

Strategy #3: Expand Access to Basic Supports

Along the Prevention/Mitigation Continuum

Mitigation

“Help with the basics first; meet people’s underlying needs first so they can be successful.”

—Resident

“When you don’t have housing security, it’s hard to focus on your education.”

—College student

“When you have money in the bank, you have the bandwidth to pursue other opportunities.”

– Community-based provider

Objective 3.1—Develop a mechanism for distributing emergency support to people to cover basic needs like healthy food, housing costs, utilities, diapers, gas, health care expenses, and car repairs that prevent them from falling into crisis.

Actions include:

- ❖ Work with County departments to determine how and who to administer this type of program and what potential funding streams could be used; develop a mechanism for providing the emergency support quickly and incorporate lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ Support the efforts of the County’s Food Equity Roundtable and other departmental nutritional programs to increase access to free, affordable, and culturally diverse healthy food options.

Objective 3.2—Work with other jurisdictions and partners to strengthen supports that will help residents secure and maintain housing.

Actions include:

- ❖ Work with other cities to consider implementing rent-control policies that include a covenant that increases protections for lower-income tenants and other options for rental market stabilization, and/or that increase the availability and usage of rental assistance, rental subsidies, and housing vouchers.

- ❖ Support existing efforts underway to increase the number of low-income and affordable housing units available in new developments, convert existing buildings into affordable-housing units, assess the possibility of developing a regional land bank model, and expand Tenant Opportunities to Purchase Act efforts.
- ❖ Increase the enforcement of laws that protect against Section 8 voucher discrimination, unlawful evictions, and landlord harassment, and ensure that the proper conditions of apartment buildings and dwellings are maintained.
- ❖ Explore opportunities for housing support to be included as part of enhanced care management in the state Department of Health Care Services' California Advancing and Innovating in Medi-Cal (CalAIM) program.
- ❖ Support the expansion of the Los Angeles County Development Authority's 'Family Self-Sufficiency' program.
- ❖ Increase assistance for particularly vulnerable populations—former foster youth, those who are expecting or parenting young children, intimate partner/domestic violence survivors, etc.—in securing permanent housing and other supports and benefits.
- ❖ Advocate to repeal Article 34 from California's constitution, which has been identified as an antiquated and 'racist rule' that requires cities to get voter approval to build low-rent housing when using public dollars.
- ❖ Explore new opportunities for ensuring that resources are available in historically underserved neighborhoods and that access to them exists in traditionally 'exclusive' neighborhoods, in compliance with fair housing mandates.
- ❖ Support the efforts of the County's Affordable Housing Unit, Housing for Health, Homeless Initiative, and the Los Angeles County Development Authority to further expand affordable housing and permanent supportive housing options.

Objective 3.3—Partner with local cities, Child Care Resource & Referral agencies, and others to expand the mixed delivery system of public and private early care and education resources, plus after-school options that are affordable and available to help parents maintain employment.

Actions include:

- ❖ Identify supports that can be used to address 'child care provider deserts,' lack of infrastructure and inadequate facilities, barriers to parents accessing "upscaled" levels of child care as genuine options, and the availability of extended and weekend hours, particularly for infants and toddlers.
- ❖ Endorse the use of an early care and education salary scale and compensation standards that are consistent with area living wages and promote positive child-care outcomes, and explore the potential of revenue options that could be used to meet that standard.

- ❖ Increase training, skill-building, and licensing opportunities for family, friends, and neighbors who provide child care, and support for people who want to become day care providers.
- ❖ Advocate to align eligibility for subsidized child care to County-level living-wage calculations instead of state-level income calculations.
- ❖ Advocate for more federal and state funding to increase affordable child-care options and increase the state's early care and education reimbursement rate to a level that covers the true cost of care for young children.
- ❖ Support the Los Angeles County Office of Education and the County's Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education (OAECE) in developing a plan for maximizing new federal dollars available to expand Early Head Start and Head Start programs, and to implement the state's universal pre-kindergarten program.
- ❖ Support the ongoing efforts of First 5 LA, the OAECE, the Child Care Planning Committee, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development.

Objective 3.4—Maximize resources available to help people meet their own needs.

Actions include:

- ❖ Advocate for reinstating the federal Advance Child Tax Credit.
- ❖ Identify a plan for the long-term administration of *Breathe: Los Angeles County's Guaranteed Income Program*.
- ❖ Expand education and free tax-filing and Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) application supports to residents to increase the claiming of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), child tax credit, and other tax credits that often go unclaimed.
- ❖ Evaluate additional sources of debt generated by state/County rules and laws that could be eliminated for low-income families, and consider options for including financial affordability in the calculation of assessing fines and fees.
- ❖ Increase enforcement of wage-theft laws and expand protections for those making below the minimum wage.
- ❖ Advocate to increase unemployment insurance rates and recalibrate eligibility requirements and limits.
- ❖ Advocate for expanding the EITC and Young-Child Tax Credit levels and eligibility.
- ❖ Support the efforts of the Office of Labor Equity.