



County of Los Angeles

**Poverty
Alleviation
Initiative**

PATHWAYS TO THRIVE

**Stepping Up Together:
Co-Creating Paths to a Brighter Future**

Year Three Update

**Los Angeles County
Poverty Alleviation Initiative
Chief Executive Office**

<http://ceo.lacounty.gov/pai>

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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 philanthropic funding to launch the Benefit Access and Equity project, mitigating benefit cliffs for CalWORKs families.
- ✧ Launched the General Relief Reform Working Group across community, Los Angeles County (County), and lived-experience stakeholders.
- ✧ Released the [PAI State of Poverty Dashboard](#) as part of the first phase of a five-year PAI evaluation project that launched in March 2025. Secured funding through philanthropy for the first three years of the evaluation, led in partnership with the Counties Chief Information Office (CIO) and Internal Services Department (ISD), and the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

Key Partner-Led Accomplishments This Year

- ✧ In response to the recent wildfires, DEO released more than \$19 million in grants to 1,372 impacted businesses and nonprofits and 2,309 impacted workers. Grants offered immediate relief to workers and small businesses while jurisdictions plan for long-term economic recovery and resiliency for the communities affected.
 - DCBA is also in process of releasing grants in the amount of \$6,000 to \$18,000 to households impacted by the recent wildfires. Once complete more than \$31 million will be disbursed.
- ✧ First 5 LA launched a Guaranteed Income Program for Family, Friend, and Neighbor childcare providers in April 2025;
- ✧ Food Equity Roundtable released \$20 million in food equity grants to 75 partner organizations resulting in increased food security for more than 60,000 residents; and
- ✧ DEO's Economic Opportunity Grant released \$56 million to 5,293 grantees to help small businesses, non-profits, and microbusinesses recover and grow post-pandemic.

Introduction

In July 2022, the Los Angeles County (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted the Poverty Alleviation Initiative's (PAI's) strategic framework for alleviating poverty, "*Stepping Up Together: Co-Creating Paths to a Brighter Future*." Numerous listening sessions were held involving 1,024 participants, including 643 residents and individuals with lived expertise, to ensure the resulting plan would reflect a collective vision for how the County and its partners should work together to alleviate poverty.

Four key strategies emerged from this process:

- ❖ **Invest In Our Communities**
- ❖ **Strengthen Pathways to Opportunities**
- ❖ **Expand Access to Basic Supports**
- ❖ **Improve Our Service Delivery System**

In September 2022, the PAI prioritized actions across these strategies to begin its work. Initially, the following five priorities were chosen 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.

The five current priority actions are:

- ❖ **Supporting grassroots community-led projects**
- ❖ **Maximizing guaranteed income resources available**
- ❖ **Increasing tax credit filings**
- ❖ **Improving Benefits Access and Equity in CalWORKs**
- ❖ **Reforming General Relief (GR)**

While some of the priorities listed above have shifted over the years to accommodate changing needs, we still hold true to the belief that if we are successful in implementing these strategies, we will expect to see a decrease in the number of County residents in poverty over time, as well as positive shifts in other outcome areas.

We believe that poverty as a systemic issue does not have to be thought of as overwhelming and intractable. It is time that we challenge assumptions that allow us to accept widespread poverty as a 'given,' and truly disrupt its cycle.

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 sustaining 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

people who receive guaranteed income spend their money on basic needs and investments that provide pathways towards intergenerational wealth. In support of narrative change, the County and the City are hosts to quarterly Guaranteed Income convenings that include policymakers, funders, and government agencies committed to supporting this work.

In addition to narrative change, the County is also interested in supporting legislative pursuits that offer permanency and sustainability for guaranteed income programs.

❖ **Legislative Advocacy**

The County is supporting legislation that offers more opportunities to provide cash assistance without the traditional requirements typically associated with cash-based benefit programs, such as guaranteed income. Currently, the County is supporting and advocating for the following state bills:

- ❖ Assembly Bill (AB) 1357 (Rodriguez) – this bill would expand benefit protection for direct cash assistance recipients, like guaranteed income recipients, across all State-administered benefit programs such as Medi-Cal, CalWORKs, CalFresh, and the CalFresh Food Assistance Program. The bill has passed the Assembly and is currently with the Senate.
- ❖ AB 661 (Lee) – this bill, the California Guaranteed Income Statewide Feasibility Act, would require the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to contract with one or more entities to conduct an assessment and provide recommendations on how to design, fund, and implement a permanent statewide Guaranteed Income program. The bill is currently in committee review.

Within the County infrastructure, several guaranteed income projects have launched primarily leveraging local and State funds to support the work.

❖ **Breathe - Los Angeles County's Guaranteed Income Program**

The County's original program Breathe – Los Angeles County's Guaranteed Income Program provides 1,000 randomly selected residents with \$1,000 per month for three years. In June 2023, the program expanded to include 200 former County DCFS foster youth between the ages of 21 and 23 with \$1,000 per month for two years. The program is scheduled to conclude by August 2025. However, the program evaluation, led by the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Guaranteed Income Research (CGIR), in partnership with UCLA, is scheduled to conclude at the end of 2026. The program is being run in partnership with Strength Based Community Change; DCFS; DCBA; DPSS; the Chief Executive Office (CEO) Center for Strategic Partnerships; the CIO; ISD; Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk; and County Counsel. Philanthropic partners include the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation; First 5 LA; The California Endowment; The California Wellness Foundation; The James Irvine Foundation; The Kresge Foundation; and the Weingart Foundation. This initial investment in building out the Breathe infrastructure has allowed the County to expand the program once more to more than 2,200 foster youth.

- ❖ Expanded Breathe in October 2024 to include more than 2,200 DCFS foster youth between the ages of 18 and 21 with \$500 per month or \$1,500 per quarter for up to 18 months through stipends made available for youth in care and participating in enrichment activities.
- ❖ Secured an additional fund of \$1 million to support workforce development services for youth enrolled in the Breathe expansion through DEO Youth@Work program in partnership with SBCC and DEO's network of job centers.

❖ **Abundant Birth – Los Angeles**

Abundant Birth is amongst the first cohort of projects funded by the California Department of Social Services' Guaranteed Income Pilot Program. Abundant Birth is the first pregnancy guaranteed income program in the United States, serving expectant mothers and birthing people facing long-standing disparities in birth outcomes. Selected individuals will receive \$807 per month for 18 months alongside access to an Abundant Birth coach who will serve as a navigator to various health, economic, and supportive services. The partnership for this project includes DPH; the African American Infant and Maternal Mortality Initiative; Department of Health Services; the Department of Mental Health (DMH); philanthropic funders; and First 5 LA.

- ❖ Launched in January 2024, the program reached the enrollment goal of serving 410 mothers and birthing people, with 290 opting to work with an Abundant Birth coach;
- ❖ Provided grants to more than 10 community-based organizations with expertise in supporting people through pregnancy to conduct outreach and service delivery across the region; and
- ❖ Convened lived experience stakeholder sessions bi-monthly to assist with continued program enhancement, training of coaches, integration of new services, and implementation support.

❖ **Ending the HIV Epidemic FLEX Card Program**

The FLEX Card program is a modified guaranteed income project launched by DPH in September 2024 that serves more than 1,250 people living with HIV with \$400 monthly gift cards for six months. Recipients have the choice of selecting gift cards across multiple large-scale and local vendors. The program concluded in April 2025 with outcomes that demonstrated increased preventative health engagement, reduction in stress, and increased positive health behaviors. DPH is currently seeking funding to expand the program; however, recent federal grant cuts have made fundraising efforts a challenge.

3) Increasing Tax Credit Filings

Each year, County residents forego close to an estimated \$600 million in federal tax credits, either by not filing their tax returns or by not claiming these credits. In response PAI partnered for a third year through the *Claim Your Cash Los Angeles (CYCLA)* project with DCBA; DPSS; DEO; Aging and Disabilities Department; Los Angeles City; DPH; KYCC; PHFE Women, Infants, and Children, a Program of Heluna Health; and Economic Security Project California to align messaging and media campaigns geared toward low-income residents, expand and track the impact of outreach to those who may not typically file taxes, create 'warm hand-offs' and stronger connections to free tax support, and increase the capacity of free tax-preparation sites. The primary goal of this initiative is to increase direct income to those who are eligible.

Leveraging the *Free Tax Prep LA* campaign launched by the City, DCBA, and KYCC, CYCLA expanded outreach efforts, created opportunities for co-located free tax preparation sites with County departments, and expanded capacity of an easy to navigate webpage and customer service call center.

❖ **Coordinated Countywide Efforts**

Due to the recent wildfires, the tax filing deadline for the 2025 tax filing season has been extended in the County from April 15, 2025, to October 15, 2025. As a result, CYCLA experienced low engagement rates with filers in comparison to previous years of coordinated tax outreach. Additionally, with recent federal policy changes, some CYCLA communities are seeking virtual filing options or, due to their filing status, are amongst communities impacted by a nationwide chilling effect with tax compliance. CYCLA

continues to work to inform communities of their rights and protections while supporting robust tax outreach efforts. With the extended tax filing deadlines, data to inform true impact will not be available until early 2026.

To review the impact of coordinated tax outreach during the 2024 tax season, our partners at [Economic Security Project California released an analytical report](#) in February 2025 detailing some of the successes of the CYCLA project.

4) Improving Benefits Access and Equity in CalWORKs

The PAI, Center for Strategic Partnerships, DPSS, End Poverty in California (EPIC), and the Benefits Access and Equity Collaborative partnered to develop and design a benefit cliff mitigation pilot that applies learnings from guaranteed income to the CalWORKs program, known locally as Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN) program. To date, the pilot has:

- ✧ Completed a one-year planning phase that included an initial design based on feasibility and a \$1 million fundraising goal which we exceeded, securing more than \$1.8 million to fund the first year of the pilot.
- ✧ The pilot will focus on mitigating the benefit cliff CalWORKs families often experience when securing employment as earnings result in ineligibility for CalWORKs with immediate loss of cash assistance and supportive services that ensure family stability (i.e., subsidized childcare, housing supports, mental health services, etc.).
- ✧ To strengthen family stability during the transition to employment, the pilot will continue cash assistance and supportive services to families for up to one year with a staggered approach to benefit reduction. This approach leverages learnings and research conducted by entities like Chapin Hall that lift the power of continued cash and guaranteed income in reducing child welfare involvement, while improving overall job retention outcomes.
- ✧ The DEO will be allocating \$1 million to the pilot as part of a broader GAIN pilot project they are leading in partnership with DPSS:
 - DEO received a GAIN investment of \$6 million to better align the public workforce system and the social safety net through prioritizing residents that receive public benefits. Launching in October 2025, the initial phase of the project will serve 200 GAIN participants by providing multiple types of training and employment opportunities to meet participant needs. This will include transitional employment, paid work experience, in-depth skills training, career development, and employment in high road occupations with a living wage as part of the broader LA Living Wage for All Coalition, to improve economic stability and mobility outcomes. This DEO-led project will incorporate the benefit cliff mitigation pilot for the GAIN participants that secure employment.

5) Reforming GR

DPSS' GR program is a 100 percent County-funded program that provides cash assistance and supportive services to single adults and couples without dependents who need financial support. The PAI and DPSS are partnering to develop policy and practice reforms, including those addressing housing needs and sustainable jobs, that help participants gain greater financial stability.

❖ GR Reform

- ✧ Last year, listening sessions and interviews were conducted with 135 GR recipients across nine district offices, over 24 community-based organizations and advocates,

DPSS staff, and several other County Welfare Departments that administer local GR programs.

- ✧ This year, data collected from the listening sessions and an in-depth policy analysis were used to conduct a feasibility assessment across several different areas of potential reform. To support this effort, an internal working group was launched to develop a work plan that includes:
 - Launch of a working group in June 2025 to inform final policy and program change recommendations;
 - Launch a [public-facing webpage](#) in June 2025 to host GR Reform and working group updates as recommendations are developed;
 - Convene subject matter expert-led smaller groups to incorporate data-informed decision making in working group recommendations; and
 - Develop phased recommendations, beginning in late 2026, for the Board as they become available through the working group forum.

Given the challenges with the County's budget shortfalls as impacts trickle down from the recent wildfires and loss of federal funding, a primary focus of GR Reform has been on change that come at little to no cost while seeking additional funds from partners that receive funding to target populations served through the GR program.

Additional DPSS Activities Include:

❖ **Homelessness Service Model**

- ✧ Developing a stronger pathway to housing and housing security for GR recipients experiencing homelessness through a revitalized homelessness services model that is anticipated to launch in January 2026. Currently, 68 - 73 percent of the 125,000 GR recipients enrolled in the program monthly experience homelessness. Of those populations, more than 67 percent are active DMH patients. It is a fundamental goal to continue to raise funds through partners that are charged with addressing homelessness in the region for individuals at risk of falling into homelessness and who are living with a behavioral health condition.
- ✧ To date, PAI and DPSS have secured \$25 million to fund the project which will include both a housing subsidy/voucher service component and a direct cash assistance component. Evaluation for the project will be led by the UCLA California Policy Lab. The evaluation will review the efficacy of vouchers in comparison to direct cash supports while also informing long-term economic impacts of increased cash assistance to sub-populations of GR recipients (i.e., transition-aged youth and older adults) and how that might shape future iterations of GR reform.

Partner-Led Strategic Framework Priorities

Listed below is the progress made on the 20 additional priorities led by our partners.

Progress Made This Year

Department of Public Social Services

❖ Developing a Person-Centered Service Delivery System

This project was created to implement customer service enhancements and improvements to DPSS' public-facing services, with the goal of improving recipients' experiences and increasing the number of eligible people seeking out and getting needed support.

To date, the project has:

- ❖ Established the DPSS CARE Committee, which includes workgroups of internal DPSS staff. The CARE Committee reviews customer experience data and moves strategies forward to improve customer service. One example of a strategy is the department wide lobby modernization project to streamline customer interactions and improve in-person operations. Another example is the revitalization of an employee recognition award program to celebrate individuals and teams that exemplify excellence in customer service.
- ❖ Operationalized a customer experience data collection process for the DPSS CARE Committee to inform change and measure progress through a series of randomized telephonic and in-person customer service surveys. The surveys are available in DPSS offices via comment cards and virtual QR codes and are available in all DPSS threshold languages to ensure equity in engagement and participation. In measuring impact of recent customer experience improvements, the DPSS CARE team found:
 - Eighty-four (84) percent of In-Home Supportive Services and GAIN customers that visited district office lobbies for in-person services rated their overall satisfaction with their visit as meeting or exceeding expectations. Eighty-eight (88) percent shared their issue was resolved by the end of their visit.
 - Sixty-five (65) percent of customers that telephoned DPSS Customer Service Centers for service rated their phone call as meeting or exceed expectations. Sixty-six (66) percent shared that their issue was resolved by the end of their call.

Department of Consumer and Business Affairs

❖ Worker Protections

The Office of Labor Equity (OLE) enforces worker protection ordinances adopted by the County, including the Minimum Wage, Public Health Anti-Retaliation, Prevention of Human Trafficking, Fair Chance, and Fair Workweek Ordinances, as well as partner municipalities and State labor laws. Through these enforcement efforts, OLE ensures payment of proper wages, a workplace free of retaliation, and fair scheduling and hiring processes for workers in the County.

To date, the OLE has:

- ❖ Helped 2,835 residents receive \$4,314,625 collected in back wages and fines;
- ❖ Educated over 3,000 businesses to ensure compliance through one-on-one consultations and workshops throughout the County's five Supervisorial Districts;

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- ✧ Educated over 5,000 businesses in the County's unincorporated areas on the upcoming minimum wage rate increase;
 - ✧ Cited over 20 establishments for illicit messaging with mal-intent and violations of worker protections, 10 of which have since shuttered; and
 - ✧ Educated 8,000 homeowners in wildfire impacted regions of County ordinances when hiring workers while also educating workers of their rights to prevent worker exploitation and trafficking.

❖ **Wealth-Building and Estate Planning**

Launched in December 2023, the Leaving a Legacy Program provides access to free estate planning and legal services to eligible County residents to support the creation and retention of intergenerational wealth. Since its launch, this program has:

- ✧ Reached 523 households and provided consultations for 1,534 residents to raise awareness about the need and benefits of estate planning;
- ✧ Generated \$137 million in trust-protected assets through a one-time grant investment of \$1.7 million; and
- ✧ Saved residents more than \$620,000 in attorney fees.

❖ **GreenLine Home Program**

The Greenline Home Program addresses historical impacts of redlining by increasing homeownership and wealth-building for marginalized County residents. The program offers eligible first-time homebuyers with a \$35,000 forgivable loan to assist with the down payment and/or closing costs for the purchase of their first home. Since the program launched in January 2024, the program has:

- ✧ Educated more than 3,000 residents on the GreenLine Home program and other available homeowner resources
- ✧ Received 144 GreenLine Home applications; and
- ✧ Awarded \$1.7 million to 50 first-time home buyers with an average home purchase of \$550,000.

❖ **Healthy Food Kickstarter**

DCBA's Healthy Food Kickstarter project increased access to nutritious, local foods in food insecure areas of the County through a combination of grants and technical assistance to local businesses and organizations launching new healthy food initiatives or expanding existing efforts. Since completion of the project in May 2025, the project has:

- ✧ Disbursed \$4,080,000 in grants to 33 grantees;
- ✧ Expanded community food access through integration of Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) discounts and EBT training to grantees; and
- ✧ Conducted 249 one-on-one technical assistance sessions with grantees, both in-person and virtually.

❖ **Rent Relief Program**

The Los Angeles County Rent Relief Program (LARRP) provided direct financial assistance to landlords to mitigate economic impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the program has since completed, LARRP has successfully:

- ✧ Awarded 4,431 grantees with an average award amount of \$17,114 totaling \$75 million in grants disbursed; and

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- ✧ Educated landlords on new tenant protections to support effective eviction prevention strategies.

❖ **Cash Grants to Survivors of Intimate Partner/Domestic Violence**

The Empower-u Fund was designed to provide immediate, minimal barrier financial assistance, with a \$2,500 grant to initially 1,000 domestic and intimate partner violence survivors. Due to the program's success, additional funding was awarded to the program to serve an additional 1,780 survivors. The grants were used to cover relocation expenses, medical bills, and other costs necessary to bolster financial independence amongst survivors. Although the program has since ended, the Empower-u Fund has successfully:

- ✧ Disbursed \$6,950,000 to 2,780 survivor grantees in the form of a \$2,500 grant each; and
- ✧ Provided ongoing wraparound services to grantees, which includes trauma-informed one-on-one and family counseling as well as housing navigation services.

❖ **Expansion of Financial Coaching**

DCBA's Financial Coaching Partnership project was launched to increase the capacity of community-based organizations (CBO) to provide financial coaching and debt avoidance services to residents the County most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The project established a Financial Coaching Certification Training Academy that certifies staff to become financial coaches. CBOs receive a \$12,000 grant for each employee who obtains a certification, creating a network of financial ambassadors across all participating CBOs. Since its launch, the program has:

- ✧ Certified more than 24 CBO staff and distributed grants to each of the participating CBOs totaling over \$320,000; and
- ✧ Provided more than 1,200 hours of free financial coaching to more than 1,000 residents resulting in communities building a collective total of \$200,000 in savings.

Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education (OAECE)

❖ **Financial Incentives for Early Care and Education (ECE)**

Workforce Pathways LA is a comprehensive workforce development model that supports early educators in their professional growth. The stipend and newly launched apprenticeship program support early educators in center-based care, family childcare settings, and family, friends, and neighbors working to become licensed family childcare providers. To date, Workforce Pathways LA has:

- ✧ Processed \$1,852,550 in financial stipends for 1,134 early educators who improved their qualifications across the areas listed below:
 - 14 stipend awards were for completing child development training or obtaining a Family Child Care Home License.
 - 564 stipend awards were for completing 21 hours of professional development.
 - 449 stipend awards were for completing college courses.
 - 50 stipend awards were for obtaining an initial Child Development Permit.
 - 57 stipend awards were for achieving an associate or bachelor's degree.
 - 630 WPLA participants received at least one session of college and career advisement.

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- ✧ Provided \$1,365,000 in support of apprenticeship programs in partnership with DEO.
 - 126 newly enrolled Early Care and Education apprentices receiving laptops, tutoring, and on-the-job wages.

Los Angeles City, Community Investment for Families Department

❖ Solid Ground Homelessness Prevention Program Expansion

The Solid Ground Homelessness Prevention Program was successfully integrated into CIFD's broader anti-poverty initiatives. The program, created in 2020, aims to slow the inflow into the homelessness system by providing supportive services, temporary financial assistance, and financial coaching to participants with the goal of stabilizing their living conditions. Program services are administered through the City's 19 Family Source Centers as part of a strategic expansion that launched in July 2023. Since the expansion, the program has:

- ✧ Provided financial assistance totaling over \$6.5 million to 1,197 households, impacting 4,647 individuals; and
- ✧ This support has been instrumental in preventing these households from experiencing homelessness, demonstrating the effectiveness of an integrated approach to combating poverty and homelessness.

California State

❖ CalKIDS

CalKIDS is a children's savings account program that is funded by the State. The program is being administered by the ScholarShare Investment Board and provides each child born in California, foster youth, youth experiencing homelessness, and other eligible low-income public-school students with up to \$1,500 in grant scholarships. Funds can be withdrawn tax-free for educational expenses.

- ✧ The City in partnership with the County conducted an outreach campaign as part of our broader tax outreach efforts during the 2024 tax season to encourage potentially eligible people to register while they filed their taxes.
- ✧ The State released an updated campaign and marketing toolkit that will be leveraged for future planning around local outreach efforts.

First 5 LA

❖ Increasing Family, Friends, and Neighbors who Provide Childcare

Advanced the fourth year of a five-year initiative focused on increasing home-based childcare, which is childcare offered in a provider's home or in the child's home. Home-based childcare is the most common form of nonparental childcare for Infants, toddlers, and historically marginalized families. This initiative is aimed at progressing the targeted recommendation from [The Landscape of Home-Based Child Care in Los Angeles County: A Framework for Future Planning](#). To date, the initiative has:

- ✧ Funded and regularly convened the collaborative Home-Based Child Care Strategy Group composed of system partners and home-based early educators to guide implementation of the Framework for Future Planning;
- ✧ Connected childcare providers to health care options and the health care reimbursement program offered by the Child Care Providers United (CCPU) union;

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- ✦ Designed and launched a pilot for a one-stop shop resource information hub tailored to Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) and Family Child Care (FCC) providers;
 - ✦ Developed partnerships with food access organizations to uplift the needs of home-based childcare providers and the children they serve; and
 - ✦ Launched the Thriving Providers Project in April 2025, a bi-monthly direct cash transfer to 25 FFN providers for 18 months. Visión y Compromiso, a trusted community partner with deep experience in connecting to FFN providers, was selected to lead the project through implementation, income distribution, education, health and safety trainings, leadership development, and mental health support.

Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)

❖ High Road Training Partnerships (HRTPs)

A H RTP is a workforce development model that addresses industry needs while creating pathways to quality jobs. By bringing together workers, employers, labor, community organizations, and training institutions, HRTPs deliver industry-informed training in high-growth sectors like construction, healthcare, and advanced manufacturing. Focused on job quality, climate resilience, and economic inclusion, HRTPs effectively reduce poverty through prioritizing communities most impacted by systemic barriers and connecting them to stable careers with long-term advancement potential.

In 2022, DEO launched a \$37.4 million H RTP initiative, initially funding projects in construction, early care and education, aerospace, healthcare, and the creative economy. In April 2025, DEO launched a competitive H RTP Fund with \$17.8 million of the total investment to support new or expanding partnerships. To date:

- ✦ 450 individuals have enrolled, with 380 (84.4 percent) graduating from training and 335 (88.2 percent of graduates) securing high-road employment.
- ✦ The H RTP Fund aims to serve approximately 1,300 additional County residents.

❖ Preparing Los Angeles for County Employment (PLACE): A Public Sector H RTP

The County's Preparing Los Angeles for County Employment (PLACE) program is the County's own public sector H RTP. As the region's largest high-road employer, the County has a tremendous opportunity to help County residents experiencing poverty with equitable access to more than 100,000 high-quality public sector jobs that provide family-sustaining wages. PLACE prioritizes individuals facing barriers to employment and delivers six to eight weeks of customized professional development training, Civil Service exam preparation, stipends, and wrap around services. To date, the program has:

- ✦ Successfully employed 378 participants across 13 County departments; and
- ✦ Coordination, in partnership with the Department of Human Resources, across all 38 County departments to identify additional hiring and training needs to expand to more than 150 PLACE hires annually.

❖ Worker Equity Fund

Traditional workforce funds help offset H RTP tuition, but rarely cover essential living or emergency expenses for participants, which are key barriers for the communities we serve, even small financial setbacks can prevent enrollment or hinder program completion. To address this, DEO launched the Worker Equity Fund, investing \$2 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to provide \$1,500 in cash assistance to each H RTP participant

to cover basic needs such as rent, childcare, transportation, and legal aid. This support boosts retention and employment outcomes for our H RTP programs. To date, the Worker Equity Fund has:

- ✦ Distributed \$817,500 to 545 H RTP participants, resulting in 360 (66 percent) training completions and 206 (57 percent) employment, or job outcomes.

❖ **Youth@Work Elevate**

This program offers paid work experience in a high-growth sector, or with an employer offering high-road jobs, a proven anti-poverty strategy for youth that strengthens outcomes across education, employment, and lifelong earnings. DEO's Youth@Work program supports up to 10,000 young adults annually with professional development and their first paid work experience. In 2022, leveraging ARPA funds, DEO launched Youth@Work Elevate, an enhanced version of the traditional Youth@Work program. Enhancements included an expansion of paid work experience hours from 120-160 hours to 400 hours, integration of universal mentorship, and outreach prioritization to youth with high need, including youth impacted by COVID-19, foster youth, youth experiencing homelessness, and other vulnerable youth populations. Since the program launch, Youth@Work Elevate has received over 1,900 applications resulting in 1,157 youth enrolled. DEO is partnering with DCFS to expand the program to more than 100 foster youth currently enrolled in the latest expansion of Breathe: LA County's Guaranteed Income Program, with an anticipated launch in October 2025. To date, the program has:

- ✦ Matched 958 youth to a paid work experience with an employer;
- ✦ Provided 1,052 youth with personal enrichment training;
- ✦ Engaged 912 youth in group mentoring sessions;
- ✦ Secured unsubsidized employment for 536 youth, with 161 receiving employment in a high growth sector; and
- ✦ Enrolled 55 youth in post-secondary education or advanced training.

❖ **Economic Mobility Initiative**

The Economic Mobility Initiative (EMI) empowers County small business owners, entrepreneurs, and non-profits in highest need communities by providing tailored support that helps them start up and grow while supporting economic mobility and building intergenerational wealth. EMI launched in March 2024 through a \$24 million ARPA funded investment, aligning more than 15 partners through DEO-led coordination to deliver interconnected services across three spokes based on the highest known barriers for small businesses:

- ✦ *Business Supportive Services:* This program provides entrepreneurship cohort-based academies that offer education for early-stage business owners and entrepreneurs. Academies offer access to networking, mentorship, stipends, and on-going support opportunities. The academy cohorts began in July 2024, with the final academy running through July 2025. Academy cohorts are also offered specialized training, counseling, and technical assistance to equip small businesses and nonprofits with tools to enhance their capacity and revenue potential. This includes a certification and government contracting training bootcamp, a social enterprise training and support academy, and employee ownership transition services. DEO aimed to engage 10,000 small businesses and non-profits with 890 entrepreneurs and businesses graduating from the academies. To date the program has:
 - Outreached to nearly 215,000 businesses virtually and 6,235 businesses in-person;

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- Completed business, financial, and marketing plans for 1,221 graduates of the cohort-based academies;
 - Assessed three businesses for transition to an employee ownership model; and
 - Provided certifications in government contracting for 460 businesses, 25 of which are now registered as LA County vendors.
- ✧ *Commercial Acquisition Fund:* This program spoke provided \$500,000 to \$2 million in grants to qualifying nonprofit organizations to support the acquisition of seven vacant or abandoned properties in highest need communities. While six of the seven properties are going through planning, design, feasibility, and construction phases, one entity has already partially opened.
 - ✧ *Small Business Mobility Fund Formalization Grant Program:* This program spoke offers a pathway to formalize an informal business, a powerful tool for poverty alleviation as it opens doors to economic opportunities and protections that informal businesses often lack. In recognition of the unique barriers that exist specifically for our sidewalk vendors looking to participate in the formal economy, DEO launched this \$1 million grant program to distribute grants of \$500 to \$5,000 to sidewalk vendors that operate within the unincorporated areas of the County to assist with meeting eligibility requirements for permitting, as well as compliance-related costs and specific business needs.

❖ Economic Opportunity Grant

The Economic Opportunity Grant (EOG) Program streamlined access to nearly \$56 million in ARPA and state funds, providing \$2,500 to \$25,000 grants to help small businesses, nonprofits, and microbusinesses recover and grow post-pandemic. The EOG was offered in four phases starting in February 2023 and ended in December 2024. With the latest phase of grants planned to disburse in June 2025, the program has:

- ✧ Received over 86,500 applicants with 5,151 grants distributed making the program one of the largest locally operated business grant programs in the nation. Last phase of grant distribution will be completed by the end of Summer 2025.

Food Equity Roundtable

❖ Increasing Food Access

Through the completion of the mapping of food access and food deserts last year, the Food Equity Roundtable has since established the County's Office of Food Systems in January 2025. The public-private partnership functions as an innovation hub to support collaboration among diverse stakeholders and address food system challenges. The Office of Food Systems has subsequently supported multiple food system partners with developing new projects in pursuit of increasing equitable and sustainable access to food across the County. Additionally, the Food Equity Roundtable supported continued disbursements of Food Equity Grants, which to date has:

- ✧ Released \$20 million in community grants to more than 75 organizations and community partners to fund projects targeting root causes of local food insecurity; and
- ✧ Supported more than 60,000 residents through projects that include nutrition education and promotion, food access, job creation, strengthening our existing food systems, and expanding food distribution efforts.

In Early Stages of Implementation

City Community Investment for Families Department (CIFD)

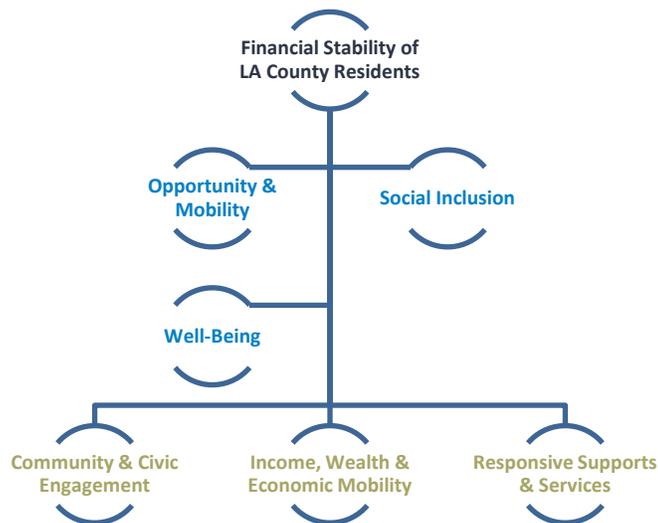
LA City Emergency Fund

With the recent Victims of Crime Act funding cuts, the City has redefined the target population for the LA Emergency Fund to prioritize survivors. The fund aids vulnerable survivors of domestic violence, intimate partner violence, human trafficking, and other forms of violence through securing safe, permanent housing. The fund launched in January 2025 with the selection of ten contracted providers. Providers administer housing and financial empowerment-focused case management paired with time-limited financial assistance to support housing stabilization. Providers receive specialized training in financial coaching through a trauma-informed lens. Now that providers have been selected and are moving through specialized training, the program anticipates disbursement of \$1.6 million in project funding with the goal of serving 570 individual survivors, annually.

Next Steps

In partnership with UCLA, ISD, and the CIO, PAI has officially launched the five-year meta evaluation of all 25 PAI projects to demonstrate the impact that these initiatives are making on our shared goal of alleviating poverty. The evaluation will include three components:

- ✧ **Trend Analysis:** as the first phase of the evaluation, the [PAI State of Poverty Dashboard](#) has been released to demonstrate how our diverse communities experience poverty at the neighborhood level. Currently, the dashboard incorporates three measures of poverty (100% of the Federal Poverty Level, 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, and 266% of the Federal Poverty Level) and will expand to include the California Poverty Measure, a methodology produced by Stanford in 2023, and a local County-specific poverty measure in development with the UCLA research team. Future iterations of the dashboard will incorporate layers that will show benefit access rates, PAI priority project outcomes, and other administrative data to strategically inform how the County is driving impact towards alleviating poverty and where stronger investments may be needed.
- ✧ **Conceptual Model Analysis:** as the second phase of the evaluation, the conceptual model, illustrated below, will identify indicators across all 25 PAI projects. The indicators will measure impact across the three primary outcome measures included in the model: 1) Community and Civic Engagement, 2) Income, Wealth, and Economic Mobility, and 3) Responsive Supports and Services.



- ✧ **Qualitative Analysis:** as the third and final phase of the evaluation, a qualitative study will be conducted based on a mix of surveys and interviews across both participants or recipients of services offered through the 25 PAI projects and individuals who did not receive PAI project services but are living in neighborhoods with higher concentration of poverty.

To stay up to date with PAI's evaluation effort, you can visit us online at <https://ceo.lacounty.gov/pai/> where updates will be posted as they become available. With excitement, we look forward to accomplishing many more milestones and goals as we step together into the fourth year of implementation of the PAI strategic framework.