



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

FESIA A. DAVENPORT
Chief Executive Officer

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September 20, 2022

To: Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, Chair
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
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Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

From: Fesia A. Davenport
Chief Executive Officer

REPORT BACK ON ADOPTING THE POVERTY ALLEVIATION INITIATIVE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR ALLEVIATING POVERTY IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY (ITEM NO. 16, AGENDA OF JULY 12, 2022)

On July 12, 2022, the Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted a motion to approve the Poverty Alleviation Initiative's (PAI) strategic framework for alleviating poverty and directed the PAI, in consultation with the Chief Executive Office (CEO) and other relevant County departments, to report back with a set of three to five key priorities for the PAI, their associated high-level implementation timelines, and the key departments relevant to implementation. It further directed the PAI to report back in writing annually on the collective progress made in partnership with County departments and other public and private entities, as well as any obstacles encountered during implementation.

PAI Strategic Framework Priorities

The PAI's countywide strategic framework for alleviating poverty, "Stepping Up Together: Co-Creating Paths to a Brighter Future" outlines four key strategies: 1) Invest in Our Communities; 2) Strengthen Pathways to Opportunities; 3) Expand Access to Basic Supports; and 4) Improve Our Service Delivery System. The PAI will work with a diverse group of residents, communities, jurisdictions, County departments, and other partners to implement the actions in this framework. A phased approach will be used to implement the priority actions, and they will be re-assessed at the end of each year to determine if the identified actions are still the right priorities, or if adjustments need to be made. Implementation will begin with these County departments: Public Social Services (DPSS), Public Health (DPH), Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA), Aging and

Disabilities (AD), Economic Opportunity (DEO), County Counsel, as well as the CEO's Women and Girls Initiative (WGI) and the Center for Strategic Partnerships (CSP); LA City's Community Investment for Families Department (CIFD), and the Economic Security Project. Additional County departments, CEO units, jurisdictions, and other public and private partners will be added as the work progresses.

The following five priorities were selected as the starting place for the PAI's focus because of their level of relevance, readiness, impact, and commitment by partners to achieve them. They were strongly supported by residents and community-based organizations who participated in the listening sessions that drove the framework development.

Priority Action	Framework Strategy	Initial Partners	Timeline
Supporting Grassroots Community-led Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide a small grant to each Service Planning Area (SPA) to develop a project that uplifts their priorities 	Invest in Our Communities	Residents, communities	1 – 2 years
Maximizing Guaranteed Income Resources Available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement Breathe: LA County's Guaranteed Income (GI) Program ▪ Launch State-sponsored GI Program 	Expand Access to Basic Supports	CSP, DCBA, DPH, County Counsel, DPSS, residents, community stakeholders	1 – 3 years
Increasing Tax Credit Filings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement solutions to increase direct income to those who are eligible 	Expand Access to Basic Supports	DCBA, DPSS, AD, WGI, LA City CIFD, Economic Security Project	1 – 3 years
Developing a Person-Centered Service Delivery Model <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create customer service enhancements and improvements to increase eligible customers seeking out and getting needed supports 	Improve Our Delivery System	DPSS, DPSS customers, community stakeholders	1 – 5 years
Reforming General Relief (GR) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop policy and practice reforms, including those that address housing needs and sustainable jobs 	Improve Our Delivery System	DPSS, DEO, GR customers, community stakeholders, County Counsel	1 – 5 years

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Strategic Framework Priorities Led by Other Partners

Eighteen additional priorities from the framework will also be implemented this year, led by other partners and/or in collaboration with the PAI, including one by the State that the PAI will support through local community outreach and engagement efforts (Attachment). These partners include those mentioned above, as well as the Food Equity Roundtable and First 5 LA. Collective action is our only pathway towards achieving real success, making the commitment secured from all of our partners to implement this framework an example of early progress.

The PAI's Role Going Forward

The PAI will move the strategic framework actions forward in multiple ways. It will serve as a convenor of, and collaborator with, the various partners and stakeholders interested in being part of this effort. It will lead and/or co-lead key initiatives, as well as partner with others to support implementation. It will work with the Board and the CEO's Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations office to recommend advocacy positions on State and federal legislation. It will also ensure that identified actions are being evaluated to ensure that progress can be properly tracked and reported to the Board through annual reports.

The PAI will also seek funding from philanthropy for an evaluator to assess the macro-level impact across all these priorities to help determine where we have achieved true impact and where we need to re-evaluate our efforts. This analysis will be informative when making future recommendations for policy development, legislative advocacy, and resource allocations.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me or Carrie Miller, PAI Executive Director, at (213) 262-7823 or cmiller@ceo.lacounty.gov.

FAD:JMN:JFO
CDM:kdm

Attachment

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Aging and Disabilities
Consumer and Business Affairs
Economic Opportunity
Public Health
Public Social Services

PAI Strategic Framework Priority Actions, 2022 – 2023

Priorities Led by Other Partners and/or with PAI Support

Action	Strategy	Lead Partner
CalKIDS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants scholarships up to newborns, eligible low-income students, and foster and homeless youth, that is invested in a mutual fund. Funds can be withdrawn tax-free for educational expenses 	Strengthen Pathways to Opportunities	State <i>PAI to support community outreach and engagement</i>
Expansion of Financial Coaching <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing the network of ambassadors to provide financial coaching and debt avoidance 	Strengthen Pathways to Opportunities	DCBA <i>PAI will support</i>
Wealth-Building and Estate Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides access to financial legal services that support the creation and retention of intergenerational wealth 	Strengthen Pathways to Opportunities	DCBA
Green Line Home Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assists qualifying residents achieve homeownership through a conditional grant for first-time home buyers 	Strengthen Pathways to Opportunities	DCBA <i>PAI will support</i>
Worker Equity Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing \$1,000 stipends to training program participants to cover training supplies and costs 	Strengthen Pathways to Opportunities	DEO <i>PAI will support</i>
Youth@Work Elevate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers mentoring, job readiness training, and paid work experience in high growth sectors for youth experiencing employment barriers 	Strengthen Pathways to Opportunities	DEO
PLACE Program Expansion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing assistance to hard-to-hire into County jobs, expanding from 70 to 150 spaces 	Strengthen Pathways to Opportunities	DEO, DHR, others <i>PAI will support</i>

PAI Strategic Framework Priority Actions, 2022 – 2023
 Priorities Led by Other Partners and/or with PAI Support

<p>Employee Ownership Model Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offering technical assistance to those wanting to participate in employee ownership models 	<p>Strengthen Pathways to Opportunities</p>	<p>DEO</p>
<p>Economic Mobility Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides start-up and growth support, education, training, technical assistance, mentoring, and capital access to women and BIPOC small businesses 	<p>Strengthen Pathways to Opportunities</p>	<p>DEO</p>
<p>Economic Opportunity Grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides targeted one-time cash grants and technical assistance to small businesses and nonprofits most negatively impacted by the pandemic 	<p>Strengthen Pathways to Opportunities</p>	<p>DEO</p>
<p>Mortgage Relief Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing up to \$30,000 in support per household, roughly 100 – 150 households 	<p>Expand Access to Basic Supports</p>	<p>DCBA</p>
<p>Cash grants to survivors of intimate partner/domestic violence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serving 500 households with \$2,500 	<p>Expand Access to Basic Supports</p>	<p>DCBA</p>
<p>Healthy Food Kickstarter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distributing grants to launch or expand healthy foods access projects in food deserts 	<p>Expand Access to Basic Supports</p>	<p>DCBA</p>
<p>Worker Protections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigating allegations of wage theft to ensure residents receive their full earned pay 	<p>Expand Access to Basic Supports</p>	<p>DCBA</p>
<p>Mapping Food Access and Food Deserts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping all food access locations by neighborhoods to identify areas vulnerable to food insecurity to inform future policy development and resource allocations 	<p>Expand Access to Basic Supports</p>	<p>Food Equity Roundtable</p>

PAI Strategic Framework Priority Actions, 2022 – 2023
 Priorities Led by Other Partners and/or with PAI Support

<p>LA City Emergency Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides low-income households with emergency financial assistance to cover rent, utilities, and other needs in grants up to \$8,000 per household 	<p>Expand Access to Basic Supports</p>	<p>LA City CIFD <i>PAI will support</i></p>
<p>Solid Ground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homeless prevention services to low-income households. Includes housing navigation and relocation assistance, access to benefits, short-term financial assistance, and financial coaching 	<p>Expand Access to Basic Supports</p>	<p>LA City CIFD</p>
<p>Increasing family, friends, and neighbors who provide child care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates child care and small businesses 	<p>Expand Access to Basic Supports</p>	<p>First 5 LA, DPH, LA City CIFD, WGI <i>PAI will support</i></p>