

FUNDING RACIAL JUSTICE

Shifting dollars away from carceral systems and into communities

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Equity in Community Investments Team



LOCAL BUDGETS

- Budgets are **forward looking financial plans that show the priorities** of the County.
- Historically **budgets have not used an equity lens that is inclusive** of community and community priorities in the development process.
- Goal: develop a budget process that
 - Centers racial equity in the budget process
 - Empowers community driven decision-making power
 - Divests from systems of punishment, and invests in underserved and over-criminalized communities

CENTERING RACIAL EQUITY IN BUDGET ADVOCACY

CHALLENGES

HISTORICAL DECISIONS THAT WIDEN
RACIAL INEQUITIES

DISINVESTMENTS



OVERINVESTMENTS



RACIAL JUSTICE UPRISINGS



BRIDGING THE GAP

PARTICIPATORY
BUDGETING

EQUITY-BASED STRATEGY
TO DISTRIBUTE RESOURCES



OPPORTUNITIES

COMMUNITY CARE

- ✦ VIOLENCE & TRAUMA PREVENTION
- ✦ MENTAL HEALTH
- ✦ RE-ENTRY SUPPORT



HEALTHY & EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES

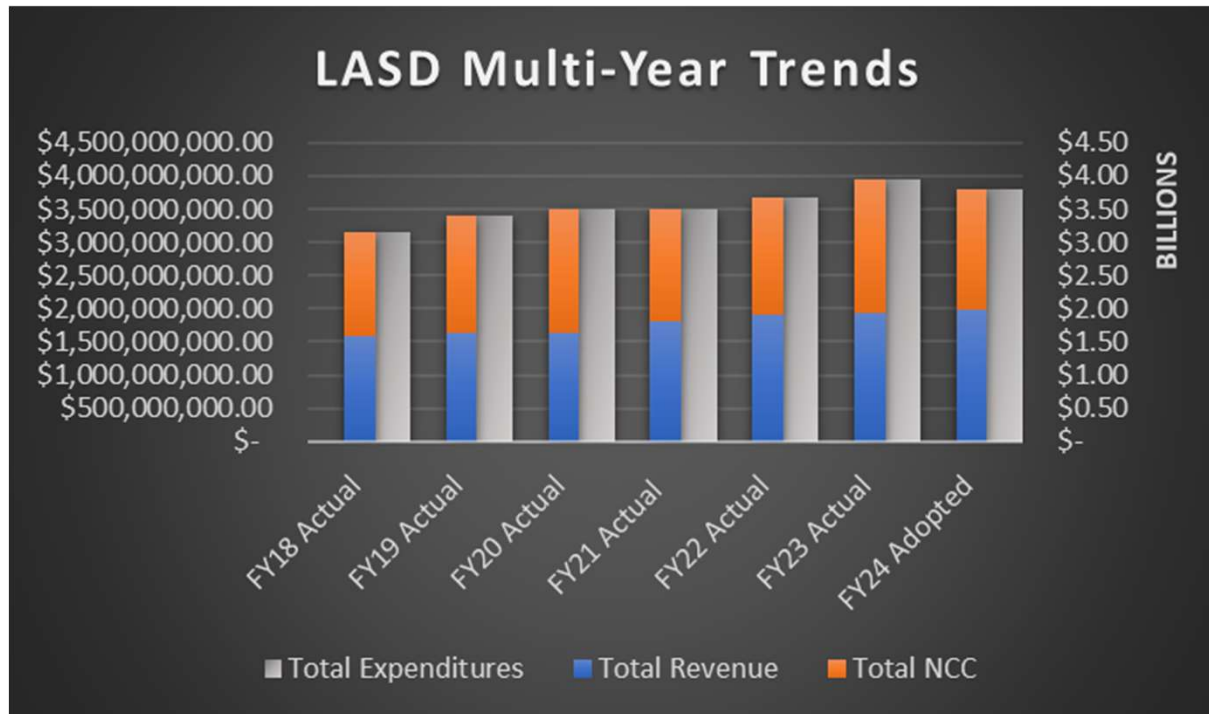
- ✦ BUILT ENVIRONMENT
- ✦ AFFORDABLE HOUSING
- ✦ GOOD PAYING JOBS
- ✦ UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME
- ✦ CLEAN AIR, WATER, SOIL
- ✦ COMMUNITY GREEN SPACES



TYPICAL BUDGET TIMELINE



LASD MULTI-YEAR TRENDS



- The County has continued to **prioritize investments into LASD**
- NCC covers almost half of their spending
- This **spending doesn't align** with the County's vision of "care first, jails last"
- Even in the pandemic years (FY20-FY22) the County continued to invest in LASD

[FY24 Adopted Budget LA County](#)

[FY20 Final Budget LA County](#)

COMPARATIVE DEPARTMENTAL SPENDING

LASD Custody vs. Alternative to Incarceration Departmental Expenditures *FY24 Adopted Budget*



- The County **spends significantly more on LASD** than the departments that offer alternatives to incarceration services
- We **need to see more investment into a community system of care** (alternatives to incarceration)

[FY24 Adopted Budget LA County](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **An inclusive community driven** budget development process
- **Shift over-investments in punitive systems of harm** and invest in a community of care infrastructure
- Use **equity-based strategies** to distribute resources
- **Create and fully implement dedicated funding streams and mechanisms for structural reform**

THANK YOU!

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