

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

September 15, 2021

Moving Forward on Equitable Implementation of the American Rescue Plan

On July 13, 2021, the Los Angeles County (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) unanimously passed the [Recovering Better than Before: Ensuring Equitable Implementation of the American Rescue Plan](#) motion to ensure the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds are leveraged to further the County’s [anti-racist policy agenda](#). The Board and County have elevated the importance of equitable distribution of ARPA funds in order to support the communities most negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, data shows that the COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated the health, social, and economic challenges experienced by economically vulnerable neighborhoods and communities of color.

The [California unemployment rate](#) held steady at 7.6% for July 2021 and 114,400 jobs were added across the state. Although unemployment has decreased in the County during the same time frame, the County’s unemployment rate is higher than the State at 10.4%. The confidence in steady economic recovery is threatened by the COVID-19 delta variant as it continues to alter the trajectory of our economic recovery. Although there are modest gains in employment, income and other economic indicators, data shows that low-income and communities of color face greater barriers in order to recover economically and must walk a more delicate tight rope of economic survival as these communities are all too often left behind during economic recoveries. It is imperative that

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the County continues to take swift action to support residents from falling into deeper economic and health disparities.

President Biden signed the ARPA on March 11, 2021, a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus to support the country's recovery efforts and provide direct relief to residents across the country. The County is estimated to receive \$1.9 billion in ARPA funds as well as other ARPA allocations in program-specific areas. The Board adopted the County [ARPA spending plan](#) for the first tranche of the \$1.9 billion on July 27, 2021. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) completed two reports in [August 2021 related to the equitable implementation of ARPA funds](#) as directed by the Board in the July 13, 2021 motion.

The County's Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative (ARDI), in consultation with stakeholders and county departments, has provided various tools for the County to align ARPA funding distribution with its anti-racist agenda. The tools included in the report are:

- Countywide Equity Guiding Principles
- ARPA Budget Equity Principles
- COVID-19 Vulnerability and Recovery Index
- Equity Funding Formula

And for non-geographically concentrated communities:

- Public Participation Geographic Information Systems (PPGIS)
- Implementation Plan for PPGIS

It is critical that the County continue to measurably demonstrate that it has carefully and strategically used these historic federal funds to the maximum benefit of its hardest-hit residents. All County residents must have equitable access to opportunity and protections so that the positive impact of these actions may be not only catalytic but lasting. This will ensure the ARPA funding is prioritized for communities that were most impacted by COVID-19 and that will need the most support to recover.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Adopt the Chief Executive Officer's (CEO) recommendation for Countywide Equity Guiding Principles, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Budget Equity Principles, COVID-19 Vulnerability and Recovery Index, and Equity Funding Formula as proposed in the report dated August 13, 2021 ([Report on Recovering Better than Before: Ensuring Equitable Implementation of the American Rescue Plan](#)).
2. Adopt the CEO's recommended implementation plan for the Public Participation Geographic Information System as proposed in the report dated August 26, 2021 (Report on Recovering Better than Before: Ensuring Equitable Implementation of the American Rescue Plan).

I FURTHER MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

3. Direct the CEO, in collaboration with County Counsel, to report back in writing bi-monthly beginning in 90 days, by department, on the implementation of the equity formula and principles in the ARPA contracting process. Include the bi-monthly report back on the public dashboard and/or website to ensure implementation information is available to the public.
4. Direct the CEO, in collaboration with County departments, to develop and utilize an expedited contracting and procurement process for ARPA funding consistent with Federal Treasury guidelines and inclusive of smaller organizations serving underserved communities, and report back in writing in 30 days on the process and steps taken to ensure opportunities to contract are made available on a public website.

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(IG/CT/KD/YV/KS)