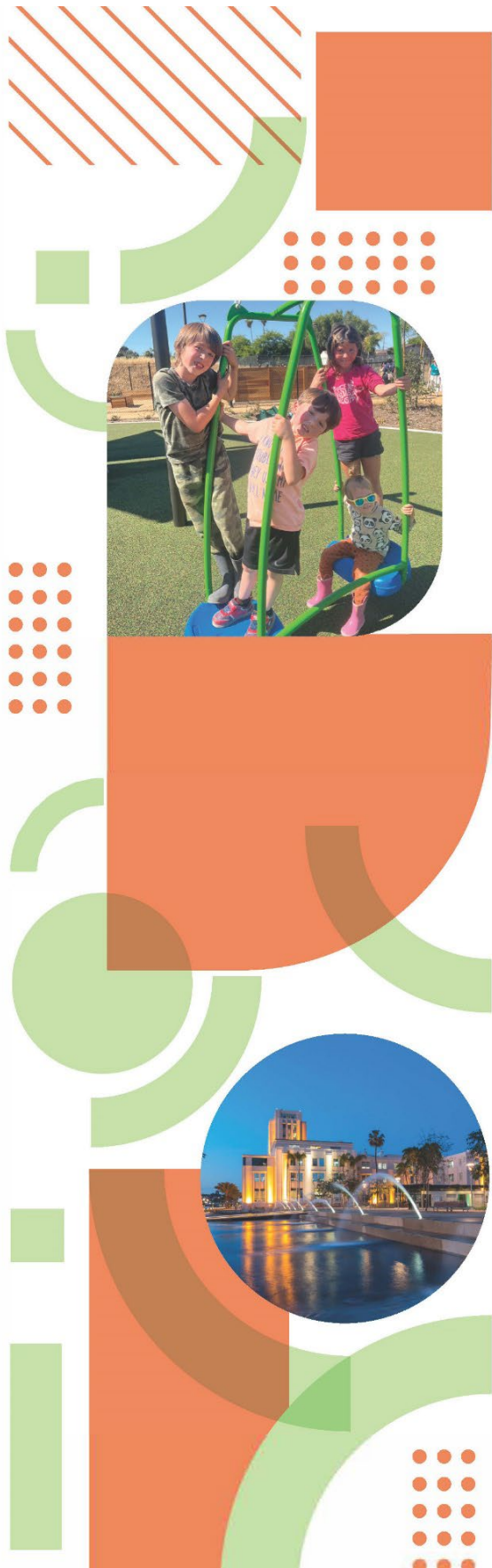


# County of San Diego 2024 Annual Recovery Plan Performance Report (FY 2023-2024)

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American Rescue Plan Act  
(ARPA)



State and Local Fiscal Recovery  
Funds

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County of San Diego 2024 Recovery Plan Performance Report

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## GENERAL OVERVIEW

### Executive Summary

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The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the lives of individuals, businesses, and communities across San Diego County. Since the beginning of the 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) secured federal and State stimulus funds prior to the passage of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) 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. Funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was also leveraged which helped maximize the capacity of ARPA funds once they became available to both continue the immediate public health response efforts as well as the longer term recovery efforts in the region.

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 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.

Items under the County's ARPA Framework can be grouped into three main overarching strategic areas. The first prioritizes saving lives and protecting families, ensuring funds were directed towards critical initiatives such as testing, treatment, and vaccination sites. The second focuses on countering the economic impacts of the pandemic and making longer term investments for the region. This effort included investments to stimulate the economy and help San Diegans get back to work, marked by strategic investments like the small business and non-profit stimulus payments, aimed at revitalizing economic activity. The third area includes resources for investing in our future, supporting programs such as child care, behavioral health, and evergreen funding initiatives.

The Board has reevaluated and adjusted specific investments in these areas as needed to ensure full utilization of funds and to maximize impact to the community. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 specifically, the Board took various actions to leverage projected remaining

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funds to effectively respond to the needs of the region's residents and invest in the long-term health and safety of the region in light of the current environment of growing needs for services and constrained governmental revenues experienced Statewide. While many programs initiated under ARPA were intended to be one-time to meet immediate needs, funds were also used to accelerate the development of additional County programs supporting vulnerable populations, such as support for people experiencing homelessness. Projected remaining balances were reprioritized to provide additional bridge funding for ARPA Framework activities that will be ongoing while sustainable funding strategies continue to be pursued.

Additionally, the Board programmed funds that had been carved out under the "Evergreen Component" of the ARPA Framework to support one-time investments for program(s) that could draw down matching funds, philanthropic donations, grants, or other funding that measures performance both on self-sustaining revenue streams and level of public benefit, and/or supporting a lasting public benefit in the areas of behavioral health, housing, climate change, economic prosperity, homelessness, and workforce. Additional funds were allocated to support behavioral health and to address housing and homelessness including items like the County's Innovative Housing Trust Fund, implementation of Senate Bill 43 of 2023 (Involuntary Behavioral Health Treatment), expansion of the region's Behavioral Health Workforce, and response efforts to an immediate catastrophic atmospheric river weather event to ensure the resiliency of our communities for the future. The Board approved utilizing the revenue loss strategy for the program Revenue Replacement (12a) to enable the County to leverage ARPA funds to create local funding capacity to support these items and other projects as needed. 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.

As a result of various Board actions, the ARPA Framework is as follows:

### County of San Diego's ARPA Framework

#### **Prior and On-Going COVID-19 Response (\$227.1 million)**

#### **Premium Pay for Government Essential Workers (\$26.9 million)**

#### **Mental Health Services (\$15.9 million)**

- Behavior Health Services Support for Children and Youth (\$15.6 million)
- In-Home Supportive Services: Technology for Social Inclusion and Wellbeing (\$0.3 million)

#### **Homeless Services (\$107.9 million)**

- Housing, Shelter, Including Acquisition of Facilities and Wrap-Around Services (\$67.9 million)
- Housing Vouchers & Local Rent Subsidy Program & Services (\$35 million)
- LGBTQ Homeless Services/Housing (\$5 million)

#### **Food Assistance (\$20 million)**

- Food Distribution Programs (\$9 million)

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

### **Senior & Youth Services (\$10 million)**

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

### **Child Care Subsidies (\$16.1 million)**

- Child Care Workforce Investment (\$10 million)
- Child Care Bridge Program (\$0.6 million)
- Child Care Shared Services Alliance (\$2 million)
- Employee Child Care Benefit Program (\$1 million)
- Child Care Infrastructure, Database Efforts, Startup Support for Providers, and Peer-Based Needs (\$2.5 million)

### **Direct Stimulus Payments (\$17.5 million)**

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

### **Legal Services (\$15.1 million)**

- Coordinated Eviction Counseling Program (\$3.6 million)
- Tenant Legal Services (\$11.5 million)

### **Small Business & Non-Profit Stimulus Payments (\$52.4 million)**

- Small Business & Non-Profit Stimulus Program (\$30 million)
- Restaurant Fee Waivers (\$6.9 million)
- Special Event Fee Waiver (\$1.5 million)
- Arts & Culture (Augment Community Enhancement Funds) (\$5 million)
- Rental Assistance for Small Landlords with no Other Source of Rental Assistance (\$5 million)
- Security Deposit Assistance Program (\$4 million)

### **Infrastructure (\$30 million)**

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

### **Other (\$116.2 million)**

- Project Homekey (\$24.5 million)
- Assistance for Homeworkers and Child Care Workers (\$0.5 million)
- FEMA Disallowance Contingency (\$10.6 million)
- Evergreen Components (\$80.6 million):
  - SB 43 (\$15 million)
  - Behavioral Health Workforce (\$10 million)
  - Housing Every Homeless Person in Addiction Recovery (Recovery Residence) (\$8 million)
  - Addressing Hospital Overcrowding with Recuperative Care Homeless Beds (\$8 million)
  - Investing in Wellness One-Time Payments (\$13 million)
  - January 2024 Storm Recovery (\$10 million)
  - Innovative Housing Trust Fund (\$10.6 million)
  - Asylum Seekers Support (\$6 million)

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Note: Programs are either funded directly through ARPA or indirectly by leveraging ARPA funds through strategies like utilization of revenue loss. Total varies from the ARPA allocation due to leveraging interest and the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund allocation.

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 fourth 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

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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. Funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was also leveraged which helped maximize the capacity of ARPA funds once they became available to both continue the immediate public health response efforts as well as the longer term recovery efforts in the region.

In anticipation of receipt of the future federal and State stimulus funds, in early March 2021, the Board directed the Chief Administrative Officer to develop a framework for the use of future funds toward the County's COVID-19 pandemic response efforts. Soon after, 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.

Developed 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).

Items under the County's ARPA Framework can be grouped into three main overarching strategic areas. The first prioritizes saving lives and protecting families, ensuring funds were directed towards critical initiatives such as testing, treatment, and vaccination sites. The second focuses on countering the economic impacts of the pandemic and making longer term investments for the region. This effort included investments to stimulate the economy and help San Diegans get back to work, marked by strategic investments like the small business and non-profit stimulus payments, aimed at revitalizing economic activity. The third area includes resources for investing in our future, supporting programs such as child care, behavioral health, and evergreen funding initiatives.

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The Board has reevaluated and adjusted specific investments in these areas as needed to ensure full utilization of funds and to maximize impact to the community. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 specifically, the Board took various actions to leverage projected remaining funds to effectively respond to the needs of the region's residents and invest in the long-term health and safety of the region in light of the current environment of growing needs for services and constrained governmental revenues experienced Statewide. While many programs initiated under ARPA were intended to be one-time to meet immediate needs, funds were also used to accelerate the development of additional County programs supporting vulnerable populations, such as support for people experiencing homelessness. Projected remaining balances were reprioritized to provide additional bridge funding for ARPA Framework activities that will be ongoing while sustainable funding strategies continue to be pursued.

Additionally, the Board programmed funds that had been carved out under the "Evergreen Component" of the ARPA Framework to support one-time investments for program(s) that could draw down matching funds, philanthropic donations, grants, or other funding that measures performance both on self-sustaining revenue streams and level of public benefit, and/or supporting a lasting public benefit in the areas of behavioral health, housing, climate change, economic prosperity, homelessness, and workforce. Additional funds were allocated to support behavioral health and to address housing and homelessness including items like the County's Innovative Housing Trust Fund, implementation of Senate Bill 43 of 2023 (Involuntary Behavioral Health Treatment), expansion of the region's Behavioral Health Workforce, and response efforts to an immediate catastrophic atmospheric river weather event to ensure the resiliency of our communities for the future.

The Board approved utilizing the revenue loss strategy for the program Revenue Replacement (12a) to enable the County to leverage ARPA funds to create local funding capacity to support these items and other projects as needed. 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.

### Public Health (EC 1)

The largest portion of the ARPA SLFRF 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. 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 used 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 and endemic operations. 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 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.

*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 needs of middle school students. This program offers universal mental health screening to students, regardless of insurance status, and supports connections to ongoing care as needed.

Additionally, costs pertaining to the San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital as well as Out Of Network (OON) services for mental health clients are included. By doing so, this supports access to care for some of the most vulnerable populations with behavioral health needs.

Lastly, the COVID-19 pandemic 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 of services to households (such as housing supports, access to nutrition and child care), 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 a significant portion of the funds for a variety of housing resources including funding of affordable housing developments, wraparound and supportive services, emergency vouchers, emergency sheltering, flexible funding mechanisms, rent subsidy programs, and housing programs affirming and responsive to the needs of the LGBTQ population. All 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 are providing low-income families and seniors with nutritious food. Additionally, the Community Food Production program is disseminating 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 Senior & Youth Services component was built into the County ARPA Framework. With transportation 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.

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, including a program 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 child care. However, San Diego County child care providers were already struggling to fill vacant staff positions pre-pandemic, and the pandemic has only exacerbated these challenges. Staff turnover can be expensive for providers and detrimental to children's development and relationships with caregivers. Several projects under the Child Care Subsidies component of the County's ARPA aim to provide business infrastructure and workforce support to local child care providers, provide child care 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 supports populations that have been impacted by COVID-19. The Innovations in Foster Care: Cash Transfer Program for Youth and At-Risk Families program 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 small businesses and non-profit entities impacted by COVID-19. The Small Business Stimulus Grant program 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 \$27.5 million 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 \$20 million from its own General Fund in 2020. The ARPA funds help continue this program for struggling businesses and nonprofits.

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 support public sector workforce and capacity, including public sector payroll, and building of public sector capacity. Funds were utilized specifically to cover the payroll costs associate 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 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 across water, sewer, and broadband ARPA eligibility. 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 to participate in telehealth, education, banking, public safety, resilience, economic opportunity, and social well-being. 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 Spooners Mesa project is a stormwater improvement project that will reconstruct a failed drainage culvert under the road, improve the stormwater conveyance, establish stormwater retention, and restore eroded slopes with native vegetation for long-term stormwater protection. The project is immediately south of Monument Road near the Tijuana River Valley Campground.
- Community-Focused Stormwater Improvement Partnerships seek to provide multi-benefit water quality improvements on unincorporated private properties in unincorporated parts of the county. 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 utilized ARPA revenue replacement funds towards the provision of government services. Funds were applied to county operations that are 100% funded with



the use of County General Purpose Revenue in the Office of Economic Development and Government Affairs, and departments including Public Defender, Medical Examiner, Parks and Recreation, Planning and Development Services, Public Works, and Self Sufficiency Services.

Utilizing the revenue replacement component was a significant strategy to leverage ARPA funds to create capacity for several program areas in the County's ARPA Framework. The below programs in the Framework were made possible by leveraging ARPA dollars indirectly, but are not reported as part of the project inventory since they are not directly funded by ARPA.

- Grant Program for Youth Sports: Reduced financial barriers for San Diego County youth residents that would otherwise have limited opportunities to participate in youth sports and camps.
- Direct Cash Assistance for Populations Disproportionately Impacted (Recovery Action Fund for Tomorrow (RAFT)): Established a direct cash assistance program for individuals and families that were disproportionality impacted by COVID-19 and resided in one of the 39 Health Equity zip codes.
- Arts & Culture (Augment Community Enhancement Funds: Funds were used to augment the County's existing Community Enhancement (CE) program funds for 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.
- FEMA disallowance contingency associated with non-congregate shelter charges to care for affected individuals and families requiring isolation/quarantining.
- Various investments including County employee child care and older adult care benefit program, child care infrastructure, database efforts, start up support for providers, peer based needs, and assistance to homeworkers and child care workers to support priority areas of the Child Care Blueprint or to make further investment in combatting the child care crisis.
- Senate Bill 43 implementation: Includes funds for support of expanded services and supportive infrastructure in hospital and community-based settings, primarily as a bridge to more sustainable funding, Public Conservator infrastructure, crisis stabilization unit capacity, training and education capacity, and/or support for SUD services capacity including a harm reduction model.
- Behavioral Health Workforce: Provides funding to build capacity of behavioral health service provision within diverse communities through engaging and expanding the pool of organizations equipped to provide behavioral health care within the public behavioral health system, including small and minority-owned

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community-based organizations, to participate in the provision of Medi-Cal funded behavioral health services, broadening the diversity of providers providing mental health and substance use services.

- Recovery Residence: Expands access for all homeless persons participating in County-funded outpatient substance use treatment or recovery services in San Diego County.
- Recuperative Care: Provides critically needed step down beds to support SB-43 implementation and address hospital overcrowding for medically vulnerable homeless individuals.
- County workforce one-time wellness payment: Provided to address the impact of projected increases in healthcare costs and support County employee well-being and hiring and retention goals.
- January 2024 Storm Recovery efforts: Supported immediate emergency response as a result of the region's natural catastrophic atmospheric river weather event, as well as ensure the resiliency of the communities for the future.
- Innovative Housing Trust Fund (IHTF): Provides resources to increase the production of affordable homes through public/private partnerships between the County and private housing developers.
- Asylum Seekers Support: Funded essential services to support onward travel for asylum seekers.

## Promoting Equitable Outcomes

Equity is a key value of the County and as such, the County is dedicated to applying an equity lens to design programs and services so that underserved communities have equitable opportunities as well as using quantitative 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 through an equity lens and quantitative and qualitative data-driven approaches which are 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 include:

- Contracting with subject matter experts who are 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

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- 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 & Family Well-Being 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

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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](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 COVID-19 stimulus funding. In anticipation of the 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 was presented at the June 8, 2021, Board meeting and again, public comments were received. Similarly, the public had the opportunity to provide oral and written comments for the August 30, 2022, February 27, 2024, and May 21, 2024, revisions 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 included 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**

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Per the ARPA 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

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SLFRF defines evidence-based interventions as those with “strong or moderate” evidence, while also describing a third category called “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 18 to 24 months 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

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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. Regular updates on data are monitored on a quarterly and annual basis by project leads to ensure quality assurance of reported data and metrics. Dedicated staff continue to help provide critical oversight, accountability, and transparency across projects. These 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

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#### **Funding Amount:**

A total of \$168.4 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), administrative expenses (project 1h), and Supplemental Paid Sick Leave 2022 (project 1i). 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 continued to decrease consistent with the shift of these projects to reflect a more permanent, ongoing, endemic operational structure.

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:**

Vaccine efforts focus on providing accessibility to the vaccine through the support of a robust ecosystem of vaccination providers. Focus is placed on ensuring the vaccine reaches underserved communities as well as communities identified low in the California Healthy Places Index (HPI). The effort to identify populations included but were not limited to:

- Created Vaccine Support team in 2-1-1 to help address equity issues—follow-up calls are arranged if clients face barriers to scheduling or unable to access appointments. The phone number 2-1-1 is San Diego region's trusted source for information and connections to community, health, and disaster resources.
- Engage local clinical leaders through the Clinical Advisory Committee.
- Launched Project SAVE (Scheduling Assistance for Vaccine Equity) which improved vaccination rates among impacted communities by utilizing community health workers for outreach and the scheduling of vaccine appointments for residents. This contract has since ended and no longer operational. Implemented



the Homebound San Diegans program, which provides 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. This partnership has since ended and no longer operational.
- 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.

To date COVID-19 vaccinations are available across our six Public Health Centers through or Vaccines For Children (VFC) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) Bridge Access Program for uninsured and underinsured adults. In addition, a par level of COVID – 19 purchased by the County vaccine remains on hand for use by our Homeless Outreach Teams (HOT) to meet the needs of unsheltered populations.

Additionally, in the current model of administration, the Vaccine Management Program (VMP) performs administrative coordination of COVID-19 vaccine ordering and allocation for providers participating in the Bridge Access Program (BAP).

This project is expected to be completed by December 31, 2026 for ARPA funding purposes.

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 that are disproportionality 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 is dedicated to applying an equity lens to appropriately design 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 through all COVID vaccine projects, activities, and offerings.

County vaccine efforts utilize 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 analyzed vaccine data by geography, age, and race/ethnicity. For example, the County tracked overall testing rates, case rates, hospitalizations and deaths and vaccination progress, with much of this by rates by geography, age, and race/ethnicity. Through this data, it was found that the Hispanic/Latino community carries a large burden of COVID-19 disease in the County.

**Community Engagement:**

The County utilizes staff fluent in the threshold languages as well as in person interpreters and utilization of the language line 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 a Dose (including J&J) by HPI Quartile and Date Range

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024		July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024	
HPI	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	389,796	16.69%	8,028	13.18%
2	642,972	27.54%	30,695	50.38%
3	679,966	29.12%	11,748	19.28%
4	622,155	26.65%	10,454	17.16%
Total	2,334,889	100.00%	60,925	100.00%
Missing HPI	2,829		42	

## Project 1b: COVID-19 Testing

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### **Funding Amount:**

A total of \$168.4 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), administrative expenses (project 1h), and Supplemental Paid Sick Leave 2022 (project 1i). 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 continued to decrease consistent with the shift of these projects to reflect a more permanent, ongoing, endemic operational structure.

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.

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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.

Presently, testing has been integrated into the functions of the Public Health Centers of San Diego County.

The project contract was completed on Jun 30, 2023.

Link to website:

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

**Performance Data:**

COVID-19 Lab Tests Performed

Entity	May 1, 2023- June 30, 2023*	July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
MXC/Helix	1,050	N/A

\*Actual program start date was May 2023 and concluded on June 2023. No FY 23-24 data was collected.

## **Project 1c: COVID-19 Contact Tracing**

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### **Funding Amount:**

A total of \$168.4 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), administrative expenses (project 1h), and Supplemental Paid Sick Leave 2022 (project 1i). 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 continued to decrease consistent with the shift of these projects to reflect a more permanent, ongoing, endemic operational structure.

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 was 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, some of the COVID-19 response and operations 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).

[www.sdepi.org](http://www.sdepi.org)

This project is expected to be completed by December 31, 2026.

### **Uses 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.
- 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) linked San Diego County residents with Public Health Nurses to provide them with support during their COVID-19 diagnoses. ISNHL is comprised of nurse 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 included 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, contact tracing 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

	<b>March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024</b>	<b>July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024</b>
Number of COVID-19 Outbreaks	5,632	911
Number of Pre-outbreak Assessments	666	0
Number of Pre-outbreak reports received by the business and school reporting web page	111,972	26
Number of Contacts Traced	92,336	0
Number of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases	767,089	39,812

The CDC and State requirements have been scaled back, and tracing as a COVID activity was discontinued. As such, the County of San Diego has demobilized temporary staff and function as of Spring 2023. Data as of June 30, 2024 is reflective of current working model.

## **Project 1d: Personal Protective Equipment**

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### **Funding Amount:**

A total of \$168.4 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), administrative expenses (project 1h), and Supplemental Paid Sick Leave 2022 (project 1i). 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 continued to decrease consistent with the shift of these projects to reflect a more permanent, ongoing, endemic operational structure.

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, and can limit the transmission of the COVID-19 virus.

The County of San Diego's (County) Medical Operations Center (MMOC) logistics section and the Public Health Warehouse Team process and deliver 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. Prior to the emergency declaration ending in May 2023, items were purchased from vendors or received from the State (CDPH) to support all healthcare partners in the county. Once the emergency declaration ended, PPE and supplies continued to be requested and distributed based on need with the products coming from existing inventory in the PPHR warehouse. Facilities experiencing COVID outbreaks are prioritized for product and



receive orders within 24 hours of submitting a request. This project is expected to be completed by December 31, 2026.

Link to Public Health Preparedness and Response 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 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. Although in FY 2023-24, funds have not been necessary to purchase PPE and other supplies, funds remain available for utilization. Current stock of supplies have been adequate for response.

**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:**

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 (MMOC). The email address to request PPE was provided for all sectors of our healthcare community 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 request 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 finance 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

	<b>March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024</b>	<b>July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024</b>
Items of PPE Fulfilled	32,886,101	2,309,153

## **Project 1e: Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses**

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### **Funding Amount:**

A total of \$168.4 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), administrative expenses (project 1h), and Supplemental Paid Sick Leave 2022 (project 1i). 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 continued to decrease consistent with the shift of these projects to reflect a more permanent, ongoing, endemic operational structure.

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. This project is expected to be completed by December 31, 2026.

### **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.

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. Wraparound 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 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:

	<b>March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024</b>	<b>July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024*</b>
Total served	14,631	0

\*There are no units of measure reported, as service is currently funded with an alternate revenue source.

## **Project 1f: Community Health Workers**

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### **Funding Amount:**

A total of \$168.4 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), administrative expenses (project 1h), and Supplemental Paid Sick Leave 2022 (project 1i). 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 continued to decrease consistent with the shift of these projects to reflect a more permanent, ongoing, endemic operational structure.

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 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 CHWs 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 as well as information provided on testing and vaccination. Community Health Workers not only provided vital information, but assisted families in finding resources, scheduling vaccination, and testing appointments, walking individuals through testing/vaccination sites, and overall providing a trusted support system.

The allocated ARPA funds were spent as of June 30, 2022. The County continues to provide CHW efforts to support all communities to be healthy, safe, and thriving, and leverages Department of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Community funding to provide outreach and education to underserved communities about County services and refer to community-based services.

**Uses of Funds:**

Through the deployment of CHWs, the County has been 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 include, but are 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 utilize 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 understood testing/vaccination procedures and felt supported, and provided 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](#).

Links to websites:

- County of San Diego's COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/sdhcd/community-development/COVID-19-Emergency-Rental-Assistance-Program.html>
- COVID-19 Positive Recovery Stipend Program, [https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/ssp/COVID\\_19\\_Positive\\_Employee\\_Recovery\\_Stipend\\_Program/](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/ssp/COVID_19_Positive_Employee_Recovery_Stipend_Program/)
- Great Plates Delivered, <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/ais.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 that brought deep knowledge of the six regions of the County and could use 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 had longstanding relationships with the communities they serve and are trusted messengers. As trusted messengers, CHWs could quickly and effectively connect with their focus communities to share information, resources and services funded by the SLFRF. They could deliver these messages in a culturally and linguistically appropriate way 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 served as a key resource for public health and medical providers in bridging the gap between 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 used these skills to build understanding using clear, fact-based health information, which in turn resulted 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 had been and continue to be disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. San Diego County's rural and minority communities 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 served 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, Medi-Cal, and [COVID-19 Positive Recovery Stipend Program](#) (ended June 30, 2021).

The County of San Diego has been 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 countywide 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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. 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.

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 HHSA regional model](#) of service delivery.

All contracted CHW partner organizations had longstanding community relationships and have documented experience serving historically marginalized populations. The CHWs offered unique skills and knowledge and had a deep investment in the communities they serve, which in turn gave 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 websites:

- [COVID-19 Positive Recovery Stipend Program](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/ssp/COVID_19_Positive_Employee_Recovery_Stipend_Program/) (ended June 30, 2021).  
[https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/ssp/COVID\\_19\\_Positive\\_Employee\\_Recovery\\_Stipend\\_Program/](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/ssp/COVID_19_Positive_Employee_Recovery_Stipend_Program/)
- [County's HHSA regional model](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/HIV%2C%20STD%20%26%20Hepatitis%20Branch/HIV_Website/Forms/Map%20of%20HHSAs%20Regions.pdf)  
[https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/HIV%2C%20STD%20%26%20Hepatitis%20Branch/HIV\\_Website/Forms/Map%20of%20HHSAs%20Regions.pdf](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/HIV%2C%20STD%20%26%20Hepatitis%20Branch/HIV_Website/Forms/Map%20of%20HHSAs%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 successes, 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 are always open and collaboration between contractors is encouraged and supported in any way possible.

Feedback and collaboration are 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 consists of contractors and their subcontractors who have established connections to priority populations, collectively these partners deploy more than 250 CHWs into communities.

Through this collaborative gathering CHW organizations can share best practices, collectively problem solve, and share current efforts to avoid duplication. CHWs are able to share resources including linguistically and culturally appropriate materials (the outreach and education materials are posted on the [CHW Outreach Materials](#) County

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website). They gather feedback from each other and gain knowledgeable insights and new approaches or strategies to reach priority populations. This collaborative provides a valuable forum that facilitates the exchange of ideas and helps 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.

**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:**

Community Health Workers Metrics:

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024	July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024*
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

\*This project concluded on June 30, 2022, therefore no metrics to report in FY 2023-24.

## **Project 1g: Payroll Costs for Public Health, Safety, and Other Public Sector Staff**

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### **Funding Amount:**

A total of \$168.4 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), administrative expenses (project 1h), and Supplemental Paid Sick Leave 2022 (project 1i). 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 continued to decrease consistent with the shift of these projects to reflect a more permanent, ongoing, endemic operational structure.

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 referred to staff that responded to COVID-19, but who were not easily allocable to a specific category. Since the implementation of ARPA funds, costs included staff response at the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Medical Operations Center (MOC) who performed activities such as creating and distributing communications regarding COVID-19 activities within the County to relevant emergency medicine and emergency medical services community partners and coordinating and providing recommendations and guidelines to the healthcare community. Additionally, this included staff assisting with overall EOC/MOC administrative functions, as well as staff who worked on various other planning, development and implementation of COVID-19 initiatives and activities. In the endemic phase, this project included staff assisting with overall administrative functions as necessary.

The ARPA allocation has been spent as of June 30, 2024.

**Uses of Funds:**

Funds for this project directly covered 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 were also included, as well as staff working on various other planning, development, and implementation of COVID-19 initiatives and activities. Now in the endemic phase, this project includes staff assisting with overall administrative functions as necessary.

**Promoting Equitable Outcomes:**

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

**Community Engagement:**

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

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

## **Project 1h: Administrative Expenses**

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### **Funding Amount:**

A total of \$168.4 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), administrative expenses (project 1h), and Supplemental Paid Sick Leave 2022 (project 1i). 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 continued to decrease consistent with the shift of these projects to reflect a more permanent, ongoing, endemic operational structure.

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 include 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. This project is expected to be completed by December 31, 2026.

### **Uses of Funds:**

Administrative Expenses include 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 1i: Supplemental Paid Sick Leave 2022**

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### **Funding Amount:**

A total of \$168.4 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), administrative expenses (project 1h), and Supplemental Paid Sick Leave 2022 (project 1i). 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 continued to decrease consistent with the shift of these projects to reflect a more permanent, ongoing, endemic operational structure.

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:**

In accordance with Senate Bill 114 that provides Supplemental Paid Sick Leave ("SPSL 2022") for covered employees who were unable to work or telework due to a qualifying reason related to COVID-19, the County adopted the provisions retroactively from January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022. SPSL 2022 added paid leave, up to a maximum of 80 hours, from January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, for eligible employees. The leave time is referred to as SPSL 2022. This project is complete as of June 30, 2024.

### **Uses of Funds:**

SPSL 2022 added paid leave, up to a maximum of 80 hours, from January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, for eligible employees. Eligible reasons were: 1) I had been told to quarantine/isolate (in accordance with federal, state, California Department of Public Health/CalOSHA/ local Public Health, or a health care provider) due to COVID-19 and I am unable to telework. 2) I took a family member to receive a vaccine or booster against COVID-19 (employees may use County time to receive a vaccine/booster for



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themselves). 3) I experienced symptoms, or cared for a family member who is experiencing symptoms, related to a COVID-19 vaccine or booster and I am unable to telework. 4) I experienced COVID-19 and sought a medical diagnosis. 5) I cared for a family member who had been told to quarantine/isolate due to COVID-19 and I was unable to telework. 6) I cared for a child whose school or place of care was closed and I was unable to telework. 7) I tested positive for COVID-19 and/or I was caring for a family member who had tested positive for COVID-19

**Performance Report:**

SPSL:

	<b>March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024</b>	<b>July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024</b>
Number of Employees	7,361	1

## **Project 2a: Hazard Pay for County Employees (Excludes Telework Stipends)**

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**Funding Amount:** \$26.8 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 COVID19 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.

This project is expected to be completed by December 31, 2024.

### **Uses 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

	<b>March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024*</b>	<b>July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024*</b>
Hazard Pay Received	9,621	1

\* As of FY 2023-24 there are minimal County employees who have not received hazard pay due to current leave status. Pending payments are eligible for expense through December 31, 2024.

### **Project 3a: Behavioral Health Support**

**Funding Amount:** \$59.6 million (ARPA: \$49.0 million and Leveraged Funds: \$10.6 million)

**Project Expenditure Category:** 1.12, Mental Health Services

**Project Overview:**

Screening to Care (S2C) is a pilot program developed in partnership with the San Diego County Office of Education and local School Districts. The foundation of the design is to systematically screen and determine the social emotional needs of middle school students. Upon identification of need, prevention and early intervention supports are offered utilizing the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Framework. A Promotora model is utilized to promote parent engagement and enhance family, community, and school partnership.

San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital (SDCPH) provides 24/7 care for individuals ages 18 and older who are experiencing mental health concerns. The purpose of the Hospital is to assist individuals during a mental health emergency, become stabilized, and move to a less restrictive level of care. Services are provided in a warm, welcoming environment with dedicated medical, nursing, and clinical staff.

The Out of Network (OON) hospitals provide psychiatric inpatient acute care services in a free-standing psychiatric hospital for the care and treatment of an acute episode of mental illness. The Out of Network hospitals provide treatment and support for individuals challenged by serious mental illnesses and these services include inpatient care, partial hospitalization, and outpatient services. Out of network hospitals are freestanding hospitals that can be reimbursed for persons aged 21 or younger and individuals aged 65 or older.

For SDCPH and OON components, the allocated ARPA funds have been fully spent as of June 30, 2024.

For Screening to Care, allocated ARPA funds are anticipated to be fully spent by December 31, 2026. This project will continue to be funded by other sources.

**Uses of Funds:**

ARPA funding is utilized to provide the Screening to Care programing through five competitively procured contracts with five distinct Community Based Organizations who each hold considerable subject matter expertise in the provision of social emotional and mental health services as well as extensive history in partnering with schools to serve students. Partnering school districts identify the participating schools and focus on school

communities which have less resources and evident need. The contracts are designed with specific pay points to promote screening and emphasize the value of small group curriculum that promotes strengthening the social emotional skill set of students and encourages resiliency. Funds are also utilized to secure data system to capture information and manage outcome tracking and analysis.

For SDCPH, ARPA has been used to fund a portion of the salaries and benefits costs in FY 2020-21 and FY 2023-24. For OON, ARPA has been used to provide treatment and support for individuals challenged by serious mental illnesses.

**Promoting Equitable Outcomes:**

The guiding principles for child serving programs through the County Behavioral Health Services are focused on integrated services, child and family driven, individualized, strength based, community based, outcome driven, culturally competent, trauma informed, and persistent to address challenges. The principles offer the framework to deliver services that promote equitable outcomes for children, youth, and families. In Screening to Care, all students in participating schools are offered a screening and based on need, are all eligible for the subsequent programming that is available through small group curriculum and/or care coordination to higher levels of care. Contracts are designed to be delivered in a culturally appropriate and relevant fashion, with Promotoras being hired within the school communities being served.

San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital (SDCPH) provides psychiatric services to San Diego County residents suffering from serious mental illness (SMI) and provides short- or long-term behavioral health services for such persons without insurance or funding. SDCPH is committed to addressing discrimination related to mental health and care access and establishing policies and practices within the departments that promote equity and fairness, while aligning with the County framework for the future. SDCPH goals include: 1.) Reduce disparities and disproportionality and ensure access for all through a fully optimized health and social service delivery system and upstream strategies. 2.) Focus on policy, systems and environmental approaches that ensure equal opportunity for health and well-being through partnerships and innovation. 3.) Ensure a fair and equitable justice system in the defense and prosecution of crimes, investigations of abuse and neglect, and support and services for victims.

The Out of Network hospitals serves the entire San Diego County region and neighboring counties. In addition, two of the Out of Network hospitals provide acute psychiatric inpatient services for children and adolescents. Programs offer both inpatient and outpatient mental health treatment programs to empower individuals to reach their fullest potential. Inpatient programs include treatment for depression, anxiety, challenges with

family or school, substance use and some developmental disabilities such as autism spectrum disorders.

**Community Engagement:**

The Screening to Care program employs a Promotora Model using caregivers from the community to provide education and outreach activities to the parents at participating schools. The program also utilizes formal written satisfaction surveys for youth and caregivers engaging in Screening to Care services. Additionally, Program Advisory Groups (PAGs) are held at least twice per year where individuals served by the program provide input on the design, practice, and policies involved in the program. Feedback from the PAGs included the following recommendations: 1) More family wellness events be held so that parents can attend activities that include their children; 2) Parent support groups were requested to be held at each campus (which is now scheduled to begin in April 2024); 3) A request that paper flyers be distributed with program updates in addition to emails sent through the schools. On a higher level, a presentation was made to the San Diego County School Board Association in March 2024 which provided an overview and update regarding Screening to Care services in the participating school districts.

SDCPH collaborates with San Diego area hospitals on a regular basis to review transfers, problem solve, and assure appropriate placement for persons with psychiatric diagnoses. Through partnership with CalAim, Mental Health, and Medical Clinics, and coordinated care with other hospitals and service-based organizations, SDCPH aims to reduce disparities, ensuring access for San Diego County residents. Through community partnerships, SDCPH continues to facilitate meaningful conversations, shared programming, or other opportunities to maximize resources. SDCPH will continuously be the support for all communities, through availability of emergency medical services and regional readiness to respond to a disaster. The **Out of Network** hospitals offer community outreach by providing educational events, participating in community health events, partnering with professional associations, and sponsoring trainings for mental health providers and the community. These trainings include, but are not limited to, mental health awareness, substance use support, self-care, and prevention. These hospitals also offer support groups and health education classes.

**Use of Evidence:**

The project design for the Screening to Care Initiative meets the preliminary evidence level. The overarching goal of the Screening to Care Initiative is to implement an evidenced-informed self-administered screener (mySAEBRS) 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.

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SDCPH fosters new ideas and implementation of proven best practices to achieve organizational excellence. This is done through innovative partnerships, trainings, events for staff, and programming for patients. The Out of Network hospitals work collaboratively with the County of San Diego and are contracted to provide inpatient acute services. The Out of Network hospitals work in close partnership with the Hospital Association to address and advance best practices to achieve organizational excellence.

**Performance Report:**

Screening to Care Contracts Awarded February 2023 & October 2023

<b>Tier 1 - Universal Screening</b>	<b>February 1, 2023 June 30, 2023</b>	<b>July 1, 2023 June 30, 2024</b>
Total Number of Enrolled Students	11,360	15,968
Number of Students who completed screening	3,511	8,808
Percentage of students that completed screening	31%	55%
<b>Tier 2 - Small Groups</b>	<b>February 1, 2023 June 30, 2023</b>	<b>July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024</b>
Number of unduplicated students receiving Tier 2 services (group or individual that lasted at least 30 minutes each)	211	3095
Number of Tier 2 sessions provided	145	4032
Number of Hours of Tier 2 sessions	133	4294
Number of Check-in (Individual) services provided	26	2124
Number of unduplicated students who completed the satisfaction survey for Tier 2 services	71	2746
% of Tier 2 students who completed the satisfaction survey	52%	89%
Number of unduplicated students who completed satisfaction survey and reported gaining useful knowledge and skills as a result of participation	67	2226
% of students who completed satisfaction survey reported gaining useful knowledge & skills resulting from participation	94%	81%
<b>Tier 3 - Care Coordination</b>	<b>February 1, 2023 June 30, 2023</b>	<b>July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024</b>
Number of unduplicated students identified for Tier 3 services	183	609
Number of unduplicated students who were referred to a provider as part of care coordination	31	337
Number of unduplicated students connected to a provider as evidenced by student attending 1 treatment session as a result of contractor's care coordination	15	198

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Number of unduplicated students who were determined to already be actively connected to sufficient care to meet the identified needs	10	23
Number of students who were unable to be connected to Tier 3 supportive service	111	47
Number of unduplicated students identified as needing Tier 2 support while connection to Tier 3 provider was explored, or as an ancillary service	116	429
Number of unduplicated students who participated in Tier 2 support while connection to Tier 3 provider was explored, or as an ancillary service	5	331
<b>Promotora Services</b>	<b>February 1, 2023 June 30, 2023</b>	<b>July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024</b>
Number of Promotora services provided	70	787
Number of Promotora hours provided at school	74	621
Number of unduplicated parents/caregivers who engaged in or received a Promotora Service	41	991
Number of Support/Referral contacts with parents/caregivers to make connections with community resources	11	435
Number of Outreach and Engagement sessions with parents/caregivers to enhance a connection between parents and the school	45	205
Number of Training/Education sessions to ensure parents/caregivers have tools to be active partners in their child's school experience	14	147
Number of unduplicated parents/caregivers who completed satisfaction survey	10	407
Number of unduplicated parents/caregivers who were satisfied with services	7	397
% of parents/caregivers who were satisfied with services	70%	97%

**SDCPH** number of admissions are as follows:

<b>Date Span</b>	<b>Triage</b>	<b>CSU</b>	<b>Inpatient</b>
FY 20-21	1,815	1,467	683
FY 21-22	4,094	3,312	1,568
FY 22-23	3,451	2,838	1,258
FY 23-24*	2,604	2,108	816

\* Date span = July 1, 2023 thru April 30, 2024



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Patient encounters (for inpatient status):

- FY 21-22 = 1607
- FY 22-23 = 1302
- FY 23-24 = 862

The **Out of Network** hospitals have fixed price contracts with the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Behavioral Health Services department. The table below illustrates the total number of Medi-Cal clients served each respective hospital in FY 21-22, FY 22-23, and FY 23-24:

*Total Admissions in the Fiscal Year.* Please note Fiscal Year-to-Date 2023-24 is data up to June 9, 2024, and that data will certainly change as they continue to enter data through the end of the fiscal year.

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024	July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
Admissions in the Fiscal Year	3,829	2,160

*Total Unique Clients Admitted in the Fiscal Year.*

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024	July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
Unique Clients Admitted in the Fiscal Year	2,742	1,588

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

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**Funding Amount:** \$0.3 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 coronavirus. 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.

The allocated funds will have been spent by April 30, 2025.

### **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. ARPA funds are being leveraged with various other funding sources to support the 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 is currently taking place to non-English speaking individuals who live alone, with services offered in their preferred language (either through bilingual staff or through language line translation). IHSS providers who serve multiple clients and provide 300 or more hours of service are currently being offered the program.

**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 are able to 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 Wellbeing* 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

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**Performance Report:**

As of June 30, 2024, County staff have sent targeted outreach materials to approximately 8,595 IHSS recipients and 1,550 providers. 1,639 referrals have been made to the contractor and 834 individuals are currently enrolled or have previously received services.

IHSS Technology for Social Inclusion Individuals Served

	<b>March 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024*</b>	<b>July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024</b>
Individuals Sent Outreach Materials	8,593	6,419
Referrals Made to Contractor	1,639	1,355
Individuals Enrolled	834	601

\*Actual program start date was November 1, 2022

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

**Funding Amount:** \$4.0 million (ARPA: \$2.3 million and Leveraged Funds: \$1.7 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 enhances 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 are also 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.

This funding for this program is anticipated to end June 30, 2026, however the department is looking for sustainable funding opportunities to continue programming.

### **Uses of Funds:**

Funds are used to provide immediate assistance to individuals at risk of or experiencing 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 are also 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 is referred by an authorized County outreach staff is eligible to receive the maximum funding of \$2,500 per fiscal year.

### **Promoting Equitable Outcomes:**

The 2024 Point-in-Time Count of people experiencing homelessness identified 10,605 individuals who were living on the streets or in shelters throughout San Diego County on one night in January. Of this number, 16% identified as Black, African, or African American, which is more than three times the proportion of African Americans in the San Diego County region, and 2% identified as American Indian, which is double the proportion in the region. In addition, of the 10,605 individuals, over 50% were reportedly unsheltered, approximately 44% of whom reported chronic homelessness, 28% were female, 9% were veterans, 8% were youth, and 2% comprised of unsheltered families. People of color are disproportionately impacted among those experiencing homelessness. 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. 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. The County collects data across all programs through the Quarterly Equity Measures dashboard to measure access to services and outcomes of services to indicate whether different populations are receiving services proportionate to their prevalence in the homeless system and to ensure that any disparities are addressed. Data is collected and reviewed quarterly.

**Community Engagement:**

The contractor has initiated partnerships with retailers and motels/hotels, which include linkage agreements, such as Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and has established procedures that ensure reliable partnerships. These MOUs are designed to facilitate emergency housing placements, which are prioritized; and expedite payments for goods and services to support access directly or indirectly to housing or housing stability for individuals and families at risk of or experiencing homelessness throughout San Diego County. The County works 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 flexible 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 flexible fund accounts and housing stability. Providing flexible spending assists in filling 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	<a href="#">7.27 SLFRF Recovery Plan FINAL.pdf (harriscountytexas.gov)</a>	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 of homelessness. Of the 1,413 participants enrolled, 25% of those individuals were permanently housed.	Quasi-Experimental
Hayward Navigation	<a href="https://www.bsc.ca.gov/wp">https://www.bsc.ca.gov/wp</a>	Of the Prop 47-eligible individuals who participated in the HNCP47 program (45), 53.33% completed all	Quasi-Experimental

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Center Proposition 47	<a href="#">= content/uploads/Hayward-City-of-PER.pdf</a>	<p>program requirements (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).</p>	
Flexible Funding as a Promising Strategy to Prevent Homelessness for Survivors of Domestic Violence	<a href="#">Flexible Funding as a Promising Strategy to Prevent Homelessness for Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence - Cris M. Sullivan, Heather D. Bomsta, Margaret A. Hacskaylo. 2019 (sagepub.co million)</a>	<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 suggests 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:**

Specialized Funding for Imminent Needs (SFIN)

	<b>March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024</b>	<b>July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024</b>
New households served	400	255
Household members served	799	558



### **Project 4a.3: Housing, Shelter, Including Acquisition of Facilities and Wrap-Around Services: San Diego Domestic Violence Shelter (SDDVS)**

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**Funding Amount:** \$6.2 million

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

#### **Project Overview:**

This project expands emergency housing options including capacity for domestic violence, human trafficking and sexual assault survivors. The San Diego Domestic Violence 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 which 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 shelter until the next steps are determined, which include safety assessments and housing transition plans. There will be on-site case management, counseling services, behavioral health and trauma-informed care services, legal services, access to food resources, childcare, immigration support and language services.

This funding for this program is anticipated to end December 31, 2025, however the City of San Diego will continue programming with other funding.

#### **Uses of Funds:**

The County granted up to \$6,200,000, which will fund \$263,000 in capital improvements to the City of San Diego for the 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. Services include 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:**

This project is still in development however several families have moved in as of June 2024 when construction was completed. They are working on reaching full capacity and services will continue for the remainder of the grant period. Domestic violence crosses socio-economic and other demographic categories across San Diego County. Funding domestic violence shelters ensures that individuals and families have a safe shelter available to protect themselves and move away from family violence.

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**Community Engagement:**

The City of San Diego will conduct additional community outreach and engagement to domestic violence providers on availability of beds under this project.

**Performance Report:**

San Diego Domestic Violence Shelter (SDDVS)

	<b>March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024*</b>	<b>July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024</b>
Clients Served	80	80
Households Served	30	30
Number of services provided including the following: psychological, community services, healthcare and safety planning	80	80

\*Actual program start date was January 3, 2024

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

**Funding Amount:** \$ 33.6 million (ARPA: \$17.2 million and Leveraged Funds: \$16.4 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. The programs in this category include the County's Department of General Services consultation to support site due diligence and planning, the Magnolia Safe Parking program, the Bancroft Safe parking program, recreational vehicle safe parking program, sleeping cabin projects, the By-Name-List to locate and track efforts to house people experiencing homelessness, and an environmental clean-up program that supports encampment resolutions. As of June 2024, the Magnolia Safe Parking and the Environmental Clean-Up program are operational and Bancroft Safe Parking is expected to be operational by August 5, 2024.

The funding for this program is anticipated to end June 30, 2026, however the department is looking for sustainable funding opportunities to continue programming.

### **Uses of Funds:**

Funds have been 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 refuge 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, on average 10 people found housing for every 16 people who experienced homelessness for the first time. 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. These efforts will provide safe non-congregate emergency housing, safe parking, 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 and environmental cleanup.

**Promoting Equitable Outcomes:**

The 2024 Point-in-Time Count of people experiencing homelessness identified 10,605 individuals who were living on the streets or in shelters throughout San Diego County on one night in January. Of this number, 16% identified as Black, African, or African American, which is more than three times the proportion of African Americans in the San Diego County region, and 2% identified as American Indian, which is double the proportion in the region. In addition, of the 10,605 individuals, over 50% were reportedly unsheltered, approximately 44% of whom reported chronic homelessness, 28% were female, 9% were veterans, 8% were youth, and 2% comprised of unsheltered families. People of color are disproportionately impacted among those experiencing homelessness. 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. 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. The County collects data across all programs through the Quarterly Equity Measures dashboard to measure access to services and outcomes of services to indicate whether different populations are receiving services proportionate to their prevalence in the homeless system and to ensure that any disparities are addressed. Data is collected and reviewed quarterly.

**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 program's operational period to further improve and identify gaps in services. Contracted 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

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Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) National Standards to ensure equal access to quality care by diverse populations. Contracted Partners are encouraged to hire bilingual staff and require them to have access to language translation services including ASL interpreter services.

**Use of Evidence:**

Preliminary evidence has supported positive outcomes for providing emergency housing and safe parking with case management and a focus on exit strategies. The programs listed below have similar components to those under the compassionate solutions array of programs and have published reviews.

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Safe Parking Los Angeles	<a href="https://www.safeparkingla.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/SPLA-2022-Impact-Report-FINAL-Web.pdf">SPLA 2022 Impact Report FINAL Web.pdf</a> ( <a href="https://www.safeparkingla.org">safeparkingla.org</a> )	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 of individuals sheltered by 47% from the previous fiscal year.	Quasi-Experimental
Jewish Family Services of San Diego's Safe Parking Program	<a href="https://www.jfsd.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/UCSD-JFS-Safe-Parking-Evaluation-2022.pdf">UCSD-JFS-Safe-Parking-Evaluation-2022.pdf</a> ( <a href="https://www.jfssd.org">jfssd.org</a> )	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
Move Mountainview	<a href="https://www.move-mountainview.org/">Safe Parking   Mountain View, CA</a>	Safe Parking Programs show approximately 30-50% of participants (data mostly on passenger cars) are able to 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

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Catholic Charities	<a href="http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/affordablehousing/?utm_campaign=ahbwak&amp;utm_source=housingpg&amp;utm_medium=website&amp;utm_type=cta&amp;utm_content=121322">www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/affordablehousing/?utm_campaign=ahbwak&amp;utm_source=housingpg&amp;utm_medium=website&amp;utm_type=cta&amp;utm_content=121322</a>	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	<a href="http://www.bchousing.org/housing-assistance/rental-assistance-programs/SAFER">www.bchousing.org/housing-assistance/rental-assistance-programs/SAFER</a>	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-	<a href="http://www.srcity.org/DocumentCenter/View/37088/Final-Santa-Rosa-Homelessness-Solutions-Plan?bidId=">www.srcity.org/DocumentCenter/View/37088/Final-Santa-Rosa-Homelessness-Solutions-Plan?bidId=</a>	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	<a href="http://www.huduser.gov/portal/pdredge/pdredge-featd-article-051418.html">www.huduser.gov/portal/pdredge/pdredge-featd-article-051418.html</a>	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"	<a href="https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/temporary-modular-housing.aspx">https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/temporary-modular-housing.aspx</a>	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: Surrey Temporary Modular Buildings	<a href="http://www.bchousing.org/sites/default/files/rcg-documents/2022-04/Surrey-Modular-Supportive-Housing-Resident-Outcomes-Report%20%281%29.pdf">www.bchousing.org/sites/default/files/rcg-documents/2022-04/Surrey-Modular-Supportive-Housing-Resident-Outcomes-Report%20%281%29.pdf</a>	95% of Residents who participated in the program remained house after 6 months. 81% of participants reported improvements to their overall wellbeing. 60% reported improvement in their living skills. 59% respondents reported improved access to employment opportunities and employment support services	Quasi-Experimental

**Performance Report:**

Magnolia Safe Parking and Environmental Clean-Up

	<b>March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024*</b>	<b>July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024</b>
Environmental cleanup waste disposed of	276 cubic yards	276 cubic yards
Number of Households served at Magnolia SP	91	58
Number of individuals served at Magnolia SP	155	104
Number of Exits to a more stable housing option from Magnolia Safe Parking	45%	42%

\*Actual program start date was August 2022 for Magnolia Safe Parking and January 2024 for Environmental Clean-up.

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

**Funding Amount:** \$12.0 million (ARPA: \$3.9 million and Leveraged Funds: \$8.1 million)

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.15, Long-Term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons

### **Project Overview:**

This project will create permanent supportive housing for extremely low-income households defined as households earning 30% or below the Area Median Income who are at the greatest risk of experiencing homelessness. These funds 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.

The Performance Report shows those locations that will utilize ARPA funding. The remaining developments will start construction in calendar year 2025. The program anticipates ending December 31, 2027.

### **Uses of Funds:**

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. 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 had 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 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. Development partners are encouraged to facilitate site specific community engagement and outreach as a good neighbor.



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**Performance Report:**

Construction of Extremely Low-Income Housing

Location (City)	Project Name	Total Units	Extremely Low 0-30% AMI Units	Very Low 31-50% AMI Units	Low 51-80% AMI Units	Manager Units	Total County ARPA Loan (in millions)	Total ARPA Expended
San Diego	Messina (Mt. Etna)	79	9	40	29	1	\$1.9 million (\$1.9 million ARPA)	\$1.7 million
San Diego	Taormina (Mt. Etna)	136	15	15	105	1	\$6.2 million (\$2.2 million ARPA)	\$2.2 million

## **Project 4a.7: Housing, Shelter, Including Acquisition of Facilities and Wrap-Around Services: Pilot Shallow Rental Subsidy Program**

**Funding Amount:** \$4.0 million (ARPA: \$3.2 million and Leveraged Funds: \$0.8 million)

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

### **Project Overview:**

The Pilot Shallow Rental Subsidy Program (SRSP) assists low-income older adults by providing them a time-limited shallow rental subsidy to help them remain in their homes. Eligibility for the program includes households that have a head of household who is 55 years of age or older, are low income, and are severely rent-burdened. A first round of the SRSP served 222 households by providing a \$500 monthly subsidy paid directly to landlords over a period of 18 months. Participants also receive light case management services.

The current allocation of funding is anticipated to be fully expended by June 30, 2026.

### **Uses of Funds:**

The program supports low-income older adults who need immediate financial assistance to remain in their homes by providing them a time-limited shallow rental subsidy. Older adults are a subset of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have specific age-related challenges, including fixed incomes, reduced employment opportunities, declining health, and diminishing mobility. This program assists older adults who are at risk of homelessness by providing a \$500 monthly subsidy over a period of 18 months and light case management services.

### **Promoting Equitable Outcomes:**

The 2024 Point-in-Time Count of people experiencing homelessness identified 10,605 individuals who were living on the streets or in shelters throughout San Diego County on one night in January. Of this number, 16% identified as Black, African, or African American, which is more than three times the proportion of African Americans in the San Diego County region, and 2% identified as American Indian, which is double the proportion in the region. In addition, of the 10,605 individuals, over 50% were reportedly unsheltered, approximately 44% of whom reported chronic homelessness, 28% were female, 9% were veterans, 8% were youth, and 2% comprised of unsheltered families. People of color are disproportionately impacted among those experiencing homelessness. 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. 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. The County collects data across all programs through the Quarterly Equity Measures dashboard to measure access to services and outcomes of services to indicate whether different populations are receiving services proportionate to their prevalence in the homeless system and to ensure that any disparities are addressed. Data is collected and reviewed quarterly.

**Community Engagement:**

The County works extensively with community-based organizations, 2-1-1 San Diego, and other stakeholders on outreach efforts to inform the community about the SRSP, with the goal of ensuring eligible households apply. The County held two webinars for the community to share information and answer questions about the program and provide application support. The webinars provided the opportunity to obtain feedback and input from the community and service providers to help inform the application and enrollment process before the application period began. The County's contractor also reached out to community members who expressed interest in applying to inform them about the subsidies. The County and the contractor also provide application assistance and helps applicants submit and upload their application documents as needed.

**Use of Evidence:**

The goal of the SRSP is to keep older adults at risk of homelessness in their homes, and out of the homeless system, by providing rental subsidies to older adults on fixed income. The program gave older adults a set amount of rent at \$500 a month for 18 months, and a recently approved additional 12 months, payable directly to landlords with the goal of improving housing stability for older adults who need ongoing financial assistance. At the conclusion of the pilot program, it will be evaluated for its impact on preventing homelessness and to help determine how to continue supporting older adults at risk of homelessness.

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 Housing 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 programs indicate preliminary evidence showing how providing services and vouchers to seniors and those at or below the poverty line on the brink of eviction prevents homelessness.

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References:

1. Housing Choice Voucher Program  
[https://www.hud.gov/topics/housing\\_choice\\_voucher\\_program\\_section\\_8](https://www.hud.gov/topics/housing_choice_voucher_program_section_8)
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:**

Pilot Shallow Rental Subsidy Program (SRSP)

	<b>March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024*</b>	<b>July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024</b>
Enrolled Applicants	222	209

\*Actual program start date was February 2023

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

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**Funding Amount:** \$3.0 million

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

### **Project Overview:**

The Local Rental Subsidy Program (LRSP) housing stability case management services receives referrals directly from the Regional Homeless Assistance Program (RHAP) (see project 4.b.3) and the Compassionate Emergency Solutions and Pathways to Housing (CESPH) programs (see project 4.a.4). This housing stability case management supports people experiencing homelessness as they move into stable housing (project 4.b.2). 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 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.

The funding for this program is anticipated to end June 30, 2026, however the department is looking for sustainable funding opportunities to continue programming.

### **Uses of Funds:**

In response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, funding is used to provide emergency, non-congregate shelter, 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 who are or at risk of experiencing 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 2024 Point-in-Time Count of people experiencing homelessness identified 10,605 individuals who were living on the streets or in shelters throughout San Diego County on one night in January. Of this number, 16% identified as Black, African, or African American, which is more than three times the proportion of African Americans in the San Diego County region, and 2% identified as American Indian, which is double the proportion in the region. In addition, of the 10,605 individuals, over 50% were reportedly unsheltered, approximately 44% of whom reported chronic homelessness, 28% were female, 9% were veterans, 8% were youth, and 2% comprised of unsheltered families. People of color are disproportionately impacted among those experiencing homelessness. 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. 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. The County collects data across all programs through the Quarterly Equity Measures dashboard to measure access to services and outcomes of services to indicate whether different populations are receiving services proportionate to their prevalence in the homeless system and to ensure that any disparities are addressed. Data is collected and reviewed quarterly.

The Housing Navigation and Housing Stability Case Management Services provider 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. The Contractor ensures that the program recruits, hires, and retains bilingual, peer support, and culturally diverse staff reflective of the clients served. In addition to having staff members who are bilingual and ethnically, culturally, and racially diverse, the Contractor has a long history of employing formerly homeless individuals throughout the agency, from direct line staff to directors. All services provided are client-centered to respond to the needs of the individuals and households served through the program.

**Community Engagement:**

The County engages people at-risk of or experiencing homelessness, impacted community members, community partners, and other key stakeholders in developing County plans to address homelessness. Their feedback is valued and incorporated into the development of programs. The programs engage and receive feedback through partnerships with other direct service providers that support participants' diverse needs

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including but not limited to Legal Aid Society of San Diego, Federally Qualified Health Centers, San Diego Workforce Partnership, Salvation Army, San Diego Food Bank, Feeding San Diego, County Behavioral Health Services, and many other community partners.

**Use of Evidence:**

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Cuyahoga County Office of Homeless Services-Rapid Rehousing Program	<a href="http://www.huduser.gov/portal/pdredge/pdr-edge-featd-article-051418.html">www.huduser.gov/portal/pdredge/pdr-edge-featd-article-051418.html</a>	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
Santa Rosa Homelessness Solution Plan 2023-2027	<a href="http://www.srcity.org/DocumentCenter/View/37088/Final-Santa-Rosa-Homelessness-Solutions-Plan?bidId=">www.srcity.org/DocumentCenter/View/37088/Final-Santa-Rosa-Homelessness-Solutions-Plan?bidId=</a>	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:**

Housing Stability Case Management Services for LRSP

	March 1, 2021 – June 31, 2024	July 1, 2023 – June 31, 2024
Number of individuals receiving case management services	351	70
Number of households receiving housing stability services	748	233

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

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**Funding Amount:** \$7.0 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) allocates vouchers that will provide up to two (2) years of rental assistance and case management services (listed above), for persons transitioning out of County emergency shelter programs in the unincorporated area, including the Regional Homeless Assistance Program (RHAP) (see project 4.b.3). 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. Case management for this program is provided by the LRSP Housing Stability Case Management program, project 4.b.

The funding for this program is anticipated to end June 30, 2026, however the department is looking for sustainable funding opportunities to continue programming.

Link to websites:

- Notice PIH 2021-14 (HA)  
<https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/PIH2021-14.pdf>
- 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 proceeding 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 paired with 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. The goal of the program is to focus the subsidies on those in most need of the additional support to help ensure housing stability.

**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 specifically designated day of the year. The 2024 Point-in-Time Count of people experiencing homelessness identified 10,605 individuals who were living on the streets or in shelters throughout San Diego County on one night. Of this number, 16% identified as Black, African, or African American, which is more than three times the proportion of African Americans in the San Diego County region, and 2% identified as American Indian, which is double the proportion in the region. In addition, of the 10,605 individuals, over 50% were reportedly unsheltered, approximately 44% of whom reported chronic homelessness, 28% were female, 9% were veterans, 8% were youth, and 2%. People of color are disproportionately impacted among those experiencing homelessness. 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. Demographic data is compared to program participants to measure how the program is serving vulnerable population which is shared with the service provider organization.

**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. 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, 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. Contracted partners are encouraged 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.

*Preliminary Evidence*

Catholic Charities	<a href="#">Affordable Housing - Catholic Charities USA</a>	Catholic Charities provides more than 38,000 units for low to moderate households and housed 12,283 seniors in 2023 Nationwide. Seniors make up 27% of all unhoused individuals.	Quasi-Experimental
Santa Rosa Homelessness Solution Plan 2023-2027	<a href="#">Final-Santa-Rosa-Homelessness-Solutions-Plan (srcity.org)</a>	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 4b.3: Emergency Interim Shelter – Regional Homeless Assistance Program**

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**Funding Amount:** \$37.1 million

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

**Project Overview:**

The Regional Homeless Assistance Program (RHAP) was established in 2020 by the Board of Supervisors. RHAP is an emergency housing program that supports people experiencing homelessness in local participating hotels and motels. It is the only emergency housing program that supports people experiencing homelessness in the unincorporated areas of the county. RHAP has proven effective in supporting program recipients, as the broad geographic coverage enables people to remain near their existing natural support. RHAP serves up to 250 households a night in the unincorporated areas with non-congregate shelter (via hotel vouchers) with the goal of permanent housing through case management and housing navigation.

Individuals in the RHAP program also receive services such as needs assessment for services, credit reference and repair, employment and training, connections to income, food and medical benefits, rental and subsidy applications, and training on life skills. The contractor also works directly with landlords to provide incentives, explain the program, and advocate for the participants on their behalf. The goal of the program is to secure more permanent housing solutions for people experiencing homelessness within six months of entering the program. Many of the individuals in the program are also connected to a twenty-four-month rental subsidy and a housing sustainability service provider to help prevent them from falling back into homelessness.

The funding for this program is anticipated to end June 30, 2026, however the department is looking for sustainable funding opportunities to continue programming.

**Uses of Funds:**

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 San Diego on average, 10 people found housing for every 16 people who experienced homelessness for the first time. 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.

**Promoting Equitable Outcomes:**

The 2024 Point-in-Time Count of people experiencing homelessness identified 10,605 individuals who were living on the streets or in shelters throughout San Diego County on one night in January. Of this number, 16% identified as Black, African, or African American, which is more than three times the proportion of African Americans in the San Diego County region, and 2% identified as American Indian, which is double the proportion in the region. In addition, of the 10,605 individuals, over 50% were reportedly unsheltered, approximately 44% of whom reported chronic homelessness, 28% were female, 9% were veterans, 8% were youth, and 2% comprised of unsheltered families. People of color are disproportionately impacted among those experiencing homelessness. 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. 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. The County collects data across all programs through the Quarterly Equity Measures dashboard to measure access to services and outcomes of services to indicate whether different populations are receiving services proportionate to their prevalence in the homeless system and to ensure that any disparities are addressed. Data is collected and reviewed quarterly.

**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, which includes RHAP. Their feedback was sought and incorporated through surveys and request for information meetings. Surveys shall continue to be collected 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 bi-lingual staff and require them to have access to language translation services including ASL interpreter services.

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**Use of Evidence:**

The program is currently non-evidence based. Non-congregate shelter in hotels is an innovative design that sprung forward during the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, Rapid Rehousing studies and designs are better aligned with the program design.

Name of Study	Source	Study Description	Study Type
Catholic Charities	<a href="#">Affordable Housing - Catholic Charities USA</a>	Catholic Charities provides more than 38,000 units for low to moderate households and housed 12,283 seniors in 2023 Nationwide. Seniors make up 27% of all unhoused individuals.	Quasi-Experimental
Santa Rosa Homelessness Solution Plan 2023-2027	<a href="#">Final-Santa-Rosa-Homelessness-Solutions-Plan (srcity.org)</a>	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:**

Regional Homeless Assistance Program (RHAP)

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024*	July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
Number of Households served in RHAP	455	257
Number of Individuals Served in RHAP	821	526
Households Permanently Housed in RHAP	154	102

\*ARPA funding started FY22-23.

### **Project 4c: LGBTQ Homeless Services/Housing**

**Funding Amount:** \$5.0 million (ARPA: \$3.5 million and Leveraged Funds: \$1.5 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 programs, include:

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

These programs 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.

The current allocation of funding is anticipated to be fully expended by January 30, 2025.

#### **Uses of Funds:**

There are three portions of the budget for this project:

1. Capacity Building: 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: 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: Innovative housing and affirming supports for vulnerable populations experiencing or at-risk of homelessness, including affirming resources for people identifying as LGBTQ+.

Funds allow 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 2024 Point-in-Time Count of people experiencing homelessness identified 10,605 individuals who were living on the streets or in shelters throughout San Diego County on one night in January. Of this number, 16% identified as Black, African, or African American, which is more than three times the proportion of African Americans in the San Diego County region, and 2% identified as American Indian, which is double the proportion in the region. In addition, of the 10,605 individuals, over 50% were reportedly unsheltered, approximately 44% of whom reported chronic homelessness, 28% were female, 9% were veterans, 8% were youth, and 2% comprised of unsheltered families. People of color are disproportionately impacted among those experiencing homelessness. 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. 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. The County collects data across all programs through the Quarterly Equity Measures dashboard to measure access to services and outcomes of services to indicate whether different populations are receiving services proportionate to their prevalence in the homeless system and to ensure that any disparities are addressed. Data is collected and reviewed quarterly.

**Community Engagement:**

The County has conducted internal and external community engagement, including a Request for Information (RFI – “Industry Day”) which 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.

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
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



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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 approximately 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:**

#### Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Questioning (LGBTQ+)

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024*	July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
Individuals provided housing supports and linkages	182	182
Individuals provided wraparound and supportive services	280	280
Individuals provided LGBTQ+ affirming training	1,020	784

\*Actual program start date was January 2023 for capacity building and September 2023 for services and housing.

### **Project 4d: Project Homekey**

**Funding Amount:** \$24.5 million (ARPA: \$17.8 million and Leveraged Funds: \$6.7 million)

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.15, Long-Term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons

**Project Overview:**

This project will create permanent supportive housing for extremely low-income households defined as households earning 30% or below the Area Median Income who are at the greatest risk of experiencing homelessness. These funds 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. As of this report, the developer is in process of acquiring the site. Site acquisition and construction are anticipated to commence in August 2024 and will be completed in the summer of 2025.

**Uses of Funds:**

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. This program provides funding, via Board of Supervisors action for the San Diego Housing Commission to acquire sites eligible for the States Homekey program that will make units available for extremely low-income households. The Homekey development supported with ARPA funding will provide 165 total units including 163 units for extremely low-income individuals and two on-site staff / property management units.

**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 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:**

Development partners are encouraged to facilitate site specific community engagement and outreach as a good neighbor.

**Use of Evidence:**

N/A. This is not an evidence-based activity.

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**Performance Report:**

Location (City)	Project Name	Total Units	Extremely Low 0-30% AMI Units	Very Low 31-50% AMI Units	Low 51-80% AMI Units	Manager Units	Total County Loan Includes all Sources of Funding (in millions)
San Diego	Presidio Palms	163	161	0	0	2	\$24.5 million (\$17.8 million ARPA)

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

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**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 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 and will be completed by December 31, 2024.

### **Uses of Funds:**

The Food Banks Pantry Food Box and Backpack programs 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 San Diego County who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The programs reach is enhanced through efforts of locally sourcing fresh fruits and vegetables and healthy staple items which contribute to overall better health and well-being.

The funds allocated to the program support the community by addressing specific need, 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:**

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.

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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 are conducted on a semi-annual basis to obtain points of view of participants receiving food distributions. The purpose of these 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 promise of positive impacts.

### **Performance Report:**

#### Food Bank Distribution:

	<b>March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024*</b>	<b>July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024</b>
Pantry Food Boxes	111,485	44,273
Backpacks	40,865	14,960

\*Actual program start date was January 2022.

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

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**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 older adults 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 of San Diego's Aging & Independence Services (AIS) partners with twelve contracted providers to deliver services countywide. The Senior Nutrition Program assists older adults to live independently by promoting better health and quality of life.

The program was completed on June 30, 2024.

The Senior Nutrition Program continues to provide free congregate, home-delivered, and take-home meals to older adults through ongoing state and federal funding from the Older Americans Act as well as Modernizing Older Californians Act funding dispersed by the Older Americans Act. An increase in state and federal funding has allowed the program to continue to maintain the same level of services that were provided with supplemental ARPA funding.

### **Uses of Funds:**

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 the 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 nutrition contractor. Additionally, community feedback sessions and public hearings held 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:**

Senior Nutrition Program Supplemental Meals Served:

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024*	July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
Meals Served	715,233	284,833

\*Actual program start date was January 2022.

## **Project 5b: Community Food Production Projects**

**Funding Amount:** \$7.0 million (ARPA: \$6.6 million and Leveraged Funds: \$0.4 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 Program (CFPP) is to disseminate funds to support community food production with a goal of increasing food sovereignty and a more resilient local food system, especially in low-income communities, communities with limited access to healthy food, and communities impacted by COVID-19. A grant agreement with the San Diego Foundation (SDF) was signed on June 28, 2022, for a total of \$6 million to lead implementation of the program and dissemination of the funds to the community. SDF awarded \$5,563,500 in grants to 43 community-based organizations to help San Diegans experiencing food insecurity by supporting localized, sustainable food production and distribution throughout the region. The projects selected represent a wide breadth of nonprofit organizations in San Diego County, from grassroots, volunteer-led efforts to established countywide institutions. These projects provide regional and population-specific services to food-insecure seniors, students, Tribal communities, unsheltered, and refugee and immigrant residents of San Diego County. Projects 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. All funded projects are in implementation. The funds will be expended by December 31, 2024. The program is anticipated to be completed by December 31, 2024.

Seven internal County-led projects were originally approved by the County's Chief Administrative Officer. The projects were selected with a commitment to equity both in following Federal ARPA eligibility requirements to serve people most impacted by COVID-19, and in serving vulnerable populations, such as youth in custodial facilities. The program was not able to move forward with two projects due to eligibility and feasibility of implementation. There are now currently five internal County-led projects which are all in implementation.

In total, there are 48 projects in the Community Food Production Program.

Types of projects (several projects comprise multiple types):

- Community Gardens/Food Production
- Capacity Building
- Education/School Gardens
- Food Distribution



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- Food Recovery
- Indigenous/Traditional Agricultural Practices
- Supporting Local Farmers
- Systems-Level Change

### **Uses of Funds:**

Eligibility for the Community Food Production grantee programs meets criteria set by the U.S. Treasury for “Disproportionately Impacted Demographics”. The primary parameters include that the project and/or population served are located within a qualifying census tract (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and/or the Healthy Places Index Least Healthy Quartiles). Additional parameters include low-income households and communities, households that qualify for certain federal programs, and households that receive services provided by Tribal governments. Internal County-Led projects follow the same eligibility criteria.

COVID-19 directly impacted food access for many households due to reduction in income. With rising costs for 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 and organizations that produce and distribute food to marginalized communities. This funding provides critical support to communities in San Diego that have been affected the most, by increasing organizational capacity to help sustain and/or expand their operations allowing for communities to secure healthier food options.

### **Promoting Equitable Outcomes:**

The Community Food Production program funding was developed to address health inequities in accessing healthy foods for systematically marginalized communities. Funded projects meet eligibility criteria for providing services to the HUD qualifying census tracts, HPI Quartile 3 and 4 (least healthy quartiles), and other low-income household parameters set by the U.S. Treasury. The goal of the project is to increase the amount of food grown or produced regionally, 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 food grants were provided to a variety of small-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 have similar priority populations and objectives as the Community-Led projects. This includes projects such as establishing community gardens on County-owned properties, sustainable agricultural projects in local juvenile and adult correctional settings, and funding distribution of compost and mulch for individuals and families to use in their food producing gardens. 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 developed a comprehensive community engagement and outreach plan, including virtual community engagement sessions and a survey to solicit feedback and input from diverse food system stakeholders on the funding parameters and application. Participation in the sessions and the survey created a space where community members could contribute ideas and feedback, provide input on questions related to the Community Food Production Program funding opportunity and application, and ensure that community feedback was integrated throughout the process of funding and application development. SDF also convened an advisory council made up of food system stakeholders from across the county to inform the criteria and application development for the Community Food Production Program funding. 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. The 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. Applications were open from February 6, 2023, through March 31, 2023, and available in all threshold languages. SDF received 131 applications totaling over \$22 million in requests indicating that community food production projects are a priority for San Diegans. SDF provided feedback to all 88 applications that did not receive funding.

**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.

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**Performance Report:**

Outcome measures will be available upon conclusion of the program and will include data such as: number of people served (reach numbers) and pounds of produce grown.

Community Food Production Program

	<b>March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024*</b>
Number of Projects that Applied for Funding	138 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 131 Community-Led Food Production Projects</li><li>• 7 County-Led Food Production Projects</li></ul>
Number of Projects that Received Funding	48 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 43 Community-Led Food Production Projects</li><li>• 5 County-Led Food Production Projects</li></ul>

\*Actual program start date was June 2022.

## **Project 5c: Expansion of Mas Fresco More Fresh Nutrition Incentive Program**

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**Funding Amount:** \$2.0 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. The program is anticipated to be completed by December 31, 2024.

### **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 ensures 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 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,

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participant enrollment, overview of program success on various levels and opportunities for program growth.

**Performance Report:**

¡Más Fresco! Enrollees:

	<b>March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024*</b>	<b>July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024</b>
Number of ¡Más Fresco! Enrollees	1556	467

\*Actual program start date was February 2022.

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

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**Funding Amount:** \$1.0 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. 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. The contractor will enhance ¡Más Fresco! by providing Nutrition Incentives Beyond SNAP to Medi-Cal to provide Medi-Cal recipients and others affected by COVID-19.

This program will provide Medi-Cal recipients and others affected by COVID-19, particularly those suffering from chronic diseases (including hypertension, obesity, and type 2 diabetes), 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.

The allocated ARPA funds are expected to be spent by December 31, 2024. Additional local County funding was included in the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Adopted budget to extend this program through June 30, 2025.

Link to website:

<https://masfrescoplusproduce.org/>

### **Uses of Funds:**

The Nutrition Incentives Beyond SNAP To Medical program provides Med-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 three 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 aid the communities heavily impacted by COVID-19, a fair and equitable approach was adopted to prioritize the allocation of funds for COVID-19 response and recovery. There are 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.



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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

	<b>March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024*</b>	<b>July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024</b>
Number of ¡Más Fresco! Plus Enrollees	1,084	277

\*Actual program start date was February 2022.

## **Project 5e: Food System Sustainability and Equity Procurement Guidelines**

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**Funding Amount:** \$1.0 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 of San Diego (County) that ensures 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 the County. The County serves approximately eight million meals at a cost of approximately \$27 million each year to vulnerable populations including youth and adults residing in public hospitals and detention facilities, older adults, foster youth, and individuals living with HIV/AIDS. As such, the County recognized the opportunity to direct public funds through implementing a values-based food sourcing program and policy that can positively impact populations served in addition to supporting a more robust sustainable, equitable, and local food system. 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. Development of the policy was informed through program implementation and feedback from food service operators.

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.

On December 5, 2023, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to adopt the Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Policy.

The program is anticipated to be completed by April 30, 2025.

### **Uses of Funds:**

Food assistance was one of the highest priorities that resulted from the County-held community workshops for the County ARPA Framework. According to the San Diego Hunger Coalition, as of March 2023, nearly one in four San Diegans experience food insecurity or are unable to provide three, nutritious meals per day for themselves and/or

their families. In 2022, according to a landscape assessment of County food service programs and operations, the County served approximately eight million meals to vulnerable populations including youth and adults residing in public hospitals and detention facilities, older adults, foster youth, and individuals living with HIV/AIDS. As such, the County identified an opportunity to direct public funds through implementing a values-based food sourcing program and policy that could positively impact populations served in addition to supporting a more robust sustainable, equitable, and local food system. The County's Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Program and Policy guides the sustainability of the local food economy; provides equitable consumption of healthy, affordable, and culturally relevant foods; and promotes the opportunity to source food in a manner that elevates labor standards and minimizes carbon intensity.

**Promoting Equitable Outcomes:**

By centering equity in the County's food procurement, the County identified the potential to focus public funds to positively impact the food system for local food producers, workers, and businesses owned and/or operated by underserved communities. In addition, implementing a comprehensive, values-based food procurement program ensures that institutional food purchasing advances an equitable, healthy, fair, local, humane, and sustainable food system. Sustainability and equity-focused institutional food purchasing can be an immediate and long-term strategy to reduce health disparities through improving quality of food served to vulnerable and under-resourced communities.

**Community Engagement:**

The County's technical assistance contractor 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 on food purchases within Board of Supervisor identified value categories. In addition, the contractor hosted meetings with staff from all County food service operations for individual program Action Planning sessions utilizing the data from the baseline assessments. This has resulted in tailored action plans collaboratively developed with each food service operation to help them shift purchases that align with the value categories.

The contractor continues to host quarterly action planning calls to support each food service operation's team in achieving action plans goals. They will be collecting Fiscal Year 2024 purchasing data to assess progress against baseline assessment data in July of 2024.

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**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 as a best practice by institutions such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and United States Department of Agriculture, among others.

**Performance Report:**

Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Program:

	<b>March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024*</b>	<b>July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024</b>
Completed Assessments (County Food Service Operations)	13	4
Implementation Plans Developed	11	11
Number of Quarterly Calls with County Food Service Operations	42	42

\*Actual program start date was January 2022

## Project 6a: Career Pathways for Foster Youth

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**Funding Amount:** \$5.0 million

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

### **Project Overview:**

On July 10, 2023, the San Diego county contractor launched [the Career Pathways for Foster Youth](#) program, which provides career assessment, employable skills and knowledge, financial incentives to current/former foster youth based on their individual goals, interests and circumstances. Participants are supported in attaining high-school diplomas, enrolling in post-secondary education and/or occupational/technical skills training and designing plans to prepare for their 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, participants are engaged in employability training, internships and supportive job opportunities that help them take the first steps to a successful career. Eligible participants enrolled in high school, vocational/certificate programs, or college/university receive additional financial support (scholarships, educational related expenses) to ensure continuation/completion of their program while participating in Career Pathways.

Career Pathways anticipates serving approximately 170 participants residing in San Diego County. Four distinct tracks are available for participants that focus on specific goals and related services and supports, allowing flexibility for individuals to participate in tracks aligned with their chosen career path and transition seamlessly to other supporting tracks:

- Paid Work Experience:
  - Offer mentoring, Skills to Succeed Training, career exploration, stipends, and internship experiences.
- Expand County and Other Employer Partnership:
  - Expand County and other employer partnership opportunities to serve youth with the inclusion of on-the-job mentoring to provide professional support and guidance.
- Training Pathways Program:
  - Recruit youth, who have a high school diploma or General Educational Development (GED), to prepare them to enter occupational skills training.
- Career Development Trainings:

- Incorporate career exploration and work readiness training into the existing Fostering Academic Success in Education (FASE) and Promises2Kids (P2K) programs, designed to improve educational outcomes for foster youth.

The allocated funds are anticipated to be fully spent by June 30, 2025.

**Uses of Funds:**

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, current and former foster youth continue to experience 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. Funding is used to support program, which will assist participants in deciding and identifying the right career, start of school or certificate program, finding a temporary job/internship teaching new job skills, finding long-term employment, providing social/emotional support and supportive services. In addition, funding is utilized to provide financial support (scholarships, educational related expenses) to ensure continuation/completion of participants' program while participating in Career Pathways, and gift cards for completion of work readiness training, professional clothing and other supportive services, and monthly bus passes.

Career Pathways has made a positive impact in participant's lives. One participant wanted to pursue truck driving as a profession and obtain a CDL (Commercial Driver's License), the program enrolled the youth in the certification course with United Truck Driving. Ensuring immediate needs were met, Career Pathways assisted with temporary housing, groceries, and essential tools, such as a laptop for studying, while working together to elevate the workplace skills. The participant demonstrated exceptional dedication to the professional development and with help from the Career Pathway's Program Specialist/Case Manager crafted an updated resume. The participant was engaged in all the program's available work readiness training courses, participated in mock interviews, and is studying for the CDL test. This participant's journey exemplifies the transformative impact of comprehensive support systems and opportunities for those determined to overcome challenges and build a brighter future.

**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.

Career Pathways has actively ensured the current participants are connected to school/training/employment resources throughout San Diego County. With the established network of collaborating agencies/organizations, participants have opportunities to employment, education, and other job skills to build competency, develop network of support and gain knowledge in their chosen career path to success. Participants in the program represent the diverse race/ethnicity groups in San Diego; White (16.5%), Hispanic/Latino (38.6%), Black (26.2%), AAPI (2.8%), American Indian/Alaska Native (2.1%), and two+ (13.8%). These participants reside throughout San Diego County; Central, including North Central (40.7%), North County (27.6%), East (20%), South (11.7%).

**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 (FAYCES) 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.

Since the launch of the program, the Contractor has expanded partnerships with local community organizations, such as [Promises2Kids](#), [Access Inc.](#) and [Just in Time for Foster Youth](#) to expand supportive services, including financial support with housing, mental health care, transportation, child care, and other basic needs. Expansion of collaboration with other community partners, lead to the convening of the Fostering Future Success event. This event was planned, in collaboration with local businesses, for 14 participants to choose their professional interview outfit, had a professional photo shoot, and networked with five industry professionals who are former foster youth. This event provided crucial support as these youth begin navigating the world of work.

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Link to websites:

- Promises2Kids  
<https://promises2kids.org/>
- Access Inc.  
<https://www.access2jobs.org>
- Just In Time Foster Youth  
<https://jitfosteryouth.org>

### **Use of Evidence:**

Career Pathways 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 experience 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:**

Career Pathways for Foster Youth:

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024*	July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
Number of children served by child care and early learning services	0	0
Number of families served by home visiting	0	0
Number of Program Participants	229	229

\*Actual program start date was July 2023.



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

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**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.

This program was completed as of June 30, 2023, and ARPA funds were fully spent. The program is still operational through SANDAG.

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 County of San Diego 2023 Recovery Plan Performance Report 98 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, 2024*	July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
Individual Youth Opportunity Passes Distributed	41,000	N/A
Total Rides Taken with Youth Opportunity	7,650,000	N/A

\*Actual program start date was May 20, 2022.

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

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**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 and locations with low Healthy Places Index (HPI) scores 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. Participants are provided with 100 miles of transportation per month.

Once ARPA funds are fully spent, the County will be leveraging additional funding, Modernizing Older Californians Act and General Purpose Revenue, budgeted in the FY 2024-2026 Adopted budget, to extend the anticipated completion date for this project to June 30, 2025.

### **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 locations 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 to Seniors program was created to fund rides for the hardest hit pockets of the county. Older Adults living within specific zip codes and least healthy HPI locations, are eligible for up to 100 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. Least healthy HPI locations were added to the eligibility criteria due to their propensity to be places of high economic and health access need in our region.

**Promoting Equitable Outcomes:**

The No-Cost Transportation to Seniors program was strategically developed to tackle the health inequities faced during the pandemic amongst socially isolated low-income older adults residing in locations that were hardest hit by the pandemic – those living in Health Equity zip codes and least healthy HPI locations. Health Equity zip codes and least healthy HPI locations were selected as eligibility criteria due to participant propensity to live in less healthy community conditions, making them more prone to health complications with less access to health care, in addition to having a 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 to Seniors program collects feedback from program participants through the use of customer satisfaction surveys administered by the program contractor. Outreach is conducted in a variety of languages within eligible program locations to promote the program to low-income older adults.

**Use of Evidence:**

This program does not meet the criteria for strong or moderate evidence. However, the No-Cost Transportation to Seniors program was designed to serve those affected most by the pandemic and was originally set up to provide services to low-income older adults residing in Health Equity zip codes. This was recently expanded to include low scoring Healthy Places Index locations. Health Equity zip codes and least healthy HPI locations were selected as eligibility criteria for participants due to participant propensity to live in least healthy community conditions making them more prone to health complications and less access to health care 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:**

No-Cost Transportation to Seniors Metrics:

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024*	July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
Individuals Enrolled	492	310
One-Way Trips	21,226	19,104
Miles of Rides	124,548.21	110,478.89

\*Actual program start date was October 1, 2022

## **Project 7a: Child Care Workforce Investment**

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**Funding Amount:** \$10.0 million

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

### **Project Overview:**

The Workforce Investment Program (WIP), shall support participating child care providers countywide, with a targeted emphasis on those working in regions with identified child care deserts, with access to individualized job training and professional supports, funding continuing education tuition in Child and Family Development and a retention stipend for child care providers to support retention in the child care field in which wages are low.

This project is anticipated to be complete by December 31, 2025.

### **Uses of Funds:**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, families experienced additional challenges in finding child care that met their diverse needs. Additionally, San Diego county child care 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.

In a collaborative effort to increase and strengthen the early care and education system, WIP seeks to expand the number of qualified child care providers and increase the education credentials of existing child care professionals. Ultimately, the child care WIP will focus on building a high quality and skilled early care and education workforce in San Diego County.

### **Promoting Equitable Outcomes:**

The goals of the Workforce Investment Program (WIP) support equity in the child care industry by increasing the skills, competencies, and abilities of new and existing early educators. The program is assisting Early Childhood Education (ECE) professionals with obtaining Child Development Permits and/or a Degree in Child and Family Development (or equivalent) by paying for tuition expenses. This promotes increased child care providers, which in turn increases access for families in San Diego to high quality child care. Additionally, WIP aims to provide access to job training, opportunities for professional development, and provide access to a retention stipend for enrolled providers. There are pay inequities in the child care workforce when compared to other workforces. The retention stipend increases the number of experienced child care providers.

### **Community Engagement:**

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The program involves a focused cross-sector collaboration with early care and education providers, community stakeholders and public institutions of higher education (i.e., universities / community colleges), school districts, and career development organizations. The goal is 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 child care 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 Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and Office of Child Care that have published guidance on how to best support the child care 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, while being deployed, is seeking to ameliorate the shortage of child care services brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Performance Report:**

#### Child Care Workforce: Awarded Stipends

	<b>March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024*</b>	<b>July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024</b>
Number of Tuition Stipends Awarded	59	59
Number of Retention Stipends Awarded	2,536	2,536

\*Actual program start date was February 2024.

## **Project 7b: Child Care Bridge Program**

**Funding Amount:** \$0.6 million (ARPA: \$0.3 million and Leveraged Funds: \$0.3 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 (CFWB) who are in the process of reunifying with their children. This program provides child care navigation services, such as identifying child care options specific to the child and parent needs, assistance with child care applications and enrollment, trauma-informed training, coaching, and on-site technical assistance for licensed child care providers and child care vouchers to parents reunifying with children birth to 12 years of age for a period of up to six months or up to 12 months if needed until the child is successfully enrolled into-long term subsidized child care. Parents must be working or attending school to be eligible.

The allocated funds are anticipated to be fully spent by December 31, 2026.

### **Uses of Funds:**

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, families continue to experience additional challenges in finding child care 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 has partnered with the contractor to provide limited child care vouchers to eligible families throughout all areas of San Diego County. This project is aiming to provide additional support and mitigation of barriers for parents currently involved with Child and Family Well-Being who are in the process of reunifying with their children. Of further benefit, children residing in foster care receiving child care services will be provided a trauma informed transition from the care of their caregiver to their parent by the potential use of the same child care provider. The time-limited child care voucher may be provided to parents with children birth to 12 years of age for a period of up to six months or up to 12 months if needed, until the child is successfully enrolled into-long term subsidized child care.

### **Promoting Equitable Outcomes:**

Families with open child welfare cases (mostly neglect-related) who receive home-based services with concrete supports including child care, 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 child care 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 child care services will be

provided a trauma informed transition from the care of their caregiver to their parent by the potential use of the same child care provider.

**Community Engagement:**

This project receives feedback from program participants using online customer surveys administered by the program contractor. 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 parents currently involved with CFWB who are in the process of reunifying with their children with access to resources and sufficient financial funds, to properly support their children and provide stability and reducing the likelihood of a child maltreatment report. Quality child care is paramount to achieving that stability.

**Performance Report:**

Extended Child Care Bridge Program Vouchers Distributed and Families Served:

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024*	July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
Number of Vouchers Distributed	233	230
Number of Families Served	73	67

\*Actual program start date was July 2023.



## **Project 7c: Child Care Shared Services Alliances**

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**Funding Amount:** \$2.0 million

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

### **Project Overview:**

The Shared Services Alliance (SSA) and contractors worked to create a program that supports participating child care Providers (Providers) throughout San Diego County, with a targeted emphasis on family child care (FCC) homes, in regions with verifiable child care deserts, with bolstering the sustainability of their business and enhance business resilience. The Contractor is engaging Providers to provide access to direct business supports, that include but are not limited to the following: access to a technology platform, increasing enrollment capacity, increasing revenue generation, and other business efficiencies identified by participating Providers.

The allocated funds are anticipated to be fully spent by June 30, 2025.

### **Uses of Funds:**

Covid-19 pandemic substantially impacted the lives of working families trying to balance work and child care, child care Providers attempting to remain open, and employers seeking to carry out their return-to-work plans in consideration of working families challenged in finding quality child care that fit their diverse needs. In collaborative effort to increase and strengthen the early care and education system and work towards equitable access to quality early care and education services, the SSA program is focusing on small private Providers with a targeted focus on FCC homes.

### **Promoting Equitable Outcomes:**

SSA is an approach to strengthen small early learning and care businesses by providing them the supports to strengthen their business practices. The SSA is aimed at building sustainable provider-based child care system by providing technology and staff infrastructure that enable sharing of staff, information, and resources. A SSA network provides business efficiencies to privately funded child care providers, the majority of whom are low-income women of color. This program supports the increase of business sustainability and expanding care of low-to-moderate income communities where access to high quality affordable child care is limited.

### **Community Engagement:**

The program coordinates with existing County programs and initiatives such as the First 5 San Diego Shared Services Alliance Pilot Program, First 5 San Diego Learn Well

Initiative, and Quality Counts CA Consortium and provides targeted community outreach and advertisements about the program.

The program includes 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 California 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 aims to support the targeted providers countywide to increase and strengthen provider capacity by bolstering the sustainability of their child care business and enhancing business resilience. The program is connecting and/or providing 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:**

Child Care Shared Services Alliances: Enrolled Child Care Programs:

	<b>March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024*</b>	<b>July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024</b>
Number of Enrolled Child Care Programs	105	105

\*Actual program start date was August 2023.

## **Project 8b: Innovation in Foster Care: Basic Income for Youth At-Risk Families**

**Funding Amount:** \$7.5 million (ARPA: \$6.5 million and Leveraged Funds: \$1.0 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 18-24 months 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 contractor administered the program and the first funding was distributed to families on July 1, 2023. The final cohort will begin receiving disbursements in September 2024.

### **Uses of Funds:**

The funds are being 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 substantiated referral for allegations of neglect, physical abuse, or emotional abuse and no open case with Child and Family Well-Being (CFWB), 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 County of San Diego 2023 Recovery Plan Performance Report 111 disproportionately affected by COVID 19, California Health Places Index, and/or zip codes with high rates of child abuse referrals.

### **Community Engagement:**

Participants of the Family Income for Empowerment Program are sent voluntary pulse surveys every six months following their first payment until six months after their last

payment that asks participants questions about their experience receiving guaranteed income and their participation in the program. The completion of these surveys is voluntary for participants and will not affect their monthly payments but serve as an opportunity to received feedback from individuals. In addition, upon enrollment to the program, participants are invited to join the program's Narrative Change and Storytelling Cohort that offers program participants an opportunity to engage and share their experiences on a deeper level if they choose. Narrative change can take many different forms and offers program participants the space to shape how they want to share their stories, build community with other participants by exploring their unique experiences, and organize toward broader systems change efforts, including shifting policy. Examples of narrative change can include creating a documentary of program participants sharing their stories and capturing participant family portraits as creative and engaging methods of storytelling.

**Use of Evidence:**

This project does not meet guidelines for strong or moderate evidence; however, a program evaluation is being conducted by the San Diego County Office of Evaluation, Performance, and Analytics (OEPA). A randomized control trial evaluation will follow participating families during the 18-24 months 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:**

Innovation in Foster Care: Basic Income for Youth At-Risk Families Referral Outcomes:

	<b>March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024</b>	<b>July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024</b>
Total Referrals	4,382	4,255
Eligible, completed applications*	701	679
Selected and enrolled applicants	343	337

\*Actual program start date was October 2022.

## **Project 9a: Coordinated Eviction Prevention System Program**

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**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 uses 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.

The program uses 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 is helping to establish and align consistent outcome measures across the eviction prevention system.

The allocated funds are anticipated to be fully spent by June 30, 2025.

### **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 of the Coordinated Eviction Prevention System program is to prevent unnecessary evictions by developing a collaborative system across the region. The program strengthens tenant education and support resources, works against illegal harassment, prevents displacement and evictions, and provides communication support to renter and landlords with the goal of reaching positive outcomes in housing disputes. Funding aids 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:**

The 2024 Point-in-Time Count of people experiencing homelessness identified 10,605 individuals who were living on the streets or in shelters throughout San Diego County on

one night in January. Of this number, 16% identified as Black, African, or African American, which is more than three times the proportion of African Americans in the San Diego County region, and 2% identified as American Indian, which is double the proportion in the region. In addition, of the 10,605 individuals, over 50% were reportedly unsheltered, approximately 44% of whom reported chronic homelessness, 28% were female, 9% were veterans, 8% were youth, and 2% comprised of unsheltered families. People of color are disproportionately impacted among those experiencing homelessness. 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. 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. The County collects data across all programs through the Quarterly Equity Measures dashboard to measure access to services and outcomes of services to indicate whether different populations are receiving services proportionate to their prevalence in the homeless system and to ensure that any disparities are addressed. Data is 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) M) and other local data, such as the San Diego County Sheriff's Department Writ Unit.

**Community Engagement:**

Community engagement (community stakeholder input, and feedback from the individuals and families that may benefit from this funding) is incorporated into the design and implementation of the program. Contractor provides all enrolled households with a satisfaction survey prior to, or at the time the household exits the program. Additionally, the contractor conducts a minimum of 12 targeted outreach events annually to identify

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households who may be at risk of being evicted, educate tenants and landlords, and promote the Coordinated Eviction Prevention System program.

The CEPS program provides culturally and linguistically appropriate services that are respectful and responsive to the beliefs, practices, and needs of each household served. Contractor ensures staff are able to communicate verbally to the service population and utilize tools, trainings, and written material to ensure all households enrolled receive high quality care and achieve good outcomes. Services are prioritized to households with Extremely Low Incomes, defined as those whose incomes are at or below 30% of the AMI for San Diego County. Furthermore, a key component of this program is to help establish and align consistent outcome measures across the eviction prevention system as part of the collaborative.

**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.

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. <a href="#">EPIC Summary Report (toronto.ca)</a>	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	Pantin-Parrish, P., (2021). Designing for Housing Stability: Best Practices for Court-Based and Court-Adjacent Eviction Prevention/or Diversion Programs. American Bar Association. <a href="#">Report:</a>	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	Non-Experimental

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<p>Prevention/or Diversion Programs</p>	<p><a href="#">Designing for Housing Stability: Best Practices for Court-Based and Court-Adjacent Eviction Prevention and/or Diversion Programs (Harvard Negotiation &amp; Mediation Clinical Program and American Bar Association 2021)   SRLN</a></p>	<p>eviction prevention and/or diversion program.</p>	
<p>Preventing Eviction: Systems change to support families in crisis- Ramsey County Housing Court Clinic</p>	<p>Preventing Eviction: Systems change to support families in crisis. (June 16, 2020). <a href="https://www.fhfund.org/news-preventing-eviction-systems-change-to-support-families-in-crisis/">https://www.fhfund.org/news-preventing-eviction-systems-change-to-support-families-in-crisis/</a></p>	<p>In 2018, FH Fund initiated the launch of the Ramsey County Housing Court Clinic in partnership with the Ramsey County District Court, Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, Volunteer Lawyers, Network and other community programs. The Clinic implemented numerous court processes changes to provide better information on services, enhance mediation offerings and make other legal proceeding easier, and access to Housing Court more accessible.</p>	<p>Non-Experimental</p>
<p>Rent Relief and Eviction Assistance Continue to Be Critical</p>	<p>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. <a href="#">Millions of Americans Are Housing Insecure: Rent Relief and Eviction Assistance Continue to Be Critical - National Alliance to End Homelessness</a></p>	<p>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 were very likely or somewhat likely to be evicted from their homes 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. The relief programs and services have been available through several federal funding streams and include individual payment resources and rent relief.</p>	<p>Non-Experimental</p>



**Performance Report:**

Coordinated Eviction Prevention System (CEPS):

	<b>March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024*</b>	<b>July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024</b>
Participants enrolled	219	204
Participants stabilized and avoided eviction	101	101

\*Actual program start date was January 1, 2023.

## **Project 9b: Tenant Legal Services**

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**Funding Amount:** \$11.5 million

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

### **Project Overview:**

The COVID 19 pandemic created a great deal of economic uncertainty and disproportionately affected lower income families with housing needs. Through an existing contract , the Tenant Legal Services Program (TLSP) 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 was allocated to fund the existing program for one year and then to amend the contract and expand services over an additional two years.

The allocated funds are anticipated to be fully spent by December 31, 2025.

### **Uses of Funds:**

Funds for this project directly support lower income families, many of whom faced additional economic uncertainty during, and because of, the COVID-19 pandemic. The TLSP 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:**

The contractor for this 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. The contractor 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. The contractor 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. The contractor 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, child care, transportation, or technology barriers.

The contractor has experienced staff who are responsible for an optimized case management system that reports accurate programmatic data. The contractor 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:**

The contractor coordinates and provides in-person and/or remote services at various community locations on specific days and times, including legal clinics. The contractor 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. The contractor 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 the contractor's website. In the wake of the pandemic, the contractor 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. The contractor 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 the contractor's website or 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 moderate or strong evidence-based interventions. However, providing legal services for tenant and landlords in financial need is widely accepted best practice in supporting housing stability. The provision of these services is paramount in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program's main focus

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is to assist vulnerable populations prevent evictions as a result of the economic challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Performance Report:**

Tenant Legal Services Program:

	<b>August 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024*</b>	<b>July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024</b>
Number of Unduplicated Households Served	5,235	1,746

\*Actual program start date was January 1, 2023.

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)**

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**Funding Amount:** \$33.0 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 is providing economic assistance to help small businesses and nonprofit entities impacted by COVID-19. Funds are being 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 Economic Development and Government Affairs 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 will be obligated 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. These programs are anticipated to be completed by June 30, 2026.

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

**Uses of Funds:**

The funding is providing 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, 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:**

Number of Small Businesses Served:

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024	July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
For Profit	3,142	299
Non-Profit	406	89

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

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**Funding Amount:** \$6.9 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. As of June 30, 2022, this project was completed.

### **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. In order to support the economic recovery of this industry and offset economic challenges accrued due to COVID-19, the County of San Diego is using funds to waive the annual health permit fees for restaurants and bars for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

### **Promoting Equitable Outcomes:**

Restaurants and the food-service industry contribute to the local economy and culture. Restaurants are essential businesses that were disproportionately impacted by statewide closures and restrictions. Many business owners 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 statewide pandemic restrictions.

The Board directed restaurant renewal fee waivers using ARPA fund provided some financial relief when restaurants were experiencing financial hardship, trying to maintain staff, and operate in a safe manner while implementing protocols to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Restaurants and food facilities were notified of the permit fee waivers through direct communication emails to more than 26,600 permittees, information was posted on the DEHQ website, and a news story was featured on the County News Center. Industry stakeholders such as the San Diego Chapter of the California Restaurant Association and San Diego Food and Beverage Association also

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helped to share the information with their membership. The restaurant fee waivers have provided economic relief to restaurant industries to mitigate some of the financial impacts resulting from COVID-19.

### **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.

### **Performance Report:**

#### Restaurant Permits Waived:

	<b>March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024</b>	<b>July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024</b>
For Profit	8,479	N/A
Non-Profit	250	N/A

Please note that program funds were depleted, and the project was completed as of June 30, 2022. Therefore, there were no awards for the term July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.



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

**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. The food event permit waived fees ranges from \$85 to \$733 depending on event type. As of June 30, 2022, this project was completed.

### **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. In order to support the economic recovery of this industry and offset economic challenges accrued due to COVID-19, the County of San Diego is using funds to waive both renewal and new event permit fees (county park rental fee permits and temporary food event permits) for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

### **Promoting Equitable outcomes:**

The event industries were disproportionately impacted and were among the hardest hit by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The thousands of professionals in event industry in the San Diego region 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.

The Board directed temporary event permit fee waivers using ARPA funds provided relief to the event industry, who had little to no opportunity to operate with statewide restrictions that led to cancelled or postponed events. Waivers were provided to event organizers and vendors who applied for temporary event permits and/or space rentals at County parks cross San Diego County area. Event organizers and vendors were notified of the permit fee waivers through several channels. DEHQ sent direct communication emails to over

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2,330 event permittees and shared information with stakeholders at the annual temporary event outreach meeting. DPR sent direct communication emails to all past event organizers and the shared information with the San Diego Events Coalition. The fee waivers have provided economic relief to event industries to mitigate some of the financial impacts resulting from COVID-19 and stimulus for the local event industry.

**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.

**Performance Report:**

Special Event Permits Waived (For-Profit):

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024	July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
For-Profit Special Event Permits for Organizers, Vendors, And Space at County Parks	2,749	N/A

Please note that program funds were depleted, and the project was completed as of June 30, 2022. Therefore, there were no awards for the term July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.

Special Event Permits Waived (Non-Profit):

	March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024	July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
Non-Profit Special Event Permits for Organizers, Vendors, And Space at County Parks	162	N/A

Please note that program funds were depleted, and the project was completed as of June 30, 2022. Therefore, there were no awards for the term July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.

## **Project 10e: Rental Assistance for Small Landlords With No Other Source of Rental Assistance**

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**Funding Amount:** \$5.0 million

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

### **Project Overview:**

The County administered 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) aimed to help small landlords that had 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 had at least three months in rental arrears per request. The County compensated eligible landlords for unpaid arrears accumulated from April 2020, for a maximum award amount of \$15,000 per unit. RASL assisted landlords that had been left with unpaid rent by former tenants during this period.

Application portal opened as of September 1, 2021, allowing residents of San Diego County to apply for RASL. The portal closed on May 27, 2022. All program funding was expended as of February 6, 2024, and the program closed.

### **Uses of Funds:**

These program funds assisted landlords who were 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 compensated rental arrears accumulated from April 2020 to the eligible property owner/landlord. RASL also assisted landlords that were left with unpaid rent by former tenants during this period. Recipients must have had 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 had 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 were informed about the program and helped ensure equitable outcome. The County served landlords residing in the County's jurisdiction whose rental properties were

also located in the County's jurisdiction. The jurisdiction of the County included 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 were 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 is translated into several languages including English, Spanish, Tagalog, Arabic, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Somali, Farsi, and Swahili. All flyers and FAQs frequently asked questions are 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 were sent to the clients were translated into Spanish, Arabic, Vietnamese, Tagalog, and Mandarin. The County had also partnered with 2-1-1 and several Community Based Organizations (CBO) who are assisting clients in completing and submitting applications for various County Programs.

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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 provided an insight into customer's perspective which in turn provides awareness. These surveys contributed 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 met 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 were tracked for this program were 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 had 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 aggregates 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, 2024*	July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
Number of Households Assisted	414	5

\*Actual program start date was September 1, 2021.

## **Project 10f: Security Deposit Assistance Program**

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**Funding Amount:** \$4.0 million

**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.2 – Security Deposit Assistance Program

### **Project Overview:**

The County of San Diego's (County) Security Deposit Assistance Program (SDAP) helped eligible county residents with a security deposit payment. The program provided a 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 were provided a voucher. The initial term of the voucher would be at least 90 days; however, a one-time 60-day extension may be requested if the household did not locate a unit (for a maximum total of up to 150 days). The security deposit was paid directly to their new landlord. This program was 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. All program funding was expended as of November 2, 2023, and the program closed.

### **Uses of Funds:**

Funds for SDAP provided funding for security deposits to eligible county residents who were facing negative economic impacts due to COVID-19. Eligible households that were relocating and needed security deposit assistance were awarded up to two months' rent, for a maximum award amount of \$7,000.

### **Promoting Equitable Outcomes:**

The County conducted extensive outreach to ensure residents across the San Diego region were informed about the program to support equitable outcomes. The County served 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 were 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 were translated into Spanish, Arabic, Vietnamese, Tagalog, and Mandarin. The County had 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 aimed to assist County residents who had been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic secure housing.



**Performance Report:**

Security Deposit Assistance Program Households Metrics

	<b>March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024*</b>	<b>July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024</b>
Number of Households Assisted	1,208	22

\*Actual program start date was September 33, 2021.

## **Project 11a: Broadband for County Region**

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**Funding Amount:** \$10.0 million

**Project Expenditure Category:** 5.19, Broadband Last Mile Projects, COVID-19 Contact Tracing

### **Project Overview:**

As part of Phase 1, the County worked with a contractor to develop the Comprehensive Broadband Plan (Plan) that was released in January 2023. The Plan was developed with stakeholder and community input through in-person forums, virtual workshops, and online surveys. The Plan ranked census tracts in the unincorporated areas by internet accessibility, affordability, and adoption needs. During Phase 2, the County contracted with Arcadis to develop an approach to implement the Plan which included broadband infrastructure mapping, project identification, and cost analysis. In Phase 3, internet service providers (ISPs) will be selected through a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) to expand broadband access and affordability to the priority ranked census tracts identified in the Plan.

There are an estimated 37,000 households in the unincorporated areas that need access to affordable and reliable internet, representing about 22 percent of the unincorporated area. The amount of funding available is not enough to get broadband access to every single one of the 37,000 households, which is why the strategy for use of these funds maximizes the reach of every dollar and focuses on the communities most in need. The development of the NOFA included stakeholder outreach, alignment with County policies and programs, is informed by the Comprehensive Broadband Plan, and includes evaluation criteria that prioritizes reliable high-speed internet that is affordable and has built in environmental avoidance measures to reduce the impacts of climate change in hard-to-reach and low-income communities.

The program is anticipated to being completed by December 31, 2026.

### **Uses of Funds:**

The broadband funds will focus on creating digital equity for communities in the unincorporated areas. The large, rural backcountry of the unincorporated areas has limited broadband access, so the feasibility of the technology funded merits extra attention. Through an assessment of the area and the community's needs, it is determined that a combination of technology rather than fiber-only solutions is needed for the topography and geography of the area. The funding will also be used to increase availability of affordable monthly internet plans, to ensure that low-income households can have equitable access to the new infrastructure. The funding may also be used for households to provide discounted internet to households that meet eligibility requirements

of the federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) that are not receiving an affordable plan from their internet service provider or another public entity.

**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 (Plan) was to listen to stakeholders and communities so that their experiences would help inform the identified broadband needs. 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 foundation for a highly connected future that advances economic opportunity, environmental sustainability, educational attainment, public safety and resilience, and health.

Since the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) ended April 2024, the County will prioritize funding projects that provide access to an affordable monthly internet service plan to low-income households commensurate with those provided under the ACP. The County engaged with stakeholders and communities identified in the Plan to get their input on the scoring criteria. Based on the communities' emphasis on affordability, access for the unserved, and reliable high-speed internet, the County to ensure equitable scoring criteria to promote access to low-income and underserved communities in the unincorporated areas.

**Community Engagement:**

The County planned community engagement strategies and activities in 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 district/councils.

The County also engaged stakeholders and solicited input between May 2024 thru June 2024 on the evaluation and scoring criteria for funded projects. The County conducted 7 in-person and 1 virtual public meeting. A total of 101 stakeholders attended these meetings. Members of the public had the opportunity to submit comments on the draft NOFA directly through the County's online engagement portal and directly by email. Input from this outreach will support and guide the County's decision-making on funding broadband projects.

**Labor Practices:**

While the County's broadband program is entering into the third phase, there is no direct infrastructure or capital expenditures to be done at this time. County, state and federal labor laws, insurance and applicable protections will be adhered to by the subrecipient (Internet Service Provider) responsible for construction and included within the formal grant agreements.

**Performance Report:**

Grant agreements are estimated to be in place by October 2024 and performance measures will be used to quantify actual benefits upon completion of the project. Subrecipients will be required to propose a method of quantifying actual benefits as a direct result of their projects once it is completed. A provision will be included in the grant agreement describing the performance measure and requiring the subrecipient to quantify the actual project benefits in their final report to Reclamation upon completion of the project.

The performance measures should at the minimum include:

- Availability – Number of households, community anchor institutions and businesses with access to broadband speed at least 100/20 Mbps or faster, and the percentage of service area that is considered unserved and underserved.
- Reliability – Measure of internet uptime.
- Accessibility – Total monthly internet plans maintained as a result of new or upgraded infrastructure.
- Affordability – Percentage of low-income households that receive discounted monthly internet plans that produce at least 100/20 Mbps and that are \$30 per month or less; average monthly rates for affordable plans and average monthly rates for regular subscriptions; and if applicable, number and percentage of households that were previously part of ACP that are receiving a discounted monthly internet plan.
- Project Status – Status of milestones and remaining timeframe to completion.

The subrecipient will be required to report speed, pricing, and any data allowance information upon project completion.

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

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**Funding Amount:** \$1.0 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 a Contractor for three projects. The Water and Wastewater Technology Launchpad Platform is one of the three projects and is focused on showcasing technology, policy, and best practices for drinking water, clean water and energy conservation, and sewage and wastewater infrastructure through research, data collection and analysis, mapping, and outreach activities.

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. To help facilitate change, PIC has created a public platform or launchpad for innovation to help test, deploy, and scale technology and policy/practice solutions that address clean water, drinking water, water/energy efficiency, wastewater and stormwater challenges across various types of infrastructure. This project includes five tasks:

- Regional Infrastructure Hot Spot Mapping
- Taxonomy of Interventions
- Framework for Testing and Piloting
- Finance Development
- Launchpad Kick off

In September 2023, the Contractor launched the public technology platform, the [Water Innovations Navigator](#), with 55 interventions identified to date that can help agencies address clean water, drinking water, water/energy efficiency, wastewater, and stormwater challenges. The tool is designed for government and agency staff, water districts, experts in water solutions, and innovators who want to share new and tested technology. Each identified best practice includes an overview, intervention detail, problem addressed, anticipated benefit, cost, potential funding sources, targeted outcomes, prior use/case study, and contact information. The interventions were determined and evaluated utilizing the Contractor's regional infrastructure hot spot mapping, which helped identify target investment areas. These activities are expected to be completed in mid-2026.

Link to Website:

<https://sdrpic-launchpad.web.app/>

**Uses of Funds:**

The Contractor has engaged water researchers and stakeholders from municipal and water agencies across the region, conducted multiple site visits to learn about new technology deployment, gathered and analyzed data, and explored numerous technologies to determine potential interventions that can make the best use of the funds and can be adopted/implemented by local agencies to improve water supply, reliability, quality, or improve water and energy efficiency to minimize utility costs that impact the affordability of water. The Contractor places great value in understanding community needs, data related to known and potential risks, and learning from experts and water professionals with lived experience related to the issues. The Contractor is prioritizing a long-term view of climate resilience and is coordinating relationships between private, nonprofit, and public sector leaders in water. Scaling proven practices, advocating for policy, and adopting water technology solutions will help make San Diego more resilient by evaluating and implementing innovative infrastructure solutions with direct public health, environmental, and economic benefits.

**Promoting Equitable Outcomes:**

The Contractor has and will continue to engage municipal stakeholders and conduct rapid risk and "hot spot" assessments to identify sites and systems for potential implementation of innovations with a priority on historically disinvested communities. Mapping and data analysis are the basis for identifying target sector partners and solutions. The Contractor developed the [Community Investment Navigator](#) to provide a robust tool that allows for in-depth analysis of the San Diego region and serves as a valuable resource for extracting community demographic insights, pinpointing vulnerable communities, and identifying areas suitable for focused investments. The map can be searched by Promise and Opportunity Zones, Supervisorial Districts, diversity indexes, age, race, and income. A diversity index represents the likelihood that two people, chosen at random, belong to different races or ethnic groups. The index provides a measure that ranges from 0 (no diversity) to 100 (complete diversity).

The [Water Risk Map](#) was developed to assess water quality and appropriate technological interventions. The Contractor's Water Innovations Navigator aims to contribute toward improving water quality, water supply, reducing greenhouse gases, and building resilience in communities of concern across the region. With the Contractor's help, communities and local governments can access technologies and apply for funding to help address priority water challenges facing the region. The web-based tool is frequently updated to highlight new interventions and funding opportunities that may be of interest to water agencies and organizations.

**Community Engagement:**

The Contractor has attended community events, held numerous stakeholder meetings, visited areas of concern, and evaluated potential sites to assist with community-identified problems and potential interventions. At the same time, PIC has and will continue to work with municipalities to identify opportunities to implement solutions identified in the Water Innovations Navigator that can address water supply, efficiency, or water quality issues that San Diego communities may be facing.

The Water Innovations Navigator is a publicly accessible tool created to serve as a nexus between the community, technology sector, and municipalities to create innovative opportunities to address water challenges that lead to lasting impact. The Contractor continues to engage communities and municipalities that are considered economically disadvantaged, a designated environmental justice community, and/or Justice 40 communities typically associated with higher health risks, higher unemployment, and higher poverty levels.

**Performance Report:**

The regional infrastructure hot spot mapping was conducted, and the Contractor developed the Water Risk Map and Community Investment Navigator. The taxonomy of interventions was developed and incorporated into the Water Innovations Navigator. The Contractor has evaluated dozens of technology solutions, met with several water industry researchers and practitioners, and participated in over 10 industry conferences in search of best practices and novel technology. The program start date was February 2022. In 2023, the Contractor developed, tested, and launched the [Water Innovations Navigator](#), a tool with 55 novel interventions to help local governments and water agencies learn about solutions that have been piloted and implemented in the region and elsewhere. Each intervention includes information about potential funding resources, case studies, and scale of costs and permitting complexity.

The Contractor is also developing a framework for testing and piloting interventions, addressing barriers to implementation, identifying finance strategies to fund water interventions, and applying for grant applications with cross-sector partners in the San Diego region to implement the technologies, policies, or best practices from the Water Innovations Navigator. PIC submitted a grant application with partners in the municipal and non-profit sectors to implement workforce development programs in the water industry and is pending notification. Additional funding and collaboration opportunities are being evaluated for potential implementation of Water Innovations Navigator interventions.

## **Project 11b.4: Utility Bill Data Capture and Analysis**

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**Funding Amount:** \$1.2 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 a Contractor for three projects. The Utility Bill Data Capture and Analysis is one of the three projects.

Data has been used to identify census blocks, neighborhoods, or commercial districts with residents struggling to pay their current water utility bills. The Contractor has used that information to identify strategies and research opportunities to improve efficiency and affordability and reduce the likelihood of future bill default to evaluate the implementation of the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP), a temporary federal program designed to help residents with burdensome water bills during the COVID-19 pandemic, and to make the case that the funding should be permanent. The work plan for this project is broken into our tasks:

- Data Gathering on water and affordability metrics and analysis of key trends in water affordability
- Identification of Interventions that will improve affordability and/or quality of life for disadvantaged communities and reduce the burden on municipal governments and utilities where possible
- Water Affordability Recommendations that can help alleviate financial pressures created by utility bills
- A Case Study for use by municipal partners to identify next steps and opportunities to scale this research and potentially bring resources to the region, whether through federal programs like LIHWAP or other solutions.

The project is expected to be complete in 2026.

### **Uses of Funds:**

Working closely with regional water authorities, stakeholders, and community-based organizations, the Contractor team has collected, analyzed, and is currently synthesizing water and sewer utility data and other affordability metrics. The Contractor has also conducted focus groups and a survey to understand the consequences of water costs for low-income families and the effectiveness of the LIHWAP program. The Contractor is identifying and analyzing key trends and developing models to assess the effectiveness of interventions to address water affordability, including innovative solutions to raise revenue or secure other capital. The Contractor has created interactive maps to help with



understanding the data, including the [Water Risk Map](#). After the completion of the analysis of affordability drivers and water affordability programs, PIC will develop recommendations to help alleviate financial pressures created by utility bills. These opportunities will be documented in a case study for municipal partners that can be used as a model regionally and potentially nationally.

**Promoting Equitable Outcomes:**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many residents struggled to pay their bills. An estimated 1.6 million households statewide were late on water bills and the State of California allocated \$2 billion to cover unpaid bills among low-income households, but this served as a one-time fix when a longer-term solution to improve efficiency is needed.

Hearing from individuals and families with direct experience in applying for or participating in this program is key to understanding the scope and experience of water unaffordability. This lived experience helps to inform where and which meaningful interventions can be made to both program design and implementation that can inform future household assistance programs that may be enacted at the local, state, or federal level to address water equity and affordability.

**Community Engagement:**

Low-income ratepayers have been engaged through surveys and focus groups conducted with a trusted community partner , Metropolitan Area Advisory Committee on Anti-Poverty (MAAC) (<https://maacproject.org/>), to learn directly about their experiences and pain points participating or not participating in the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). MAAC The community partner is a non-profit organization and the local administrator for both LIHWAP and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

The utility bill survey was implemented between the Contractor and MAAC community partner with a targeted list of MAAC clients to reach over 150 San Diegans and offered in English and Spanish. The survey asked about household income, size, costs, and utility bills in arrears to understand the utility rate burden. It also asked about perceptions of and awareness of utility assistance programs and efficiency interventions. Finally, it analyzed how well LIHWAP targeted the population it seeks to serve. Following the online survey, a series of focus groups with subsets of survey respondents were conducted to gain insight and understanding of participants' experiences in applying for or participating in the LIHWAP program. This information can help to support federal legislation to make the LIHWAP program permanent.

**Labor Practices:**

N/A - There will be no direct infrastructure or capital expenditure under this effort.

**Performance Report:**

The Contractor has performed a literature scan to understand the variables and best practices to define and analyze water affordability. PIC has gathered data on water infrastructure, agencies, utility billing, as well as community-level socioeconomic indicators and geospatially mapped these factors in the [Water Risk Map](#) and [Water Affordability Dashboard](#).

The Contractor contracted with the community partner to access household-level data on water affordability and conduct a survey with 150 participants and focus groups of individuals that applied for or participated in the LIWHAP program. The Contractor de-identified and aggregated this data for analysis and is preparing a summary of the findings, including potential opportunities to scale and identify new or additional funding.

Actual program start date was February 2022.

## **Project 11b.5: SDRPIC – Green Infrastructure Demonstration Projects Combined With Broadband**

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**Funding Amount:** \$2.3 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 a Contractor for three projects. The Green Stormwater Infrastructure Demonstration Project is one of those three projects. This project addresses stormwater challenges, climate change resilience, community equity, wildfire risk, and water quality issues by identifying, piloting, and deploying an innovative and multi-benefit green infrastructure demonstration project.

The Contractor created an inventory of relevant, innovative stormwater management technologies; prioritized and identified sites for potential interventions; developed a report on methods for prioritizing and selecting a site; and is currently working to collaboratively design and permit a demonstration project; and implement, evaluate, and celebrate the environmental, economic, and community impacts. The work plan for this project is broken into seven tasks:

- Opportunity Inventory
- Prioritization of Opportunities and Pilot Selection
- Prioritization Methodology Report
- Feasibility, Design, Permitting, and Engineering
- Implementation
- Public Ribbon Cutting
- Evaluation and Report

The project is expected to be completed in 2026.

### **Uses of Funds:**

This project's scope is focused on the region's unincorporated areas and brings together data and place-based experience in communities 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 explain multi-benefit projects, grow support for green infrastructure, attract more resources, meet community needs, increase awareness of water policy, and enhance climate resilience.

**Promoting Equitable Outcomes:**

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, and the potential to create enhanced green spaces and mitigate wildfire risk. The [Regional Utility Map](#) dashboard developed by the Contractor for this project also identifies electric and broadband infrastructure to help illuminate communities in the region that are either underserved or in need of additional infrastructure investments. These infrastructure upgrades can be deployed in targeted locations to help redress historical inequities in public investment.

The opportunity inventory examines areas of interest in unincorporated San Diego County for improved stormwater management and related infrastructure upgrades and takes into consideration the demographics of the area to prioritize areas that may have above-average exposure to climate risks or lower adaptive capacity to mitigate those risks. When high priority communities install stormwater solutions, we see a variety of benefits that include:

- Improved stormwater infrastructure to address runoff and localized flooding.
- Enhanced public health with improved water quality, watershed health and access to green spaces; and
- Increased resilience in communities with higher risk factors or lower adaptive capacity.

**Community Engagement:**

Through the identification of potential sites for a green infrastructure demonstration project, the Contractor has engaged community stakeholders through meetings and site visits to each potential location. The Contractor has also begun identifying community-based organizations and stakeholders that may be involved in the design and implementation of the demonstration project. Future efforts include public meetings, one-on-one stakeholder meetings, presentations at local business and community groups, and digital outreach.

**Labor Practices:**

The Contractor will comply with [SLFRF-Compliance-and-Reporting-Guidance.pdf \(treasury.gov\)](#).

**Performance Report:**

The Contractor conducted an opportunity inventory to identify priority areas and watersheds of interest for improved stormwater management and infrastructure investments based on demographic characteristics and potential climate risks. The Contractor utilized a detailed analysis that incorporated watersheds, flood risk, permeable surface area, pollution, median household income environmental justice, and other

factors. The methodology report contains approximately 30 potential project sites on non-county owned land, for high-impact, community-equity-driven stormwater infrastructure. Our team evaluated the land use and existing activities at each site and conducted site visits to the top six sites identified to understand the potential opportunities for implementing green stormwater demonstration projects. Evaluations included stakeholder and community feedback.

With the site selection process underway, the Contractor is preparing an agreement with the site owner of the top site and a request for proposals to solicit services to prepare designs and engineering specifications for the green infrastructure demonstration project. The green infrastructure demonstration project will aim to implement a range of stormwater interventions include those highlighted in the Water Innovations Navigator, the County of San Diego's Green Streets Guidelines and Green Streets Clean Water Plan, and other best practices described by researchers, and leverage other resources.

Actual program start date was February 2022, but construction has not yet begun.

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

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**Funding Amount:** \$2.5 million

**Project Expenditure Category:** 5.6 – Clean Water: Stormwater, COVID-19 Contact Tracing

### **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 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 complete, and design and environmental review are underway. A construction contract is expected to be awarded in fall 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.

The project is also within a census tract that, according to the Council on Environmental Quality [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#), is considered disadvantaged due to projected wildfire risk and low incomes, and investments in this area are in line with the [Justice40 Initiative](#).

Link to websites:

<https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#13.56/33.35932/-117.23854>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/environmentaljustice/justice40/>

**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.

Actual program start date was June 2023.



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

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**Funding Amount:** \$2.0 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 applied for funds through an application/proposal, and applications were 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 drinking water infrastructure.

### **Uses of Funds:**

Applicants in the Camp Lockett area, which is an underserved area, applied 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 drinking water infrastructure. The County of San Diego (County) operates municipal drinking water systems in a variety of locations throughout the unincorporated region. The Justice40 Initiative of developing critical drinking water infrastructure directly supports the health of the community and the environment by a well-maintained drinking 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 water 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 water system protects the health and well-being of the communities served and is a key County sustainability goal.

County of San Diego 2023 Recovery Plan Performance Report 151 the risk of sewage spills and adverse impacts on water quality, which are both key County sustainability goals.

**Promoting Equitable Outcomes:**

These drinking water 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 drinking water 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. Drinking water 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 drinking water infrastructure for all in the community.

**Community Engagement:**

A measure of success of the outreach and engagement for the investments in Drinking Water Infrastructure: Camp Lockett Drinking Water System Improvements will be the incorporation of input from affected stakeholders. A variety of 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**

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**Funding Amount:** \$2.0 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 Spooners Mesa project in the Tijuana River Valley. It is a stormwater improvement project that will reconstruct a failed drainage culvert under the road, improve the stormwater conveyance, establish stormwater retention, and restore eroded slopes with native vegetation for long-term stormwater protection. The project is immediately south of Monument Road near the Tijuana River Valley Campground. The area serves as an open space recreation space for hikers and cyclists with various trails and gravel roadways weaving across the top of the mesa. It is also routinely used by the US Customs and Border Patrol as part of border security operations. The failure of the culvert combined with significant wet years has caused substantial erosion and it is threatening to undercut the critical point of access to the top of the mesa for the County. The threat to the stability of the road has necessitated evaluating potential alternatives to repair the culvert crossing and help to stop or slow the erosion occurring. The project also includes implementation of stormwater improvements and best management practices in the Tijuana River Valley to improve water quality and minimize erosion. This project plans to be completed by the end of fiscal year 2025-2026.

Link to the website:

<https://www.sdparcs.org/content/sdparcs/en/park-pages/TijuanaRiverValleyImprovements.html#SpoonersMesa>

### **Uses of Funds:**

The goal of the project is to improve water quality in the Tijuana River Valley through stormwater improvements. The funds are being used to evaluate the rehabilitation of the failed drainage infrastructure on Spooners Mesa. Alternatives are being evaluated to assist in conveying and retaining storm flows from the mesa area to the Tijuana River estuary and mitigate erosion of the steep slope north and downstream of a gravel access road connecting monument road to Spooner's Mesa. Also, the funds will be used to improve the conditions at the access road entrance which provides a path up to the Mesa.

### **Promoting Equitable Outcomes:**

Project addresses stormwater management improvements in Tijuana River Valley Regional Park. ARPA funding will be used for design, environmental, and implementation.

**Community Engagement:**

Several public meetings and workshops have been conducted to study and get community's feedback for the trail usage by hikers, bikers and equestrian use, connectivity of trails with regional trail network, improvements along the monument road and the recreational amenities proposed within and outside the Tijuana River Valley campground. The public input from these meetings can be considered to provide and prioritize best management practices and stormwater improvements in the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park.

**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**

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**Funding Amount:** \$2.0 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.

These projects plan to be completed by the end of fiscal year 2025-2026.

### **Uses of Funds:**

Emphasis is being placed on finding multi-benefit opportunities within an underserved community. 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 such as 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**

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**Funding Amount:** \$4.0 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.

The allocated funds for this project is expected to be spent by June 31, 2024.

### **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:**

Performance indicators are not required for this Expenditure Category.

## **Project 12a: Revenue Replacement**

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**Funding Amount:** \$163.6 million

**Project Expenditure Category:** 6.1, Provision of Government Services

### **Project Overview:**

The County has applied the revenue loss strategy in the amount of \$163.6 million in ARPA revenue replacement funds towards the provision of existing government services (\$33 million for March 3, 2021 – June 30, 2021, \$11.2 million for July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2022, and \$119.4 million for July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024).

### **Uses of Funds:**

Funds were applied to County operations that are 100% funded with the use of County local funding in the Departments of Public Defender, Self Sufficiency Services, Planning & Development Services, Parks and Recreation, Medical Examiner, and Public Works.

- 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 \$103 million were used to offset salary and benefit costs.
- The Self Sufficiency Services General Relief program provides temporary cash assistance for eligible county residents who have no other means of support. ARPA revenue replacement funds in the amount of \$29 million were used to offset the cost of direct cash assistance and related administrative costs.
- The Department of the Medical Examiner provides medicolegal death investigation services for the residents of San Diego County, as mandated by State law. ARPA revenue replacement funds in the amount of \$8 million were used to offset salary and benefit costs.
- The Department of Planning & Development Services creates and implements balanced land use plans, such as the General Plan, that protect natural resources and provide opportunities for housing for all. ARPA revenue replacement funds in the amount of \$9.3 million were used to offset salary and benefit costs.
- The Department of Parks and Recreation enhances the quality of life in the region by providing exceptional parks and recreation experiences and preserving natural resources. ARPA revenue replacement funds in the amount of \$8.3 million for salary and benefit costs and \$2 million were used to offset youth sports costs.
- The Department of Public Works preserves, enhances, and promotes quality of life and public safety through the responsible development of reliable and sustainable infrastructure and services. ARPA revenue replacement funds in the amount of \$4 million were used to offset salary and benefit costs.

**Promoting Equitable Outcomes:**

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

**Performance Report:**

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