

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD (SSAB)**

**MEETING NOTICE: Zoom ONLY**

**Join by phone:** +1 669 900 9128

Phone Conference ID: 822 9246 9122

**Join on your computer or mobile app:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82292469122>

**May 11, 2022  
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

<b>AGENDA</b>
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- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 9:30 - 9:31 | 1. Call to Order  |
| 9:31 - 9:33 | 2. <b>Action Item:</b> Authorization of Teleconferencing Meeting Option Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e).<br><br>1) Find that there is a proclaimed State of Emergency<br>2) Find that State and local officials have recommended measures to promote social distancing |
| 9:33 - 9:37 | 3. <b>Action Item:</b> Approval of April 13, 2022 Meeting Minutes   |

<b>PUBLIC COMMENTS</b>
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- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 9:37 - 9:47 | 4. <u>Guidelines for Public Comment on Items not listed on the agenda:</u><br><br>➤ Members of the public may request to speak about any issue within the purview of the Board<br>➤ Each speaker will be limited to three (3) minutes<br>➤ Board members may not discuss or take action on issues raised during public comment unless the issue is listed in this Agenda |
|-------------|--|

<b>PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS</b>
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- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 9:47 – 10:17  | 5. <b>Presentation Item:</b> FY 22/23 County of San Diego Proposed Op Plan/Budget: Ardee Apostol, Assistant Finance Director, Financial Services Division, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)  |
| 10:17 – 10:37 | 6. <b>Information Item:</b> Board Letter – American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Program Funds Direct Stimulus Payments for Low-Income Program Families Disproportionately Impacted by COVID-19: Jeannie Hufford, Deputy Director, Self-Sufficiency Services, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) |

- 10:37 – 10:57     7.     **Information Item:** Board Letter – American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Program Funds Direct Stimulus Payments for Low-Income Immigrants Excluded from Federal and State Benefits: Jeannie Hufford, Deputy Director, Self-Sufficiency Services, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSa)
- 10:57 – 11:12     8.     **Information Item:** Update on Local Response to COVID19 Emergency for all Public Assistance Programs, Waivers, Enrollment, Service Delivery, Data: Assmaa Elayyat, Chief, Self-Sufficiency Services, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSa)
- 11:12 – 11:30     9.     **Discussion Item:** Update on SSAB Eligibility Task Force (ETF)  
Recommendations: Anahid Brakke, Chair, Social Services Advisory Board

<b>ADJOURNMENT/ NEXT MEETING</b>
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Next regular meeting will be held on June 8, 2022.

**ASSISTANCE FOR THE DISABLED:**

Agendas and records are available in alternative formats upon request. Contact the Social Services Advisory Board staff contact at 619-338-2932 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 Social Services Advisory board website:

[https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/ssp/social\\_services\\_advisory\\_board.html](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/ssp/social_services_advisory_board.html)

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD (SSAB)**

**Held Via Zoom**

**Join by phone:** +1 669 900 9128

Phone Conference ID: 857 3496 6514

**Join on your computer or mobile app:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85734966514>

**SSAB Meeting Minutes  
April 13, 2022**

**Members Present**

Jan Spencley  
Anahid Brakke  
Carol Lewis  
Robin Maxson  
Vino Pajanor  
Buck Martin  
Greg Anglea  
Phil Thalheimer

**Members Absent**

Keara O'Laughlin  
Rachel Morineau

**Staff Present**

Rick Wanne, Director Self-Sufficiency Services  
Albert Banuelos, HHSA  
Adriana Ramirez, HHSA  
Allison Boyer, HHSA  
Assmaa Elayyat, HHSA  
Jeannie Hufford, HHSA  
Ida Bell, HHSA  
Albert Garcia, HHSA  
Michael Schmidt, HHSA  
Eric Rubio, HHSA  
Yvonne Hose, HHSA  
Brenda Vargas  
Roxanne Hernandez, HHSA  
David Hopkins, HHSA  
Claudia Gurrola, HHSA  
Nanette Hartley, HHSA  
Patty Baker, HHSA  
Amanda Berry, Board/Supervisors District 3

**Guests**

Lindsey Wade, Hospital Association of San Diego  
Ivonne Velazquez, Hospital Association of San Diego  
Amanda Schultz Brochu, San Diego Hunger Coalition  
Devin Ton, San Diego Hunger Coalition  
Mauricio Medina, San Diego Hunger Coalition  
Jen Keyes, San Diego Hunger Coalition  
Amanda Mascia, San Diego Hunger Coalition  
Shelly Dieu, San Diego Hunger Coalition  
Jack Dailey, Legal Aid Society of San Diego  
Karla Samayoa, 2-1-1 San Diego

1. Meeting called to order via Zoom at 9:32 by Chair, Anahid Brakke.
2. Authorization of Teleconferencing Meeting Option Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e), was approved with all Board Members present voting yes.
3. The March 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes were approved, with all Board Members present voting yes.
4. Public Comments:
  - No public comment

5. Information Item: Planning for the End of Continuous Medi-Cal Eligibility and AB 1900: Jan Spencley, Member, Social Services Advisory Board and Assmaa Elayyat, Chief, Self-Sufficiency Services, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA). Ms. Spencley presented an overview of the impact of the AB 1900 bill in relation to the Medi-Cal eligibility of the low-income senior population and requested a motion from the SSAB to present a Board Letter to support, with 7 members voting yes and 1 member voting no.
6. Information Item: Update on Local Response to COVID19 Emergency for all Public Assistance Programs, Waivers, Enrollment, Service Delivery, Data: Assmaa Elayyat, Chief, Self-Sufficiency Services, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA). Ms. Elayyat provided updates on CalFresh, Medi-Cal, CalWORKs and General Relief flexibilities, waivers and upcoming policy changes. She also shared information on the budget ask for CalFresh Administration Bridge Funding between State legislature and the County Board of Supervisors.
7. Discussion Item: Update on SSAB Recommendations: Anahid Brakke, Chair, Social Services Advisory Board. Dr. Albert Banuelos shared an update on Self-Sufficiency Services' preparation of the draft action plan with goals created from the Koné report and SSAB recommendations. This will be presented to the SSAB as well as the public for review and input before the 90-day deadline in June 2022.

**ADJOURNMENT/SET NEXT MEETING:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. Next regular meeting will be held on May 11, 2022.



# ITEM #5 FY 22/23 COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO PROPOSED OP PLAN/BUDGET

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*Ardee Apostol, Assistant Finance Director  
Financial Services Division  
Health & Human Services Agency*



# ITEM #6 BOARD LETTER – AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) PROGRAM FUNDS DIRECT STIMULUS PAYMENTS FOR LOW- INCOME PROGRAM FAMILIES DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED BY COVID-19

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*Jeannie Hufford*  
*Deputy Director, Self-Sufficiency Services*



**DATE:** May 24, 2022

**XX**

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**SUBJECT**

**APPROVAL OF ACTIONS RELATED TO THE SPENDING PLAN FOR THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT PROGRAM FUNDS DIRECT STIMULUS PAYMENTS FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED BY COVID-19 (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

On June 8, 2021 (3), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) took critical action in advancing support to San Diego County residents by approving the framework for the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. Approval of the ARPA framework is the first step toward getting needed support and resources on the ground across the region. Additional action is needed to begin to operationalize the Direct Stimulus Payments of the approved framework to support the San Diego County's most vulnerable communities who have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Today's actions requests the Board approve recommendations related to the spending plan for the Direct Stimulus Payments Component of the approved ARPA framework, specifically; authorization for a single source grant agreement with Jewish Family Service of San Diego for the expansion of their existing State funded program, San Diego for Every Child, Guaranteed Income Program, including an evaluation component to determine sustainability. It is anticipated that the recommended actions will contribute to the prevention of poverty and homelessness.

This item supports the County of San Diego's vision of a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all, specifically those communities and populations in San Diego County that have been historically left behind and disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, as well as our ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities. This will be accomplished by providing access to cash assistance to address the lack of means to satisfy basic needs.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Authorize the Chief Administrative Officer or designee to execute a grant agreement between the County of San Diego and Jewish Family Service of San Diego for the expansion of their existing State-funded program, San Diego for Every Child, Guaranteed Income Program, for a term of three years and up to six additional months if needed, and

to amend the grant agreement as necessary subject to the approval of the Director, Health and Human Services Agency.

2. Transfer appropriations of \$15,000,000 from the Finance Other, General Miscellaneous Expense, Other Charges, appropriated for the Direct Stimulus Payments component of the ARPA funds, to the Health and Human Services Agency, Services & Supplies for the direct cash assistance for populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

In order to support the communities most impacted by COVID-19, an equity lens was used to prioritize the distribution of COVID-19 response and recovery. Zip codes with high unemployment and low household income coincide with the highest percentage of COVID-19 cases in the region. Those living in these 39 Health Equity Zip Codes have been identified as the communities that have the highest need for support. The direct stimulus payments are intended to balance equity for disproportionately impacted communities by reducing disparities and ensuring access through a fully optimized social service delivery system and upstream strategy of issuing these payments. The direct stimulus payments will also create economic opportunity by dismantling barriers to expand opportunities to traditionally underserved low-income communities.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-23 County of San Diego Operational Plan. If approved, this request will result in estimated annual costs and revenue of \$5,000,000 starting in FY 2022-23 through FY 2024-25, for a total program cost of \$15,000,000. The funding source for this request is the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding allocated directly to the County of San Diego. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

### **ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT**

This item was presented to the Social Services Advisory Board (SSAB) at its regular meeting on May 11, 2022.

### **BACKGROUND**

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) has been committed to and taken action to protect the health of the public and provide resources to individuals, families, and local businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. On June 8, 2021 (3), the Board took critical action in advancing support to San Diego County residents by approving a framework for the use of \$653.5 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. The approved ARPA framework commits resources to continue to manage and reduce community transmission of COVID-19 in San Diego County; provide the necessary support for individuals, families, and local business to mitigate the negative effects and other barriers experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic; support the County of San

Diego's (County) continued COVID-19 pandemic response efforts; and to plan for stability and sustainability of the region beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

Approval of the ARPA framework was the first step toward getting needed support and resources on the ground across the region. Additional action is needed to operationalize some components of the approved framework. The County will be reviewing future federal and State funding as part of the strategic planning for the use of ARPA funding to maximize all available resources. The following section provides an outline of the plan and recommended actions needed to begin to operationalize certain programs and services under the Direct Stimulus Payments Component to provide access to cash assistance to satisfy the basic needs of those most disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

#### **ARPA Framework Component – Direct Stimulus Payments for Populations Disproportionately Impacted by COVID-19 (San Diego for Every Child)**

The approved ARPA funding framework included an appropriation of \$40 million for direct stimulus payments. If approved, the following requested actions will provide the authorization needed to move forward with implementing certain programs and services related to the Direct Stimulus Payments Component of the approved ARPA framework.

The recommended spending plan for the approved ARPA framework provides \$15 million over three years for direct cash assistance for populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Today's action requests to authorize the Chief Administrative Officer or designee to execute a grant agreement between the County and Jewish Family Service of San Diego for the expansion of their existing State funded program, San Diego for Every Child, Guaranteed Income Program.

Jewish Family Service of San Diego through a State funded agreement launched the San Diego for Every Child, Guaranteed Income Program in 2021. The current program serves 150 low-income families with children under 12 years of age, who are at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level and within four Health Equity Zip Codes to receive \$500 cash payments for 24 months. This action will expand the current 150 families receiving \$500 cash payments in four zip codes to an additional 1,000 families within all of the 39 Health Equity Zip Codes for 24 months over three years. Various avenues of outreach will be carried out to these communities to ensure participant awareness and recruitment to this program.

In addition, the program will be evaluated by the University of Pennsylvania as part of a larger research study looking at the benefits of direct stimulus payment to low-income families disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Sustainability of the program will be evaluated based on the program benefits achieved and identified through the research study.

#### **LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Today's proposed actions support the Equity (Economy and Resiliency) and Sustainability (Health and Economic Opportunity) initiatives in the County of San Diego's 2022-2027 Strategic Plan as well as the County of San Diego's Live Well San Diego vision by improving the quality of life for those disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

Respectfully submitted,

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HELEN N. ROBBINS-MEYER  
Chief Administrative Officer

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

N/A

DRAFT

# ITEM #7 BOARD LETTER – AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) PROGRAM FUNDS DIRECT STIMULUS PAYMENTS FOR LOW- INCOME IMMIGRANTS EXCLUDED FROM FEDERAL AND STATE BENEFITS

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*Jeannie Hufford*  
*Deputy Director, Self-Sufficiency Services*



**DATE:** May 24, 2022

**XX**

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**SUBJECT**

**APPROVAL OF ACTIONS RELATED TO THE SPENDING PLAN FOR THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT PROGRAM FUNDS DIRECT STIMULUS PAYMENTS FOR LOW INCOME IMMIGRANTS EXCLUDED FROM FEDERAL AND STATE BENEFITS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

On June 8, 2021 (3), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) took critical action in advancing support to San Diego County residents by approving the framework for the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. Approval of the ARPA framework is the first step toward getting needed support and resources on the ground across the region. Additional action is needed to begin operationalizing the Direct Stimulus Payments of the approved framework to support the County's most vulnerable communities who have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic including low-income immigrants excluded from State and Federal benefits by addressing issues of financial insecurity. Today's action requests the Board approve recommendations related to the spending plan for the Direct Stimulus Payments Component of the approved ARPA framework, specifically, authorization for a competitive solicitation to identify one or more payee service providers to act as a payee on behalf of Low Income Immigrants 18-54 years of age excluded from Federal and State benefits including an evaluation component to determine sustainability. It is anticipated that the recommended actions will contribute to the prevention of poverty and homelessness.

This item supports the County's vision of a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all, specifically those communities and populations in San Diego County that have been historically left behind and disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, as well as our ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities. This will be accomplished by providing access to cash assistance to address the lack of means to satisfy basic needs.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. In accordance with Section 401, Article XXIII of the County Administrative Code, authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to issue a competitive solicitation for one or more payee service providers on behalf of Low Income Immigrants 18-54 years of age that are excluded from Federal and State benefits, including an outreach

and evaluation component, and upon successful negotiations and determination of a fair and reasonable price, award a contract or contracts for a term of three years and up to an additional six months if needed, and amend the contract(s) as needed to reflect changes to services and funding subject to the approval of the Director, Health and Human Services Agency.

2. Transfer appropriations of \$10,000,000 from the Finance Other, General Miscellaneous Expense, Other Charges, appropriated for the Direct Stimulus Payments component of the ARPA funds, to the Health and Human Services Agency, Services & Supplies for the direct stimulus payments for low-income immigrants excluded from federal and State benefits and disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

To support the communities most impacted by COVID-19, an equity lens was used to prioritize the distribution of COVID-19 response and recovery. Zip codes with high unemployment and low household income coincide with the highest percentage of COVID-19 cases in the region. Those living in these 39 Health Equity Zip Codes have been identified as the communities that have the highest need for support.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-23 County of San Diego Operational Plan. If approved, this request will result in estimated annual costs and revenue of \$3.3 million starting in FY 2022-23 through FY 2024-25 for an estimated total program cost of \$10 million. The funding source for this request is the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding allocated directly to the County of San Diego. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

### **ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT**

This item will be presented to the Social Services Advisory Board (SSAB) at its regular meeting on May 11, 2022.

### **BACKGROUND**

Since January 2020, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) has been committed and taken action to protect the health of the public and provide resources to individuals, families, and local businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. On June 8, 2021 (3), the Board took critical action in advancing support to San Diego County residents by approving a framework for the use of \$653.5 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. The approved ARPA framework commits resources to continue to manage and reduce community transmission of COVID-19 in San Diego County; provide the necessary support for individuals, families, and local business to mitigate the negative effects and other barriers experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic;

support the County of San Diego's continued COVID-19 pandemic response efforts; and to plan for stability and sustainability of the region beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

Approval of the ARPA framework was the first step toward getting needed support and resources on the ground across the region. Additional action is needed to operationalize some components of the approved framework. The County will be reviewing future federal and State funding as part of the strategic planning for the use of ARPA funding to maximize all available resources. The following section provides an outline of the plan and recommended actions needed to begin operationalizing certain programs and services under the Direct Stimulus Payments Component to provide access to cash assistance to satisfy the basic needs of those most disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

**ARPA Framework Component – Stimulus Payments for Low Income Immigrants Excluded from Federal and State Benefits and Disproportionately Impacted by COVID-19**

The approved ARPA funding framework included an appropriation of \$40 million for direct stimulus payments. If approved, the following requested actions will provide the authorization needed to move forward with implementing certain programs and services related to the Direct Stimulus Payments Component of the approved ARPA framework.

The recommended spending plan for the approved ARPA framework provides \$10 million over three years for stimulus payments to Low Income Immigrants excluded from Federal and State benefits. Today's action requests the Board to authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting to issue a Competitive Solicitation to identify one or more service providers to act as a payee for Low Income Immigrants 18-54 years of age excluded from federal and State benefits.

This program will focus on servicing the identified population within the 39 Health Equity Zip Codes that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. The program design is to have multiple agencies to act as a payee on behalf of Low Income Immigrants 18-54 years of age who are at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. The program is anticipated to serve up to 700 individuals, by assisting with their housing needs, with monthly payments of up to \$500 for up to 24 months, paid directly to landlords. Housing assistance will be the priority with other essential services identified as needed such as food and transportation. Service providers will conduct program outreach through an equity lens focusing on the 39 Health Equity Zip Codes to ensure participant awareness in these communities.

Federal ARPA cash assistance payments made directly to an individual are considered unearned income under the Internal Revenue Service regulations. This program design ensures that the distribution of federal ARPA funds are appropriately treated in compliance with federal Internal Revenue Service guidelines. Additionally, any direct government cash payments made to individuals going through the United States citizenship process could be counted toward direct aid and could be considered "Public Charge" under the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Therefore, this program design ensures that Public Charge is not inadvertently

triggered for those going through the immigration process. An evaluation component will be included in the procurement solicitation. Sustainability of this Program will be considered based on the program benefits achieved and identified through the evaluation study.

#### **LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Today's proposed actions support the Equity and Sustainability initiatives in the County of San Diego's 2022-2027 Strategic Plan as well as the County of San Diego's *Live Well San Diego* vision by improving the quality of life for those disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

Respectfully submitted,

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HELEN N. ROBBINS-MEYER  
Chief Administrative Officer

#### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

N/A



# ITEM #8

## UPDATE ON LOCAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19 EMERGENCY FOR ALL PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, WAIVERS, ENROLLMENT, SERVICE DELIVERY, DATA

*Assmaa Elayyat*  
*Chief, Self-Sufficiency Services*





## PROGRAM FLEXIBILITIES & WAIVERS

### Current Flexibilities & Options

- The following waivers granted by the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) **have been extended:**
  - Initial application and recertification interviews **June 30<sup>th</sup> 2022**
  - Telephonic signature **June 30<sup>th</sup> 2022**
  - Quality control face to face interviews **June 30<sup>th</sup> 2022**
  - Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents – CA waiver extended through **June 30, 2022**
- The California State Department of Social Services (CDSS) is **requesting additional extensions from FNS on the following waivers:**
  - Initial and recertification interviews (through December 2022)
  - Telephonic signature (through October 2022)
  - Quality Control face to face interviews (through December 2022)



## ADDITIONAL UPDATES

- Emergency Allotments
  - **Approved for April, to be issued May 22<sup>nd</sup>**
  - **Approved for May, to be issued June 19<sup>th</sup>**
  - All CalFresh households receive a minimum allotment of \$95 monthly as of April
- Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)
  - All P-EBT cards have been mailed to young children under 6
  - P-EBT cards for school age children are currently being mailed
  - CDSS is currently drafting the P-EBT 3.0 plan which covers the 2021–22 school year
    - **Requires FNS approval**
- **May is CalFresh awareness month!**



## PROGRAM FLEXIBILITIES & WAIVERS

- Executive Order N-71-20 signed on **June 30, 2020** extends the following provisions until the EO is rescinded or the state of emergency ends:
  - Telephonic/verbal signature on application – **extended permanently**
  - Flexibilities on identity and pregnancy verifications – **extended permanently**
- **Initial application interview waiver has expired, interviews for new applications resumed effective December 1, 2021**
- Time on Aid exemption for expiring time-clocks – **extended until further notice**



## PROGRAM FLEXIBILITIES & WAIVERS

Executive Order N-71-20 signed on **June 30, 2020** extends the following flexibilities until the EO is rescinded, or when the state of emergency ends:

- Annual renewal suspension
- Negative action suspension

Extended program flexibilities that remain in place permanently:

- Telephonic and verbal attestation and signature
- Flexible verification requirements

**Public Health Emergency renewed through July 16<sup>th</sup> 2022** by Federal Administration, DHCS will provide a 60-day notice prior to ending it

Medi-Cal Quality Control (MEQC) reviews resumed effective **December 1, 2020**



## UPCOMING POLICY CHANGES

- . Postpartum Care Expansion:
    - . Effective April 1, 2022
    - . Expands Postpartum Care from 60 days to 1 year from the end of pregnancy
  
  - . Medi-Cal Older Adult Expansion:
    - . Effective May 1, 2022
    - . Expands full scope Medi-Cal to adults aged 50+ regardless of immigration status
  
  - . Property Limit Increase for Non-MAGI programs:
    - . Effective July 1, 2022
    - . Property limit for one person increases from \$2,000 to \$130,000
    - . Property limit for two people increases from \$3,000 to \$195,000
    - . Increase for each additional person goes from \$150 per person to \$65,000 per person
- Note: State plan to eliminate the asset limit for Non-MAGI programs effective January 1, 2024 is still pending federal approval

# Be Healthy



**FREE HEALTH INSURANCE**  
for residents 50 or older,  
regardless of immigration  
status, effective May 1, 2022!



To find out  
if you qualify  
or for more  
information:



Call: 2-1-1

Apply Online at:  
[MyBenefitsCalwin.org](https://MyBenefitsCalwin.org)



Visit:  
[SanDiegoCounty.gov](https://SanDiegoCounty.gov)



# A TÚ SALUD!

**¡SEGURO DE SALUD GRATUITO** para residentes de 50 años o más, independientemente de su estado migratorio, a partir del 1 de mayo de 2022!



Para saber  
si calificas  
o para más  
información:

Llama al: 2-1-1



Aplicar en línea en:  
[MyBenefitsCalwin.org](https://MyBenefitsCalwin.org)



Visita:  
[SanDiegoCounty.gov](https://SanDiegoCounty.gov)



# SELF-SUFFICIENCY SERVICES



## TELEWORK PERFORMANCE SUMMARY APRIL 2022

- Staff Teleworking
  - 48% (1,210)
- Daily Attendance
  - Feb 2020 – 85% of Staff Attendance
  - April 2022 – 88% of Staff Attendance
- Access Call Center
  - Feb 2020 – 140,000
  - April 2022 – 159,228
  - 14% increase in calls received
- Access Average Speed of Answer
  - Feb 2020 – 8 Minutes
  - April 2022 – 91 Seconds
  - 81% improvement in Average Speed of Answer
- Access Calls Abandoned
  - Feb 2020 – 13,430
  - April 2022 – 3,411
  - 75% Decrease in Abandoned Calls
- Applications Received
  - Feb 2020 – 30,310
  - April 2022 – 29,967
  - Total Apps Feb 20 – Mar 2022: 938,691
- Applications Processed
  - Feb 2020 – 43,000
  - April 2022 – 43,327
  - All applications processed timely
- Increase in Total Recipients
  - Feb 2020 – April 2022 : 327,691
  - 31.7% increase in total recipients
- Benefits Issued Feb 2020 – April 2022:
  - All Programs: \$2,259,932,436
  - CalFresh: \$1,817,675,604
- Performance
  - CalFresh Accuracy Rate : 96.6%
- Customer Service Satisfaction Rate : 96%



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## INTER-DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

April 14, 2022

TO: Supervisor Nathan Fletcher, Chair  
Supervisor Nora Vargas, Vice Chair  
Supervisor Joel Anderson  
Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer  
Supervisor Jim Desmond

FROM: Caroline Smith, Director  
Office of Strategy and Intergovernmental Affairs

**SUPPORT: STATE ASSEMBLY BILL 1828 (CHEN) AND STATE SENATE BILL 950 (ARCHULETA)  
CALFRESH: INCOME ELIGIBILITY: BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING.**

Current federal law establishes the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known in California as CalFresh, to provide supplemental nutrition benefits to eligible individuals and families. Current law also establishes income eligibility standards for the CalFresh program and permits some forms of assistance to be excluded from the calculation of income for the purposes of determining eligibility. In addition, current federal law provides military personnel and their families a Basic Allowance for Housing based on housing costs in local housing markets.

State Assembly Bill 1828 (AB 1828) and State Senate Bill 950 (SB 950) would require the State to submit a waiver request to the federal government to exclude the Basic Allowance for Housing from counting as countable income for purposes of determining CalFresh eligibility.

Food insecurity is a significant issue in San Diego County. According to the San Diego Hunger Coalition, one in three San Diegans is nutrition-insecure, or unable to provide three nutritious meals a day for themselves and/or their families. Contributing to the food insecurity issue is the Basic Allowance for Housing provided to military personnel and their families. The Basic Allowance for Housing provides military personnel and their families with equitable housing compensation based on housing costs in local civilian housing markets when military housing is not provided. Basic Allowance for Housing rates are based on several factors, including location, pay grade, and dependency status. Due to the high cost of living in California, military personnel and their families living in San Diego County are disproportionately impacted and at risk of becoming food insecure as the Basic Allowance for Housing is required to be counted as countable income for determining eligibility for the CalFresh program. AB 1828 and SB 950 would require the State to request a federal waiver to exclude the Basic Allowance for Housing from counting as countable income for the purposes of determining CalFresh eligibility for military personnel and their families. If a waiver request is approved, the State could begin to offer CalFresh benefits to military personnel and their families thereby helping to make California more affordable and reduce food insecurity.

Support of these bills is authorized by the Board's approval of the Legislative Program Policy Guidelines (Guiding Principles and Section II.L.1), which calls for ensuring equity, transparency, and access for all residents and support of legislation and/or actions that expand access to affordable and nutritious food.

In accordance with Board Policy M-2, and by copy of this memorandum, I have authorized the County's Sacramento Representatives to convey the County's support of AB 1828 and SB 950 to the appropriate members of the Legislature and the Administration.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at (619) 531-5202.

Respectfully,



CAROLINE SMITH  
Director

cc: CAO, ACAO, HHSA, Sacramento Representatives



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## INTER-DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

April 14, 2022

TO: Supervisor Nathan Fletcher, Chair  
Supervisor Nora Vargas, Vice Chair  
Supervisor Joel Anderson  
Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer  
Supervisor Jim Desmond

FROM: Caroline Smith, Director  
Office of Strategy and Intergovernmental Affairs

**SUPPORT: STATE LEGISLATION PRESERVING HEALTHCARE COVERAGE FOR PREGNANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

Several programs exist statewide to provide healthcare coverage to expectant mothers and their children. Each program has its own eligibility requirements and associated premiums.

State Assembly Bill 1995 (AB 1995) Medi-Cal: premiums, contributions, and copayments.

AB 1995 (Arambula) would repeal premium and subscriber contributions for the Medi-Cal Other Targeted Low-Income Children's Program (OTLICP), the Medi-Cal Access Program (MCAP), the Medi-Cal Access Infants Program (MCAIP), and the 250 percent Working Disabled Program.

State Assembly Bill 2402 (AB 2402) Medi-Cal: continuous eligibility.

AB 2402 (Rubio) would ensure a child under five years of age in the Medi-Cal program and an infant born in the MCAIP program remain continuously eligible for Medi-Cal, without regard to income. In addition, AB 2402 would prohibit a redetermination of Medi-Cal eligibility from being conducted before a child reaches five years of age unless certain conditions are met. Implementation of AB 2402 would be contingent on certain federal approvals and an appropriation by the State Legislature.

Pregnant women and children from birth to five years of age are two of the most vulnerable populations in San Diego County. The prenatal period creates the foundation of a child's future healthy development. Research has shown that the rapid brain development that occurs in the first five years of life make these years the most critical and formative in a child's life. In addition, medical premiums for expectant mothers places an undue economic burden on those already living on very limited incomes and acts as a potential barrier to care. AB 1995 and AB 2402 preserves healthcare coverage for expectant mothers and their children by eliminating premiums and ensuring that children remain continuously covered until age five. These flexibilities are currently in place now as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, but it's important that these policies are extended to keep pregnant women and their children continuously enrolled in healthcare with no premiums to ensure the best possible care and outcomes for themselves and their families.

Support of these bills is authorized by the Board's approval of the Legislative Program Priority Issues, which calls for the County of San Diego to actively engage in legislation at the state and federal level to ensure such legislation benefits County operations and the clients, customers, and constituents we serve in the area of Early Care and Education as well as approval of the Legislative Program Policy Guidelines (Guiding Principles and Section II.F.3), which calls for providing a system/continuum of care that is operationally feasible for the County and benefits the residents of our region and support of legislation that would maintain or enhance appropriation of State General Fund to Maternal Child Health programs.

In accordance with Board Policy M-2, I have authorized the County's Sacramento Representatives to convey the County's support of AB 1995 and AB 2402 to the appropriate members of the Legislature and the Administration.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at (619) 531-5202.

Respectfully,



CAROLINE SMITH  
Director

cc: CAO, ACAO, HHSA, Sacramento Representatives



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## INTER-DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

May 5, 2022

TO: Supervisor Nathan Fletcher, Chair  
Supervisor Nora Vargas, Vice Chair  
Supervisor Joel Anderson  
Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer  
Supervisor Jim Desmond

FROM: Caroline Smith, Director  
Office of Strategy and Intergovernmental Affairs

**SUPPORT: STATE MEDI-CAL LEGISLATION**

Medi-Cal is California's Medicaid health care program. The Medi-Cal program pays for a variety of medical services for eligible children and adults with limited income and resources. Medi-Cal is also available to eligible persons with higher incomes through the Medically Needy program with a share of cost. The Medi-Cal personal needs allowance is the amount of income a medically needy individual who is in a medical institution or nursing facility is allowed to keep for housing, clothing, personal items, and other incidentals.

State Assembly Bill 1900 (AB 1900) Medi-Cal: income level for maintenance.

AB 1900 (Arambula) would reduce the Medi-Cal share of cost for certain Medi-Cal enrollees by increasing the maintenance need income level, which is the amount of income an individual or family may keep while receiving Medi-Cal benefits in a given month, to be equal to the Medi-Cal income limit for no-cost Medi-Cal enrollees.

State Assembly Bill 2077 (AB 2077) Medi-Cal: monthly maintenance amount: personal and incidental needs.

AB 2077 (Calderon) would increase, from \$35 to \$80, the personal needs allowance for a Medi-Cal beneficiary in a medical institution or nursing facility or receiving services from a PACE organization.

The Medically Needy program creates a barrier for those who rely on Medi-Cal but are required to pay a significant portion of their monthly income before Medi-Cal will cover the cost of their health care. The share of cost is calculated using a person's monthly income and deducting the maintenance need of \$600, with the remaining funds being the client's share of cost. The maintenance need of \$600 is a predetermined amount that would reasonably permit individuals to meet their food, clothing, and shelter needs. This amount, however, has not increased in decades. For example, if an individual's income is \$1,500, their monthly share of cost would be \$900, or a full two-thirds of their income. This high share of cost forces aging adults, people with disabilities, and their families to make impossible decisions, such as choosing between needed health care or paying rent and having food on the table.

The personal needs allowance was last set in 1984 and there has not been a cost-of-living increase since. This has led to persons in a medical institution or nursing facility to rely on a mere \$35 per month to pay for all their personal needs – including clothing, shoes, hygiene items, and personal effects. Nursing home residents are often voiceless. Their personal possessions are often a last remaining symbol of their independence. Increasing the personal needs allowance to reflect the current cost of living will help restore independence and a modicum of dignity to some of the most vulnerable individuals in nursing facilities.

Support of these bills is authorized by the Board's approval of the Legislative Program Priority Issues, which calls for the County of San Diego to actively engage in legislation at the state and federal level to ensure

such legislation benefits County operations and the clients, customers, and constituents we serve in the area of Equity and Justice and the Legislative Program Policy Guidelines (Guiding Principles), which calls for support of a system/continuum of care that is operationally feasible for the County and benefits the residents of our region and ensures equitable access to goods or services focused on providing needed resources and programs to underserved communities and vulnerable populations.

In accordance with Board Policy M-2, I have authorized the County's Sacramento Representatives to convey the County's support of AB 1900 and AB 2077 to the appropriate members of the Legislature and the Administration.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at (619) 531-5202.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Caroline Smith".

CAROLINE SMITH  
Director

cc: CAO, ACAO, HHSA, Sacramento Representatives



# MONTHLY UPDATES

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# ELIGIBILITY SERVICES BY THE NUMBERS...

May 2022 (Data Month: April 2022)

## PARTICIPANTS

- **CalFresh:** 354,204 recipients, up 6.84% from last year.
  - 122,172 child recipients (0-18), up 2.06% from last year.
  - 74,646 senior recipients (60+), up 17.42% from last year.
- **CalWORKs:** 41,028 recipients, up 11.23% from last year.
  - 31,113 child recipients (0-18), up 5.91% from last year.
  - Welfare-to-Work: 9,681 participants, up 35.44% from last year.
- **CMS:** 16 CMS recipients, up 23.08% from last year.
- **General Relief:** 3,789 recipients, up 60.41% from last year.
- **Medi-Cal:** 961,666 recipients, up 10.27% from last year.
  - 325,747 child recipients (0-18), up 5.44% from last year.
  - 10,201 over 50yrs, Regardless of Citizenship.

Program	Cases	Recipients	% Change in Recipients		Unduplicated Number of Recipients (April 2021–April 2022)
			Previous Month	Previous Year	
CalFresh	204,209	354,204	-0.24%	6.84%	500,661
CalWORKs	14,958	41,028	0.43%	11.23%	55,258
CMS	16	16	6.67%	23.08%	72
General Relief	3,773	3,789	1.07%	60.41%	9,217
Medi-Cal	520,681	961,666	0.59%	10.27%	1,001,203
<b>Total</b>	<b>743,637</b>	<b>1,360,703</b>	<b>0.37%</b>	<b>9.48%</b>	<b>1,107,891</b>

\*Recipients include 345,528 under ACA Medicaid Coverage Expansion.

\*\*The number of **unduplicated** recipients for **all** programs.

## PROCESSING

Applications Registered		
Program	April 2022	FYTD
CalFresh	16,588	176,442
CalWORKs	1,976	20,457
CMS	59	616
General Relief	2,262	21,336
Medi-Cal	9,082	100,575
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,967</b>	<b>319,426</b>

Renewals Generated		
Program	April 2022	FYTD
CalFresh	7,848	92,661
CalWORKs	544	12,492
CMS	1	55
General Relief	86	984
Medi-Cal	41,733	421,321
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,212</b>	<b>527,513</b>

Periodic Reports Generated		
Program	April 2022	FYTD
CalFresh	14,871	161,543
CalWORKs	1,031	7,209
General Relief	3	12
Medi-Cal	14	171
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,919</b>	<b>168,935</b>

Documents Imaged	
April 2022	FYTD
386,127	3,917,429

Tasks Created	
April 2022	FYTD
353,832	3,776,564

## ACCESS CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER

Customer Service				
Month	April 2021	April 2022	Change	FYTD
Total Calls	132,096	159,228	27,132	1,471,414
Abandoned	763	3,411	2,648	21,794
Average Wait Time	0:15	1:31	1:16	1:00

Community Based Organization (CBO)				
Month	April 2021	April 2022	Change	FYTD
Total Calls	4,481	4,949	468	45,379
Abandoned	42	107	65	601
Average Wait Time	0:46	1:27	0:41	1:11

Emails Received	
April 2022	FYTD
4,138	43,495

## FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER VISITS

Month	April 2021	April 2022	Change	FYTD
Total Tickets Issued	27,471	33,428	18%	323,644
Average Wait Time (min.)	(*)	(*)	N/A	

\* Due to COVID-19 Waivers, Avg time is not available for April 2022

## Processing Timeliness Applications, Periodic Reports, and Renewals

### CalFresh

- Regular Applications: State required days to disposition = 30 Days
  - San Diego = 16 Days
- Expedited Applications: State required days to disposition = 3 Days
  - San Diego = 2 Days
- Semi-Annual Reporting Timeliness = 96.90%
- Annual Renewal Timeliness = 99.95%

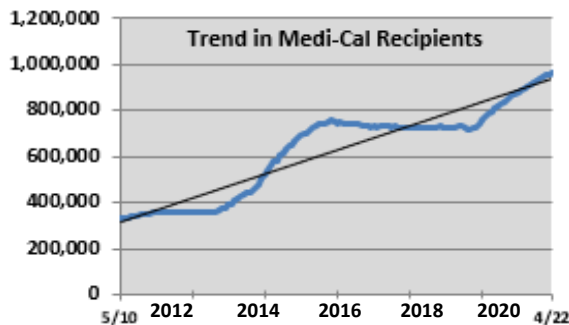
### CalWORKs

- Regular Applications: State required days to disposition = 45 Days
  - San Diego = 16 Days
- Immediate Need: State required days to disposition = 1 Day
  - San Diego = 1 Day
- Semi-Annual Reporting Timeliness = 95.29%
- Annual Renewal Timeliness = 99.79%

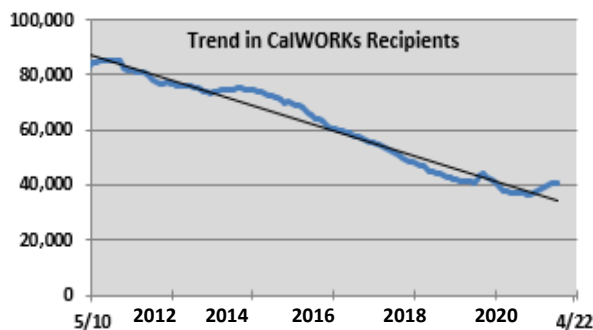
### Medi-Cal

- Regular Applications: State required days to disposition = 45 Days
  - San Diego = 19 Days
- Annual Renewal Timeliness = 99.98%

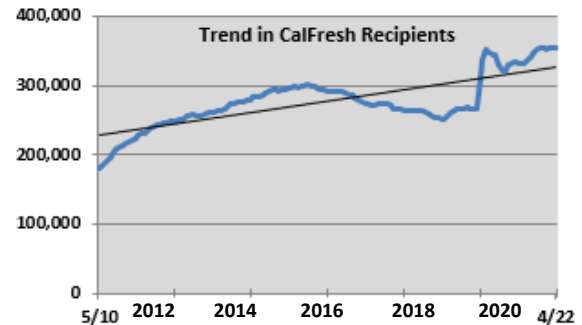
Medi-Cal Recipients		
FY May 10	FY Apr 22	191%
331,026	961,666	Increase



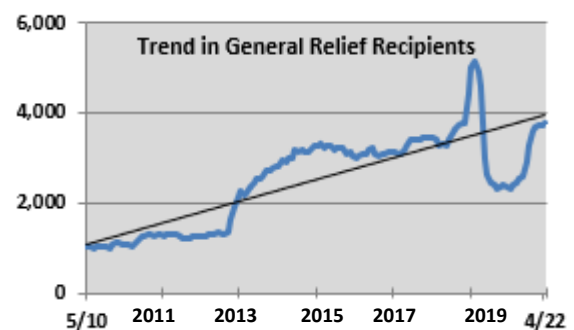
CalWORKs Recipients		
FY May 10	FY Apr 22	-49%
79,932	41,028	Decrease



CalFresh Recipients		
FY May 10	FY Apr 22	96%
181,117	354,204	Increase



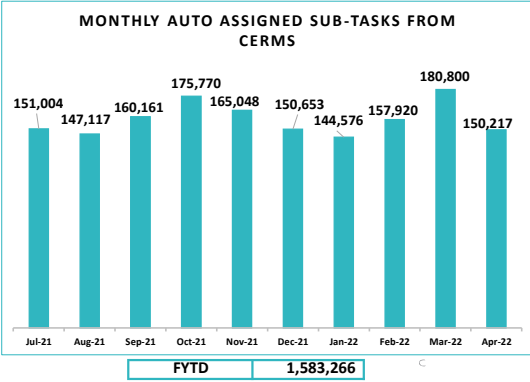
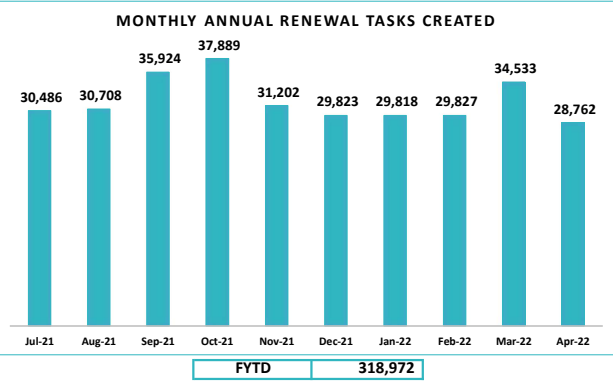
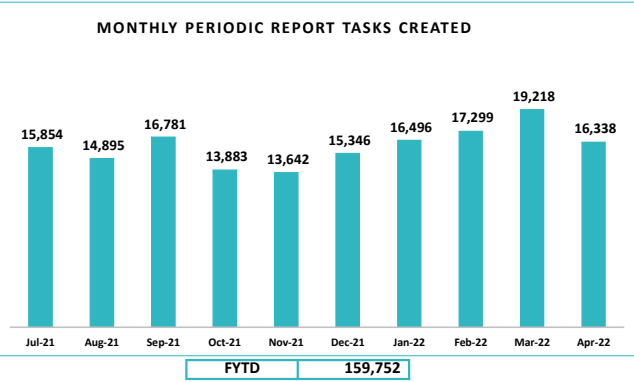
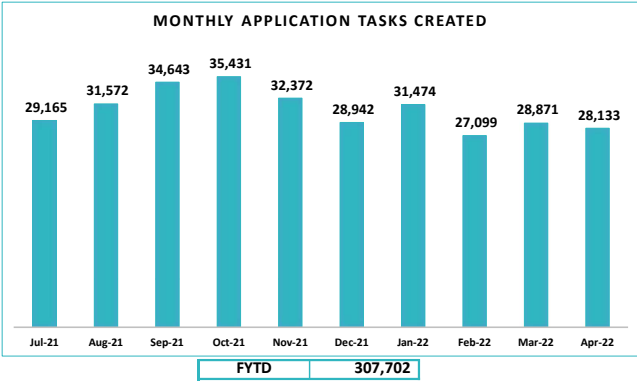
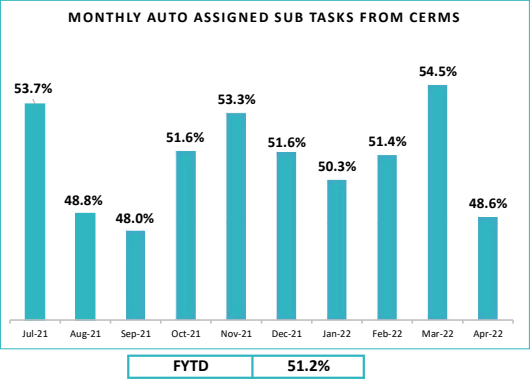
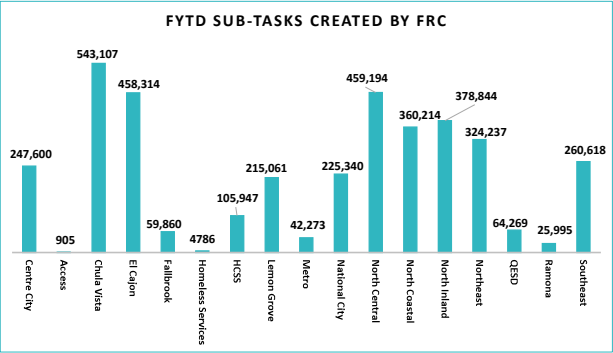
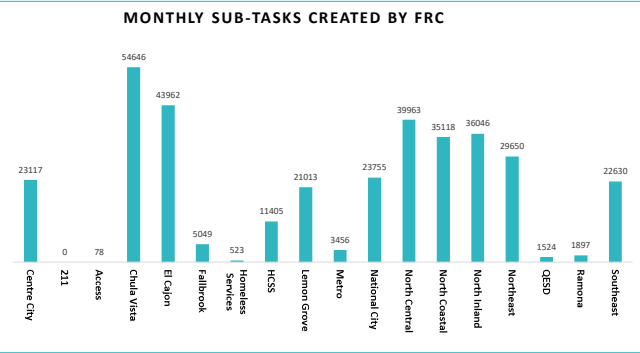
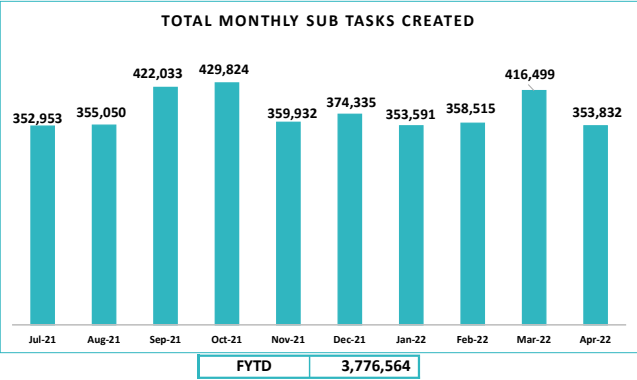
General Relief Recipients		
FY May 10	FY Apr 22	267%
1,033	3,789	Increase



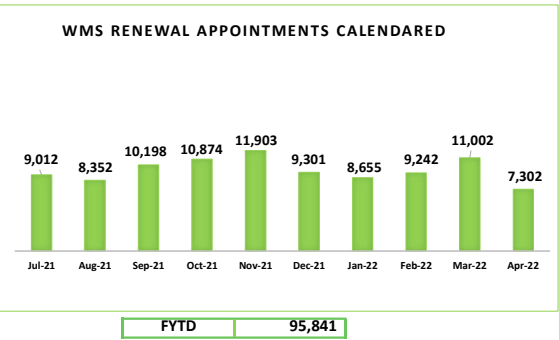
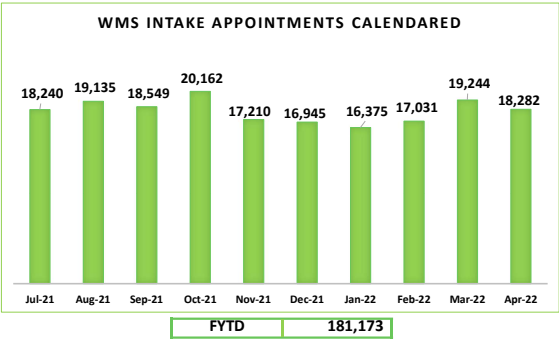
Monthly Self-Sufficiency Services Performance Dashboard (FY 21/22)

San Diego County Data Month : April 2022

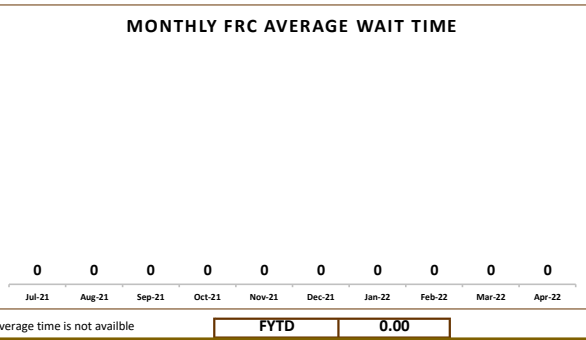
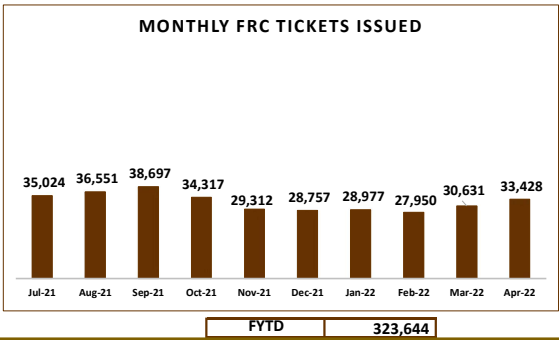
Work Management System (WMS) Subtasks Created



MONTHLY WMS CALENDARED APPOINTMENTS

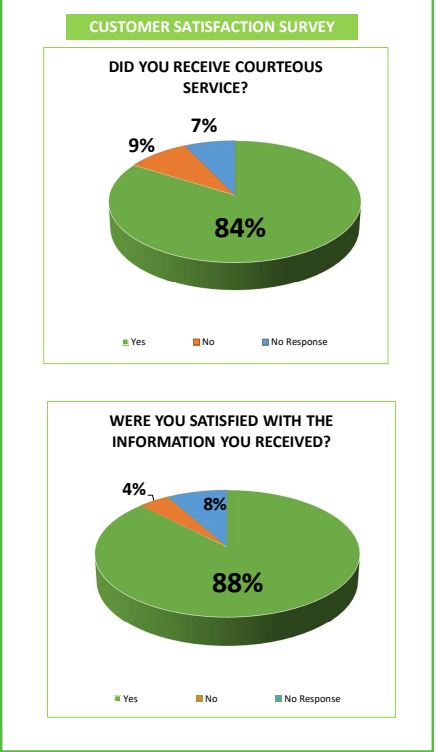
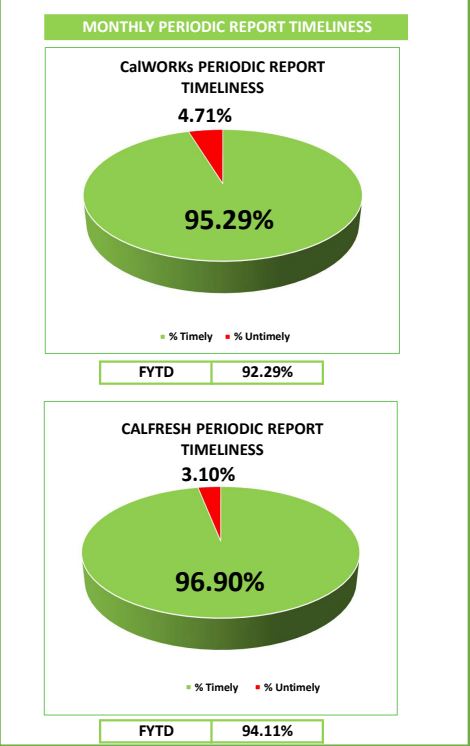
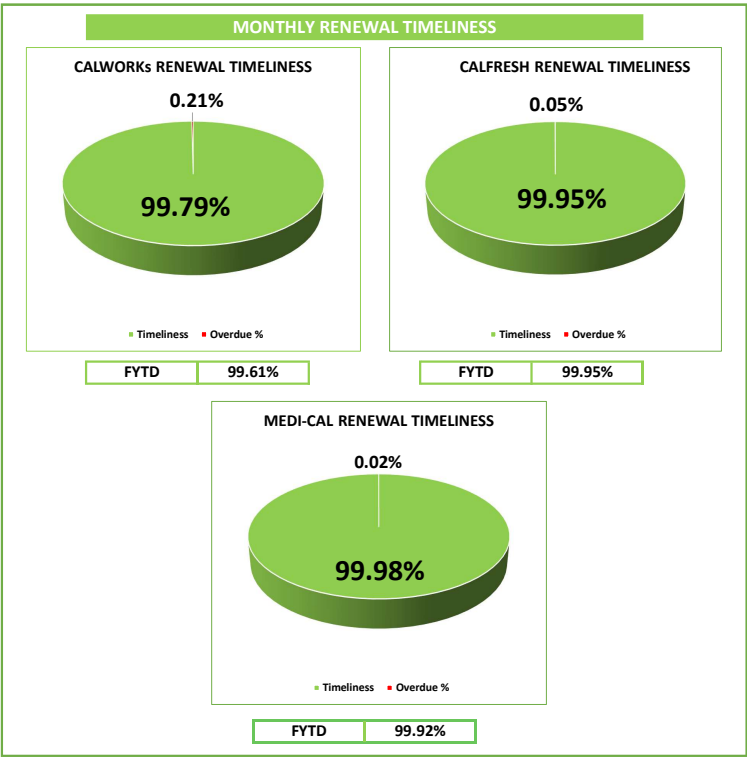
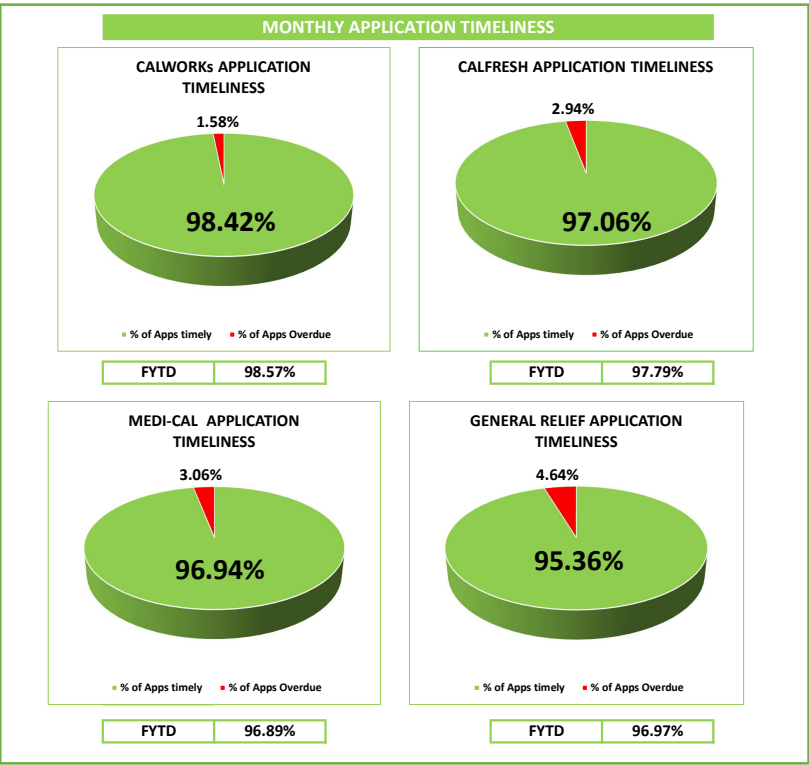


LOBBY MANAGEMENT

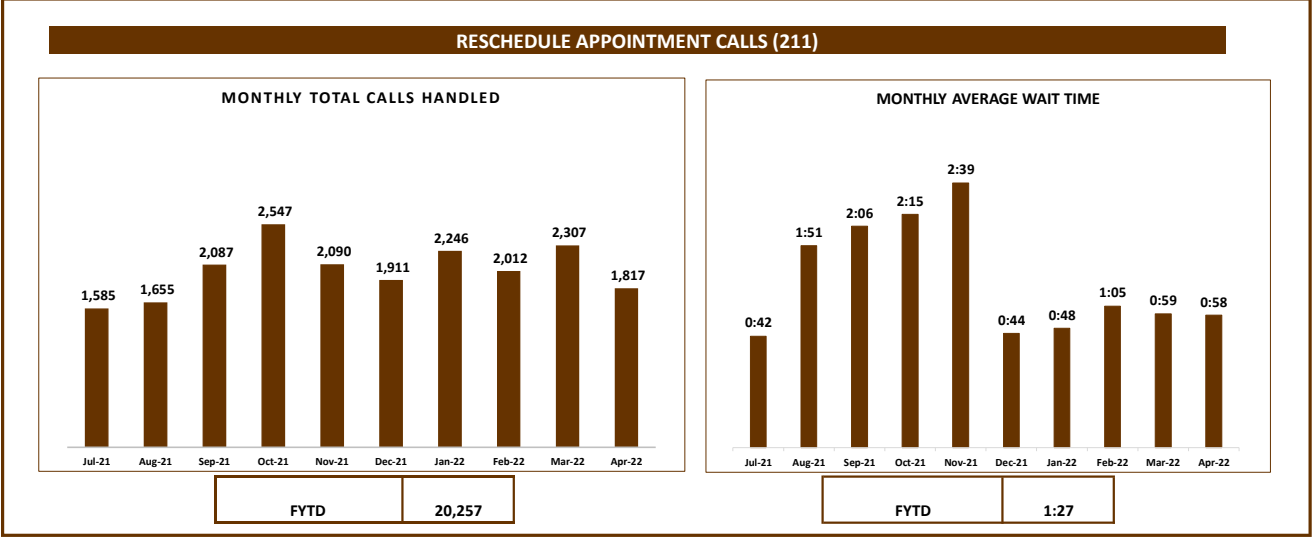
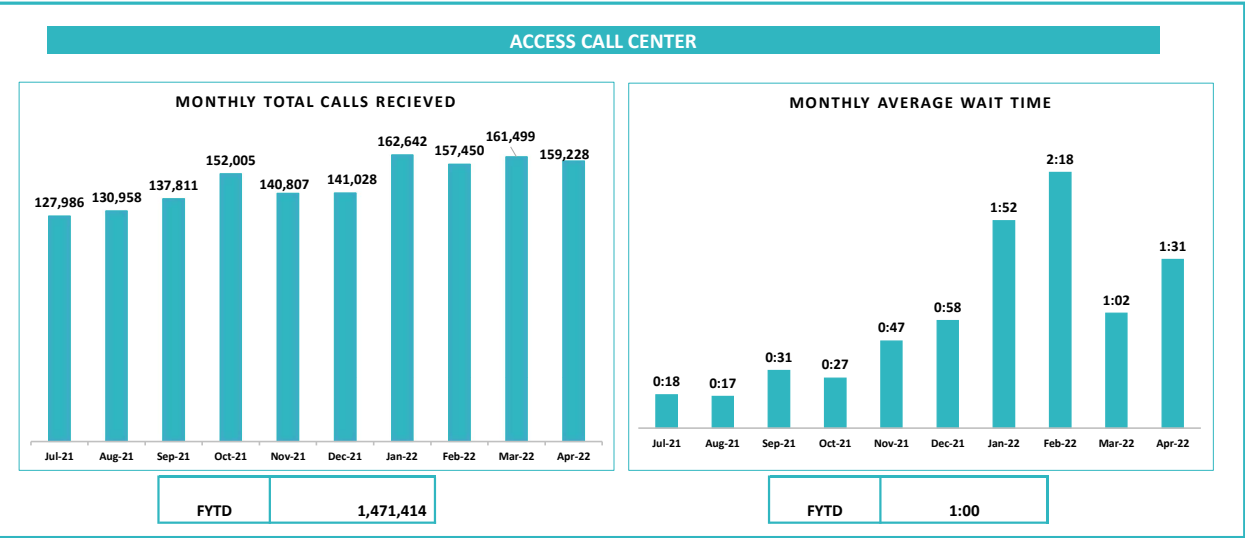


\*Average time is not available

CASE PROCESSING PERFORMANCE (CALWIN)



ACCESS CALL CENTER





# ITEM #9 UPDATE ON SSAB ELIGIBILITY TASK FORCE (ETF) RECOMMENDATIONS

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*Anahid Brakke, Chair, SSAB*

