

Strategy #1: Invest in Our Communities

Along the Prevention/Mitigation Continuum

Prevention

“Help people feel a part of their community and take pride in it.”

—Resident

“Let people talk directly to decision-makers
to humanize and personalize the community.”

—Advocate

“Support and empower communities
to care for their residents and promote social inclusion.”

—United Nations (2009)

Objective 1.1—Expand resources to communities that increase community-capacity building.

Actions include:

- ❖ Support grassroots neighborhood-level resident organizing for residents to identify ways of enhancing their communities’ capacity to address their own needs, and provide resources that uplift priorities determined by them.
- ❖ Increase long-term, equitable investments in prevention and environmental supports in partnership with, and available within, communities to support residents, promote health outcomes, and reduce the likelihood that one day people may require more intensive services.
- ❖ Ensure that a clear mechanism is in place for a trusted network of providers, with authentic relationships within their communities, to offer a wide variety of preventive supports, opportunities, and resources. These networks would partner with the County to respond quickly and deploy available resources in a timely way.
- ❖ Ensure that new County contract opportunities for community-based services include resources that support community outreach, engagement, and community-building activities and assist with developing the necessary infrastructure to deliver high-quality, culturally competent services.

Objective 1.2—Support regional convenings and partner with residents, providers, faith-based community, stakeholders, sectors, businesses, County departments, and local jurisdictions to develop solutions for shared priority issues.

Actions include:

- ❖ Assemble time-limited convenings on specific topics determined by the collective that are oriented toward focus, flexibility, action, and accountability.
 - Some ideas that have already been shared by residents include helping to keep streets and storefronts clean, providing safe green spaces and more spaces with shade, offering free/low-cost recreational and enrichment activities within local neighborhoods, improving law enforcement's relationships with the communities they serve, and increasing affordable access to mental health and wellness supports within communities.
- ❖ Work with residents, stakeholders, businesses, partners, and other jurisdictions to identify opportunities to generate more living-wage jobs, stimulate the economy, and increase affordable housing options.
- ❖ Develop a shared federal, state, and local advocacy agenda.
- ❖ Support the efforts of the County's Prevention Systems Task Force, Office of Violence Prevention, Alternatives to Incarceration, other justice reform initiatives, and the implementation of the Department of Parks and Recreation's needs assessment.