

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
SAN DIEGO MILITARY AND VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

**MEETING NOTICE: In Person
North Central Live Well Center
5055 Ruffin Road, 2nd Floor Conference Room, San Diego CA 92123
Phone (858) 694-3222**

Public Video Viewing/Comment Option:

<https://sdcounty-ca-gov.zoom.us/j/83797810267>

**June 17, 2025
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1:00 - 1:01 | 1. Call to Order |
| 1:01 - 1:02 | 2. Pledge of Allegiance |
| 1:02 - 1:03 | 3. Roll Call |
| 1:03 - 1:05 | 4. Action Item: Approval of April 17, 2025, Meeting Minutes |

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1:05 - 1:15 | 5. <u>Guidelines for Public Comment on Items not listed on the agenda:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Members of the public may request to speak about any issue within the purview of the Board.➤ Each speaker will be limited to three (3) minutes.➤ Board members may not discuss or take action on issues raised during public comment unless the issue is listed in this Agenda. |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- | | |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1:15 – 1:25 | 6. Discussion Item: New Community Connections: SDMVAC Council Members share community events they had recently attended |
| 1:25 – 1:45 | 7. Action Item: Nomination for the 2025 SDMVAC Chair and Vice-Chair: All San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council Members |
| 1:45 – 2:15 | 8. Presentation Item: 25/26 Proposed Operation Plan Budget Presentation: Maryneeza Moraleja, Assistant Group Finance Director, Financial & Support Services Division, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) |
| 2:15 – 2:35 | 9. Discussion Item: Support The Enlisted Project (STEP): Tony Teravainen, PMP, CSSBB - CEO and Co-Founder of Support the Enlisted Project (STEP) |

- 2:35 – 2:45 10. **Discussion Item:** Committee Review: All San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council Members
- 2:45 – 3:00 11. **Discussion Item:** Suggested topic for future meetings: All San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council Members

ADJOURNMENT/ NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held on August 21, 2025, 1:00 – 3:00 pm, at 5055 Ruffin Road, 2nd Floor Conference Room, San Diego, CA 92123.

ASSISTANCE FOR THE DISABLED:

Agendas and records are available in alternative formats upon request. Contact the San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council Meeting staff contact at (858) 694-3222 with questions or to request a disability-related accommodation. To the extent reasonably possible, requests for accommodation or assistance should be submitted at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting so that arrangements may be made. Additional information can be found on the San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council (SDMVAC) website:

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

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
SAN DIEGO MILITARY AND VETERANS
ADVISORY COUNCIL (SDMVAC)**

**Held In Person
North Central Live Well Center
5055 Ruffin Road, 2nd Floor Conference Room, San Diego CA 92123
Phone (858) 694-3222**

Public Video Viewing/Comment Option:

<https://sdcounty-ca-gov.zoom.us/j/84273398850>

**SDMVAC Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2025**

Members Present

Danny Jackson
Jude Litzenberger
Jaime Yslas
Paula Jansen

Staff Present

Alberto Banuelos, Asst. Director, Self-Sufficiency Services
Amy Klock, OMVA
Ray Flores, OMVA

Members Absent

Tony Teravainen
Mark Gracyk
Philip Kendro

Guests

Ashley Camac – CEO of Zero8hundred, Inc.
Chuck Callahan – Veteran Staffing Consultant of Work for Warriors
Shawn VanDiver – President and Chairman of #AfghanEvac
Joshua Heredia - VETART
Michael Kern – Zero8hundred
Joey Jerome – Zero8hundred
Tim Mathues – Zero8hundred
Ty Milles – Zero8hundred
Chad Lunsford – Navy Region Southwest
(Online attendee names are attached on a separate sheet)

1. Meeting called to order at 1:02 pm by Jude Litzenberger, Chair
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
 - SDMVAC present members noted above.
4. The February 20, 2025, meeting minutes were approved by the four Council members present.
5. Public Comments:
 - Joshua Heredia, representing VETART and affiliated with the DOD Skill Bridge internship program, provided a public comment during the meeting. He spoke about opportunities provided through the Skill Bridge internship for transitioning service members. He highlighted potential collaboration and support for Veteran focused initiatives.

6. **Discussion Item:** New Community Connections: SDMVAC Council members share community events they had recently attended. The Council members shared updates on various Veteran related events they recently attended and upcoming activities.
7. **Presentation Item:** Zero8hundred, Ashley Camac, CEO of Zero8hundred, Inc. Ashley Camac, CEO of Zero8hundred, provided an in-depth presentation on the organization's mission and programs designed to support Veterans and their families. She discussed the various services offered, including transition assistance, career development, and community integration, aimed and helping Veterans successfully transition to civilian life.

Public Comment: Chad Lunsford made a public comment in support with Ashley's presentation, emphasizing how Zero8hundred's effort to assist and collaborate with other organizations help strengthen the impact of their collective work in supporting the community.

8. **Presentation Item:** Work for Warriors, Chuck Callahan, Veterans Staffing Consultant of Work for Warriors. Chuck Callahan, Veterans Staffing Consultant for Work for Warriors, provided an overview of the organization's comprehensive efforts to help Veterans transition into the civilian workforce. He discussed how Work for Warriors connects Veterans with job opportunities through partnerships with employers, offers personalized career counselling, and provides skills development programs. Chuck emphasized the organization's commitment to matching Veterans with positions that align with their experience and interests, ensuring a smoother transition into civilian careers.
9. **Presentation Item:** Afghanistan Evacuee Update, Shawn VanDiver, President and Chairman of #AfghanEvac. Shawn VanDiver, President and Chairman of #AfghanEvac, provided an update on ongoing efforts to support Afghan allies. #AfghanEvac is a coalition helping and resettle Afghans who assisted the U.S, during the war, working with government and community partners to provide support and resources.

Public comment: Zainab Hashimi spoke about the current situation of Afghan visa applicants and emphasized the need for continued support in visa processing efforts

10. **Discussion Item:** Committee Assignments and Charters: Chair Jude Litzenberger. Chair Jude Litzenberger proposed a motion to establish committees focused on six key areas: Food Security, Housing, Education, Employment, Healthcare, and Legislation. The motion was seconded by Paula Jansen and unanimously approved by all members present

Each Council Member was assigned to one of these committees. The committees will examine how these focus areas currently impact veterans, anticipate future effects, and develop strategies to measure success within their respective categories.

11. **Discussion Item:** DOD/VA Policy Changes Regarding Gender- Affirming Care and Fate of Trans Service Members, Chair Jude Litzenberger. Chair Jude Litzenberger discussed her ongoing efforts to build a bridge between the LGBTQ+ community, the VA, and the San Diego Veterans Coalition in light of recent policy changes regarding gender-affirming care. She highlighted that many transgender service members are currently in a state of uncertainty and expressed her commitment to ensuring that they will have the necessary support as they transition out of the military.

12. **Discussion Item:** Report from all Chairs County Boards Meeting, Chair Jude Litzenberger. Self-Sufficiency Services, Assistant Director Alberto Banuelos provided an update on the hiring efforts within the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs (OMVA). He noted that progress is being made in filling open positions, which will strengthen the department's ability to serve veterans effectively and support the rollout of upcoming initiatives.

Following the update, Chair Jude Litzenberger raised concerns about ongoing staffing shortages at OMVA, particularly in relation to processing College Fee Waivers. She emphasized the need for additional staff to maintain service levels. A motion was made by Chair Litzenberger, seconded by Paula Jansen, and unanimously approved by all members present.

13. **Discussion Item:** Suggested topic for future meetings: All San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council. Chair Jude Litzenberger suggested compiling all past presentations and discussions into a report to present to the Board of Supervisors. The report would focus on key issues facing Veterans and military families and provide recommendations for addressing them over the next 10 years.

ADJOURNMENT/SET NEXT MEETING:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on June 17, 2025.

SDMVAC April 17,2025
Zoom online participants

- 1 A Shoaib Maroofi
- 2 Abdul Khaliq Foladian
- 3 Ahmad Rishad Aslami
- 4 Ahmad zaki
- 5 AKH
- 6 Akiko Fujita
- 7 Alimyar - REDA
- 8 Azadkhan's iPhone
- 9 Barren G.
- 10 Behruz Baizayee
- 11 Bismellah Amiri
- 12 Corina Martinez
- 13 Don Wheeler
- 14 Faraidoon Mophleh P2 Applicant
- 15 Farhad
- 16 Fawad A.
- 17 HA
- 18 Habib
- 19 Had
- 20 Hailey Brown
- 21 Haroon samarqandi
- 22 hlkhj
- 23 hmi
- 24 I'll
- 25 Jamal Naser Raoufi
- 26 James Deloera
- 27 Jasjeet Kaur
- 28 Jawid
- 29 Jay Shen

30 Jeannie Hartley
31 Jkl
32 Julie Pacheco-Toye
33 Khalid Safi
34 Kristian Kennedy
35 Leaksmy
36 Maazullah Barakzai
37 Merhawi Weldemichael
38 Michael Kerr
39 Mohammad Masoomi
40 Mohammad Zahid
41 Mohd Amin Joya
42 Moheb
43 Mustafa
44 Naseer Afghan
45 Rafi's iPhone
46 Rahmatullah Haidari
47 Rebecca Stanislaw
48 Sah
49 Sahab
50 sam
51 Sami Habibzai's iPhone
52 Samim
53 Shawn
54 Stanikzai
55 Stephanie Tablit, NRSW
56 Tamim Noorin
57 Tariq
58 Vladimir
59 Waheed Rashidi
60 Waseem Ahmad Sherzad
61 Zahid
62 Zainab Hashimi
63 Zia khan

ITEM #6 New Community Connections: SDMVAC Council members share community events they had recently attended

All San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council Members



ITEM #7 Nomination for the 2025 SDMVAC Chair and Vice -Chair

All San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council Members



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LIVE WELL
SAN DIEGO

ITEM #8 25/26 Proposed Operation Plan Budget Presentation

Maryneeza Moraleja, Assistant Group Finance Director

Financial & Support Services Division Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)



LIVE WELL
SAN DIEGO



FY 2025-26 CAO RECOMMENDED OPERATIONAL PLAN

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

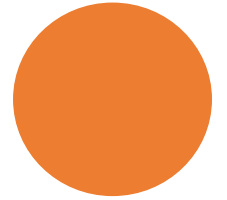
MAY 2025



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

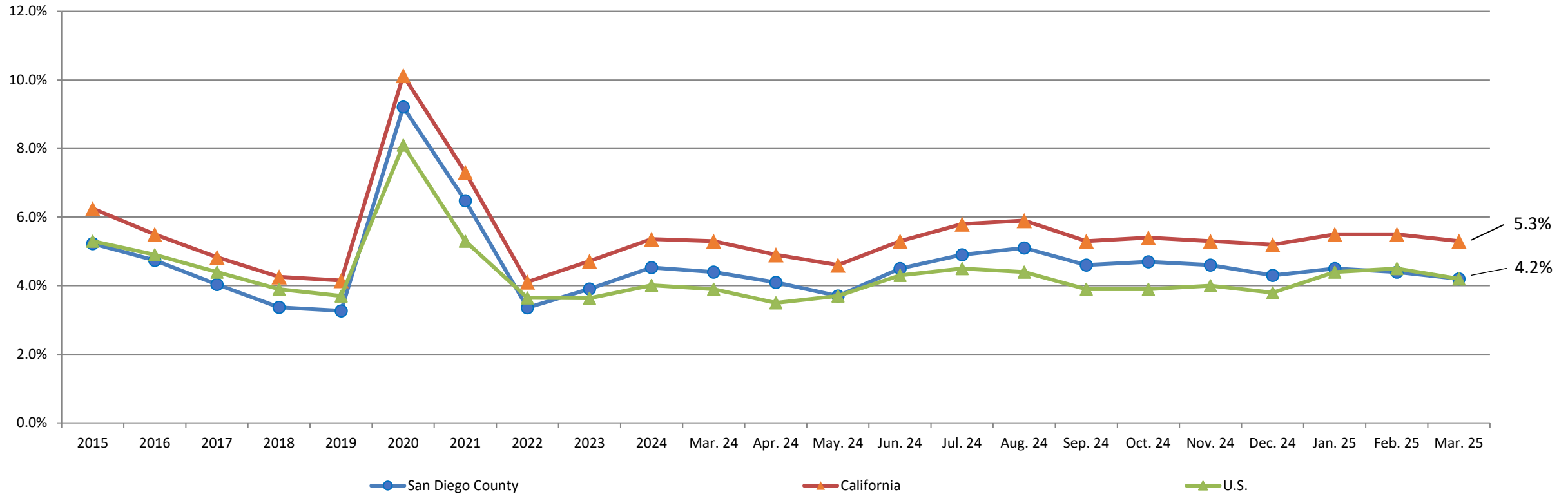
AGENDA

- Economic Updates
- State/Federal Budget
- FY 2025-26 CAO Recommended Budget for HHSA
- Upcoming Budget Events
- Q&A



Unemployment

Unemployment Rate 2015 through March 2025 Comparison



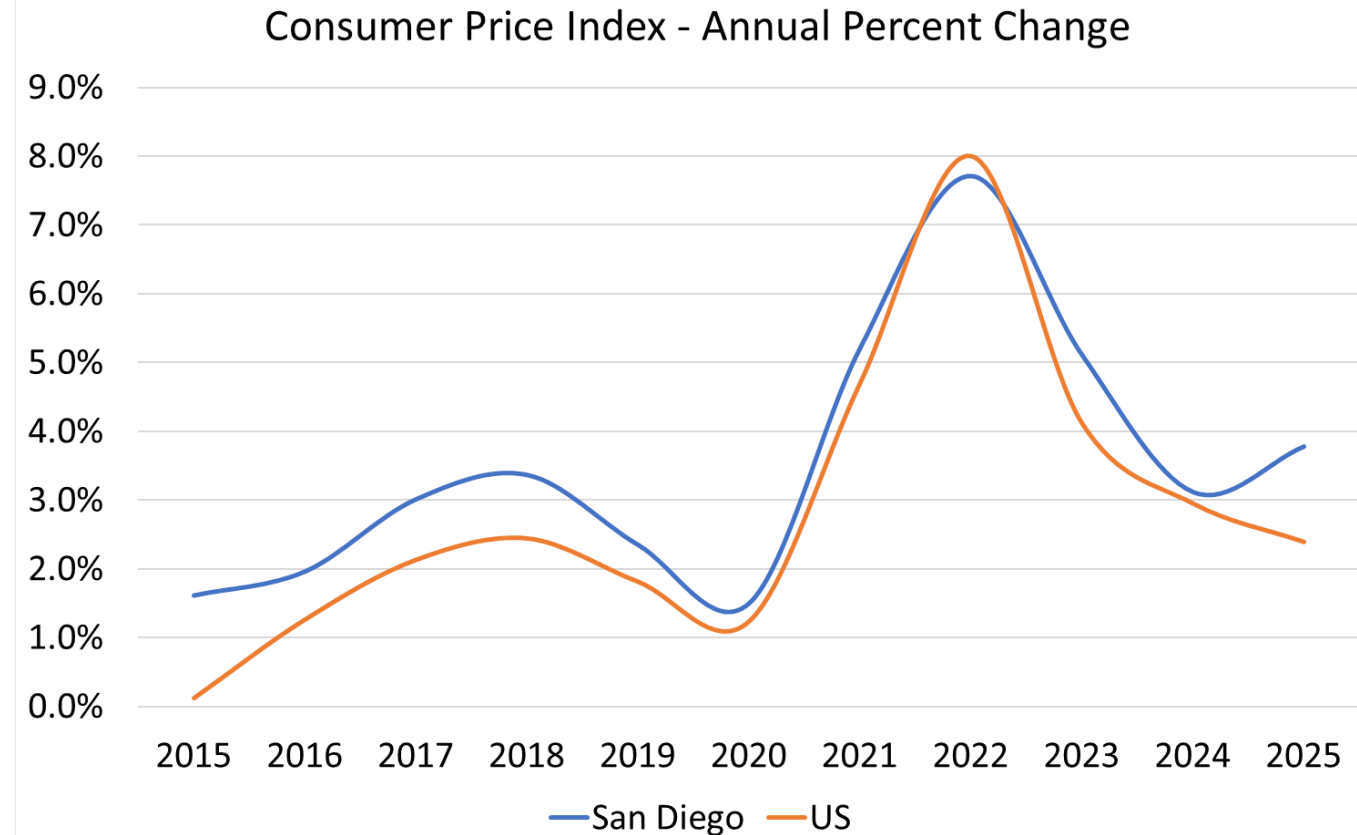
Notes: Data not seasonally adjusted; 2015–March 2025 actuals.

Sources: Actuals: California Employment Development Department, US Bureau of Labor Statistics

Inflation

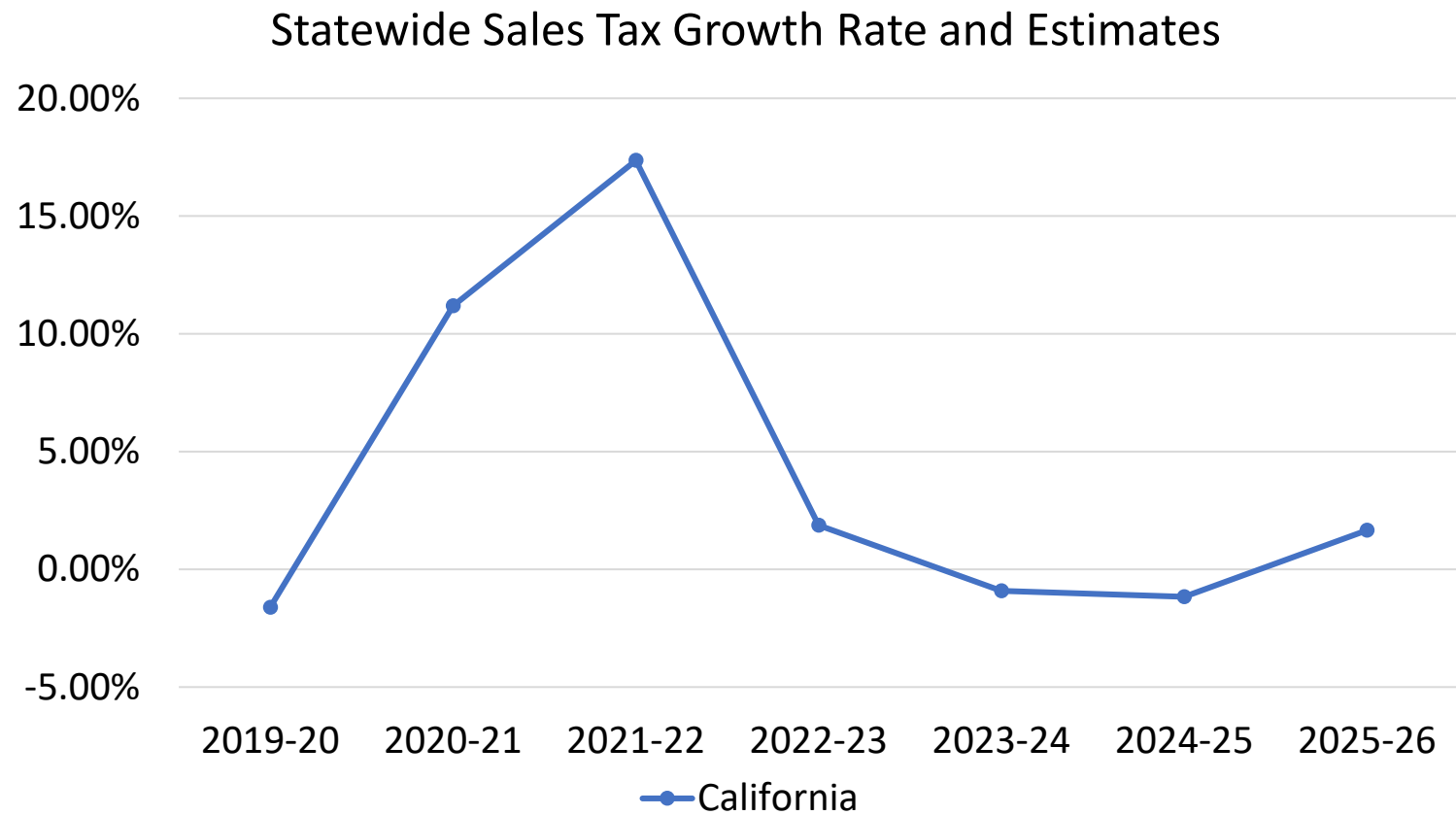


- The trend is slowly moderating but remains above the Fed's 2% target.
- As of March 2025:
 - U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased 2.4% year-over-year.
 - Inflation in San Diego is higher than national levels with CPI at 3.8%.



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. Non-seasonally adjusted figures as of March 2025.

Statewide Sales Tax



Source: State Controller's Office Half-Percent Sales Tax for Public Safety for actuals from FY2019-20 to FY2023-24. HdL 4Q24 Prop 172 Report for FY2024-25 to FY2025-26 growth estimate.

Sales tax drives HHSA realignment revenue: \$815.2M, 23.2% of HHSA's Budget

Upcoming Budget: State Budget

- Governor's January Proposed Budget for FY 2025-26
 - More stable than FY 2024-25
 - Modest surplus
 - No significant new investments in programs
 - Placeholder budget
- Contingencies
 - LA fires – which state resources will be shifted
 - Federal funding uncertainty
- **May Revise – May 14**
- Enacted Budget – June 15

Upcoming Budget: Federal Uncertainty

- Over \$1 billion in federal revenue in the proposed HHS budget.
- Medicaid is the largest source, but also included are federal streams for food assistance (SNAP), cash assistance (TANF), and a variety of public health and housing grants.

Key legislative issues:

Reconciliation	Federal Budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medicaid• SNAP• TANF• Social Services Block Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• President's 'skinny budget' request• Appropriations

Upcoming Budget: County

County Budget Outlook: FY 2025-27



While the County is seeing an amount of revenue growth, the costs of operations continues to increase



Focusing on core services and programs



Planning for the needs of the region in the face of uncertainty



HHSA: Budget Strategy



Prioritize
Mandated Services

- Reduction of discretionary services to reallocate local funding to core mandated services
- Align to State required service levels where outperforming



Consolidate/Restructure &
Streamline Operations

- Reorganization of offices previously under Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities
- Merger of Public Health Services and Medical Care Services
- Facility footprint optimization

HHSA: Budget Strategy



Maximize Alternative
Funding

- Behavioral Health Revenue under Medicaid Waivers
- Opioid Settlement Funds, Tobacco Settlement Funds
- Grant Opportunities



Delay/Suspend
New Requests

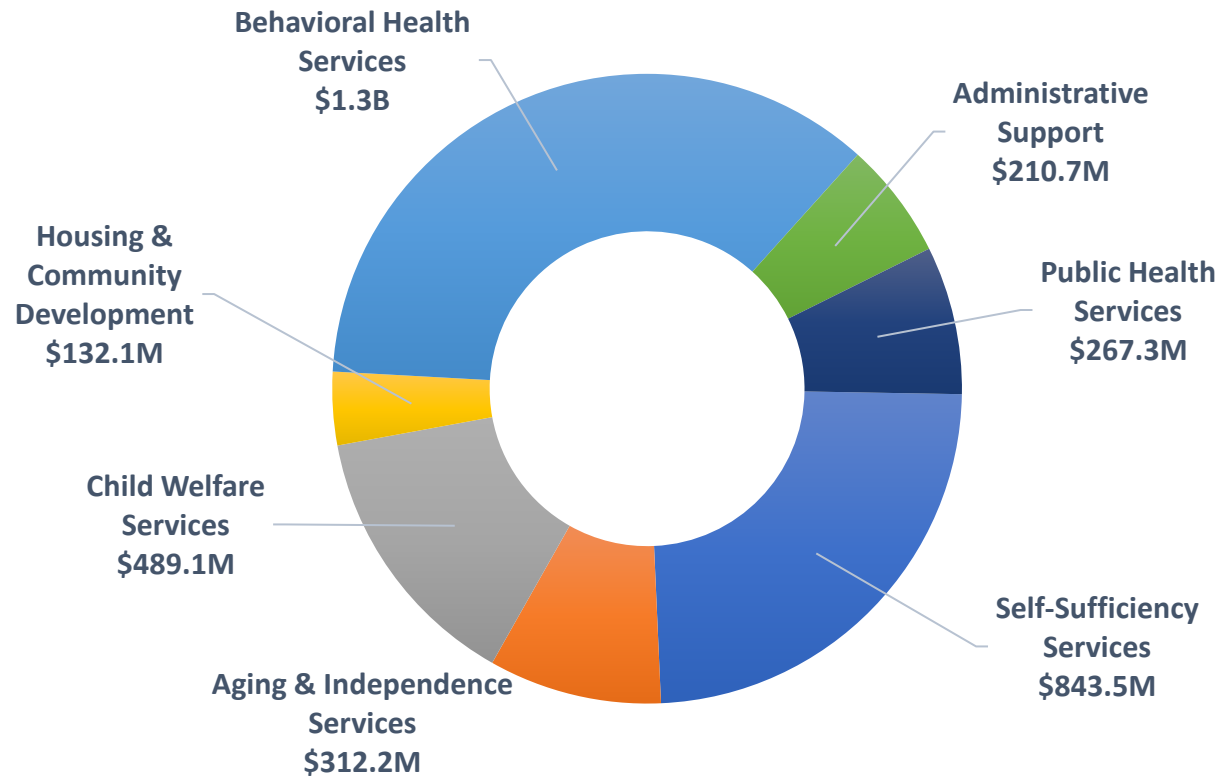
- Staffing
- Discretionary service expansion



Employ Revenue
Stabilization Strategies

- Realignment Bridge

HHSA FY 2025-26 RECOMMENDED BUDGET BY DEPARTMENT: \$3.5 BILLION



Increase of \$65.4 million or 1.9%

- \$29.1M Salaries & Benefits
- \$22.5M Safety Net Benefits
- \$13.8M driven by \$90M increased services & supplies budget in BHS offset by decreases throughout HHSA for one-time investments and various other adjustments.

FY 2025-26 CAO RECOMMENDED BUDGET

BUDGET BY DEPARTMENT: \$3.5 BILLION

DEPARTMENT	FY 25/26 CAO RECOMMENDED		CHANGE FROM FY 24/25 ADOPTED TO FY 25/26 CAO RECOMMENDED	
	FTE	BUDGET (in millions)	FTE	BUDGET
Administrative Support	456.00	\$210.7	26.00	\$11.8
Aging & Independence Services	651.00	\$312.2	(3.00)	\$7.4
Behavioral Health Services	1,332.50	\$1,257.2	-	\$100.6
Child and Family Well-Being	1,661.00	\$489.1	(11.00)	\$10.1
Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities	0.00	0.0	(160.00)	(\$112.4)
Housing and Community Development Services	244.00	\$132.1	86.00	\$41.1
Medical Care Services	0.00	0.0	(216.00)	(\$55.0)
Public Health Services	981.00	\$267.3	206.00	\$30.5
Self-Sufficiency Services	2,750.00	\$843.5	(96.00)	\$31.3
TOTAL	8,075.50	\$3,512.1	(168.00)	\$65.4

HHSA FY 2025-26 FTE CHANGE

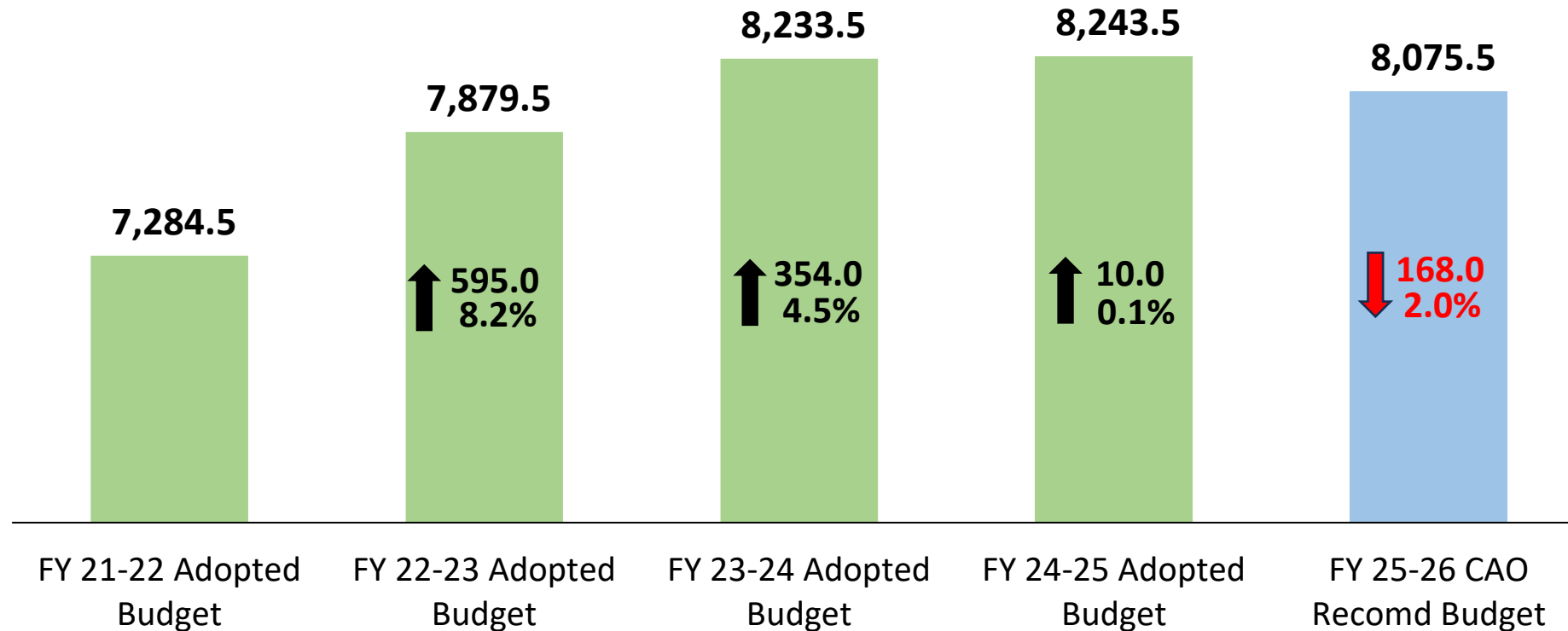
Decrease of 168.00 net full time equivalents (FTE)

- Decrease of 104.00 staff years to align with available funding and State requirements around timely access to safety net services.
- Decrease in 46.00 staff years due to alignment of resources with slowing revenue streams within discretionary programs.
- Decrease in 18.00 staff years due to internal transfer of positions, consolidation efforts, staffing alignment and focus on core mandated functions.

A LOOK BACK: 5 YEAR TREND

STAFF YEARS (FTES)

11% FTE increase since FY 21-22





HHSA KEY INCREASES & CONTINUED INVESTMENTS

Behavioral Health

- \$90 million net increase to build out continuum of care including board and care, residential and outpatient services
- Building capacity as outlined in the Mental Health and Substance Use Optimal Care Pathways
- New Substance Use Residential and Treatment Services (SURTS) and Tri-City Psychiatric facility
- Two new Crisis Stabilization Units

**\$90 million excludes salary and benefit adjustments*



HHSA KEY INCREASES & CONTINUED INVESTMENTS

Safety Net Services and Vulnerable Populations

- \$22 million increase for CalWORKs and General Relief cash assistance
- Continued enrollment and renewals to help people secure and keep their benefits
- In-Home Supportive Services increase of \$11.5 million for a total of over \$223 million
- Strengthen and keep at-risk families together with front-end intervention and prevention with the Family Connection Hub



HHSA KEY INCREASES & CONTINUED INVESTMENTS

Housing and Homelessness

- Starting construction on 60 Troy Street Sleeping Cabins
- Continued \$15M Regional Homeless Assistance Program (RHAP) for 250 households per night
- Over \$6 million in grant funds in the upcoming year to help those experiencing homelessness in the San Diego riverbed and Plaza Bonita areas
- Continuation of \$500-a-month rental subsidy pilot for nearly 400 low-income, rent-burdened older adults
- 16 affordable housing developments partially funded by the County are under construction regionwide. Another 18 developments are in the works.



HHSA KEY INCREASES & CONTINUED INVESTMENTS

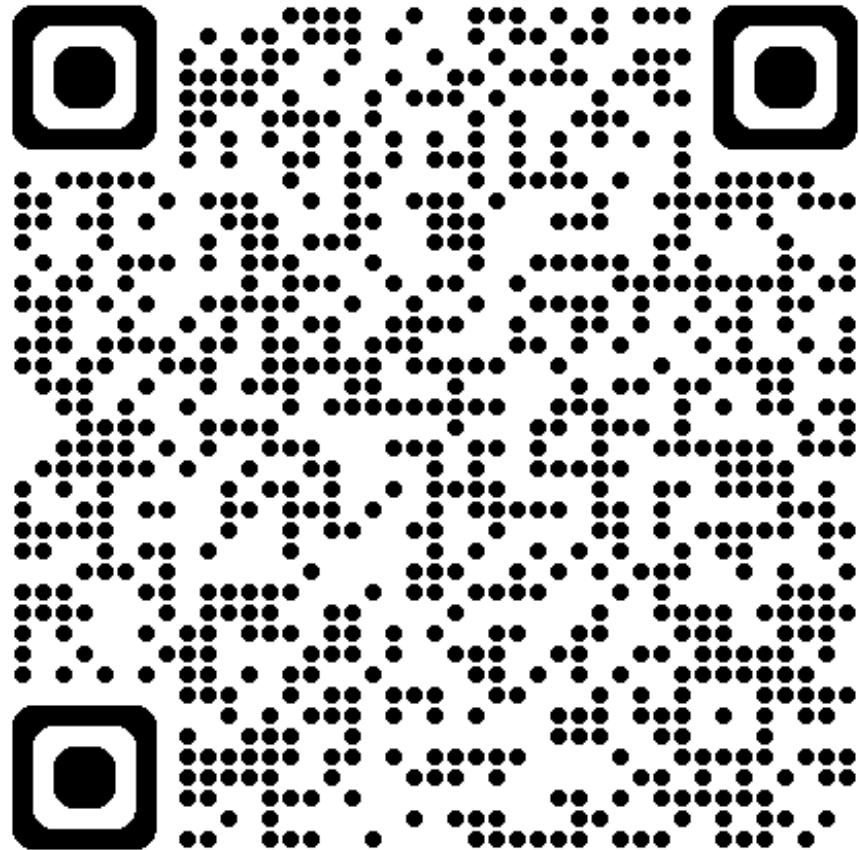
Public Health

- \$267.3 million to prevent epidemics and the spread of disease and ensure access for all through public health centers, home visiting programs and pharmaceutical services.
- Includes funding to operate a new \$93 million state-of-the-art public health lab that will protect the public by testing for infectious diseases

UPCOMING BUDGET EVENTS: KEY DATES



County Budget 2025 - 27 | Engage San Diego County



CLOSING REMARKS AND Q&A

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"I met with the budget people and we agreed that the cheapest way to fix all of our problems is chocolate."

Amy Thompson

HHSA Chief Financial Officer

Amy.Thompson@sdcounty.ca.gov

Office: (619) 515-6923

Charissa Japlit

HHSA Assistant Chief Financial Officer

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ITEM #9 Support The Enlisted Project (STEP)

Tony Teravainen, PMP, CSSBB – CEO and Co-Founder of Support the Enlisted Project (STEP)



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LIVE WELL
SAN DIEGO



SUPPORT THE ENLISTED PROJECT

Improving financial wellness to combat:

food insecurity, homelessness, mental health conditions, suicide, and other crises

through **counseling, education, and financial support**

amongst our enlisted service members, Veterans, and their families.

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Most Americans possess poor financial habits

-then 150k annually volunteer to serve in the Military



Military Life Subjects It's Families to ...

- ✓ Frequent Moving – every 2-3 years
- ✓ Spousal Under/Un-employment - 50%
- ✓ Low Income Wages – 60+%
- ✓ Deployment separation - every 3 years
- ✓ America's 3rd Most Deadly occupation
- ✓ Evaluations and Security Clearance tied to finances

- Increased Financial Stress
- Increase Family Stress
- Increased Work Stress



The Challenge for Military Families...

Chronic increased stress levels devastate the human mind, body and soul,,, creating lasting and harmful issues.

For our active-duty service members

- ✓ The suicide rate is 75% higher than the civilian population
- ✓ 1 in 4 show signs of a mental health condition
- ✓ 24% are food insecure
- ✓ The highest divorce rate of any profession
- ✓ 88% of security clearance revocations cite financial considerations

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The Challenge for Veteran Families ...



Chronic financial stress devastates the human mind, body and soul,,, creating lasting and harmful issues

For our veterans

- ✓ Twice as likely to be experiencing homelessness
- ✓ Twice as likely to have mental health problems
- ✓ The suicide rate is 17 per day, 233% higher than the civilian population

What's STEP?



- ✓ Created & staffed by military & veteran people to fill a specific gap
- ✓ We get families through a financial crisis - in a way that makes this crisis their last
- ✓ We build Financial Wellness – reducing financial stress and associated risks
- ✓ STEP's social workers have military experience and financial credentials
- ✓ Each family receives individualized, behavior-modifying, financial counseling to:
 - ✓ Recover lost or at-risk basic necessities
 - ✓ Restore hope that this can be their last financial crisis
 - ✓ Create a financial plan to achieve daily and long-term goals
 - ✓ Modify their financial behaviors to retain their growing Financial Wellness

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Our Impact



EFA has helped 9,275 military and veteran families from 43 States

100%

successful at halting
the loss of a basic need for
qualified families

86%

of clients report an
increase in their overall
Financial Well-Being

92%

of clients report being on
track with goals 6-36
months post intervention

97%

of clients do not return
needing additional grant
funding

697

In-process evictions
halted through STEP
rent assistance grant

630

Auto payments made to
stop repossessions by
STEP

CONTACT US



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Backup



ITEM #10 Committee Review

Jude Litzenberger, Chair of San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council



LIVE WELL
SAN DIEGO

ITEM #11 Suggested topic for future meetings

All San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council Members



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LIVE WELL
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