

Chief Executive Office Poverty Alleviation Initiative (PAI)

CFCI Town Hall Meeting

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County of Los Angeles
**Poverty
Alleviation
Initiative**
PATHWAYS TO THRIVE

- PAI created in 2021 with the establishment of a pilot for Guaranteed Income
- **Charge included study/evaluation and plan/recommendations for long-term sustainability**
- Breathe launched, in partnership and at same time as TAYppportunity in 2022
- Breathe, original cohorts, closed this past August but infrastructure was used for Foster Youth project, ending in Spring 2026

Updates on Guaranteed Income reported Annually in **PAI Annual Report** – will need to include sustainability plan for Board in next years Report.

The screenshot shows two pages from the PAI Annual Report. The top page is the 'Executive Summary' which includes 'Key PAI Accomplishments This Year' and 'Key Partner-Led Accomplishments'. The bottom page is 'Progress Made This Year' which details 'PAI Strategic Framework Priorities' and '2) Maximizing Guaranteed Income Resources Available'. A blue hand-drawn arrow points from the text box above to the 'Key PAI Accomplishments This Year' section.

Executive Summary

Key PAI Accomplishments This Year

The Poverty Alleviation Initiative (PAI) continues its work with many partners across projects aligned with PAI's strategic framework. The accomplishments featured below were achieved in collaboration with the following partners: the Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS); Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA); Internal Services (ISD); Public Social Services (DPSS); Office of Child Protection (OCP); Chief Information Office (CIO); Homelessness Initiative (HI); Economic Opportunity (DEO); Public Health (DPH); First 5 LA; Strength Based Community Change (SBCC); Los Angeles City (City); Community Investment for Families Department (CIFD); Koreatown Youth + Community Center (KYCC); End Poverty in California (EPIC); Immigrants Are Los Angeles; and Economic Security Project California.

- Completed the second expansion of Breathe: LA County's Guaranteed Income Program to provide over 2,200 foster youth between the ages of 18 and 21 with \$500 per month or \$1,500 per quarter for up to 18 months.
- Secured \$25 million for DPSS-administered General Relief housing subsidies and housing-based cash assistance, more than doubling DPSS' homelessness service capacity for the 2025-2026 Program Year.
- Secured \$1.8 million in State, local, and equity project, mitigation and lived-experience experts.
- Launched the General Relief Referral Project (County), and lived-experience experts.
- Released the *PAI State of Poverty* evaluation project that launch philanthropy for the first three counties in the State of California, Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco.

Key Partner-Led Accomplishments

- In response to the recent wildfires impacted businesses and non-profits, immediate relief to workers and small businesses, and economic recovery and resiliency.
 - DCBA is also in process of providing \$1 million in relief to households impacted by the wildfires.
- First 5 LA launched a Guaranteed Income pilot for childcare providers in April 2025.
- Food Equity Roundtable release report highlighting successful organizations resulting in increased food security.
- DEO's Economic Opportunity Grants supporting small businesses, non-profits, and micro-businesses.

Los Angeles County Poverty Alleviation Initiative

Progress Made This Year

Progress continues to be made across all five of the current PAI priorities that align with the PAI strategic framework, *Stepping Up Together*, and all 20 of the additional priorities led by other partners.

PAI Strategic Framework Priorities

1) Supporting Grassroots Community-Led Projects

PAI, in partnership with DCFS and Thriving Families, Safer Children (TFSC), released grants to 20 neighborhoods across the County in July 2023. The grants were used toward two-year projects that uplift resident identified priorities and addresses either a root cause or effect of poverty.

- Twenty (20) resident-led projects received grants of \$135,000 to engage their communities in participatory budgeting, project design, and implementation of their ideas for addressing root causes and effects of poverty within their communities.
- As projects close-out in July 2025, an evaluation report conducted by UCLA will be shared with stakeholders and participating organizations and partners. The evaluation will highlight successes and lessons learned to help inform continued investment in community-led initiatives. In the interim, Casey Families along with grantees have produced a *Blueprint for Sustainable Innovative Partnerships with Communities and Lived Experience Experts*.
- Completed projects to date include:
 - Launching neighborhood safety courses ranging from active shooter awareness, self-defense, and CPR/First Aid certifications for more than 215 community member attendees.
 - Strengthening engagement for non-native English-speaking youth in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) through English as a Second Language-centered robotics competitions, specialized tutoring, and linkages to on-campus STEM clubs and extracurricular activities.
 - Distributed more than 1,600 neighborhood-developed food vouchers to families in partnership with local grocery stores, who received the grant funds and honored vouchers for healthy and nutrient rich food options.

2) Maximizing Guaranteed Income Resources Available

Guaranteed income is an effective strategy towards alleviating poverty while also improving health and well-being outcomes. Guaranteed income programs provide cash grants without the paternalistic requirements traditionally accompanied with government-funded benefit programs, like work requirements. Research and evidence are now demonstrating that a guaranteed income program provides households with financial stability, improved employment and economic mobility outcomes, increased engagement in post-secondary education, reduced stress, reduced medical and doctor visits, and increased sense of hope and well-being.

While the County, City, and many partners behind the 15 guaranteed income projects that have launched throughout the County build additional evidence to further demonstrate the positive impact and efficacy of guaranteed income, we are all also contributing to national and statewide narrative change work. Narrative change uplifts the resounding evidence that

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Program Snapshot

Guaranteed Income:

- Leveraging Breathe: Los Angeles County's Guaranteed Income program, providing **\$1,200 monthly for 1-year** to **47 senior residents impacted by recent immigration raids**.
- Modeled after Immigrants are Los Angeles (IRLA) Guaranteed Income proposal, provides support to communities and residents targeted by the federal justice system.
- Aligns with CFCI strategy of Economic Opportunity and Stability.
- Eligibility will focus on resident zip codes most impacted by immigration raids, age (65 and over), and receipt of State or Federally funded cash benefits (i.e. SSI/SSDI, CalWORKs, CAPI)



Funding Overview

Key Funding Areas:

- **Total Funded: \$817,000**
- \$676,800 will be administered as direct cash assistance to selected recipients.
- \$140,200 will be provided to the Breathe Program Administrator to facilitate the application and selection process, administrative costs of disbursing cash, and limited case management support.
- Anticipated launch in first quarter of the 26/27 FY



Impact and Outcomes

Additional Data and Key Outcome Domains:

- Participants selected across each Supervisorial District, based on zip codes identified with greatest impact.

Four Research Domains:

- Housing and Homelessness
- Economic Well-Being
- Justice-Involvement Prevention
- Stress and Health



Thank you.