

BRIDGING RESOURCE GAPS IN THE ANTELOPE VALLEY

The Antelope Valley is a vast geographic region in northern Los Angeles County, covering two cities and more than 20 diverse unincorporated communities. Since 2000, the Antelope Valley has experienced a 40 percent growth in population, with nearly 420,000 residents now calling the valley home,¹ attracting many families due to its relative housing affordability, beautiful outdoor landscapes and recreational activities, and wide-open spaces that present commercial and agricultural opportunities. However, the region faces critical issues, including poverty, homelessness, lower college educational attainment, more limited healthcare and food access, and a lack of transportation infrastructure, many of which are driven and exacerbated by the rising cost of living and its geographic isolation. For example, many people who relocated to the Antelope Valley for its more affordable housing now find that cities such as Palmdale or Lancaster are no longer affordable. Of the 36 percent of the population in Palmdale that reside in renter-occupied units, more than half of them feel rent-burdened.^{2,3} Between 2023 and 2024, the number of unhoused individuals rose 42 percent in the Antelope Valley and more than doubled since 2018, a far greater increase than in other parts of the county.⁴ Additionally, a jobs-housing imbalance causes many residents to commute long distances for work. The median household income for the Antelope Valley is \$52,441⁵ in comparison to \$82,516⁶ across Los Angeles County. As much as 65 percent of the labor force living in the valley must commute approximately 30 minutes or more for work.⁷

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¹ Antelope Valley Economic Development and Growth Enterprise. (2023). *Labor market study: Final report*. Online at: https://avedgeca.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Labor_Market_Study_Final.pdf
² City of Palmdale. (n.d.). *Census 2020 California hard-to-count fact sheet: Palmdale*. Online at: <https://www.cityofpalmdaleca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5857/Census-2020-California-Hard-to-County-Fact-Sheet-Palmdale-PDF>
³ Rent burdened is defined as people spending 30 percent or more of their income on rent and has implications on residents’ life course outcomes.
⁴ Plevin, R. (2024, June 18). *Los Angeles homeless count 2024: Antelope Valley, Lancaster, Palmdale see increases in unhoused population*. LAist. Online at: <https://laist.com/news/housing-homelessness/los-angeles-homeless-count-antelope-valley-lancaster-palmdale-unhoused-2024-parris-barger>
⁵ Los Angeles County. (2018). *Antelope Valley census profile*. Online at: <https://lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/AV-Census-Profile8-15-18.pdf>
⁶ U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.). *Los Angeles County, California profile*. Retrieved from https://data.census.gov/profile/Los_Angeles_County_California?q=050XX00US06037
⁷ Antelope Valley Economic Development and Growth Enterprise. (2023). *Labor market study: Final report*. Online at: https://avedgeca.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Labor_Market_Study_Final.pdf

MOTION

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That adds a significant time tax that can take a toll on their physical, mental, and social well-being. Residents may also encounter less access to needed services and other resources than in more densely populated Los Angeles and adjacent communities. For example, according to the U.S. Department of Health and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, there is a shortage of primary care providers in the Antelope Valley,⁸ despite the fact that Antelope Valley has the second highest rate of preventable hospitalizations.⁹ Additionally, residents experience barriers to healthy food; they were the least likely to report having a grocery store or supermarket in close proximity (fewer than 36 percent) when compared to other Service Planning Areas (ranging from 54 to 82 percent) and the County average (63 percent), according to the 2024 Los Angeles County Health Survey.¹⁰ For residents who rely on public transportation, access to jobs, healthcare, food, and other services are even more limited due to the greater travel burden, that disproportionately affects older, disabled, and/or low-income persons. Addressing these issues and other pressing needs in the Antelope Valley is crucial for improving life and creating a thriving and equitable community across the entire Los Angeles County region.

Between April 2022 and February 2024, the Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion (ARDI) Initiative sponsored 11 convenings in the Antelope Valley to develop strategies the County can take to support the region and address gaps in services across multiple initiatives, including the development of the [Los Angeles County Racial Equity Strategic Plan](#), [The State of Black Los Angeles County Report](#), and the [Latinos Experiencing Homelessness](#) plan. Events engaged community residents, advocates, faith-based and community-based organization leaders, government officials, and youth. ARDI also reviewed and incorporated feedback shared during other community listening sessions involving Antelope Valley residents, such as the community dialogue sessions organized by Supervisor Kathryn Barger in August 2020 that gathered residents' perspectives on the needs and priorities of the region. Across these events, five main priorities were consistently raised throughout the multiple stakeholder conversations. These included increasing equitable regional investment, expanding affordable housing options, improving physical and mental health care access, promoting children and family wellbeing, and increasing transportation and transit access. While these events and community feedback sessions are part of longer-standing efforts to address the unique challenges throughout the Antelope Valley, the County has an opportunity to set a strategic vision and implementation plan that assesses and finds community-driven and informed solutions in response to the region's inequitable access to resources that drive poor life outcomes.

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⁸ Kaiser Permanente. (2022). *Community health needs assessment: Panorama City*. Online at: <https://community.kp.org/downloads/panaroma-city-chna-2022.pdf>

⁹ UCLA Newsroom. (2022, March 14). *L.A. County preventable hospitalizations highest in South L.A., Antelope Valley*. Online at: <https://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/l-a-county-preventable-hospitalizations-south-la-antelope-valley>

¹⁰ Population in Close Proximity to a Supermarket or Grocery Store, LACHS, 2024: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ha/index.htm>

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office (CEO), through the Anti-Racism, Diversity and Inclusion Initiative (ARDI), and in collaboration with the Chief Information Officer, CEO-Homeless Initiative, Departments of Child Support Services, Children and Family Services, Consumer and Business Affairs, Economic Development, Health Services, Internal Services, Justice Care and Opportunities Department (JCOD), Library, Mental Health, Parks and Recreation, Public Health, Public Social Services, Public Works, Regional Planning, Sheriff's, Youth Development, and other relevant County entities and partners to report back to the Board in writing in 180 days on:

1. An equity analysis highlighting population demographics, disparities, and resource distribution in the Antelope Valley. Topics shall include but not be limited to:
 - a. Physical and mental health
 - b. Income and employment
 - c. Housing and homelessness
 - d. Education
 - e. Public safety and justice
 - f. Child and youth development
 - g. The built environment
 - h. Data shall be disaggregated by each city and unincorporated area to the greatest extent possible, given the geographic and population diversity throughout the region
2. An Equity Atlas featuring dashboards, data displays, and maps that visually represent data from the equity analysis and other inputs to track, measure, and inform the development of policies, plans, and strategies to address existing community needs in the Antelope Valley to advance equitable investment.
3. An analysis of gaps and barriers regarding access to and utilization of County programs and services by Antelope Valley residents with recommendations that address identified needs.
 - a. The analysis shall be informed by and incorporate feedback and recommendations collected during robust outreach and engagement activities, including past community events.
 - b. Upon completing the analysis, report back to the Board in writing within 60 days on a structured plan to implement the recommendations, followed by a plan to evaluate and assess the effectiveness to ensure continuous improvement.
4. An online resource map of County services and other community assets available in the Antelope Valley developed in collaboration with JCOD, Public Health, and other relevant departments and entities to promote greater awareness of and access to existing resources.

I, FURTHER MOVE, that the Board of Supervisors direct the CEO, through ARDI and in collaboration with the Center for Strategic Partnerships, to collaborate with philanthropic partners to seek funding to support the aforementioned equity analysis, mapping and atlas, and a plan to prioritize and pursue coordinated long-term investment in the Antelope Valley that advance equitable outcomes throughout the region.

I, FURTHER MOVE, that the Board of Supervisors delegate authority to the CEO to apply for and accept local, state, and federal grants to support the above efforts.

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