



**Chief
Executive
Office.**

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Fesia A. Davenport

March 7, 2025

To: Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Chair
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Supervisor Janice Hahn

From: Fesia A. Davenport
Chief Executive Officer

**REPORT BACK ON KEEPING WILDFIRE IMPACTED WORKERS HOUSED
(ITEM NO. 9, AGENDA OF FEBRUARY 18, 2025)**

On February 18, 2025, the Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted a motion directing the Chief Executive Officer, in coordination with the departments of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA) and Economic Opportunity (DEO), to seek philanthropic dollars and report back in 15 days on the financial parameters of a fund to support tenants and landlords impacted by the windstorm and critical fire events who cannot pay their rent due to lost wages; and identify County funding that could cover potential administrative costs. The Board directed that the fund be at least \$10 million. This memo is issued in response to the motion and recommends reallocating a combination of underutilized American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) - enabled funding and one-time Care First and Community Investment (CFCI) funding that was allocated in a prior budget year, unspent as of the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24, and not planned to be spent this FY.

Exploring Philanthropic Funding Options

The Chief Executive Office's (CEO) Center for Strategic Partnerships (Center), in partnership with Supervisors Barger and Horvath, is convening a briefing for philanthropy on March 13, 2025. The convening will include a discussion about the County's response to the wildfires and opportunities for philanthropy to partner with the County in providing direct support to populations directly impacted by the wildfires, including eviction prevention dollars for landlords and tenants. The Center's staff are also having conversations with foundations to cultivate funding for the eviction relief fund.



County Funding Options

As referenced in the CEO's Board memo dated February 10, 2025, *Fiscal Year 2025-26 County Budgetary Outlook and Pressures: Economic and Labor Impacts*, the County is facing material challenges that significantly threaten our fiscal outlook and which compound our budgetary pressures. The threats include potential policy changes at the federal level which could reduce or eliminate federal revenue for major County programs that provide critical services to the indigent, uninsured, homeless, unemployed/underemployed, aged, child-welfare systems involved (to name a few); exhaustion of the nearly \$2 billion in ARPA funding which supported multiple programs serving vulnerable communities; a potential multi-billion settlement to address legal claims; the impact of the devastating fires on County revenues; and the economic impact to the region from the recent windstorm and wildfire events estimated at more than \$250 billion. Given the foregoing, to identify funding for eviction prevention, our challenging budgetary forecast requires my office to provide recommendations for maintaining existing vital services, hedging against future uncertainties, and addressing our current, urgent needs.

In identifying funding, my office was guided by the following principles. First, we must be additive rather than redistributive, when both are possible and feasible. This means, we should avoid redistributing funding for housing needs of non-fire victims, or needs of other vulnerable populations to fund the directives of the motion. A second principle is to seek funding that has been previously allocated rather than new net County cost – this in light of our mounting budgetary pressures. One way to be additive and exacerbate the mounting pressures on the County budget is to identify funding that is underutilized, in any area. With these strategies in mind, we evaluated the use of available locally generated, restricted funding (not all funding sources are in the County general fund) to support eviction protection, including Measure A revenue, ARPA-enabled funding, and the CFCI set-aside.

As explained below, we recommend reallocating a combination of underutilized ARPA-enabled funding and one-time CFCI funding that was allocated in a prior budget year, unspent as of the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24, and not planned to be spent this FY.

Homeless Initiative – Measure A Funding

Measure A is a half-cent, countywide sales tax approved by Los Angeles County voters in 2024 to “continue progress on ending homelessness with housing and services, while greatly expanding efforts to address the drivers of homelessness through affordable housing construction, homelessness prevention, and support for

vulnerable renters. This measure will take effect April 1, 2025¹ and is anticipated to generate more than \$1 billion annually. This revenue will be shared by LA County, cities, and councils of government, the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA), and the Los Angeles County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency (LACAHSAs).²

The use of Measure A funds for eviction protection is consistent with Measure A because it allows for the funds to be used to support vulnerable renters at-risk of losing their housing. LACAHSAs's estimated Measure A allocation is more than \$100 million annually and must be used for tenant protection and support programs for these vulnerable renters. Some of these funds and/or those Measure A funds that the County's Homeless Initiative (HI) will receive for Comprehensive Homeless Services could be redirected to support this purpose. We do not recommend redistributing these funds.

The Board motion requires urgency of action. In order to redirect Measure A funding from LACHASA, the Board would have to make this request to the LACAHSAs board, a board that it sits on with other elected officials throughout the County. This would likely take more time, since the Board is unable to direct LACHASA to identify funding. In this regard, seeking Measure A funds from LACHASA is not an immediate solution.

With regard to redirecting Measure A funds that the County's HI will receive for Comprehensive Homeless Services funding that would mean reallocating those funds from existing key priority programs. Substantial redistribution of these funds from foundational homeless response system programs (i.e. like outreach for unsheltered people experiencing homelessness, interim housing programs that brings people inside and connects them to services and permanent housing, and permanent housing programs needed to end a household's homelessness), would have significant, negative impacts to many of the subpopulations benefitting from these programs. Additionally, for FY 2025-26, CEO-HI is already curtailing up to \$70 million in funding for services and support programs. Use of these funds would not add any additional resources to support eviction protection for impacted workers and, instead, would divert funding from critical supports serving already highly vulnerable populations.

¹ LA County Homeless Initiative (2024). The Facts About Measure A Fact Sheet, [The Facts About Measure A - Homeless Initiative](#)

² LA County Homeless Initiative (2024). The Facts About Measure A Fact Sheet, [The Facts About Measure A - Homeless Initiative](#)

ARPA-Enabled Funding

On January 14, 2025, the Board directed the CEO to provide a list of ARPA-enabled funding that could be redirected to support those impacted by the recent windstorm and fire events. The CEO was able to identify \$32.2 million in ARPA-enabled funding to establish the LA County Relief Fund to provide direct financial relief to homeowners, tenants, workers, small business owners, and non-profits most affected by the fires. This was possible due to three programs with allocated funding not encumbering the funds for various reasons, as well as the decision to redirect some contingency funding that had been earmarked for ARPA-funded capital projects.

In response to your Board's directive to establish a rent relief fund, we again worked with ARPA-funded departments to evaluate any ARPA-enabled funding that could be reallocated.

We reviewed the list of ARPA-enabled programs and identified approximately \$1.211 million in ARPA-enabled funding that could be reallocated for this purpose. An itemization of the \$1.211 million is below.

- **DEO Various Programs (\$459,000)**: DEO identified \$459,000 in administrative underspend from various ARPA-enabled funded programs, which includes Keep LA Dining (\$57,000), LA Regional COVID Fund: Small and Microbusiness Grants (\$202,000), and LA Regional COVID Fund: Nonprofit Grants (\$200,000).³
- **Department of Mental Health Alternative Crisis Response (\$752,000)**: CEO staff identified \$752,000 in program balance that could be reallocated to support the County's fire response and recovery efforts. These funds were allocated to support construction of mental health treatment beds at the Restorative Care Village located on the LA General medical campus. The project is now fully funded.

³ Note that while these funds are available for use for eviction prevention, DEO requested that they be reallocated to the LA Region Small Business Relief Fund. In your Board's January 28, 2025, motion establishing the Small Business Relief Fund, your Board directed my office to continue to evaluate additional available funding for the Small Business Relief Fund and other specified funds in that motion. To date, the Small Business Relief Fund is funded with \$15,696,380, which includes a mix of County and philanthropic funds. As of the submission of this report, DEO has received about 2,400 eligible applications for the Small Business Relief Fund. My office will continue to work with DEO to identify available funding for the funds, including unrestricted funding in the Economic Development Trust Fund that could be used to support businesses and workers impacted by fire.

A revised list of all ARPA-enabled funding and the programs to which the funds are allocated is attached (Attachment). The attached schedule outlines \$1 billion in ARPA-enabled allocations, which includes major allocations to CEO Capital Programs (\$356,790,000), the Department of Health Services homeless, housing, and capital programs (\$274,703,000), and the CEO Homeless Initiative and Affordable Housing programs (\$80,993,000). The capital projects are long-term investments and may not be spent for some time. Capital projects are often high-cost development projects that require careful fiscal planning, including in certain cases the allocation of funding in advance to meet cash financing requirements. The capital project funding set aside for various projects under the ARPA plan will help address the County's most serious societal challenges and community needs, like affordable housing, access to mental health care, and other equity-based priorities. Although we considered recommending reallocating some of these funds, in the final analysis we concluded that reallocating funding would be counterproductive to meeting the County's critical community needs, and so we opted to first look elsewhere for funding that can be repurposed with a lesser impact on your Board's capital project priorities.

Care First and Community Investment (CFCI)

CFCI (also known as Measure J), as approved by Los Angeles County voters on November 3, 2020, provides that the County shall "set aside a baseline minimum threshold of at least ten percent of the County's locally generated unrestricted revenues in the general fund (NCC)." Through the FY 2024-25 Final Adopted Budget, the County has allocated a total of \$888.9 million in CFCI funding to support direct community investments and alternatives to incarceration programming, through County departments and more than 400 community-based organizations.

Among other eligible uses, CFCI funds may be used for "[r]ent assistance, housing vouchers and accompanying supportive services to those at-risk of losing their housing, or without stable housing." Approximately \$120 million in CFCI funding is already allocated to support programs that provide housing, a rental subsidy, or rent relief. CFCI funding, therefore, can be used to support wildfire victims with paying for rent (and in turn, support landlords who would not otherwise collect rent under applicable eviction moratorium rules).

Although the CFCI set-aside and eligible uses are established by voter-approved ordinance, the process by which the Board allocates CFCI funding is governed by Board Policy No. 4.031 (Policy). Under Section II, subsection 6(d), of the Policy, the Auditor-Controller is required to identify all unspent CFCI at the end of each fiscal year. The unspent funds are then carried over as one-time CFCI into the next fiscal year. The Policy requires that the CEO recommend how to allocate the one-time CFCI.

As part of our duties to maintain and monitor the County budget, my office receives periodic updates from the County's Justice, Care and Opportunities Department (JCOD) regarding the CFCI spending plan progress. We have identified a sizeable component of CFCI funds that remains unspent, carried over from a prior fiscal year, and is likely to be again recommended for carry over into next fiscal year. In fact, in each fiscal year since 2021-22 when CFCI funds were first allocated, CFCI-administering County departments did not expend their full CFCI allocations, resulting in \$325.8 million in unspent and uncommitted funding, as of the FY 2024-25 Final Adopted Budget.

In CEO's CFCI Year Four Spending Plan Board letter, my office will provide your Board with a more detailed analysis of one-time CFCI funding, including a projection of funds that will remain unspent in the current fiscal year as well as in FY 25-26.

At this time, however, given the sizeable amount of one-time CFCI on hand, and given the urgency around this request, we recommend the Board's consideration of an immediate reallocation of \$8.789 million to support wildfire victims who are at risk of eviction due to economic impacts from the wildfires. If approved, we will schedule an informational session with the CFCI Advisory Committee before reflecting this allocation in our CFCI Year Four Spending Plan Board letter.

Financial Parameters

On February 25, 2025, the Board adopted a resolution, "Protecting Qualifying Income Eligible Tenants Directly Financially Impacted by the January 2025 Windstorm and Critical Wildfire Events." The resolution estimated more than 125,000 employees have been impacted by these events, in addition to the independently employed landscapers, housekeepers, or child caregivers across the county who work in the communities affected by the fires. DEO opened applications in February for a fund that will provide direct cash assistance to workers impacted by the fires. To date, they have received more than 3,200 applications from eligible individuals.

It is difficult to identify at this time what the financial parameters of the fund should be, as the eligibility criteria outlined in the adopted resolution is narrowly defined and it is hard to determine how many households would be eligible. Once the eviction protection application is open and the level of eligible demand is known, we will work with DCBA and DEO to develop the financial parameters for the fund.

Next Steps

The Center will continue its efforts in pursuing philanthropic funding to support the eviction relief fund and report back to the Board on its progress.

Concurrently, we recommend your Board consider directing my office to allocate \$1.211 million in ARPA-enabled funding and \$8.789 million in one-time CFCI to support the eviction relief program and to reflect this reallocation in the Year Four CFCI Spending Plan. We would work closely with JCOD to identify CFCI funds that have remained unspent for more than one fiscal year and are not planned to be spent this fiscal year, which would ensure our reallocation is additive and not redistributive, as explained above.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or Carrie Miller at (213) 262-7823 or cmiller@ceo.lacounty.gov.

FAD:JMN:JG
CDM:km

Attachment

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Consumer and Business Affairs
Economic Opportunity

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF))					
ARP-Enabled Budget & Expenditures By Program					
Department	Programs	ARPA-Enabled Allocation	ARPA-Enabled Encumbered/ Spent as of 2/26/2025	ARPA-Enabled Unencumbered/ Unspent as of 2/26/2025	Recommended for Reallocation
Board of Supervisors	Food Distribution	87,000	87,000	-	-
	Subtotal	87,000	87,000	-	-
CEO Board Initiatives and Programs	1) Administrative Costs	11,637,600	9,740,530	1,897,070	-
	2) Guaranteed Basic Income	41,800,000	41,800,000	-	-
	3) Ethnic and Hyperlocal Media	1,100,000	1,100,000	-	-
	Subtotal	54,537,600	52,640,530	1,897,070	-
CEO Capital Programs	1) Capital Programs - Trans-Inclusive Housing	10,000	10,000	-	-
	2) Capital Programs - Rancho Los Amigos	1,400,000	1,400,000	-	-
	3) Capital Programs - Rail to River	15,000,000	15,000,000	-	-
	4) Capital Programs - North Hollywood Health Center	89,300,000	74,116,000	15,184,000	-
	5) Capital Programs - Project Angel Food	1,000,000	1,000,000	-	-
	6) Capital Programs - Victory Boulevard Housing	3,900,000	3,533,000	367,000	-
	7) Capital Programs - Library Improvements	24,300,000	7,250,000	17,050,000	-
	8) Capital Programs - West Hollywood Recovery Center	3,000,000	3,000,000	-	-
	9) Capital Programs - Revitalization of Mother's Beach	4,300,000	4,300,000	-	-
	10) Capital Programs - MacLaren Park	19,200,000	19,200,000	-	-
	11) Capital Programs - Martin Luther King Campus Improvements	42,200,000	7,491,000	34,709,000	-
	12) Capital Programs - Public Health Lab	800,000	510,000	290,000	-
	13) Capital Programs - Marina del Rey Parking Structure	11,700,000	11,700,000	-	-
	14) Capital Programs - Metropolitan State Hospital - Feasibility Study	200,000	200,000	-	-
	15) Capital Programs - General Hospital	55,000,000	-	55,000,000	-
	16) Capital Programs - EMJ Sports Complex and Park Improvements	12,000,000	185,000	11,815,000	-
	17) Capital Programs - H. Claude Hudson Urgent Care Expansion	3,700,000	59,332	3,640,668	-
	18) Capital Programs - City Housing Projects	18,900,000	-	18,900,000	-
	19) Capital Programs - Long Beach Community Care Campus Fire System Project	1,100,000	-	1,100,000	-
	20) Capital Programs - Pathway Torrance Assistance Center	11,000,000	1,233,000	9,767,000	-
	21) Capital Programs - Entertainment Community Fund	1,000,000	-	1,000,000	-
	22) Capital Programs - Contingency	7,200,000	-	7,200,000	-
	23) County Land Bank	15,000,000	-	15,000,000	-
	24) Alternative Crisis Response - Los Angeles (LA) General Psychiatric Subacute Facility	14,480,000	1,668,000	12,812,000	-
	25) Alternative Crisis Response - State Metro Hospital	1,100,000	222,528	877,472	-
	Subtotal	356,790,000	152,077,860	204,712,140	-
CEO Homeless Initiative/Affordable Housing	1) Safe Parking	4,400,000	1,100,000	3,300,000	-
	2) Services for People Experiencing Homelessness in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones	500,000	500,000	-	-
	3) Sanitation Services for People Experiencing Homelessness	8,144,000	8,144,000	-	-
	4) Funding New Private Sector Affordable Housing Development	4,070,000	4,070,000	-	-
	5) Capital Programs - LA County Development Authority (LACDA) Public Housing Capital Improvements	5,300,000	5,300,000	-	-
	6) Conversion of Interim Housing Units to Permanent Housing	47,845,000	47,845,000	-	-
	7) Project Homekey	10,734,000	10,734,000	-	-
	Subtotal	80,993,000	77,693,000	3,300,000	-
Department of Consumer and Business Affairs	1) Capacity Building for Immigrant-Focused Community Based Organizations (CBOs)	8,000,000	8,000,000	-	-
	2) Grants to CBOs Focused on Financial Wellbeing and Wealth Building in Low-income and Immigrant Communities	2,500,000	2,500,000	-	-
	3) Legal Representation for Immigrants at Risk of Removal	7,000,000	7,000,000	-	-
	4) Ethnic and Hyperlocal Media	1,500,000	1,500,000	-	-
	5) Stay Housed	16,701,000	8,156,918	8,544,082	-
	6) LA County Household Relief Grant	32,232,000	30,900,000	1,332,000	-
	Subtotal	67,933,000	58,056,918	9,876,082	-
Department of Economic Opportunity	1) Fair Chance Campaign	3,000,000	3,000,000	-	-
	2) Street Vending Collaborative	6,987,000	4,678,534	2,308,466	-
	3) High Road Training Partnerships	14,392,000	14,392,000	-	-
	4) Wraparound Services for Critical Employment Initiatives	800,000	800,000	-	-
	5) Keep LA Dining	120,000	63,000	57,000	57,000
	6) Childcare Providers Grants Program	50,000	50,000	-	-
	7) Legal Aid for Small Business Owners	260,000	260,000	-	-
	8) "Shop Local" Campaigns	78,200	78,200	-	-
	9) LA Regional COVID-19 Fund: Small and Microbusiness Grants	400,000	198,000	202,000	202,000
	10) LA Regional COVID-19 Fund: Nonprofit Grants	419,000	219,000	200,000	200,000
	11) Economic Mobility Initiative	11,453,200	11,453,200	-	-
	Subtotal	37,959,400	35,191,934	2,767,466	459,000
Department of Health Services	1) Rental Subsidies for Permanent Supportive Housing	100,500,000	71,250,846	29,249,154	-
	2) Homelessness Prevention	36,000,000	26,456,342	9,543,658	-
	3) Interim Housing Operating Costs for Community-Based Sites	6,000,000	6,000,000	-	-
	4) Intensive Case Mgmt. Services and Tenancy Support Services for Federal Voucher Holders	65,000,000	62,196,039	2,803,961	-
	5) Interim Housing Operating Costs for Safe Landing Site	4,250,000	4,250,000	-	-
	6) Office of Diversion and Reentry's (ODR) Interim Housing Beds	5,000,000	5,000,000	-	-
	7) Disaster Services Workers and Pandemic-Related Costs (Integrated Correctional Health Services)	1,111,000	1,111,000	-	-
	8) Capital Programs - West LA Armory	32,700,000	680,717	32,019,283	-
	9) Conversion of Interim Housing Units to Permanent Housing - Willowtree	19,052,000	19,052,000	-	-
	10) Capital Programs - Victory Boulevard Housing	4,090,000	553,063	3,536,937	-
	Subtotal	273,703,000	196,550,007	77,152,993	-
Department of Mental Health	Alternative Crisis Response	4,020,000	3,268,000	752,000	752,000
	Subtotal	4,020,000	3,268,000	752,000	-
Department of Public Health	1) Trauma Prevention Partnerships	25,000,000	25,000,000	-	-
	2) Guaranteed Income for At-Risk Expectant and Parenting Mothers	5,000,000	5,000,000	-	-
	3) Community Testing	19,500,000	19,500,000	-	-
	4) Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations (MEHKO) Subsidy Program	600,000	600,000	-	-
	5) Sustaining Public Health Response and Supports for COVID-19	30,617,000	30,617,000	-	-
	Subtotal	80,717,000	80,717,000	-	-
Fire	Advanced Provider Response Units	1,170,000	141,585	1,028,415	-
	Subtotal	1,170,000	141,585	1,028,415	-
Internal Services Department	1) Accelerate Digital Equity	17,762,000	16,317,193	1,444,807	-
	2) Delete the Divide	268,000	267,351	649	-
	Subtotal	18,030,000	16,584,544	1,445,456	-
Justice Care and Opportunities Department	1) Capacity-Building Grants for Justice Focused CBOs	9,000,000	9,000,000	-	-
	2) Job Programs for Reentry Populations - Fire Camp Expansion	14,500,000	9,525,599	4,974,401	-
	Subtotal	23,500,000	18,525,599	4,974,401	-
Parks	1) Recreation and Aquatics at LA County Parks	8,800,000	8,800,000	-	-
	2) Recreation Programming at County Parks	1,700,000	1,438,407	261,593	-
	Subtotal	10,500,000	10,238,407	261,593	-
	TOTAL	\$ 1,009,940,000	\$ 701,772,385	\$ 308,167,615	\$ 1,211,000