly evident for youth of color, who are overrepresented in foster care and far more likely to face barriers to success and wellbeing. Youth in foster care face disproportionate levels of unemployment and homelessness as adults. By age 21, young people who experienced foster care reported significantly lower rates of high school completion and employment than young people in the general population. Research has shown that young people aging out of foster care have less stable employment, work fewer hours, and earn lower wages than their peers in the general population; and that these differences continue into early adulthood.

Community Engagement:

Between November 2021 and March 2022, the Department of Child and Family Well-Being (CFWB) engaged the Foster Alumni and Youth Community Empowerment Subcommittee of the Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board of San Diego County and CFWB staff with lived experience to gather input and proposals for a program design focused on providing youth in foster care with equitable access to services that help shape their career pathways. Proposed program goals were strategically developed to impact change and improve the quality of life and economic wellbeing for youth in the foster care system.

Use of Evidence:

Does not meet guidelines for strong or moderate evidence, however, Surveys and administrative data show that young people with foster care experience are falling behind their peers who have not experienced foster care. This is particularly evident for youth of color, who are overrepresented in foster care and far more likely to face barriers to success and wellbeing. Youth in foster care face disproportionate levels of unemployment and homelessness as adults.

By age 21, young people who experienced foster care reported significantly lower rates of high school completion and employment than young people in the general population. Research has shown that young people aging out of foster care have less stable employment, work fewer hours, and earn lower wages than their peers in the general population; and that these differences continue into early adulthood.

Performance Report:

Program began in May 2023 so data will be provided in future reports.

Project 6b.1: No-Cost Transportation to Youth

Funding Amount: \$1.5 million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.37, Economic Impact Assistance: Other

Project Overview:

The COVID-19 pandemic created negative economic impacts for vulnerable San Diego County residents. Many families, particularly those in underserved communities, experienced additional stressors, such as job loss, reduction in income, and risk of homelessness. To maximize community resources and outcomes, these ARPA funds were used to support SANDAG's collaborative Youth Opportunity Pass (YOP) effort. The YOP effort provides unlimited, free transit to youth aged 18 years and under in San Diego County.

Concrete supports including transportation in times of need are vital to recovery and wellbeing. Transportation facilitates social connectedness and is a critical factor that influences people's health and the wellbeing of a community. Lower-income families who disproportionately rely on public transportation have been significantly impacted by the lack of reliable transportation. Public transportation facilitates economic growth, social connectedness, and opportunities for all residents.

Link to website:

<https://www.sandag.org/youthopportunitypass/>

Uses of Funds:

In response to the disproportionate public health impact and economic challenges resulting from the pandemic, this program has provided safe, accessible, and transportation at no-cost for youth aged 18 years and under in San Diego County.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought forward a magnitude of economic and social impacts for many families. Lower-income families who disproportionately rely on public transportation have been significantly impacted by the lack of reliable transportation. The priority population includes youth impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic identified by the California Healthy Places Index and in areas that are 60 percent or below the median income. Public transportation facilitates economic growth, social connectedness, and opportunities for all residents. Providing no-cost transportation to youth improves the quality of life for youth and advances the County's work toward a more equitable and inclusive region.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

The collaborative Youth Opportunity Pass (YOP) effort provides unlimited free transit to youth aged 18 years and under in San Diego County. The priority population

includes youth impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic identified by the California Healthy Places Index and in areas that are 60 percent or below the median income.

The YOP program is part of SANDAG’s larger Transit Equity Initiative formed based on recommendations from the SANDAG Regional Plan Social Equity Working Group (SEWG).

Community Engagement:

The Youth Opportunity Program is part of SANDAG’s larger Transit Equity Initiative formed based on recommendations from the SANDAG Regional Plan Social Equity Working Group (SEWG). SEWG is composed of 17 representatives from community-based organizations (CBOs) or community collaboratives serving underserved and underrepresented communities.

Use of Evidence:

This program does not meet the criteria for strong or moderate evidence. However, the No-Cost Transportation for Youth program was designed to serve those affected most by the pandemic and provides services to low-income youth residing in Health Equity Zip codes. This designation was created by utilizing Healthy Places Index scores and the California Department of Public Health-developed Vaccine Equity Metric at the census tract level to evaluate health outcomes locally and identify zip codes that had the least healthy community conditions in addition to having higher burden of COVID-19 (defined as a cumulative case rate at the time of at least 10,000 COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population).

Performance Report:

Youth Opportunity Pass Metrics:

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
Individual Youth Opportunity Passes Distributed	41,000	21,000
Total Rides Taken with Youth Opportunity Pass	7,650,000	6,800,000

Project 6b.2: No-Cost Transportation to Seniors

Funding Amount: \$1.5 million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.37, Economic Impact Assistance: Other

Project Overview:

This project provides no-cost transportation services to low-income adults aged 60 and over who reside within eligible health equity zip codes within the county. The program model includes rides upon request for each enrolled individual. Qualifying trips include medical appointments, errands, groceries, senior centers, and other activities including social gatherings. Services are provided through a contract with Jewish Family Service of San Diego.

Uses of Funds:

An unintended consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic was the exacerbation of socially isolated older adults due to stay-at-home orders that recommended that older adults remain at home due to higher risks of health complications if they contracted the virus. Due to these early pandemic response recommendations, many older adults became more socially isolated from friends, family, and the general community. Throughout the pandemic, older adults remained at home to safeguard their health, and lower income older adults residing in specific zip codes were impacted the hardest due to the lack of resources available to them in the recovery phase of the pandemic. Many older adults on fixed incomes were faced with increased costs of many things, including their transportation options to and from senior centers, grocery stores, medical centers, etc.

Due to these challenges, the No-Cost Transportation program for older adults was created to fund rides to the hardest hit pockets of our county. Seniors living within specific zip codes, identified as Health Equity zip codes, are eligible for up to 80 miles of rides per month to medical appointments, grocery stores, pharmacies, and social activities that improve their mental health and reduce social isolation. The Health Equity zip codes were selected as an eligibility component due to the residents of these zip codes being disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

The No-Cost Transportation for Older Adults program was strategically developed to tackle the health inequities faced during the pandemic within the socially isolated low-income older adults residing in zip codes that were hardest hit by the pandemic – those living in Health Equity Zip codes. This designation was created by utilizing Healthy Places Index scores and the California Department of Public Health-developed Vaccine Equity Metric at the census tract level to evaluate health outcomes locally, and identify zip codes that had the least healthy community conditions in

addition to having higher burden of COVID-19 (defined as a cumulative case rate at the time of at least 10,000 COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population).

Community Engagement:

The No-Cost Transportation for Seniors program collects feedback from program participants with customer satisfaction surveys administered by the program contractor, Jewish Family Service (JFS). Outreach is conducted in a variety of languages within the Health Equity Zip codes to promote the program to eligible low-income older adults.

Use of Evidence:

This program does not meet the criteria for strong or moderate evidence. However, the No-Cost Transportation for Older Adults program was designed to serve those affected most by the pandemic and provides services to low-income older adults residing in Health Equity Zip codes. This designation was created by utilizing Healthy Places Index scores and the California Department of Public Health-developed Vaccine Equity Metric at the census tract level to evaluate health outcomes locally, and identify zip codes that had the least healthy community conditions in addition to having higher burden of COVID-19 (defined as a cumulative case rate at the time of at least 10,000 COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population).

Performance Report:

Through June 2023, the contractor has enrolled 177 older adults into the no-cost transportation program, and provided 2,148 one way trips totaling over 14,334 miles of rides.

No-Cost Transportation for Older Adults Metrics:

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
Individuals Enrolled	177	177
One-Way Trips	2,148	2,148
Miles of Rides	14,334	14,334

Project 6c: Grant Program for Youth Sports and Youth Camps

Funding Amount: \$2 million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.37, Economic Impact Assistance: Other

Project Overview:

This project reduces financial barriers for San Diego County youth residents that would otherwise have limited opportunities to participate in youth sports and camps. The waiver program provides youth with the opportunity to participate in recreational sports or camps for free or at a reduced cost. This waiver program provides funding to external youth sports leagues and camp program providers who in turn reduce fees to youth participants. The program is also funding internal County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) programs to eliminate or reduce registration fees. Both internal and external youth programs consider two reimbursement levels, based on the organization's score in the California Healthy Places Index (HPI). The program is managed by DPR and directly benefits participants in youth sports and camps that take place in unincorporated San Diego County and at County-managed facilities.

Since the program launched in October 2021 and as of June 30, 2023, \$1,713,000 is being processed for eligible organizations/participants serving 21,044 youth. In addition, \$120,222 has been spent on staffing and administration of the program. DPR anticipates that the funding will be fully committed to qualified organizations by the end of June 2023. The program is anticipated to benefit over 20,000 youth.

Link to website: ARPA Youth Sports Grant Application ([sdparcs.org](https://www.sdparcs.org))
<https://www.sdparcs.org/content/sdparcs/en/news-events/news-stories/ARPAYouthSportsGrantApplication.html>

Uses of Funds:

Youth lost out on the opportunity to participate in sports and camps during the Covid-19 shutdowns and even after as their families struggled financially. The Youth Sports and Camps Waiver Program provides youth with the opportunity to participate in recreational sports or camps for free or at a reduced cost. It was designed to reduce financial barriers that could otherwise limit or prevent kids and teens from participating in these activities. The program also assists youth sports and camp providers since many organizations also realized financial losses during pandemic closures and restrictions.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

All San Diego youth, under age 18, are eligible to receive waived costs to participate in a sport, camp, or program of their choosing from participating organizations. The program is committing two-thirds of available funds to communities in HPI Quartiles

3 and 4, less “healthy” than HPI Quartiles 1 and 2. This ensures access for all youth while creating more opportunities for increased impact in less healthy communities.

Community Engagement:

DPR notified organizations of the grant opportunity through DPR and County social media platforms, DPR website, and directly via a comprehensive distribution list of youth sports and camps stakeholders. In addition, DPR worked BOS Offices to share out the information through their networks. Internal DPR programs were programs through signage at DPR facilities like community centers and sports parks, social media platforms, and in the digital DPR Program Guide that is distributed directly via a distribution list. The DPR website also includes a dedicated page for the program that outlines the process and includes FAQs and applications in the five threshold languages.

Use of Evidence: The Youth Sports and Camp Program uses the California Healthy Places Index (HPI) to evaluate and prioritize funding communities with greater needs. Waivers for registration fees of 100% or up to \$200 are provided for organizations in (HPI 3 & 4 lower healthy scores), and 50% or up to \$50 for organizations in (HPI 1 & 2 higher healthy scores). Two thirds of the overall funding is being committed to communities ranking HPI 3 & 4.

Performance Report:

Funds Committed & Anticipated Youth Served:

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
Funds Committed	\$1,713,000	\$1,075,992
Anticipated Youth Served	21,044	10,129

Project 7a: Child Care Workforce Investment

Funding Amount: \$10 million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.11, Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care

Project Overview:

This program is currently under development. Currently, the plan for this funding is to leverage existing funding within the San Diego Quality Preschool Initiative (SD-QPI) to create a pilot program in partnership with public universities, community colleges, San Diego Workforce Partnership, large family childcare providers and centers, and school districts. The program will provide professional development, job training and a retention stipend for new early educators joining the field in a model that compensates interns and mentors and offers scholarships for continuing education in child development for the existing and future workforce. Additionally, there are plans to support a cost estimation model project to understand the cost of providing childcare in various settings of program and at varying levels of quality.

Uses of Funds:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, families are experiencing additional challenges in finding childcare that meets their diverse needs. Additionally, San Diego County childcare providers were already struggling to fill vacant staff positions pre-pandemic. Staff turnover can be expensive for providers and detrimental to children's development and relationship with caregivers. Funds for this project will be used to support development of the child care workforce.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

The goals of the Workforce Investment Program (WIP) shall support the childcare industry countywide by increasing the skills, competencies, and the abilities of new and existing early educators. The program shall assist Early Childhood Education (ECE) professionals with obtaining Child Development Permits and/or a Degree in Child and Family Development (or equivalent). Additionally, WIP aims to provide access to job training, opportunities for professional development, and provide access to a retention stipend for enrolled providers. Furthermore, WIP shall provide a minimum number of hours of service to a minimum number of individuals enrolled in the program each year of the contract to support the development of their professional development plan. The program shall support 100% of participating providers with completion of a professional development plan to support achievement of a permit and/or higher education degree in Child and Family Development (or equivalent). The program will create access to an annual retention stipend program for participating providers that outlines an overview of the intent of the stipend, the application process, calculations for the stipend, eligibility criteria, and required tasks and responsibilities.

Community Engagement:

The program will involve a focused cross – sector collaboration with early care and education providers and community stakeholders, public institutions of higher education (i.e., universities / community colleges), school districts, and career development organizations. The goal will be to keep community needs and engagement at the forefront and leverage complementary and available resources. The aim is to support a workforce pipeline for new and existing childcare providers throughout the County of San Diego.

Use of Evidence:

WIP does not meet the criteria for moderate or strong evidence-based interventions. However, WIP was created considering local and national recommendations identified by the ACF Office of Child Care and the Administration of Children and Families that have published guidance on how best support the childcare industry and, specifically, the existing workforce and recruiting of new providers, as well as funding scholarships or practice-based learning that leads toward a credential or degree. This project is aligned with this guidance and, when deployed, will seek to ameliorate the shortage of childcare services brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Performance Report

The program has not yet launched. Data will be provided in future reports.

Project 7b: Child Care Bridge Program

Funding Amount: \$1.5 million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.11, Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care

Project Overview:

This project provides additional supports and removes barriers for parents currently involved with the Department of Child and Family Well-Being who are in the process of reunifying with their children. This program provides childcare navigation services and childcare vouchers to parents reunifying with children birth to 12 years of age for a period of up to six months until the child is successfully enrolled into long term subsidized childcare. Parents must be working or attending school to be eligible.

Uses of Funds:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, families are experiencing additional challenges in finding childcare that meets their diverse needs. Multiple material and economic hardships can overload families and increase their risk for child welfare involvement.

The County of San Diego is partnering with the YMCA to provide limited childcare vouchers to eligible families throughout all areas of San Diego County. This project aims to provide additional supports and mitigation of barriers for parents currently involved with Child Welfare Services who are in the process of reunifying with their children. Of further benefit, children residing in foster care receiving childcare services will be provided a trauma informed transition from the care of their caregiver to their parent by the potential use of the same childcare provider. The time-limited childcare voucher may be provided to parents with children birth to 12 years of age for a period of up to six months until the child is successfully enrolled into long term subsidized childcare.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

Families with open child welfare cases (mostly neglect-related) who receive home-based services with concrete supports including childcare, are less likely to experience a child maltreatment report compared to families who receive the program without any concrete supports. Furthermore, growing studies in this area also indicate that jurisdictions with more flexible childcare program policies regarding subsidies for child welfare supervised children have, on average, significantly fewer child removals than other jurisdictions. Of further benefit, children residing in foster care receiving childcare services will be provided a trauma informed transition from the care of their caregiver to their parent by the potential use of the same childcare provider.

Community Engagement:

This project receives feedback from program participants using online customer surveys administered by the program contractor, the YMCA of San Diego County. Feedback process is conducted in a variety of languages.

Use of Evidence:

This project does not meet guidelines for strong or moderate evidence; however, the Foster Care Bridge program helps to support resource families the moment when a child enters their care. When resource families have access to resources and sufficient financial funds, they can properly support the child in their care and provide the stability that helps children in foster care heal and build resilience in adulthood. Quality childcare is paramount to achieving that stability.

Performance Report:

Extended Child Care Bridge Program Vouchers Distributed and Families Served:

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
Number Of Vouchers Distributed*	3	3
Number Of Families Served*	1	1

*Three monthly vouchers were provided to one family for a child of one year of age.

Project 7c: Child Care Shared Services Alliance

Funding Amount: \$2 million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.11, Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care

Project Overview:

This program is currently under development. At this time, the plan for this program is to support San Diego's childcare supply and set providers up for success to support children and their families. In addition, it will provide them with the providers the flexibility to support their operations as they work on reopening and/or expanding their operations to serve more children.

This grant program will support the expansion of the existing First 5 San Diego grant received from First 5 CA - Shared Services Alliances (SSA) to support provider infrastructure needs. The grant is for \$250,000 and is slated to serve approximately 20 providers.

Uses of Funds:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, families are experiencing additional challenges in finding childcare that meets their diverse needs. Funds for this project will be used to support the capacity and infrastructure of childcare providers.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

The goals of the program shall aim to support the targeted providers countywide to increase and strengthen provider capacity by bolstering the sustainability of their childcare business. The program shall connect and/or provide access to participating providers with a network of business supports to ensure the efficiency, resiliency, and viability of their business. The program will overall, increase enrollment capacity, increase fee collection, increase revenue generation, increase business efficiencies, increase business infrastructure, and increase access to a technology platform.

The program outcomes shall provide a minimum number of hours of service to a minimum number of providers enrolled into the SSA each contract year. This is to support their business resiliency and efficiency. The program shall support 100% of participating providers with completion of either the Business Administration Scale (BAS) for FCC homes and the Program Administration Scale (PAS) for childcare centers. The program shall support 100% of participating providers with completion of a provider engagement plan. The program shall provide a minimum number of hours of service every month to a minimum number of providers enrolled into the SSA each contract year to support completion of their goals in areas of full enrollment, full fee collection, and revenue covers per-child cost.

Community Engagement:

The program will coordinate with existing County programs and initiatives such as the First 5 San Diego SSA Pilot Program, First 5 San Diego Learn Well Initiative and Quality Counts CA Consortium to provide targeted community outreach and advertisements about the program.

The program will include completion of either a Business or Program Administration Scale (BAS) annually with each participating provider and create a provider engagement plan with identified goals. Foundational to participation in the SSA will be the goal of strengthening the components of the Iron Triangle, which support achieving full enrollment, full fee collection, and revenues covered per child.

Use of Evidence:

Although this project does not meet the criteria for moderate or strong evidence-based interventions, the SSA framework is a best practice model that has been recognized by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), the Office of Head Start, as well as First 5 CA Commission. ACF identified the shared services model in letter dated October 13, 2021 to invest available ARPA funds. Additionally, F5CA recently funded the SSA pilot with a project goal to expand the supply of quality early learning and care programs where they are most needed, reduce the burdens on families as they access services, and equitably compensate, train, and support providers through an investment in sustainable Shared Services Alliance Networks.

The goals of the program shall aim to support the targeted providers countywide to increase and strengthen provider capacity by bolstering the sustainability of their childcare business and enhancing business resilience. The program shall connect and/or provide access to participating providers with a network of business supports to ensure the efficiency, resiliency, and viability of their business. The program will overall, increase enrollment capacity, increase fee collection, increase revenue generation, increase business efficiencies, increase business infrastructure, increase access to a technology platform and build a community of connectedness as providers in the region.

Performance Report

Program has not yet launched. Data will be provided in future reports.

Project 7d: Child Care Facility Development

Funding Amount: \$2 million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.11, Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care

Project Overview:

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, access to childcare was identified as a major challenge for many workers, especially those who were disproportionately affected. As a result, the County of San Diego allocated a portion of ARPA funds to explore the ability to develop a childcare facility.

Uses of Funds:

This program is still in development; updates will be provided in future reports.

Labor Practices:

This program is still in development; updates will be provided in future reports.

Use of Evidence:

This program is still in development; updates will be provided in future reports.

Performance Report:

This program is still in development and metrics will be reported in future reports.

Project 8b: Innovation in Foster Care: Cash Transfer Program for Youth and At-Risk Families

Funding Amount: \$7.5 million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.3, Household Assistance: Cash Transfers

Project Overview:

This program is intended to increase resiliency in impacted communities, promote family strengthening, prevent child maltreatment, and reduce long-term public costs associated with the care of youth in the foster care system. The program will serve up to 485 families with children ages 0 to 17 years who are at risk of entering foster care, particularly those disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and communities of color with higher rates of poverty. Eligible families will receive monthly income subsidies of \$500 for up to two years and have access to equitable opportunities to participate in supportive services.

A randomized control trial evaluation of the program will follow participating families during the two years of receiving cash disbursements, and up to two years after, to determine the sustainability of protective factors, the resiliency of the program, and the effectiveness of guaranteed income as a means of reducing the risk for child abuse and neglect.

The County contracted with Jewish Family Service to administer the program and the first funding will be distributed to families on July 1, 2023. Information on the program can be found here: <https://www.jfssd.org/our-services/economic-mobility/family-income-for-empowerment-program/>

Uses of Funds:

The funds will be used to provide economic assistance to support the basic needs of families with children ages 0 to 17 years who are at risk of entering foster care, particularly those disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and communities of color with higher rates of poverty. Program design also includes a focus on communities within the 39 Health Equity Zip codes of San Diego disproportionately affected by COVID 19, California Health Places Index, and/or zip codes with high rates of child abuse referrals.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

Eligible families must have at least 1 child under 18 at risk of entering foster care, an inconclusive or referral for allegations of neglect, physical abuse, or emotional abuse and no open case with CWS, and a household with an annual income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Furthermore, the program design includes a focus on communities within the 39 Health Equity Zip codes of San Diego

disproportionately affected by COVID 19, California Health Places Index, and/or zip codes with high rates of child abuse referrals.

Use of Evidence:

Does not meet guidelines for strong or moderate evidence, however a program evaluation is being conducted. A randomized control trial evaluation will follow participating families during the two years of receiving cash disbursements and up to two years afterwards to determine the sustainability of protective factors, resiliency, and the effectiveness of guaranteed income as a means of reducing the risk for child abuse and neglect.

Performance Report:

Cash disbursements to families will not begin until July 2023. Future reports will include metrics pertaining to cash disbursements.

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
Total Referrals/Potential Applicants to 'Family Income for Empowerment'	143	143

Project 9a: Coordinated Eviction Prevention Program

Funding Amount: \$3.6 million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.2, Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid

Project Overview:

The Coordinated Eviction Prevention System (CEPS) aims to reduce negative economic impacts by providing countywide eviction prevention services for households with extremely low incomes. Keeping people in their homes and preventing episodes of homelessness helps reduce negative public health impacts. CEPS will use data and targeted outreach activities to identify households at-risk of being evicted. Services to include providing tailored support to households facing the threat of eviction with the goal of preventing unnecessary evictions, including preventing evictions from untraditional tenant situations.

The program will use a collaborative approach to provide coordinated eviction prevention services, including tenant support, tenant and landlord education, financial supports, case management, system navigation, rehousing support, and connections to services, such as legal, mediation and conflict resolution, benefits, money management, workforce opportunities, behavioral health, and other supportive services to prevent unnecessary evictions countywide. A key component of this program will be helping to establish and align consistent outcome measures across the eviction prevention system.

Uses of Funds:

Given the long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, it's more important than ever to keep people in their homes, prevent unnecessary evictions and displacements, and address housing instability. The purpose the Coordinated Eviction Prevention program is to prevent unnecessary evictions by developing a collaborative system across the region. The program will strengthen tenant education and support resources, work against illegal harassment, prevent displacement and evictions and provide communication support to renter and landlords with the goal of reaching positive outcomes in housing disputes. Funding will aid low-income households, minimize economic impact by preventing evictions, and reduce public health risks. The program unites stakeholders and service providers, and leverages resources to coordinate services and prevent duplication.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

Data collected through the Regional Taskforce on Homelessness, direct program outcomes and persons experiencing homelessness, has made it clear that the incidence of Black, Native Americans and other persons of color experiencing homelessness mirrors the disparities found at the broader community levels. The

most recent Point-in-Time Count (2022) reported 8,427 individuals identifying living on the streets or in shelters throughout San Diego County. People of color are disproportionately impacted among those experiencing homelessness, with 24% identifying as Black or African American which is roughly five times the proportion of African Americans in the region; 3% identify as American Indian or Alaska Native, which is nearly three times the proportion in the region.

The CEPS program utilizes an equity lens, and a quantitative and qualitative data-driven approach, to ensure a positive impact on equity-seeking groups including, Black, Indigenous, People of color (BIPOC), women, people with disabilities, immigrants, youth, and the LGBTQ community. The contractor uses a racial equity framework to make certain the services provided are reaching the desired households and not reinforcing existing inequity. Contractor also conducts routine process and program monitoring to ensure program is having its desired impact. Additionally, HSEC-OHS has developed an equity tool that is in the process of being implemented across all programs. The intent is to measure access to services and outcomes of services by race and ethnicity to indicate if different racial and ethnic groups are receiving services proportionate to their prevalence in the homeless system and to ensure that any disparities are addressed. Phase I of this tool measuring access to services will be completed by June 2023. Data will be collected and reviewed quarterly.

Through the creation of a coordinated eviction prevention system that unites alliances within existing stakeholders and community service providers, the contractor ensures receiving enough referrals to serve a minimum of 200 households annually to reduce the number of people who become homeless due to unnecessary evictions. Contractor coordinates services across multiple systems and works collaboratively across all sectors to leverage resources and avoid duplication of services. CEPS countywide eviction prevention services are prioritized to households with Extremely Low Incomes (ELI), defined as those whose incomes are at or below 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI) for San Diego County. In addition, among households with ELI, those that are a particularly high-risk of eviction and adverse outcomes if they were to experience homelessness (i.e., medically fragile, disabilities, chronic health conditions, etc.) are further prioritized. Services are provided Countywide with a focus on neighborhoods identified as being at a higher risk of evictions, displacements, and long-term poverty using the Housing Precarity Risk Model (HPRM) and other local data, such as the San Diego County Sheriff's Department Writ Unit.

Use of Evidence:

This program does not meet the criteria of moderate or strong evidence-based interventions. However, the preliminary evidence below has informed the design and implementation of this project. The program's main focus is to assist vulnerable populations prevent evictions as a result of the economic challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moderate Evidence Base:

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Eviction Prevention in the Community Program	Ecker, J., Holden, S., & Schwan, K. (2018). An Evaluation of the Eviction Prevention in the Community (EPIC) Program. Toronto, ON: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press. EPIC Summary Report (toronto.ca)	EPIC was a one-year pilot project that provided wrap around eviction prevention services to help tenants facing imminent risk of eviction using a blended model of direct and contracted community agency service delivery. All agencies employed at least two EPIC workers who provided rapid short-term case management including financial support, mediation, case management, mental health supports, and referrals to follow-up support systems.	Non-Experimental
Designing for Housing Stability: Best Practices for Court-Based and Court-Adjacent Eviction Prevention/or Diversion Programs	Pantin-Parrish, P., (2021). Designing for Housing Stability: Best Practices for Court-Based and Court-Adjacent Eviction Prevention/or Diversion Programs. American Bar Association. Report: Designing for Housing Stability: Best Practices for Court-Based and Court-Adjacent Eviction Prevention and/or Diversion Programs (Harvard Negotiation & Mediation Clinical Program and American Bar Association 2021) SRLN	The goal of this study was to understand what eviction prevention and/or diversion programs in the US can help reduce filings and evictions and enhance housing stability. Findings of the study helped develop a checklist of considerations for any eviction prevention and/or diversion program.	Non-Experimental
Preventing Eviction: Systems change to support families in crisis- Ramsey County Housing Court Clinic	Preventing Eviction: Systems change to support families in crisis. (June 16, 2020). https://www.fhfund.org/news-preventing-eviction-systems-change-to-support-families-in-crisis/	In 2018, Family Housing Fund initiated the launch of the Ramsey County Housing Court Clinic in partnership with community organizations. The Clinic implemented changes to court processes to provide improved and expanded resources and services to the community members facing housing instability.	Non-Experimental

Rent Relief and Eviction Assistance Continue to Be Critical	Pagaduan, J., (November 9, 2021). Millions of Americans Are Housing Insecure: Rent Relief and Eviction Assistance Continue to Be Critical. National Alliance to End Homelessness-Homelessness Research Institute. Millions of Americans Are Housing Insecure: Rent Relief and Eviction Assistance Continue to Be Critical - National Alliance to End Homelessness	The US Census Bureau has conducted bi-monthly surveys on the effects of the coronavirus pandemic and the responses indicated nearly half of adult renters face evictions within the next two months (3.7 million people). Additionally, 7.7 million adults indicated they were behind on rent. Federal COVID relief measures and other COVID relief services have been shown to significantly help low-income households, who are at most risk of homelessness, remain financially stable.	Non-Experimental
The Effects of Eviction on Low-Income Households	Collison, R., Reed, D., (December 2018). The Effects of Eviction on Low-Income Households. New York University, Wagner School of Public Service. The Effects of Evictions on Low-Income Households (nyu.edu)	This study assembled novel data linking individuals from housing court cases in New York City to administrative data and leverage the random assignment of cases to courtrooms to estimate the causal effect of evictions on homelessness, health, earnings, employment, and public assistance receipt.	Experimental

Performance Report:

Part I: Process Evaluation

Key metrics for CEPS program are outlined in the following table:

Measure	Definition/Instrument	Data Type	Data Collection Method
Community Collaborations	List of community-based organizations acting as trusted partners in disseminating tenant education resources	Quantitative	MOA/MOUs
Legal Workshops, Seminars and Outreach Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Date of the workshop/event o Location of the workshop/event 	Quantitative & Qualitative	Attendance records

Screenings, Referrals and Enrollments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Households screened and scores of all screenings completed. o Households referred to the program, the date of the referral, the date the household was contacted and reasons for non-enrollment for each household who was referred but not enroll into the program, as well as households that exited the program. 	Quantitative & Qualitative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Screening tools o Referral records o Enrollment records
Demographics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, participants who are pregnant, monthly income, and household composition to include dependents and their ages. Also included factors such as past evictions, episodes of homelessness, and criminal justice involvement. 	Quantitative	Enrollment records
Housing stabilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Housing stabilization status for all enrolled households at enrollment and at discharge o Reasons for housing instability for enrolled households 	Quantitative & Qualitative	Monthly Progress Report
Eviction metrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Households who received an “at fault” eviction notice and the reason for the eviction notice. o Households who received a “not-at fault” eviction notice, the reason for the eviction and if the eviction is legal or illegal. o Households who were evicted and the reason for the eviction, as well as rehousing services. 	Quantitative	Monthly Progress Report
Connections to Community Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Each Coordinated Eviction Prevention System service provided per enrolled household and a list of each service provided. Services include tenant support, landlord support, case management, mediation/conflict resolution, self-sufficiency services, and financial support. 	Quantitative	Monthly Progress Report
Client Satisfaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Timeliness of services, overall satisfaction, respect, trust, rapport, challenges/barriers to participation/engagement, as well as additional comments, or recommendations for future program planning 	Quantitative & Qualitative	Customer Satisfaction Survey

Part 2: Impact Evaluation

Key metrics for CEPS program are outlined in the following table:

Instrument	Definition/Instrument	Data Type	Data Collection Method
Community Collaborations	Number of physical locations as well as other access points (such as websites) that disseminate tenant education resources	Quantitative	MOA/MOUs
Legal Workshops, Seminars and Outreach Events	Number of households reached at the workshop/event	Quantitative & Qualitative	Attendance records
Demographics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To ensure equity, demographic makeup of the enrolled households closely mirrors the demographic makeup of households that received eviction notices in the recent past in San Diego County ○ Demographics of households that end up entering the homeless system 	Quantitative	Enrollment records
Housing stabilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of households whose housing is no longer at risk at time of discharge ○ Number of households that avoided homelessness 	Quantitative & Qualitative	Monthly Progress Report
Eviction metrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of evictions notices issued in San Diego County based on eviction data in high eviction zip codes compared to previous years ○ Number of households that avoided receiving an eviction notice 	Quantitative	Monthly Progress Report
Connections to Community Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of households capable of fully paying for their housing at time discharge ○ Households and situations that benefit the most from these interventions ○ Interventions that make the most impact 	Quantitative	Monthly Progress Report

This program is in development and has not yet begun providing services. Data will be reported in future reports.

Project 9b: Tenant Legal Services

Funding Amount: \$10 million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.2, Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid

Project Overview:

The COVID 19 pandemic has created a great deal of economic uncertainty and has affected lower income families with housing needs. Through an existing contract with Legal Aid Society of San Diego (LASSD), the Tenant Legal Services Program (TSLP) provides eviction counseling and outreach/prevention legal services for tenants and landlords in financial need. As part of the County ARPA Framework, approximately \$10 million has been allocated to fund the current program for one year and then to amend the contract and expand services over an additional two years.

Uses of Funds:

Funds for this project directly supports lower income families, many of whom faced additional economic uncertainty during, and as a result of, the COVID-19 pandemic. The TSLP employs a toll-free number as well as a website to allow persons to apply for tenant legal services. Contractor has considerable experience in working with local government agencies to communicate, collaborate, problem solve, and work towards a common purpose.

The TLSP provides funding for legal services, specifically those individuals and families facing or at risk of eviction. Funding pays for lawyers who provide a wide range of legal services including negotiations, legal representation in court and outside of court, representation in affirmative cases to protect tenant's legal rights, case management services and education and outreach. Additionally, funding is provided for a flexible funds budget item which helps cover support services such as courthouse parking, application fees, security deposits, storage and moving costs.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

LASSD is committed to equity and inclusion as both an employer and a service provider. They provide their staff with trauma-informed training, as well as training on implicit bias. LASSD strives to recruit and retain qualified staff that are representative of the community it serves, and to address the needs of historically disenfranchised and underserved populations. LASSD has staff that speak threshold languages for San Diego County, including proposed project staff that are fluent in Spanish and conversant in Farsi. In addition, they contract with a translation service that provides 24/7 service in all languages, ensuring that all clients can access their services. LASSD enlists the services of its case managers to provide services in the field for those clients who would otherwise not have ready access due to disability, childcare, transportation, or technology barriers.

LASSD has experienced staff who are responsible for an optimized case management system that reports accurate programmatic data. LASSD ensures services are available and responsive to the needs of the populations in each of the six County of San Diego/ Health and Human Services regions by analyzing data regarding client demographics and the historical demand for various types of housing-related services and basing their staffing plan on the projected needs of clients during the contract period. They also periodically gather and analyze data on services, including the results of client satisfaction surveys, throughout the contract period and adjust services and staffing as needed.

Community Engagement:

LASSD coordinates and provides in-person and/or remote services at various community locations on specific days and times, including legal clinics. LASSD engages in outreach and education to inform the public about program services by posting about available services on its website, as well as sharing information about new programs and services with partner organizations and on HousingHelpSD.org. LASSD participates in media interviews regarding program services and/or substantive housing updates in English and/or Spanish upon request. Educational materials such as FAQs regarding significant changes in laws affecting tenants have been created and made available on their website in both English and Spanish. Educational presentations and trainings on specific housing-related topics are provided upon request from government agencies, partner organizations, and tenant groups; and, if open to the public, these trainings will be advertised on the events page of LASSD’s website. In the wake of the pandemic, LASSD has shifted to providing most of its education and outreach virtually, but they will provide in-person education and outreach on a case-by-case basis when it is safe and appropriate to do so. LASSD provides applicants, clients, and other educational participants with appropriate referrals to other resources, including emergency rental assistance programs and other assistance programs, as well as to partner organizations. Referrals are made to HousingHelpSD.org for residents to be able to register for weekly Know Your Rights Workshops hosted by Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (“ACCE”) and for other educational events hosted by Eviction Prevention Collaborative (“EPC”) member orgs).

Use of Evidence:

This program does not meet the criteria of strong or moderate evidence-based interventions. However, providing legal services for tenants and landlords in financial need is a widely accepted best practice in supporting housing stability. The provision of these services is paramount in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Performance Report:

Number of Households Served in Tenant Legal Services Program:

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
Number of Households Served*	3,329	1,665

*This category represents all households receiving eviction prevention services and legal presentation. The program did not focus on preserving or developing affordable housing units.

Projects 10a.1 & 10a.2 : Small Business Stimulus Program (Non-Profits & Small Businesses)

Funding Amount: \$33 million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.29, Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship, 2.34, Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview:

This program provides economic assistance to help small businesses and nonprofit entities impacted by COVID-19. Funds awarded to cover costs related to:

- Innovation to promote outdoor business to protect employee and public health.
- Payroll/employee retention or supporting employees, including but not limited to Workers Comp Insurance premium and Unemployment Insurance premium increases related to COVID-19, employee paid leave due to COVID-19 illness.
- Purchase of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to protect employee and public health and efforts to sanitize the business environment.
- Rent or mortgage payments (excluding property tax payments).
- Addressing temporary COVID-19 related restrictions on business activity.
- Increasing technology capacity to enable alternative work forms.
- Creating new marketing campaigns or business plans.
- Paying vendor invoices.
- Facility cleaning/restoration.
- Costs associated with additional training or virtual learning to implement COVID-19 safety measures.
- Expenses required to plan for a safe reopening such as expert assessments and/or to conduct research or market surveys.

The funding for this program is divided equally among the County's five Supervisorial District offices for distribution to qualified small businesses and non-profit organizations. Applicants must be able to demonstrate their qualifications through an online application process. After a Board office selects an applicant for the award, the applicant will submit a signed grant agreement and then receive a payment from the County's Auditor & Controller. The Office of Financial Planning monitors the agreement for submission of required expenditure documentation within the required timeframe. The program will continue until all funds are distributed, all documentation is received, and all grant terms are satisfactorily met. In accordance with ARPA provisions, qualifying expenditures must be incurred no later than December 31, 2024. Given the scope of the program, County staff administrative duties may be supplemented by third party services if necessary.

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/stimulusgrant.html>

Uses of Funds:

The funding provides economic assistance to help business and non-profit entities impacted by COVID-19 to cover qualifying costs.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

In addition to the community engagement detailed in the Community Engagement Section of this report, the Board of Supervisor Offices hosts in-person and Zoom community forums several times throughout the year and in different communities within their respective jurisdictions to educate potential grant applicants on eligibility requirements and appropriate use of grant funds. Direct contact person, phone number and email address for each district are posted on the grant application landing page as well as a translation tool. County Language Services are also available for additional assistance.

Community Engagement:

In addition to the community engagement detailed in the Community Engagement Section of this report, Board of Supervisor Offices hosts in-person and Zoom community forums several times throughout the year and in different communities within their respective jurisdictions to educate potential grant applicants on eligibility requirements and appropriate use of grant funds. Direct contact person, phone number and email address for each district are posted on the grant application landing page as well as a translation tool. County Language Services are also available for additional assistance.

Performance Report:

For Profit Businesses:

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
Number of Awardees	2,907	354
Total Funds Awarded	\$21,793,307	\$3,832,164

Non-Profit Businesses:

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
Number of Awardees	319	49
Total Funds Awarded	\$6,035,947	\$1,233,733

Projects 10b.1 & 10b.2: Restaurant Fee Waivers (For-Profit & Non-Profit)

Funding Amount: \$7 million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.29, Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship, 2.34, Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview:

These funds were used to waive the annual health permit fees for restaurants and bars for FY 2021-2022. Restaurant and food facilities health permit renewal fees were assessed annually in the month that the permit was originally issued by the Department of Environmental Health and Quality (DEHQ). Throughout the fiscal year, fee waivers were automatically applied to restaurants in the month that their permit was renewed. Upon permit renewal, restaurants saved between \$753-\$1,930 depending on the type of permit they hold.

Uses of Funds:

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the lives of individuals, businesses, and communities across San Diego County. Restaurants and the food-service industry contribute to the local economy and culture providing a commonality for people centered around food and nourishment. Restaurants are essential businesses, and many had to make substantial changes to their business model and service delivery, reduce operating hours and/or workforce, or close due to the impact of the COVID-19 statewide restrictions.

Performance Report:

Restaurant Permits Waived (For-Profit):

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
Total Restaurant Permits Waived	8,479	N/A
Total Amounts Waived	\$6,821,989	N/A

Restaurant Permits Waived (Non-Profit):

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
Total Restaurant Permits Waived	250	N/A
Total Amounts Waived	\$96,276	N/A

Please note that program funds were depleted as of June 30, 2022. Therefore, there were no awards for the term July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023.

Projects 10c.1 & 10c.2: Special Event Fee Waiver (For-Profit & Non-Profits)

Funding Amount: \$1.5 million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.29, Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship, 2.34, Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview:

These funds were used to waive the annual permit fees for special events (County Park rental fee permits and temporary food event permits) for FY 2021-2022. The base rental fees range from \$200 to \$64,100 depending on the facility, the areas rented, and the duration of the rental.

Link to website: <http://www.sdcountytempevents.org>

Uses of Funds:

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the lives of individuals, businesses, and communities across San Diego County. Events create meaningful experiences for the community and celebrate our humanity. The event industry employs thousands of event professionals in San Diego County, many of whom had become unemployed, and/or on the brink of needing to close their businesses. Beyond event planners and producers, the impact of event cancellations due to the pandemic has deeply impacted rental companies, caterers, staging companies, security providers, food, and beverage providers and more.

Community Engagement:

In addition to the community engagement detailed in the Community Engagement Section of this report, Permittees were notified via email through GovDelivery, during stakeholder outreach sessions during the annual cost recovery proposal and program update meetings, and through staff during routine inspections. Information was also provided online at <http://www.sdcountytempevents.org>.

Performance Report

Special Event Permits Waived (For-Profit):

	July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
For-Profit Special Event Permits for Organizers, Vendors, And Space at County Parks	2,749	N/A
Total Dollar Amount Waived	\$1,403,364	N/A

Special Event Permits Waived (Non-Profit):

	July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
Non-Profit Special Event Permits for Organizers, Vendors, And Space at County Parks	162	N/A
Total Dollar Amount Waived	\$71,987	N/A

Please note that program funds were depleted as of June 30, 2022. Therefore, there were no awards for the term July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023.

Project 10d.2: Arts & Culture (Augment Community Enhancement Funds)

Funding Amount: \$5 million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34, Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview:

The County's existing Community Enhancement (CE) program funds cultural activities, museums, visitor and convention bureaus, economic development councils, and other similar institutions/organizations, including County programs and projects, which promote and generate tourism and/or economic development within San Diego County. Funds were used to augment this program, targeted toward arts and culture organizations.

Uses of Funds:

These funds aim to mitigate financial hardships due to the pandemic, for public health measures, and to respond to negative economic impact for the communities these organizations serve. Funds are used to stimulate tourism, promote economic growth, create jobs, and improve the overall quality of life. Qualifying non-profit entities can put their funding to use through community activities that stimulate economic growth. Each of the County's five Supervisorial Board offices are allocated an equal share of the funding and is given the responsibility for selecting qualified organizations. The Office of Economic Development and Government Affairs is responsible for collecting and retaining the resulting grant agreements and required expenditure documentation. Grant payments are issued by the Auditor & Controller.

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/communitygrants.html>

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

The CE program furthers the County's equity strategy by helping communities hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. In funding community activities that foster economic activity and growth, the CE program is ensuring the vibrancy of cultural and artistic organizations. The County operates this program with an equity lens evidenced by focusing efforts on disproportionately impacted communities, as well as supporting the community organizations that operate therein. Equitable access and dissemination of the program across these communities is achieved through public virtual meetings and community forums across jurisdictions, all with language services for those who need them.

Community Engagement:

Board of Supervisor Offices hosts in-person and Zoom community forums several times throughout the year and in different communities within their respective jurisdictions to educate potential grant applicants on eligibility requirements and appropriate use of grant funds. Direct contact person, phone number and email

address for each district are posted on the grant application landing page as well as a translation tool. County Language Services are also available for additional assistance. Grant recipients must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with their grant funding. Documentation includes but is not limited to reopening plans, upgraded ventilation systems and re-establishing programs and resources that operated and decreased capacity or were completely paused during COVID-19.

Performance Report:

CE ARPA Awards:

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
Number of Awardees	149	129
Amount of Funds Awarded	\$4,265,867	\$3,846,367

Project 10e: Rental Assistance for Small Landlords With no Other Source of Rental Assistance

Funding Amount: \$5 million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.29, Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship

Project Overview:

The County is currently administering an Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) with State and Treasury allocations, to provide financial support to low-income renters to prevent evictions and housing instability. While there are policies in place to help renters, landlords have also been financially burdened by the pandemic. Due to the COVID impacts on housing, the County has expanded ERAP to assist small-scale, independent, property owners who are experiencing significant rental payment shortfalls from their tenants.

The County's Rental Assistance for Small Landlords (RASL) aims to help small landlords that have not been able to access federal, state, or local financial assistance for loss of rental income. RASL is available to landlords that operate less than five rental units and have at least three months in rental arrears per request. The County will compensate eligible landlords for unpaid arrears accumulated from April 2020, for a maximum award amount of \$15,000 per unit. RASL can also assist landlords that have been left with unpaid rent by former tenants during this period.

The County built the application and administrative portal. As of September 1, 2021, RASL was opened for applications and on May 27, 2022, the application portal closed. Applications were selected at random utilizing a lottery system.

Link to website: <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/sdhcd/community-development/RASL.html>

Uses of Funds:

These program funds assist landlords who are not able to access any other source of governmental COVID-19 financial assistance that would compensate for lost rental income, including local rental assistance programs developed by the County and incorporated cities.

The County will compensate rental arrears accumulated from April 2020 to the eligible property owner/landlord. RASL can also assist landlords that have been left with unpaid rent by former tenants during this period. Recipients must have no more than five units of rental housing, including personal property, business-owned property or property units held within a Trust. Eligible units must have at least a minimum of three months of past due rent.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

The County conducted extensive outreach to ensure landlords across the San Diego region are informed about the program and help ensure equitable outcome. The County serves landlords residing in the County's jurisdiction whose rental properties are also located in the County's jurisdiction. The jurisdiction of the County includes the cities of Carlsbad, Chula Vista, Coronado, Del Mar, El Cajon, Encinitas, Escondido, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, National City, Oceanside, Poway, San Diego, San Marcos, Santee, Solana Beach, Vista, and the unincorporated areas of San Diego. The County conducted culturally and linguistically appropriate COVID outreach through various methods, such as:

- E-Flyer Distribution through community sectors, Southern California Rental Housing Association, and the County's distribution lists. Flyers will be translated into several languages.
- Social Media Posts
- Email Blast
- Landlord Webinars

The County is proud to serve our diverse customers who are from a range of cultural groups and identities. The County is committed to using a positive approach to provide customers services in a culturally competent manner. The County will treat all applicants equally, providing the same opportunity to access services, regardless of family characteristics and background. The County will fully comply with all federal, state, and local nondiscrimination laws. The County has committed to a robust communication plan that informs customers of their options to apply for SLFR services. Customers had the ability to access online applications, fill out in person applications and applications by phone if they chose to utilize the customer service phone line. There are no differences in levels of access to benefits and services across groups. The application was streamlined to ask a minimal amount number of questions and take advantage of the self-certification flexibilities allowed.

The application translated into several languages including English, Spanish, Tagalog, Arabic, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Somali, Farsi, and Swahili. All flyers and FAQs frequently asked questions were also translated and applicants with limited internet access or that needed additional language support could call and speak to a representative. How-to videos were developed in English and Spanish and six community-based organizations within the region were available to help those who needed additional assistance with completing applications or gathering eligibility documentation.

Community Engagement:

To ensure the diverse population comprehends the requirements and processes of the program, notices sent to the clients are translated into Spanish, Arabic, Vietnamese, Tagalog, and Mandarin. The County has also partnered with 2-1-1 and several Community Based Organizations (CBO) who assisted clients in completing and submitting applications for various County Programs.

There are many ways the County receives and captures diverse feedback from constituents, CBOs and the communities themselves. Clients were provided feedback and input from the Customer Experience Surveys. The survey allowed clients to provide a rating of their experience, it captures if the County representative was helpful, knowledgeable, attentive, respectful, and timely. The survey also captured the client’s general comments/feedback. The submitted surveys were reviewed as it provides in depth-knowledge of how the customer feels about the services and their experience. The surveys provide an insight into customer’s perspective which in turn provides awareness. These surveys contribute greatly to decision making.

Landlords had an opportunity to provide feedback and input twice a month by participating in the County’s Landlord Webinar, which are now held quarterly. The goal of the Landlord Webinars is to emphasize the benefits of participating in the County’s programs. Landlords were engaged and encouraged to ask questions. Landlords are asked to complete a survey to capture feedback and suggestions for improvement. The suggestions for improvement are considered and are shared with both the County’s management team and staff.

The County meet regularly with community partners to get feedback on process improvements. These meetings were opportunities for every member to exchange ideas and discuss objectives. The feedback shared helped prevent potential issues from occurring and to resolve any barriers customers may have encountered.

Performance Report:

The key performance indicators that are tracked for this program are number of applications submitted for review to the County, as well as the requested amount and number of rental properties for those applications. The County has also tracked the applications selected from the lottery and assigned for review. The key outcome to track for assigned application are eligibility review – an application was determined to be either Not Eligible or Awarded. A reason for the application not being eligible will also be captured. Each application that received assistance had a total number of households (maximum of 5) and total award amount. This aggregate up to a total award amount per landlord. Characteristics of the landlords were captured at application (gender, race, ethnicity) allowing the outcomes to be disaggregated at those levels.

Rental Assistance for Small Landlords Metrics:

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
Number of Households Assisted	372	42
Total Amounts Awarded	4,643,340.99	449,233.77

Project 10f: Security Deposit Assistance Program

Funding Amount: \$4 million

Project Expenditure Category: 2.2, Household Assistance: Security Deposit

Project Overview:

The County of San Diego's (County) Security Deposit Assistance Program (SDAP) helps eligible county residents with a security deposit payment. The program provides one-time payment assistance for renters unable to pay for a security deposit through a security deposit voucher program. To be eligible, households must reside within San Diego County and household income must be at or below 120% of the Area Median Income. The security deposit cannot exceed two months' rent for a maximum award amount of \$7,000. Program recipients will be provided a voucher. The initial term of the voucher will be at least 90 days; however, a one-time 60-day extension may be requested if the household has not located a unit (for a maximum total of up to 150 days). The security deposit will be paid directly to their new landlord. This program is aimed to assist low- or moderate-income households who have experienced negative economic impacts resulting from the pandemic.

Application portal opened on September 3rd, 2021, allowing residents of San Diego County to apply for SDAP. The portal closed on October 1, 2022. Applicants were able to apply through [County of San Diego COVID-19 Security Deposit Assistance Program \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov)

Use of Funds:

Funds for SDAP provide funding for security deposits to eligible county residents who are facing negative economic impacts due to COVID-19. Eligible households that are relocating and need security deposit assistance may be awarded up to two months' rent, for a maximum award amount of \$7,000. As of May 2023, SDAP awarded \$3.1 million and has assisted 1,162 households.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

The County conduct extensive outreach to ensure residents across the San Diego region were informed about the program to support equitable outcomes. The County serve households residing in the County's jurisdiction.

The jurisdiction of the County includes the cities of Carlsbad, Chula Vista, Coronado, Del Mar, El Cajon, Encinitas, Escondido, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, National City, Oceanside, Poway, San Diego, San Marcos, Santee, Solana Beach, Vista, and the unincorporated areas of San Diego.

In support of federal and State Fair Housing laws that were created to protect people from being discriminated against when renting or buying a home, the Department of Housing and Community Development operates the San Diego Urban County Fair

Housing Program, which includes fair housing education and outreach, a fair housing marketing program, fair housing testing, fair housing counseling, and maintenance of a hotline for fair housing complaints.

The County worked with the community sectors that were stood up to support the COVID response. The County conducted culturally and linguistically appropriate COVID outreach through various methods, such as:

- E-Flyer Distribution through community sectors, Southern California Rental Housing Association and the County's distribution lists. Flyers will be translated into several languages.
- Social Media Posts
- Email Blast
- Landlord Webinars

The County is proud to serve our diverse customers who are from a range of cultural groups and identities. The County is committed to using a positive approach to provide customers services in a culturally competent manner. The County will treat all applicants equally, providing the same opportunity to access services, regardless of family characteristics and background. The County will fully comply with all federal, state, and local nondiscrimination laws.

The County's commitment to valuing diversity and practicing inclusion. This commitment is reflected in the County's offerings to promote diversity and inclusion through its diverse workforce, strategic plans, policies, collaborative opportunities, trainings, and other resources. Fostering an inclusive workplace enables employees to share their unique identities and perspectives. The County upholds the highest standards of equal opportunity and nondiscriminatory practices in all County activities.

The County has committed to a robust communication plan that informs customers of their options to apply for services. Customers had the ability to access online applications, could complete in person applications and had the ability to apply via phone if they choose to utilize the customer service phone line.

There are no differences in levels of access to benefits and services across groups. The application was streamlined to ask a minimal amount number of questions and take advantage of the self-certification flexibilities allowed. Applications could be submitted without uploading verification documents, speeding up the process (assuming some applicants would not have all documents on-hand or may have difficulty scanning/uploading documents). The resulting application takes an average 15- to 20 minutes to complete, in comparison to other jurisdictions that had reported application completion times of close to 1 hour.

Community Engagement:

To ensure the diverse population comprehends the requirements and processes of the program, notices sent to the clients are translated into Spanish, Arabic, Vietnamese, Tagalog, and Mandarin. The County has also partnered with 2-1-1 and several Community Based Organizations (CBO) who assist clients in completing and submitting applications for various County Programs.

There are many ways the County receives and captures diverse feedback from constituents, CBOs, and the communities themselves. Clients are able to provide feedback and input from the Customer Experience Surveys. The survey allowed clients to provide a rating of their experience, it captures if the County representative was helpful, knowledgeable, attentive, respectful, and timely. The survey also captured the client’s general comments/feedback. The submitted surveys are reviewed as it provides in depth-knowledge of how the customer feels about the services and their experience. The surveys provide an insight into customer’s perspective which in turn provides awareness. These surveys contribute greatly to decision making.

Landlords had an opportunity to provide feedback and input twice a month by participating in the County’s Landlord Webinar, which are now held quarterly. The goal of the Landlord Webinars is to emphasize the benefits of participating in the County’s programs. Landlords are engaged and encouraged to ask questions. Landlords are asked to complete a survey to capture feedback and suggestions for improvement. The suggestions for improvement are considered and are shared with both the County’s management team and staff.

The County regularly met with community partners to get feedback on process improvements. These meetings were an opportunity for every member to exchange ideas and discuss objectives. The feedback shared helped to prevent potential issues from occurring and to resolve any barriers customers may have encountered.

Use of Evidence:

The program does not meet the SLRF definition of evidence based. However, rental assistance programs have been shown to reduce hardships faced by low-income families (<https://www.cbpp.org/research/housing/chart-book-employment-and-earnings-for-households-receiving-federal-rental>). This program aims to assist County residents who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic secure housing.

Performance Report:

Security Deposit Assistance Program Households Metrics:

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
Number of Households Assisted	1,194	759
Total Amounts Awarded	3,156,297.00	1,961,028.00

Project 11a: Broadband for County Region

Funding Amount: \$10 million

Project Expenditure Category: 5.19, Broadband Last Mile projects

Project Overview: The County of San Diego (County) awarded a contract for phase 1, the development of a comprehensive broadband plan for assessing and identifying broadband gaps and community needs in the unincorporated areas in the region. This plan will be used to strategize and implement broadband infrastructure with the objective of having reasonably priced universal access, and enhanced network capacity and speed to meet the needs of the next decade of digital expansion and improve the resiliency of the network. The plan was completed by January 2023. The County is currently negotiating another contract for the second phase of the project with the goal to begin in May of 2023. The focus of this second phase is to use the findings in the Broadband Comprehensive Plan to identify and scope a broadband infrastructure in the unincorporated areas to increase availability, reliability, affordability, and overall adoption. The contractor will also be collaborating locally to address workforce development needs, telehealth, distance learning, public safety, and government services. The contractor will consider partnership opportunities that lend to digging once and seek funding opportunities to support broadband construction in the third phase that will follow. Broadband access to rural and unincorporated communities will increase ability to access online services like distance learning, remote work and telehealth. Rural and unincorporated communities will not need to drive to these services which will reduce the County's overall carbon impact.

Website: County of San Diego Comprehensive Broadband Plan

(sandiegocounty.gov) Comprehensive Broadband Plan:

https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/lueg/docs/Comprehensive_Broadband_Plan_January_2023.pdf

Uses of Funds:

Given its large, rural backcountry with limited broadband access, the County's unincorporated areas merit extra attention. Demographic analysis on socially vulnerable populations within the County, as well as stakeholder and engagement activities including focus groups, public workshops, interviews with leaders and organizations that serve vulnerable communities, have led to the identification of five groups of constituents acutely impacted by lack of broadband access and being potential beneficiaries of this Plan. Low-income students need internet and internet enabled devices to complete schoolwork but lack internet access due to cost of broadband subscriptions and devices. Residents of tribal areas experience low broadband availability, low advertised connection speeds, and high-cost plans. Businesses and teleworking employees in San Diego County struggle with strong,

reliable connectivity to complete their day-to-day work. Areas with the most non-English/ less than “very well,” English speakers, coincide with areas of lower broadband adoption and struggle to access online services and affordable offerings. In northeastern rural areas of the County, seniors make up 30-40% of the population, and often lack access to internet, internet enabled devices, and struggle with digital literacy. Ultimately the Plan serves all constituents of San Diego County, but it is often helpful to have a better understanding of potential key groups of residents for which programs that are derived from this strategy can be implemented.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

The unincorporated areas make up 2.2 million acres, with vast and varied geography and biodiversity, second largest municipality in the region by population with over 500,000 residents and 19 sovereign tribal nations. The first goal of the Comprehensive Broadband Plan was to listen to stakeholders and communities so that their experiences would help inform the identified broadband needs. The Plan identified 37,000 households that lack access to internet service and set out to understand the present challenges and barriers. Emerging groups such as low-income students, residents of tribal areas, teleworking employees, non-English speakers were identified as often lacking access to the internet, internet enabled devices and struggled with digital literacy. The County also collaborated with public and private entities on how to create equitable access across its communities and identified gaps and opportunities to set the foundations for a highly connected future that advances economic opportunity, environmental sustainability, educational attainment, public safety and resilience, and health. The plan established community priorities in the unincorporated areas and funding for infrastructure will be focused in creating equitable broadband access in those areas.

Community Engagement:

Outreach and engagement for the Comprehensive Broadband Plan set out to: (1) raise awareness of the Broadband project; (2) educate the public and other organizations about the project goals and scope; (3) provide opportunities for feedback from diverse stakeholder groups and members of the public; and (4) provide opportunities for stakeholder to influence decision-making process. The rationale for each of these goals includes the following principles:

1. *Awareness* – Stakeholders must be aware of the project scope and planning process before they can participate.
2. *Education* – Stakeholders must be educated and knowledgeable about the broadband project in order for them to participate effectively. The public should also be educated on the benefits of the proposed project, the foreseeable challenges, and discretionary issues that the board will consider.
3. *Feedback* – Stakeholders’ knowledge and perspectives help to inform staff and the Board of Supervisors in choosing a programmatic option.
4. *Decision-making* – Stakeholders are encouraged to engage in the decision-making process.

The County planned community engagement strategies and activities January 2022 thru February 2022. The County developed a public-facing broadband engagement website that continues to be updated and maintains an online presence. The County invited 61 organizations to participate in 5 workshops that occurred between February 2022 and May 2022. The organizations invited were made up of community planning groups, tribal organizations, broadband focused community organizations, library friends associations, San Diego Labor Council, school districts and fire protection districts/councils.

The County will continue to engage, solicit input and inform the unincorporated areas as infrastructure is developed and construction begins in 2023/24.

Labor Practices:

This plan is the second phase, drawing up plans and funding for future construction projects. There is no direct infrastructure or capital expenditures to be done under this current effort.

Performance Report:

This program is still in development. Key performance indicators that were identified in the Comprehensive Broadband Plan released in January 2023 and will be used to measure broadband infrastructure development and progress towards the County's vision and regional digital equity include:

- Availability – Households with access to broadband speeds (100/20 Mbps or faster)
- Reliability – Internet downtime
- Affordability – ACP enrollment; avg \$/Mbps
- Overall adoption – Broadband subscriptions

Projects 11b.1, 11b.2 & 11b.3: Investments in Stormwater, Sewer and Drinking Water: SDRPIC (Water, Wastewater, Water Energy Technology Launchpad Platform)

Funding Amount: \$1 million

Project Expenditure Category: 5.15, Drinking water: Other Water Infrastructure, 5.7, Clean Water: Energy Conservation, 5.5, Clean Water: Other Sewer Infrastructure

Project Overview:

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors allocated \$13 million in ARPA funding to a variety of stormwater, sewer, and drinking water projects and directed \$4.5 million of that funding be granted to the San Diego Regional Policy and Innovation Center (PIC) for three projects. The Water and Wastewater Technology Launchpad Platform is one of the three projects, and this subproject will focus on sewage and wastewater infrastructure, technology, policy and/or practice through research, data collection and analysis, mapping, and outreach.

Water utilities and public works departments often struggle to find, assess, validate, and implement technology innovations in public utilities systems. Traditional procurement processes tend toward familiar solutions rather than newer technologies or system upgrade options that can provide multiple benefits. This project aims to create a platform or launchpad for public experimentation and innovation to help test, deploy, and scale hardware solutions that address clean water and drinking water across various types of infrastructure. This project has five phases:

- Regional Infrastructure hot spot mapping
- Taxonomy of Interventions
- Framework for Testing and Piloting
- Finance Development
- Launchpad Kick-Off

PIC is prioritizing a long-term view of climate resilience which can be seen by our approach to coordinating relationships between private and public sector leaders in water. Scaling proven practices, advocating for policy, and adopting water technology solutions will help make San Diego build resilience by evaluating and implementing innovative infrastructure solutions with direct public health, environmental, and economic benefits.

Uses of Funds:

PIC has conducted multiple site visits, gathered, and analyzed data, and explored numerous technologies to determine potential interventions that will make the best use of the funds and benefit high-risk areas and communities that have previously been underserved. PIC places great value in understanding community needs, data

related to known and potential risks, and learning from experts and residents with lived experience related to the issues.

Funds are committed for research, outreach and development of a useable taxonomy tool.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

To identify target sites and systems for Launchpad innovations, PIC has and will continue to conduct rapid risk and "hot spot" assessments to identify target sites and systems for Launchpad innovations with a priority on historically disinvested communities. The assessment will examine climate risks. Mapping and data analysis will be the basis for identifying target sector partners and solutions. For example, agricultural runoff and poisons leach into watersheds, and bodies of water, impacting potable water and the environment. With PIC's help, communities and local governments can access technologies that can help alleviate these problems and other challenges in real time.

PIC's Launchpad aims to contribute toward improving water quality, water quantity, greenhouse gas reductions, and building resilience in several communities of concern across the region.

Community Engagement:

PIC continues to engage communities and municipalities that are considered economically disadvantaged, diverse, and have a low Tree Equity Index and/or are Justice 40 communities typically associated with higher health risks, higher unemployment, and higher poverty levels. At the same time, PIC has and will continue to work with municipalities to ensure that current government officials value and support any intervention is valued and supported by current government officials. PIC has engaged several municipalities which have a variety of interests and priorities such as:

- Improving pipe infrastructure
- Using the Climate Quality index, Justice 40, and other data, as a guide for investment to benefit water storage, quality, cost, hazard mitigation and utility costs.
- Automating systems for faster detection methods

PIC has attended community events, visited areas of concern, and evaluated potential sites to determine if a match exists between community-identified problems and intervention. The Launchpad was created to serve as a nexus between the community, technology sector, and municipalities to create innovative sustainable opportunities for intervention that lead to lasting impact.

Labor Practices:

There will be no direct infrastructure or capital expenditures under this effort.

Performance Report:

PIC has mapped hot spots of need and created a Taxonomy of Interventions database that will be used to provide a public service offering for municipalities to access various water related challenges across the region and search interventions according to budget. The database lists case studies with proven impact and related sourcing. PIC developed and is beta-testing an interactive tool to make the Taxonomy of Interventions accessible and keep it current.

PIC has also evaluated dozens of technology companies, and met with several, as well as attended over ten related industry conferences in search of best practices. They have engaged several stormwater and clean water solutions, including technologies that filter sustainably to reuse water and reduce water-stressed areas and technologies that reduce toxins.

Project 11b.4: Investments in Stormwater, Sewer and Drinking Water: SDRPIC-Utility Bill Data Capture and Analysis

Funding Amount: \$1.25 million

Project Expenditure Category: 5.15, Drinking Water: Other Water Infrastructure

Project Overview: The San Diego County Board of Supervisors allocated \$13 million in ARPA funding to a variety of stormwater, sewer, and drinking water projects and directed \$4.5 million of that funding be granted to the San Diego Regional Policy and Innovation Center (SDRPIC) for three projects. The Utility Bill Data Capture and Analysis is one of the three projects. Data will be used to identify census blocks, neighborhoods, or commercial districts that are struggling to pay their current utility bills as a result of the pandemic. This information will then be used to target federal or state grants that will fund infrastructure projects to improve efficiency, affordability, and reduce the likelihood of future bill default. The workplan for this project is broken into five tasks:

- Data Gathering on water and affordability metrics and analysis of key trends resulting from pre- and post-pandemic economic outlooks
- Identification of Interventions will analyze the impact of a suite of targeted infrastructure interventions that will both improve affordability and quality of life for disadvantaged communities and reduce the burden on municipal governments and utilities
- Program Targeting will utilize information from Tasks 1 and 2 to create a program targeting strategy
- Program Pilot will conduct a year-long pilot to deploy the interventions identified in the first 3 tasks
- Evaluation will assess the impact of the program on residents, municipal and regional sustainability, decarbonization, and affordability metrics

The project is expected to be complete in summer of 2024.

Link to website: <https://www.sdrpic.org/>

Uses of Funds:

Working closely with regional water authorities, stakeholders, and CBOs, the PIC team continues to gather and analyze data on key water and sewer utility data and other affordability metrics, and conduct surveys to understand water poverty drivers. PIC will identify and analyze key trends and develop models to assess the effectiveness of interventions. PIC is creating interactive maps to help with understanding the data. For program targeting, PIC will describe and evaluate the distribution of the state utility bill assistance program known as the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program, or LIHWAP.

The water utility bill data will be used to identify census blocks, neighborhoods, or commercial districts that are struggling to pay their utility bills because of the pandemic and use this information to target potential federal or state grants that will fund infrastructure projects to improve efficiency, affordability, and reduce water poverty. PIC will acquire data from water agencies and others and use that data to develop and conduct a needs assessment. This comprehensive program will support communities and small businesses in need to get the resources they require and ensure that these entities are prepared for any future stochastic shocks. After the completion of the pilot, PIC will assess the impact and work with municipal partners to identify next steps and possibilities to scale our work. They will also develop a final report that can be used as a model, both regionally and nationally.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many residents struggled to pay their bills. An estimated 1.6 million households were late on water bills and the State of California allocated \$ 2 billion to cover unpaid bills among low-income San Diegans. This is the group of ratepayers that will be surveyed and interviewed to understand the scope of water unaffordability and where and which meaningful interventions can be made.

The dataset and set of interventions will be cross-referenced, creating a program-targeting strategy. This strategy will prioritize equity and ensure that upgrades directly benefit those most in need. This targeting work will also help us design the program pilot leveraging these funds and external sources.

Community Engagement:

Low-income ratepayers are being engaged with surveys in partnership with a trusted community partner and focus groups to be scheduled to learn directly about their experiences and pain points. The utility bill survey is being implemented between PIC and MAAC with a targeted list of MAAC clients to reach well over 150 San Diegans. It is currently in both English and Spanish and we are considering adding an Arabic version. The survey asks about household income, size, costs, and utility bills in arrears to understand utility rate burden. It also asks about perceptions of and awareness of utilities and efficiency interventions. Finally, it analyzes how well the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program targeted the population it seeks to serve. Following the online survey will be focus groups with subsets of survey respondents.

Labor Practices:

There will be no direct infrastructure or capital expenditures under this effort.

Performance Report:

PIC has performed a literature scan to understand the variables and best practices to include in the analysis and has gathered data on water infrastructure, agencies, utility

billing, as well as community-level socioeconomic indicators. PIC has geospatially mapped across several indicators and is conducting utility user surveys.

PIC has contracted with the Metropolitan Area Advisory Committee on Anti-Poverty, a non-profit recently rebranded as “MAAC”, to access household-level data on water affordability. MAAC is the local administrator for both LIHWAP and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. PIC will de-identify and aggregate this data at the census tract-level for analysis.

Project 11b.5: Investments in Stormwater, Sewer and Drinking Water: SDRPIC-Green Infrastructure Demonstration Projects Combined with Broadband

Funding Amount: \$2.25 million

Project Expenditure Category: 5.6, Clean Water: Stormwater

Project Overview:

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors allocated \$13 million in ARPA funding to a variety of stormwater, sewer, and drinking water projects and directed \$4.5 million of that funding be granted to the San Diego Regional Policy and Innovation Center (SDRPIC) for three projects. The Green Infrastructure Demonstration is one of the three projects. Improvements in stormwater infrastructure in San Diego County's unincorporated area offer not only reduced flooding during times of high rainfall, but also improved climate resilience, water quality improvement, and the potential to recycle water and mitigate wildfire risk. These infrastructure upgrades can be deployed in targeted locations to help redress historical inequities in public investment. This project addresses stormwater challenges, climate change resilience, community equity, wildfire risk, and water quality issues by identifying, piloting, and deploying an innovative green infrastructure demonstration project. To do this effectively, PIC agreed to do an inventory of relevant, innovative stormwater management technologies; assess the impact and challenges of implementation; prioritize and identify sites for potential interventions, consider and include community concerns; report on methods for prioritizing pilot options; design, and collaboratively work to permit (if necessary); implement, evaluate, and celebrate the environmental, economic, and community benefits. The analysis will focus on the entire county, but construction of projects will be limited to the unincorporated areas of the region. The workplan for this project is broken into seven tasks.

- Opportunity Inventory will identify high priority sites for improved stormwater management, broadband expansion, and related infrastructure upgrades.
- Prioritization of Opportunities and Pilot Selection will prioritize 2-3 sites for pilot implementation with the goal of selecting one site for pilot implementation and a suite of secondary sites that could be developed if barriers are identified at later points.
- Prioritization Methodology Report will produce a report documenting the prioritization methodology and how it supports “only-dig-once” implementation.
- Feasibility, Design, Permitting, and Engineering will include community engagement and will result in final 100% design and plan sets.
- Implementation will employ consultant services to develop the new green stormwater infrastructure pilot.

- Public Ribbon Cutting ceremony to celebrate the program and raise awareness about both green stormwater infrastructure and the need for expanded digital services.
- Evaluation and Report will conduct an evaluation of the project for both environmental, economic, and community impact.

The project is expected to be complete in Summer 2024.

Link to website: <https://www.sdrpic.org/>

Uses of Funds:

This project’s scope is focused on the region’s unincorporated areas which are often passed over for infrastructure investment. The project focuses on bringing together data and experience in communities to determine a site location of high impact within a high-risk and disinvested area. The project elevates the voices of residents, businesses, stormwater practitioners, water experts, and other stakeholders. The project is research-driven to evaluate climate risk, water infrastructure, opportunities, watersheds, and areas of impact, overlaid with equity considerations. The demonstration project is designed to serve as an intervention that will attract more resources, meet community needs, increase awareness for water policy, and provide climate resilience.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

To identify target sites and systems for Green Infrastructure opportunities, PIC is conducting an opportunity inventory to develop a short list of recommended projects and sites for high-impact, community-equity-driven stormwater infrastructure. The opportunity inventory examines high-priority sites in unincorporated areas of the San Diego region for improved stormwater management and related infrastructure upgrades. The inventory list will identify high-priority areas for improved stormwater management and associated infrastructure upgrades.

When communities of high priority install stormwater solutions, a variety of benefits can be seen, such as:

- Improving current stormwater infrastructure
- Addressing flooding challenges in real time
- Enhancing the quality of water, water quantity, and greenhouse gas reductions
- Building resilience in several communities of concern across the region

Community Engagement:

PIC has conducted a series of community engagement activities such as:

- Business, stakeholder, and community outreach

- Best practice meetings and analysis with regional multi-benefit green infrastructure stakeholders to inform demonstration site selection and evaluation and sustainability plans
- Engagement with developers, academics, CBOs, and architects about water and permitting considerations
- Exploration of tribal water needs, concerns, and demonstration opportunities as well as review of previous projects
- Participation in the County's Regional Water Equity Assembly with a focus on learning from Tribal representatives' assessment of water issues: e.g., drought management, sustainability practices, stormwater reuse, greywater systems, and sustainable agriculture

Future efforts include public meetings, one-on-one stakeholder meetings, presentations at local business and community groups, and digital outreach. PIC continues to engage municipalities to ensure that any Green Infrastructure will be valued and supported by jurisdictions having authority. Partnerships will be based on equity, community need, and impact.

Labor Practices:

PIC will comply with SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance (<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Compliance-and-Reporting-Guidance.pdf>)

Performance Report:

This project is still in development and metrics will be reported in future reports. SDRPIC is working with stakeholders and evaluating potential pilot locations, opportunities for efficiency, and regulatory hurdles.

PIC is working on the following 3 phases currently, with anticipated completion of these phases in fall 2023:

- Opportunity Inventory: To date, PIC has engaged regional municipalities, tribal associations, stakeholders, academics, and agencies to determine best practices, needs, and climate risks to communities and businesses. These relationships have resulted in robust data collection and significant research.
- Prioritization of Opportunities and Pilot Selection: PIC continues evaluating potential sites for interventions, opportunities for efficiency, and hurdles to implementation. PIC is also exploring potential funding sources.
- Prioritization Methodology Report: PIC through research and data collection, will produce interactive tools to assist the County, municipalities, agencies, and public, visualize at-risk areas and explore potential interventions. This includes the development of a public database for municipalities and water districts to search and share interventions, experiences, existing case studies, and funding sources.

Thereafter, the project will focus its efforts on completing research, site selection, and narrowing interventions so that the pilot phase can begin. The project is slated for completion in Summer 2024.

Project 11b.6: Investments in Stormwater, Sewer and Drinking Water: DPW for Green Streets Infrastructure

Funding Amount: \$2.5 million

Project Expenditure Category: 5.6, Clean Water: Stormwater

Project Overview:

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors allocated \$13 million in ARPA funding to a variety of stormwater, sewer, and drinking water projects and directed \$2.5 million of that funding be used for one or more projects from the County's Green Streets Clean Water Plan. The Green Streets Clean Water Plan was completed in spring 2022 and identified multi-benefit green streets opportunities across nearly 1,200 miles of roads within 24 unincorporated community planning areas. Green streets are projects that implement green infrastructure within the County's road right-of-way to capture, slow, and filter stormwater. These projects are designed to treat runoff from impervious areas such as streets, sidewalks, and adjacent land areas. When integrated with complete streets and other development projects, green streets create additional urban greening that can lessen heat island effects, which are expected to intensify with climate change. Additionally, green streets support walking, biking, and transit use, which in-turn supports economic, health, environmental, and community benefits.

A green streets project in the unincorporated community of Fallbrook has been selected from the highest priority locations to receive ARPA funding, based on project costs and benefits, potential to reduce pollutants, potential to provide community benefits, and implementation within ARPA timelines. Preliminary engineering is underway, and design and environmental review will be complete by early 2024. A construction contract is expected to be awarded by mid-2024, and construction is expected to be completed by mid-2026.

Link to Website: <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/watersheds/GI-Projects/GSCWplan/>

Uses of Funds:

The Green Streets Clean Water Plan documents a multi-part project identification and quantification approach to optimize the potential benefit of project opportunities, evaluate opportunities across a large study area, and objectively rank and prioritize them. This approach complements the objectives in multiple Water Quality Improvement Plans, which identify distributed green infrastructure (such as green streets) as a critical strategy in achieving numeric water quality goals through pollutant load reduction while also providing multiple community benefits. In addition to water quality benefits, location within underserved and low-income communities, potential for pedestrian improvements, flood management, and water

supply were among the other benefits that were factored into the ranking and prioritization process.

A total of 30 top projects throughout the unincorporated areas of the county were identified in the Green Streets Clean Water Plan, with the project selected for ARPA funding ranking in the top 5. The project will capture and treat dry and wet weather runoff from commercial, transportation, and other land uses along South Mission Road in the community of Fallbrook. This is an underserved, low-income community that will benefit from improved walkability and pedestrian safety. Additionally, the project will remove pollutants, reduce flooding potential, and support climate resilience through carbon sequestration and increased vegetative cover.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

As described above, underserved and low-income communities were considered during the ranking and prioritization process for the Green Streets Clean Water Plan. The selected project to receive ARPA funding is in a community that ranks in the 38th percentile on the Public Health Alliance of Southern California's Healthy Places Index (HPI). This means that 62% of census tracts in the state have healthier conditions than this area, and the 38th percentile is lower than the county average of 67.9. The HPI supports efforts to prioritize equitable community investments by mapping data on social conditions that drive health, such as education, job opportunities, clean air and water, park access, tree canopy, and other indicators.

Community Engagement:

Input from community members was integrated into the Green Streets Clean Water Plan by tailoring the project locations and types of green infrastructure considered based on preferences for local benefits. Outreach mechanisms used to engage the communities included the development of a website and informational video, two advertised and recorded online stakeholder workshops, integration of specific projects with local community plan objectives, coordination with community planning groups, and a community survey regarding green streets.

As the selected green streets project is advanced to the design stage, local community stakeholders will be engaged in the project concept, and project-specific input will be solicited.

Labor Practices:

Construction contracts for green streets projects will be procured competitively and will create short-term construction jobs as well as long-term employment opportunities for ongoing maintenance. All workers employed on public works projects must be paid prevailing wages determined by the California Department of Industrial Relations, according to the type of work and location of the project. The prevailing wage rates are usually based on rates specified in collective bargaining agreements.

Performance Report:

The project is anticipated to capture trash for approximately 117 acres and will treat stormwater runoff from approximately 5.7 acres of streets and adjacent areas. Data will be provided on future reports.

Projects 11b.7, 11b.8 & 11b.9: Investments in Stormwater, Sewer and Drinking Water: Camp Lockett-Drinking Water System Improvements

Funding Amount: \$2 million

Project Expenditure Category: 5.15, Drinking Water: Other Water Infrastructure, 5.5, Clean Water: Other Sewer Infrastructure, & 5.6, Clean Water: Stormwater

Project Overview:

This project provides funding to nonprofit organizations that are part of the Camp Lockett Interest Group (CLIG) within the Camp Lockett Master Plan area to establish water and sanitary sewer services, improve the safety and reliability of potable water and wastewater infrastructure, and improve drainage facilities to protect public safety and property. They include San Ysidro Health, the Motor Transport Museum, The Mountain Empire Historical Society, Pacific Southwest Railway Museum, and the Camp Lockett Event Equestrian Facility. These agencies must apply for funds through an application/proposal, and applications will be reviewed and selected by a Selection Committee. The County will focus on health and safety projects related to drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater. Completion of the projects is anticipated by Summer of 2026. This project focuses on sewer infrastructure.

Uses of Funds:

Applicants in the Camp Lockett area, which is an underserved area, will apply via a grant application for infrastructure projects that could include but are not limited to: projects to implement nonpoint source pollution management program, decentralized wastewater treatment systems, management and treatment of stormwater or subsurface drainage water, water conservation, efficiency, or reuse measures of wastewater, stormwater, or subsurface drainage water and energy consumption reduction as it relates to wastewater. These infrastructure projects seek to address Sec. 219 of the Justice40 Initiative by securing environmental justice and spurring economic opportunities in disadvantaged communities that have been marginalized and overburdened by underinvestment in sewer infrastructure. The County of San Diego (County) operates municipal wastewater systems in a variety of locations throughout the unincorporated region. The Justice40 Initiative of developing critical sewer infrastructure directly supports the health of the community and the environment by a well-maintained sewer system will protect the health and well-being of everyone in the region and protect water quality, which are both County sustainability goals. This initiative would help create a healthy, strong, and resilient community. Improvements to sewer system operation, maintenance, and capital improvement, contribute to the County's sustainability goals including, but not limited to cultivating a natural environment for residents, visitors, and future generations to enjoy; and ensuring the capability to respond and recover to immediate needs for individuals, families, and the region. A well-maintained sewer system protects the health and well-being of the communities served and reduces

the risk of sewage spills and adverse impacts on water quality, which are both key County sustainability goals.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes

These sewer infrastructure projects will serve the community of Campo, California, an underserved community. The Health Places Index (HPI) of the Campo service area is 15.6 percentile—a very low score. The HPI combines 25 community characteristics, like access to health care, housing, education, and more, into a single indexed HPI score. The healthier a community, the higher the HPI score. In addition, the district evaluated the average Cal EnviroScreen 4.0 percentile score for Campo, which was 63. This score represents the potential exposures to pollutants and adverse environmental conditions caused by pollution. A higher score represents a California community that is disproportionately burdened by multiple sources of pollution. The infrastructure enhancements realized from these projects will benefit the community by ensuring a providing just and equitable access to sewer services. These projects will serve the historically underserved, marginalized, and affected community of Campo. It is the site of two groundwater threats: A groundwater threat site is located on Camp Lockett—Military UST Site Open Site Assessment. Another is the Campo Little League LUST Cleanup Site – Open Verification Monitoring is located nearby.

Campo has over twice the rate of poverty of California at 28.0%. And over 50.2% of those under 18 years old are in poverty. Census data indicates that 36.8 % of the population is Hispanic or Latino and 32.6% speak Spanish at home in this diverse community. Awareness in this small community of 2,955 people will be practical and widespread. Specifically, these projects will be in Camp Lockett, which was a United States Army military base located in Campo, California, east of San Diego, and north of the Mexican border. Camp Lockett has historical connections to the Buffalo Soldiers due to the 10th and 28th Cavalry Regiments having been garrisoned there during World War II. Stationed here were the famous “Buffalo Soldiers,” an African American cavalry unit originally established during the Civil War. These community organizations are the wellspring of the community. Sewer infrastructure projects will protect the health and well-being of everyone in the region and protect water quality. Funding will be given to those community organizations in the Campo Lockett area which all serve the community. The outcomes will be widespread among all portions of the population by addressing the improvement of sewer infrastructure for all in the community.

Community Engagement

A measure of success of the outreach and engagement for the investments in Sewer Infrastructure: Camp Lockett Drinking Water System Improvements will be the incorporation of input from affected stakeholders. The following comprehensive public outreach and engagement goals and progress-to-date will ensure that the effort includes abundant and varied public input throughout the plan development process.

The goals and progress of outreach and engagement are to:

(1) raise awareness of the grant program and improvement projects. All qualifying organizations were notified, and multiple meetings and site/project scoping visits have occurred in the community.

(2) educate the public and qualifying organizations about the grant program; outreach was done to all qualifying participants in the community.

(3) provide opportunities for input throughout the various steps of the grant program development. Feedback was sought and implemented from the community to assess the following:

- Determine potential challenges or constraints that need to be addressed.
- Existing strengths—and what is needed for additional success
- Desired grant outcomes/projects

(4) provide opportunities to influence decision-making on the grant program. Community input has been sought and used to design the grant program. Multiple site visits and scoping visits to Camp Lockett have occurred to better understand the needs of the community and work with them to obtain mutually workable goals.

The project also provides funding to nonprofit organizations that are part of the Camp Lockett Interest Group within the Camp Lockett Master Plan area to establish water and sanitary sewer services, improve the safety and reliability of potable water and wastewater infrastructure, and improve drainage facilities to protect public safety and property. Improvements support implementation of the Camp Lockett Historic District Master Plan and redevelopment of existing properties for community benefit. DPW engaged with the Camp Lockett Interest Group to identify eligible projects for funding. In addition, we outreached to community stakeholders through local Community Planning Groups (CPGs) about the potential projects that will benefit their community. DPW has completed community outreach and engagement, and staff is conducting field reviews of eligible projects.

Labor Practices:

Construction contracts by grantees will be required to be competitively and publicly bid and help stimulate the local economy by creating primarily construction-related employment opportunities. All workers employed on public works projects must be paid prevailing wages determined by the California Department of Industrial Relations, according to the type of work and location of the project. The prevailing wage rates are usually based on rates specified in collective bargaining agreements.

The County also has the Working Families Ordinance. The ordinance requires contractors working on County construction projects for work performed by a combination of multiple trades over \$1 million, or over \$25,000 when all work is performed by an apprenticeable occupation, to adhere to the following requirements:

- pay prevailing wages
- utilize a skilled and trained workforce

- provide paid sick leave

Performance Report:

This program is still in development. Project completion is anticipated by Summer 2026. Key performance indicators are being identified and will be used to measure drinking water infrastructure development and progress towards the goals of the program.

Project 11b.10: Investments in Stormwater, Sewer and Drinking Water: Water Improvements in the Tijuana River Valley

Funding Amount: \$2 million

Project Expenditure Category: 5.18, Water and Sewer: Other

Project Overview:

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors allocated \$13 million in ARPA funding to a variety of stormwater, sewer, and drinking water projects. \$2.0 million of the \$13 million was allocated for a project in the Tijuana River Valley. The project would restore habitat, as well as remove an abandoned structure and debris from a 5-acre site in the Tijuana River Valley. Currently, the vacant site is filled with invasive plant species and debris. The abandoned structure invites unauthorized activities and personnel while Department of Parks and Recreation rangers are not present. The location of the site immediately adjacent to the Tijuana River also makes it a priority for restoration to enhance the ecosystem. The proposed project includes the treatment, demolition, and removal of the on-site building and debris, potential amending of soils to make them suitable for restoration, irrigation system installation, native plant installation, and establishment.

Uses of Funds:

The goal of the project is to improve water quality in the Tijuana River Valley through stormwater improvements or infrastructure. The project will build on prior efforts in the Tijuana River Valley by implementing projects to address stormwater, water quality, and transboundary flow concerns.

Promoting Equitable Communities:

Project will address stormwater management improvements in Tijuana River Valley Regional Park. The specific site and project are being identified; nevertheless, the project will provide improved stormwater quality to the selected area. Future tasks will be developed as the project is identified. ARPA funding will be used for design, environmental, and implementation.

Community Engagement:

Community engagement is a priority in the Tijuana River Valley. Coordination with the public and other local and regional stakeholders occurs through a series of public stakeholder meetings. These meetings include the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team Steering Committee, Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, South Bay Environmental Justice Task Force, International Boundary and Water Commission Citizen's Forum, among others.

Labor Practices:

This project will follow the California Public Contract Code, including requirements to utilize a skilled and trained workforce through prevailing wage. The strong labor

standards as outlined in the California Public Contract Code promote effective delivery infrastructure projects while supporting employment opportunities for a range of workers.

Performance Report:

This program is still in development and metrics will be reported in future reports.

Project 11b.11: Investments in Stormwater, Sewer and Drinking Water: Other Stormwater, Water and Wastewater Projects

Funding Amount: \$2 million

Project Expenditure Category: 5.6, Clean Water: Stormwater

Project Overview:

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors allocated \$13 million in ARPA funding to a variety of stormwater, sewer, and drinking water projects. \$2 million of the \$13 million was allocated for Community-Focused Stormwater Improvement Partnerships.

Community-Focused Stormwater Improvement Partnerships seek to provide multi-benefit water quality improvements on unincorporated private properties. Pollution can be reduced by installing features such as permeable pavement, rainwater capture, biofiltration, or similar practices. These types of projects are supportive of local climate resiliency. Projects are designed to also benefit the public by creating additional park space, expanding the urban tree canopy, creating community garden space, or addressing other needs as identified by a robust community engagement process. Phases I and II will identify project opportunities and focus on the community engagement process to create viable designs. In Phase III, one or more projects will be selected for implementation.

Uses of Funds:

Emphasis will be placed on finding opportunities in underserved communities. Candidate properties would include places of worship, community centers, non-profits, and schools. Improvements will be implemented on private properties that serve the broader community and which often have larger amounts of impervious surface contributing to stormwater runoff. Funds will be distributed through a Rebates and Incentives Program and/or through direct agreements with private property owners.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

The geographic area of focus is within an underserved, low-income community. Portions of the community rank as low as the 12th percentile on the Public Health Alliance of Southern California's Healthy Places Index (HPI). This means that 82% of census tracts in the state have healthier conditions than this area, and the 12th percentile is much lower than the county average of 67.9. The HPI supports efforts to prioritize equitable community investments by mapping data on social conditions that drive health, such as education, job opportunities, clean air and water, park access, tree canopy, and other indicators.

This program is still in development and metrics related to equitable outcomes will be reported in future reports.

Community Engagement:

The key audiences for this effort are first, the potential partners who will voluntarily participate in a project, and second, the broader community who will benefit from the County's portfolio of green infrastructure projects. The community engagement strategy will include community-wide meetings and more focused outreach to specific partners. The following are the goals for community outreach and engagement:

- Identify priority community benefits and co-benefits related to green stormwater infrastructure within the drainage area through engagement with the community, specific partners, and other stakeholders.
- Identify and engage key partners tied to local businesses, non-profits, community-based organizations, and faith-based organizations.
- Create clear, transparent communication tools and program materials that allow all potential partners to understand the program's process, expectations, and each parties' responsibilities.
- Engage and educate the watershed community on this program as part of broader County-led efforts related to stormwater management.

Labor Practices:

Any construction contract will be competitively and publicly bid and will create short-term construction-related employment opportunities. All workers employed on public works projects must be paid prevailing wages determined by the California Department of Industrial Relations, according to the type of work and location of the project. The prevailing wage rates are usually based on rates specified in collective bargaining agreements.

Performance Report:

The team is still developing Key Performance Indicators for this program.

Project 11d: Invest in Local, Independent Fire Districts

Funding Amount: \$4 million

Project Expenditure Category: 7.2, Transfers to Other Units of Government

Project Overview:

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding provides for support against the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic for local, independent Fire Districts in unincorporated areas of San Diego County. Fire Districts are part of the frontline response to the pandemic by responding to 9-1-1 calls for medical assistance as well as providing personnel and infrastructure support for community COVID-19 testing and vaccination clinics. This project involves fire districts submitting requests to County Fire for reimbursement of expenses incurred through June 30, 2024, up to their share of the allocation. If a fire district anticipates having an unused share of funds, a reallocation will be made to other districts.

Uses of Funds:

San Diego County Fire entered into grant agreements with 14 Fire Districts to allocate the \$4M in ARPA funding based on preapproval requests submitted by each district. Project related expenditures could include, but are not limited to, purchase of personal protective equipment, capital investments for facility improvements related to infection control, COVID-19 death benefits, and premium pay.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

Prior to the action by the Board of Supervisors, unincorporated Fire Protection Districts did not receive any federal funds to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. By allocating funds to Fire Districts, the distribution of funds was done in a more equitable manner and a large portion of the region received a share of funding. Without this funding, the Fire Agencies were left on their own to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on their employees and the public they serve.

Community Engagement:

Outreach was done with all the Fire Protection Districts in advance of approving the allocation method, and ongoing support with the districts has taken place.

Labor Practices: Funding is used to support local Fire Districts for their costs incurred from mitigating COVID-19 and to provide safe working spaces. If a Fire District utilizes the funding to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in their facilities or during interaction with the public, their staff and the public will be better protected, and their staffing levels will be more manageable.

Performance Report:

Fire Protection District Reimbursements:

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
Total Amounts Reimbursed	\$1,059,276.25	\$554,187.93

Project 12a: Revenue Replacement

Funding Amount: \$122.4 million

Expenditure Category: 6.1, Provision of Government Services

Project Overview:

The County has applied \$44.1 million in ARPA revenue replacement funds towards the provision of existing government services (\$33 million for 3/3/2021 – 6/30/2021 and \$11.2 million for 7/1/2022 – 6/30/2023).

Uses of Funds:

Funds were applied to county operations that are 100% funded with the use of County General Purpose Revenue in the Department of the Public Defender and the Behavioral Health Services and Self Sufficiency Services departments in the Health and Human Services Agency. The Department of the Public Defender provides legal representation to indigent persons, and legal advice to all persons and legal advice to all persons at arraignment except those who have retained private counsel. ARPA revenue replacement funds in the amount of \$20 million were used to offset salary and benefit costs. In Behavioral Health Services, \$6.3 million in revenue replacement funds were used to offset the costs of direct and support staff providing inpatient services at the San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital (SDCPH). SDCPH provides hospital services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for mental health emergencies and situations that require intensive supervision and the medical necessity of a hospital setting. In Self Sufficiency Services, \$6.7 million in funds were used to offset the cost of direct cash assistance and staffing costs for the County's General Relief (GR) program. GR provides temporary cash assistance for eligible county residents who have no other means of support. The County has applied an additional \$10 million for 7/1/22 through 6/30/23, to be used for GR and an additional \$1.2 million to fund our grant program for youth sports and youth camps.

Performance Report:

This project category is used to reflect provision of government services under the revenue replacement category. No metrics are required for reporting.