

# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HHSA COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT PROPOSAL



**11 September 2025**

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# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HHSA

## COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT PROPOSAL



### Executive Summary:

- California Department of Health Care Services implemented a new policy (APL-25-004) requiring Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans (MCPs) to reinvest a percentage of net income back into the counties they serve.
- Community Reinvestments are required to fund services not covered under Medi-Cal to have an upstream, positive impact on improving member and community health, safety and well-being.

### Mandatory Use Categories:

**Well-Being for  
Priority  
Populations**

**Improved  
Health**

**Healthcare  
Workforce**

**Neighborhoods  
and Built  
Environment**

**Local  
Communities**

### Proposed Investments Ranked in Preferred Order as Selected by the County Health and Human Services Executive Committee:

1. **Well-Being for Priority Populations:** Develop employment readiness and economic mobility programs to promote self-sufficiencies for youth and young adults, older adult workers, and justice-involved individuals, leading to financial stability and decreased need for housing assistance and other subsidies.  
Strategies include:
  - a. Promoting employment opportunities such as technology assistance and mentoring for those in priority populations.
  - b. Expansion of transportation programs beyond those required by Medi-Cal, especially for older adults and those living in rural areas, to places such as cool zones, food shopping or gardens, social events to reduce social isolation, and car mechanic shops.
2. **Improved Health:** Implement programs that support families with children to strengthen financial stability, leading to a decreased need for behavioral health services and social isolation.  
Strategies include:
  - a. Connecting families who are potentially at risk of entering foster system with appropriate resources.
  - b. Providing linkages to childcare navigation resources.
  - c. Addressing infant mortality by funding home visiting programs and newborn boxes for new mothers.
  - d. Investing into therapeutic pre-schools, similar to Mi Escuelita or Alexa Playhouse.
3. **Health Care Workforce:** Expand funding towards the Promotora model to enhance onboarding and training for community health workers (CHWs), including behavioral health focused CHWs, which would improve the safety net and health of the community by reducing chronic disease and hospital admissions.

Strategies include:

- a. Increasing numbers and expertise of CHWs to support health systems navigation and ensure clients receive warm handoffs and connections to a care team.

- 4. **Improved Health:** Provide funding for free clinics to deliver upstream care for those who fall into coverage gaps to improve access to primary care, dental care, and mental health services, leading to an increase in positive health outcomes and decrease in emergency department and hospital utilization.

Strategies include:

- a. Screenings that are not already covered for women's or men's health.
- b. Providing learning opportunities for collegiate pre-healthcare professional students and high school students within these clinics to increase the future healthcare workforce.
- c. Having staff that can help navigate and screen for substance use disorders and mental health disorders in emergency departments.
- d. Support for school-based dental services with mobile dental buses.
- e. Partnering with tribal nations to provide upstream services for those in rural areas.

- 5. **Neighborhoods and Built Environment:** Build intergenerational gardens and other outdoor spaces to serve as community food hubs that offer affordable farm-to-table programs (which will support food as medicine initiatives) and decrease isolation, improve nutrition, and increase access to nourishing, affordable, and suitable foods for all.

Strategies include:

- a. Partnering with community-based organizations to sustain programs that provide nutritious food and snacks at schools and/or access to healthy food in food deserts.
- b. Providing transportation to these community food hubs.
- c. Education in multiple languages around food labels and navigating grocery stores.

- 6. **Neighborhoods and Built Environment:** Develop a housing trust fund to reduce the number of persons unhoused and experiencing homelessness.

Strategies include:

- a. Developing a flex housing pool and programs for landlord recruitment and engagement, rental assistance, eviction prevention, and utility assistance.

- 7. **Neighborhoods and Built Environment:** Build a campus or complex of homes to support multiple populations (elders, families, disabled, foster families) that would be sponsored and adopted by each Managed Care Plan. This would improve the safety net by decreasing social isolation and promote safer neighborhoods.

Strategies include:

- a. Focusing on at-risk populations and providing linkages to wrap around resources including long term housing support and caregiving assistance for families that recently expanded in size and need temporary additional support.

8. **Well-Being for Priority Populations:** Invest in infrastructure to support local communities during extreme weather events and natural disasters, with a focus on those who are homebound, to prevent medical decompensation and hospital admissions during disasters.

Strategies include:

- a. Funding for air conditioning and air purifiers.
- b. Relocation assistance during local emergencies.
- c. Food assistance for people who are displaced or homebound during disasters and local emergencies.

9. **Health Care Workforce:** Increase funding towards workforce development initiatives to enhance the healthcare workforce, leading to financial stability for healthcare workers and increased access to healthcare for all ages.

Strategies include:

- a. Offering tuition reimbursement and stipends.
- b. Increasing nursing preceptors and training opportunities for staff to understand complex systems.
- c. Developing an In-Home Support Services caregiver pathway to become licensed healthcare providers such as LVN, CNA, RN.
- d. Behavioral health worker trainings that include Peer Support Specialists and Community Health Workers.
- e. Creating supplementary community-centered leadership development programs such as RISE San Diego.