

Department of Economic Opportunity

MISSION

Create quality jobs, help small businesses and high-road employers start and grow, and build vibrant communities and spaces.

MANDATORY & MAJOR DUTIES

- **Future Ready Workforce:** Develop a local, qualified workforce that meets the evolving hiring and training needs of high-road employers with access and pathways for economic mobility.
- **Globally Competitive Industries:** Cultivate innovative, globally competitive industry sectors – legacy and emerging - that drive inclusive and sustainable economic growth and job creation.
- **Community Placemaking and Diversification:** Foster community-centered development that inspires public-private investment in small business, cultural anchors and destinations, and long-term improvements in physical and social infrastructure.
- **People First Public Service:** Be a champion of good governance through accountability, transparency, and community inclusion to build trust and ensure social progress.
- **Regional Economic Leadership:** Build a cohesive, cross-sector economic ecosystem that collectively marshals policy and resources that scales equitable economic impact.

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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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CURRENT BUDGET OVERVIEW

FY 2025-2026
Final Adopted Budget
(\$ Millions)

Total Appropriation <i>(What We Budgeted to Spend in FY 2025-26)</i>		\$229.4
	Salaries & Employee Benefits (185 positions)	36.0 (16%)
	Services & Supplies	162.7 (71%)
	Other (Cap Assets/Equip, Other Charges)	30.6 (13%)
Sources of Funding <i>(How We Pay For All of This)</i>		\$229.4
	Federal Assistance	62.5 (27%)
	State Assistance	39.1 (17%)
	Fees/Charges for Services*	0.8 (<1%)
	Other Resources**	57.5 (25%)
	Net County Cost <i>remaining balance, covered by locally generated revenues</i>	69.5 (30%)

* Some State and Federally funded services are reflected as “Fees/Charges for Services” through reimbursement mechanisms (e.g., Medi-Cal billing)

** “Other Resources” includes miscellaneous revenues not otherwise classified, including fines, settlements, interest earnings, and interdepartmental billing

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BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY PROGRAM AREA

What These Investments Deliver For Residents

General Program Category	% of Dept Budget
Workforce Services	56%
Capital Development Services	16%
Administrative Services	14%
Business & Economic Development Services	11%
Office of Small Business Services & Programs	3%

Program categories shown here are presentation-level groupings created to consolidate information from the new LA County Enterprise System (LACES) for this briefing. Note that as part of the County's initial rollout of data-driven budgeting through LACES, categories and outcome measures will continue to evolve based on practical use and data insights as departments operationalize the system in FY 2026–27.

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DEPARTMENT PRIORITIES, METRICS & OUTCOMES

Future Ready Workforce

- **132k** reached by 18 America's Job Centers of California
- **24k** jobseekers and **7.1k** Youth@Work participants enrolled across services
- **9k** training graduates, including High Road Training Partnerships
- **7.2k** unsubsidized hires

Globally Competitive Industries

- **2** economic impact studies and actions plans for Film and Life Sciences
 - Life Sciences - **10k** jobs by 2030 and **\$19m** raised for graduation space
 - Film - **1k** permits and recovery in local filming

Community Placemaking & Diversification

- **11.6k** reached by Office of Small Business and Economic Mobility Initiative, including **819** Entrepreneurship Academy graduates
- **2.4k** businesses certified - **16%** increase and **\$1.7b** in awards
- **4.2k** planned housing units with **5** mixed-use capital projects
- **\$11m** for **7** commercial acquisitions and **3** façades improvements

Regional Economic Leadership

- **\$22.6m** in Business Interruption Funds and relief grants for **2.7k** businesses
- **\$80m** in new revenue, including **\$27.5m** in philanthropy

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BUDGET REQUEST (FY2026-2027)

Total New Appropriation Request*	\$116.2M
Additional positions requested	13.0
Additional NCC requested	\$93.8M

Key Budget Requests	Amount (\$Millions)	One-Time/ Ongoing?	Positions
Youth@Work	\$13.2	Both	0.0
Business Interruption Fund	\$5.0	Ongoing	0.0
Preparing LA for County Employment (PLACE)	\$1.5	Ongoing	0.0
Staff Resources & Optimizing Department	\$0.9	Ongoing	5.0

* Priority budget and unmet needs requests

CHALLENGES AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES



Funding loss: Anticipated and actual reductions in funding for relied upon services for ~4k workers and 2.5k small businesses; recent sunset of American Rescue Plan Act and County curtailments; uncertainty of State and Federal funding

- **Mitigation:** Continued pursuit of new and one-time funding for programming



Increased economic need: Increased vulnerability of customers due to Homeless Emergency, public benefit cuts, fires, and immigration actions; unrealized community benefit with World Cup/LA28

- **Mitigation:** Continued prioritization of limited resources for customers facing historic disinvestment and sectors that yield job quality, equity, and climate resilience and in unincorporated areas



Capacity of current organization: Ongoing need to right-size new department to meet current and future needs of County and economy

- **Mitigation:** Continued optimization with upcoming strategic plan and organizational restructure for efficient and effective delivery of mission and vision