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County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

FESIA A. DAVENPORT
Chief Executive Officer

August 18, 2021

To: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

From: Fesia A. Davenport
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
HILDA L. SOLIS
First District

HOLLY J. MITCHELL
Second District

SHEILA KUEHL
Third District

JANICE HAHN
Fourth District

KATHRYN BARGER
Fifth District

REPORT BACK ON ESTABLISHING A LOS ANGELES COUNTY POVERTY ALLEVIATION POLICY AGENDA AND CREATING A COUNTYWIDE GUARANTEED INCOME PROGRAM (ITEM NO. 20, AGENDA OF MAY 18, 2021)

On May 18, 2021, the Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted a motion directing the Chief Executive Office (CEO) to establish a ninth Board-Directed Priority, the Poverty Alleviation Initiative (PAI), and report back in 90 days on developing a strategic plan, incubating PAI with other key initiatives housed within the CEO, drafting a set of policy recommendations for closing the racial and gender wealth gaps, coordinating with the City of Los Angeles (City) and other Los Angeles County (County) jurisdictions interested in poverty alleviation efforts, and recommending relevant legislative policies that reduce racial disparities and support Guaranteed Income (GI) programs that do not negatively affect other State and federal benefits. The motion also directed the CEO to, within 60 days, establish a GI pilot program that includes identifying appropriate funding and administrative support for the pilot to serve 1,000 residents for three years; work with a consultant to identify a target population (including considering the inclusion of women recently released from incarceration, transition age youth, and domestic violence survivors), engage the community, and develop a mechanism for disbursing funding; hire a consultant to evaluate the pilot; and, within 180 days, develop a recommendation for the long-term Countywide administration of this type of program.

This report addresses the progress to date on these several directives.

Progress

The CEO hired Carrie Miller, former Assistant Executive Director of the Office of Child Protection, who started on August 2, 2021, as the Executive Director of the PAI. The initial focus of the PAI will be to develop a GI pilot program that serves 1,000 residents over a three-year period and secure a research team to properly evaluate its outcomes. As the Board is aware, \$16.1 million in American Rescue Plan funding has been identified to implement this pilot program. Additional funding will be identified for future years.

The CEO has allocated administrative support for the initial project development, contracting, budgeting, fundraising, and project management. The University of Pennsylvania has been procured to conduct an initial analysis of potential target populations and propose recommendations and considerations for selecting program participants. Once this analysis has been completed, which PAI anticipates will be within 30 days, a researcher will be secured to assist with program design and conduct the program evaluation. A project implementation plan is being developed to facilitate keeping the pilot launch on track.

The PAI will also work to complete a strategic plan for poverty alleviation across the County. The plan will aim to identify key, achievable efforts that can be implemented to prevent poverty, mitigate poverty, and avoid re-entry into poverty. The plan will also include policy recommendations at the federal, State, and County level, as well as operational objectives the County can implement to strengthen its access to, and supports for, community residents. Finally, the plan will include efforts that can be implemented at the community level to reach residents where they are and through partners that they trust. The PAI also aims to conduct a series of listening sessions across the County to engage residents in the development of the strategic plan. Over the next several weeks, the PAI will reach out to each Board office to obtain input and guidance on conducting these listening sessions in the respective districts. PAI is targeting completion of the strategic plan by April 2022.

The PAI has also begun coordinating efforts with other key CEO partners, such as the Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative, the Economic Development and Affordable Housing Division, and the Center for Strategic Partnerships. The PAI has also begun discussions with the City of Compton's *Compton Pledge* program and made initial contact with the City. The PAI will work closely with relevant partners and other jurisdictions to ensure coordination and alignment across the various efforts working towards poverty alleviation.

Lastly, the CEO Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations (LAIR) indicates that the County's State and Federal Legislative Agendas include Board-approved policy to

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support State and federal proposals that strengthen and simplify the administration of public assistance programs to make them more accessible to families and children to help lift them out of poverty, including deep poverty, and provide them with the necessary supportive services to become self-sufficient. The County will continue to advocate for proposals that increase State and federal funding, maximize resource and income disregards, and reduce barriers to increase participation in safety net programs. The PAI will continue to work closely with LAIR to identify additional proposals at the federal and State level for potential advocacy.

PAI will provide the Board with a further progress report by November 30, 2021.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me or Carrie Miller, PAI Executive Director, at (213) 262-7823 or cmiller@ceo.lacounty.gov.

FAD:JMN:TJM
CDM:ma

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Consumer and Business Affairs
Public Social Services
Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services



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November 9, 2021

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An initial progress report was submitted to the Board on August 18, 2021; this is a follow-up progress report addressing these directives.

Progress

The PAI is developing a strategic plan for alleviating poverty across the County. A series of listening sessions are being conducted across the County to engage residents in the development of the plan. To date, over a dozen community meetings have been held across the County, reaching more than 300 participants. Neighborhoods have included Lancaster, Palmdale, East Palmdale, Lake Los Angeles, Pacoima, Cudahy, Carson, Compton, West Athens, Watts, Broadway Manchester, Walnut Park, East Los Angeles, South El Monte, El Monte, Southeast Los Angeles, South Gate, Wilmington, and Hawthorne.

Participants have included County residents from a variety of backgrounds, including African American, Latinx, Caucasian, monolingual Spanish speakers, undocumented County residents, former foster youth, college students, seniors, new mothers, fathers, those with physical challenges, formerly justice involved, former special education students, and parents with children accessing regional center services. Many of the participants discussed facing ongoing issues of economic insecurity. Additional community meetings are being scheduled over the next three months to include representatives from other groups such as Asian/Pacific Islander, indigenous people, people experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, domestic violence survivors, other County neighborhoods, as well as community providers, stakeholders, and advocates working with those struggling with economic and food insecurity. The PAI is targeting completion of the strategic plan by spring 2022.

The PAI is also connecting with several partners and other jurisdictions to ensure coordination and alignment across the various efforts working towards poverty alleviation. Initial relationships have been formed with the cities of Los Angeles, Long Beach, West Hollywood, Santa Monica, Pasadena, and Pomona to start, with additional cities to come. The PAI is also engaging various stakeholders on opportunities to partner, which will be reflected in the strategic plan. A website for PAI has been launched at: <https://ceo.lacounty.gov/pai>; it can also be found by typing *pai.lacounty.gov* into a search engine.

The PAI is also leading the implementation of the Countywide GI project. Contracts are being finalized with the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Guaranteed Income Research (CGIR) as the lead research team, Mayors for Guaranteed Income to provide technical assistance, and a program administrator to help with community outreach and ongoing participant engagement and support. The County's Department of Consumer and Business Affairs will manage the distribution of funds to participants. The Department of Public Social Services applied to the State requesting a waiver from guaranteed

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income payments being included in the income calculation for California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids benefits, on behalf of the project.

Outreach to community residents about this project began on October 1, 2021. As mentioned, over a dozen community meetings have been held reaching more than 300 County residents. A more comprehensive community outreach plan will be developed in partnership with the program administrator once their contract is executed. Outreach efforts to philanthropy are also underway to explore opportunities for raising private funding from foundations to support the project.

The Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative's Equity Tool is being used to help determine the eligibility criteria for the project, and the Internal Services Department is developing the online application screening tool for identifying program eligibility. The project team will work on developing a set of operating procedures that will guide the implementation of the project once it is launched.

The Board motion further directed the PAI, within 180 days, to develop a recommendation for the long-term Countywide administration of this type of program. A plan will be most effective if it is developed after the Countywide GI project has launched and there are available outcome data to demonstrate whether it is effective. Therefore, we will submit this recommendation to the Board, and will report back with it, after sufficient outcome data is obtained.

The PAI will provide the Board with an updated progress report on these ongoing efforts by February 28, 2022.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me or Carrie Miller, PAI Executive Director, at (213) 262-7823 or cmiller@ceo.lacounty.gov.

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CDM:ma

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Children and Family Services
Consumer and Business Affairs
Internal Services
Probation
Public Health
Public Social Services
Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services
Los Angeles County Development Authority



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Chief Executive Officer

February 28, 2022

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Progress

The PAI is developing a strategic plan for alleviating poverty across the County. A series of listening sessions are being conducted throughout the County to engage residents in the development of the plan. To date, over 900 participants from diverse backgrounds and geographies have been included. Of those, 623 were residents, many of whom disclosed having experienced, or currently experiencing, ongoing issues of economic security. This includes current and former recipients of public benefits; people experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity; people experiencing food insecurity; domestic violence survivors; former foster youth; seniors; undocumented County residents; and formerly justice involved. Listening sessions were also conducted with representatives from over 70 community-based organizations, over 50 other stakeholder entities, and 22 County departments. Common themes emerging across these groups are being identified and categorized; they mainly fall within the areas of advocacy, operational issues, access to opportunities, and community supports. Once a draft plan is developed, it will be vetted with the listening session participants before being finalized. The PAI is targeting completion of the strategic plan by late spring 2022.

The PAI is also leading the implementation of the Countywide GI project. Contracts with the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Guaranteed Income Research (CGIR) as the lead research team, and Strength Based Community Change (SBCC) as the program administrator, were each executed on November 23, 2021. University of Pennsylvania's human subject's Institutional Review Board granted the project exemption status on January 10, 2022, permitting the research portion of the project clearance to move forward. This clearance was also needed to complete the County's waiver request to the State from including guaranteed income payments in the income calculation for California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids benefits. We anticipate receiving the State's decision on this waiver request within the next month.

An analysis was completed on potential impacts of receiving guaranteed income payments to a variety of different public benefits participants may be receiving. As a result, on February 8, 2022, the Board instructed County Counsel to prepare draft ordinance language for the Board's consideration within 30 days that would temporarily suspend certain General Relief eligibility requirements for individuals while they are participating in a County or city guaranteed income program. These analyses and others have also led to the Countywide GI program team being consulted for program design advice from the Cities of Long Beach and Pomona; the City of Chicago, IL; and the State of Delaware, as they each prepare to launch their own GI programs.

The Internal Services Department (ISD) is finalizing a screening tool that will be posted on the website for applicants to complete and instantly confirm whether or not they meet the program eligibility requirements. Only applicants who qualify will be given a link to complete the full application, saving people the time of filling out a lengthy program application for which they do not qualify. For applicants who do not qualify, they will be provided a website link to a list of other resources that may be helpful to them. ISD is also finalizing an interactive map, using data from the Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion's Equity Explorer, that will highlight the 1,298 eligible census tracts the participants need to live in to qualify for the program (just over 50 percent of the total number of census tracts in the County). These census tracts include those that fall at or below the County's Area Median Income and have been identified as experiencing a moderate to very high negative impact from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Department of Consumer and Business Affairs has agreed to manage the distribution of funds to program participants. They are concluding a competitive solicitation process for selecting a debit card vendor, and they anticipate moving forward with contract negotiations within the next two weeks. The next steps in preparing for the application portal launch is translating the application and research survey into multiple languages and testing the system's functionality. We are partnering with the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk to secure translation resources and will be working with the CGIR research team to complete the necessary testing. Our target launch date for the application portal is the end of March 2022.

The Center for Strategic Partnerships (CSP) has helped philanthropy partner in this effort by supporting communications, community engagement, and research. Five foundations, including the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation, The California Wellness Foundation, Weingart Foundation, and First 5 LA, have together contributed \$2,375,000, and a number of other foundations are considering proposals for additional investment. Some of this support has helped SBCC secure commitments from 31 community-based organizations to conduct extensive outreach and engagement efforts, provide significant assistance to applicants requesting it, and train them to help potential participants understand any impacts to public benefits they may have.

Lastly, the County is preparing to submit an application to the State's GI program, once the application is released. The CEO has been convening the Departments of Public Health, Health Services, Mental Health, Children and Family Services, Probation, Child Support Services, Public Social Services, and the CSP to develop a collaborative program design that meets the State's guidelines. We will continue to meet until we complete a design concept that will help the County be competitive in receiving one of the State's matching GI program grants.

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The PAI will provide the Board with an updated progress report on these ongoing efforts by June 30, 2022.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me or Carrie Miller, PAI Executive Director, at (213) 262-7823 or cmiller@ceo.lacounty.gov.

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