

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

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Adopting the Poverty Alleviation Initiative Strategic Framework for Alleviating Poverty in Los Angeles County

As we strive to create a more resilient Los Angeles County (County), it is critical to focus on long-term poverty alleviation that moves beyond emergency programs meant to help in times of crisis. The recent pandemic has put into sharp focus what was already clear to many: the inequities in our communities have been a matter of life and death for many of our most vulnerable County residents. Pervasive structural issues have kept many children and families trapped in poverty. We recognize the reality that it is inequality and lack of access built into our economy and support systems—not personal failure—that are responsible for the persistent financial insecurity faced by too many County residents.

On May 18, 2021, the Board of Supervisors (Board) declared poverty and economic opportunity to be matters of public health and as a result, directed the Chief Executive Officer to create a ninth Board-directed priority, the Countywide Poverty Alleviation Initiative (PAI). PAI was created to develop a strategic plan for alleviating poverty in the County and to take actions to prevent people from sinking into poverty to begin with. The PAI held extensive listening sessions across the County to gather input on the plan. There were more than 1,000 participants, including those with lived expertise, representatives from 148 community-based organizations and stakeholder entities, and employees from 23 County departments.

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The resulting strategic framework includes actions for preventing and mitigating poverty categorized across four key strategies: 1) Investing in Our Communities, 2) Strengthening Pathways to Opportunities, 3) Expanding Access to Basic Supports, and 4) Improving Our Service Delivery System. The framework is focused on addressing systemic issues that perpetuate poverty at multiple levels while increasing robust supports that help people.

Everyone deserves a fair chance and a good life. All County residents should be able to experience opportunities that enhance their well-being—not only for themselves, but for their families and for generations to come. To do this requires disrupting the cycle of poverty and generating a sustained focus and commitment by the County and its public and private partners to work together to implement the actions in the PAI's strategic framework. Collective action and working together will be imperative to increase the chances of success. The costs of inaction and maintaining the status quo are too significant to the health and well-being of our residents.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Adopt the Poverty Alleviation Initiative's (PAI) Strategic Framework for Alleviating Poverty.
2. Direct the Executive Director of PAI, in consultation with the CEO and other relevant County departments, to report back to the Board in writing in 60 days with a recommended set of 3-5 key priorities for the PAI, their associated high-level implementation timelines (e.g., one-year, three-year, five-year outcome goals) and the key departments relevant to implementation.
3. Direct County departments to work with the PAI to implement the actions outlined in the plan, where appropriate, as determined by the PAI.
4. Direct the Executive Director of PAI to report back to the Board in writing annually on the collective progress made in partnership with County departments and other public and private entities, as well as any obstacles encountered during implementation.

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