Attachment

County of Los Angeles
Poverty Alleviation Initiative
PATHWAYS TO THRIVE

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

# Year Four Update

Los Angeles County
Poverty Alleviation Initiative
Chief Executive Office

[http://ceo.lacounty.gov/pai](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: Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS); Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA); Internal Services Department (ISD); Department of Public Social Services (DPSS); Office of Child Protection (OCP); Chief Information Office (CIO); Department of Homeless Services and Housing (HSH); Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO); Department of Public Health (DPH); Aging and Disabilities Department (A&D); CEO Center for Strategic Partnerships (CSP); First 5 LA; California Department of Social Services (CDSS); National Council of Jewish Women Los Angeles (NCJWLA); Los Angeles Regional Food Bank (LARFB); Strength Based Community Change (SBCC); United Parents and Students (UPAS); LA City Community Investment for Families Department; California Policy Lab (CPL); Hilton Foundation; Immigrants are Los Angeles (IRLA); End Poverty in California (EPIC); and Economic Security California.

- Launched a Countywide pledge to reduce poverty through targeted outreach in partnership with the County's 88 cities.
- Distributed more than 7 million pounds of food to CalFresh recipients and communities impacted by the federal government shutdown and H.R. 1 policy changes.
- Raised $800,000 in partnership with IRLA to fund 45 older adults with $1,200 monthly for a one-year guaranteed income project.
- Funded a $4 million CalWORKs benefit cliff mitigation project, launching in early 2027.
- Raised $500,000 in partnership with the Hilton Foundation to sustain and update the newly released *PAI State of Poverty Dashboard*.

## Key Partner-Led Accomplishments This Year

- The State launched the California Kids Investment and Development Savings Program (CalKIDS) marketing and outreach campaign, contributing to the more than 6 million claimed accounts, officially marking the $2.2 billion program as the nation’s largest children's savings account program.
- DEO launched the Fire Recovery and Resilience Workforce Program, supporting 1,000 dislocated workers impacted by the January 2025 wildfires through a $14.2 million investment providing recovery-focused employment and training opportunities.
- DCBA launched the Los Angeles County Emergency Rent Relief Program (ERRP), disbursing $15.8 million to 1,752 grantees experiencing emergency-related financial hardship such as unpaid rent, mortgage, utilities, or other related housing expenses.
- First 5 LA launched a second cohort of Thriving Providers Project, providing 25 Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) childcare providers impacted by the January 2025 wildfires with 18 months of direct cash assistance focused on recovery and training access.

- DPH Office of Advancement for Early Care and Education processed $1,952,763 in financial stipends to 1,184 early educators for achieving quality milestones through training.

# Introduction

In July 2022, the Los Angeles County (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted the 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. Each year, PAI focuses on five priority actions chosen because of their level of relevance, readiness, impact, and commitment by partners to achieve them. Each priority action is strongly supported by residents and community-based organizations who participated in the listening sessions that drove framework development.

Five priority actions for year four:

- **Maximizing guaranteed income resources available**
- **Reforming General Relief (GR)**
- **Improving benefit access and equity in CalWORKs**
- **Increasing tax credit filings**
- **Aligning cities through shared anti-poverty goals**

While some of the priorities have shifted from our initial priorities 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 22 of the additional priorities led by other partners.

## PAI Strategic Framework Priorities

### 1) Maximizing Guaranteed Income Resources Available

Guaranteed income, and other similar forms of direct cash assistance, remain an effective strategy towards alleviating poverty while also improving health and well-being outcomes. Research and evidence across hundreds of demonstration projects continue to prove that guaranteed income provides community 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.

#### ❖ Policy and Legislative Advocacy

The County continues to support legislation that expands 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 bill:

- ✧ Assembly Bill 1661 (Bryan) – This bill would provide an initial investment of $5 million in direct cash assistance to families harmed by pollution linked to the Inglewood Oil Field. Revenue to sustain the program would be generated by previous legislation that required companies contributing to pollution caused by oil drilling to pay into a State community recovery fund.

#### ❖ Guaranteed Income Coordinating Council (GICC)

The GICC consists of representatives from the County and our partners behind the 15 guaranteed income projects launched throughout the County. The GICC meets quarterly and continues to build the evidence base demonstrating the positive impact and efficacy of guaranteed income, while also contributing to national, statewide, and local narrative change work. This year, the GICC coordinated with a philanthropic investment to produce a best practices guide published by Urban Institute, a private research organization. The guide, *How to Build A guaranteed Income Program and Coalition*, offers insight to other jurisdictions around sustainability planning, local coordination, implementation strategies, and other best practices.

#### ❖ Breathe: Los Angeles County's Guaranteed Income Program (Breathe)

Breathe provided 1,000 randomly selected residents with $1,000 per month for three years. In June 2023, the program expanded to include 200 former DCFS foster youth between the ages of 21 and 23, providing $1,000 per month for two years. Breathe expanded in August 2025 however the evaluation for the project, led by the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Guaranteed Income Research in partnership with UCLA, will continue through the end of 2026 with a final report anticipated for release in early 2027. Breathe is run in partnership with SBCC, DCFS, DCBA, DPSS, CEO-CSP, CEO-CIO, CEO-Countywide Communications, ISD, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, and County Counsel. Philanthropic partners include the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, First 5 LA, California Endowment, California Wellness Foundation, James Irvine Foundation, Kresge Foundation, and the Weingart Foundation.

Breathe created the foundation for opportunities to facilitate additional guaranteed income or similar projects in the County. Breathe has since been leveraged to:

- Early Needs Response for Infant and Child Health (ENRICH), funded by DCFS, leveraged Breathe to offer 2,200 foster youth between the ages of 18 and 21 stipends for up to 18 months. Stipends ranging from $500 monthly to $1,500 quarterly were distributed between October 2024 and March 2026. An evaluation of the program is being facilitated by UCLA and will be available in the Fall of 2026.
- GR Guaranteed Income, funded by DPSS through Measure A, will begin in October 2026, offering $550 monthly or a lump sum of $3,000 with an additional $300 monthly for two-years to 700 participants. The program will target older adults and transition-aged youth enrolled in GR and experiencing or at-risk of experiencing homelessness. California Policy Lab is conducting an evaluation and will offer recommendations for modifying future iterations of the program.
- Care First, Community Investment funded more than $800,000 towards a guaranteed income project leveraging Breathe and a project design proposed by IRLA will enroll 45 older adults and provide $1,200 monthly for one-year. The project will launch in late 2026 and will be administered by a local community-based organization.

## ❖ Additional Guaranteed Income Efforts

In addition to Breathe, the County administers three guaranteed income programs:

- **Abundant Birth** - Launched by DPH in January 2024, the program enrolled 410 expectant mothers and birthing people offering 18 months of $807 in monthly cash assistance as well as coaching support. The program, scheduled to conclude in December 2026, is led in partnership with CDSS and will be evaluated by Urban Institute with findings released in 2028.
- **FLEX Card Program** - Launched by DPH in September 2024, the program enrolled 1,505 individuals living with HIV offering $400 monthly for 6 months in prepaid gift cards. Evaluation was conducted by DPH. A key outcome in the evaluation found that 54% of participants that were not immuno-suppressed at time of enrollment became suppressed within one-year of enrollment, meaning the program likely contributed to significant increases in suppression.
- **TAYportunity** - Launched by DPSS in 2022, the program enrolled 300 transition-aged youth between the ages of 18 and 24 that were recipients of GR, offering $1,000 monthly for three-years. The program concluded in February 2026 and is being evaluated by JAIN Family Institute and NYU with findings available in Fall of 2026.

Additionally, PAI is supporting our GICC partners at NCJWLA with a new and emerging guaranteed income program:

- NCJWLA, along with their partners at the Altadena Community Land Trust and the Altadena Tenants Union, launched the Direct Cash for Altadena Fire Recovery program. Through its initial launch and first cohort, the program will provide two years of direct cash assistance, totaling $36,000, to 30 renters. The project is funded by philanthropy and is seeking additional philanthropic funds to meet the community need. As most supports post-recovery focused primarily on property owners, the program aims to serve the more than 25% of impacted Altadena residents that are renters, and 91% of which were uninsured or substantially underinsured.

## 2) Reforming GR

DPSS's GR program is a County-funded program that provides time-limited cash assistance and supportive services to single adults and couples without dependents who need financial support. PAI and DPSS, along with key partners, are developing policy and practice reforms, including those addressing housing needs, connections to mental health services, and better economic opportunities for the more than 115,000 GR recipients enrolled in the program each month.

### ❖ GR Redesign

This year, DPSS and PAI launched the steering committee and contributor groups, in addition to the larger GR Redesign Table introduced last year, to participate in the development of critical policy and program reform recommendations. The GR Redesign webpage was announced to keep community partners and stakeholders updated on progress of the GR Redesign project. The first phase of policy recommendations is planned to be shared in late 2026. Given the challenges the County is facing fiscally, a primary focus for the Redesign effort has been on policy recommendations that have minimal to no cost impact, but still drive significant positive impact for GR recipients. This year, the GR Redesign project has:

- Convened, on a bi-monthly basis, the GR Redesign steering committee and contributor groups representing various County departments, community-based partners, lived-experience, DPSS staff, and advocacy groups;
- Convened the GR Redesign Table through quarterly meetings, which are open to all partners interested in the GR Redesign project, offering an opportunity to provide all stakeholders across the County with progress updates on GR Redesign efforts; and
- Launched Deep Dive Meetings in January 2026 to discuss the three core interdependent GR policies that govern the program: grant amount, time limits, and mandatory work requirements.

## 3) Improving Benefits Access and Equity in CalWORKs

PAI joined a statewide partnership known as the Benefits Access and Equity (BAE) group, led by End Poverty in California and several other nonprofit partners. BAE works in coordination with local jurisdictions to develop pilot concepts that inform broader policy changes to CalWORKs, our TANF-funded cash assistance and safety net program for low-income families. Through participation in BAE and in partnership with DPSS, Social Finance, and UPAS, PAI began building the groundwork for a pilot project to mitigate the "benefits cliff" many families on CalWORKs face when they begin to earn income. As families obtain employment and increase income, they often become immediately ineligible for CalWORKs, losing access to cash assistance and supportive services that offered family stability (i.e., subsidized childcare, housing assistance, mental health services, etc.). This abrupt loss is often referred to as the "benefits cliff" and can often place families in a worse position economically, inadvertently penalizing families for achieving a key milestone in the program.

### ❖ CalWORKs Benefit Cliff Mitigation Project

Social Finance, a national nonprofit research agency with expertise in benefit and safety net programs, is integrating nationally recognized best practices with the voices of local CalWORKs families captured by UPAS to develop the initial project design. The project will provide CalWORKs families with continued payments and connections to continued service for a buffer period between the start of employment and the eventual loss of benefits.

This year, the project has:

- ✧ Secured $4 million in funding from philanthropy and the State to launch an initial 2-year project in 2027;
- ✧ Co-created a working theory of change, project plan, and preliminary pilot design informed by CalWORKs families through our partnership with Social Finance and UPAS, launching a series of lived-experience community engagement sessions;
- ✧ Engaged in a landscape analysis of successful models from other jurisdictions through our recent selection and grant award to participate in the national Beyond the Cliff Coalition, comprised of representatives across all 50 states, with our project serving as the representative for the State of California; and
- ✧ Presented at the State of California CalWORKs Training Academy on the pilot project with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), sharing our plan to integrate learnings from the project to shape future statewide policy.

## 4) Increasing Tax Credit Filings

Each year, the County residents forego an estimated $500 million in federal tax credits, either by not filing their tax returns or by not claiming these credits. In response, PAI has partnered with DCBA, DPSS, DEO, A&D, Los Angeles City, DPH, KYCC, Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Golden State Opportunity, Economic Security California, and the CDSS to administer the *Claim Your Cash Los Angeles (CYCLA)* project. The project aligns messaging, outreach, and media campaigns geared toward low-income residents eligible for free tax preparation services offered through the federal and state funded VITA program. Each year, CYCLA expands and tracks the impact of outreach to residents connected to County administered services, 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 for those who are eligible.

Since launch in 2022, CYCLA has raised more than $700,000 from philanthropy to support expansion that now includes co-located free tax preparation sites with County departments, streamlined volunteer pathways to become a VITA free tax preparer with participating County departments, and increased referral capacity through a CYCLA dedicated, easy to navigate webpage, and customer service call center.

### ❖ Coordinated Countywide Efforts

Through data collected for the 2025 tax filing year, CYCLA was able to capture key outcomes relative to the new expansion of collocated free tax preparation services with County departments. It is important to note that this component of the expansion was the result of a direct investment of $100,000 from philanthropy and successfully achieved:

- ✧ Nearly 800 tax filings at three DPSS office locations offering collocated free tax preparation services during the tax season;
- ✧ More than $1.2 million in tax refunds back to DPSS families which, when applying the standard local multiplier (1.2 to 1.5) produces an estimated local economic impact of nearly $1.5 million to more than $1.8 million spent in communities with high concentrations of poverty;
- ✧ More than $500,000 claimed in federal and State Earned Income Tax Credits; and
- ✧ More than $156,000 claimed in previous years unclaimed Child Tax Credits.

With an investment that yields a 1,100% rate of return, resulting in 12 dollars back to communities for each one dollar invested, PAI will continue to support CYCLA as a key anti-poverty strategy. Next year, CYCLA plans to expand collocation to two additional DPSS office locations with a goal of fundraising more than $500,000 from philanthropy over the next two tax seasons.

## 5) Aligning Cities through Shared Anti-Poverty Goals

On April 7, 2026, the Board, led by Supervisors Holly J. Mitchell and Lindsey P. Horvath, adopted a motion directing PAI to launch a countywide anti-poverty pledge, calling on all 88 cities across the County to join as partners in a proactive approach to mitigate and prevent poverty.

### ❖ A Pledge for Shared Prosperity

On May 7, 2026, PAI announced the final pledge name and language, developed in collaboration with community partners through a series of four in person and virtual engagement sessions. A Pledge for Shared Prosperity aims to bring our cities together and achieve three countywide goals:

- Increase CalWORKs enrollment by 10,000 families countywide;
- Increase cashback through free tax preparation services by 10% over two years; and
- Promote the Keep Your Benefits Campaign to help families maintain CalFresh and Medi-Cal enrollment.

On June 15, 2026, the webpage for the pledge was unveiled which now allows cities to sign on to the pledge. The webpage also provides cities with critical technical assistance, an implementation guide, and catered access to PAI's State of Poverty Dashboard. The Dashboard was updated to allow cities to toggle through city-specific anti-poverty data and data relative to the three pledge goals. Cities are encouraged to leverage the dashboard to develop targeted outreach strategies and track progress through pledge participation.

In Fall of 2026, micrograms will be available to Community Health Workers/Promotores/Representatives (CHW/P/R) in cities that have signed on to the pledge to facilitate grassroot level outreach. Grants will be administered by our partners at the County CHW/P/R Consortium, a collaborative of community-based organizations (CBO) and health system organizations.

PAI will share progress on the webpage, including announcements of cities as they sign on to the pledge, progress made towards each of the three pledge goals, and grant releases, once launched.

# Partner-Led Strategic Framework Priorities

Listed below is the progress made on the 22 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.

To date, the project has:

- Established the DPSS Collaboration, Accountability, Responsiveness, and Empathy (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, which will be completed for all district offices by the end of calendar year 2026. Another example is the revitalization of an employee recognition award program, CARE Values Awards, to celebrate individuals and teams that exemplify excellence in customer service. To date, the CARE committee has:
  - Launched the CARE Values Awards in December of 2025, recognizing 24 employees for their outstanding service in the categories of Innovation, Outstanding Customer Service, Quality Control/Productivity, and Teamwork. Awards will continue in December, annually.
  - Created a streamlined process for all offices to recognize excellent customer service on an ongoing basis. This process would digitize the current monthly "You Matter Award" nominations, creating a stronger incentive for employees to participate and foster a supportive culture centered around excellence.
- Operationalized a customer experience data collection process for the DPSS CARE Committee to 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 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:
  - 86% of customers that visited district and regional office lobbies for in-person services rated their overall satisfaction with their visit as meeting or exceeding expectations. 88% shared their issue was resolved by the end of their visit.
  - 74% of customers that telephoned DPSS Customer Service Centers for both intake and case maintenance services rated their phone call as meeting or exceeding expectations. 73% shared that their issue was resolved by the end of their call.
  - 77% of customers that telephoned DPSS In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Helpline Customer Service Centers rated their phone call as meeting or exceeding expectations. 80% 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 3,685 residents receive $4,877,907 collected in back wages and fines;
- ✧ Educated more than 3,200 local businesses to ensure compliance through one-on-one consultations and workshops throughout the County's five Supervisorial Districts;
- ✧ Educated 980 workers in the County's unincorporated areas on the upcoming minimum wage rate increase and other labor laws through OLE's contract with the Los Angeles Worker Center Network;
- ✧ Cited more than 25 establishments for illicit messaging with mal-intent and violations of worker protections;
- ✧ Mailed information on County labor law ordinances to 2,050 businesses in wildfire impacted regions; and
- ✧ Mailed information on County ordinances related to hiring workers and worker rights protections to 8,230 homeowners in wildfire impacted regions to prevent labor exploitation and trafficking.

### ❖ 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 was launched in January 2024, the program has:

- ✧ Educated more than 4,689 residents on the Greenline Home Program through workshops and other available homeowner resources;
- ✧ Received 367 Greenline Home Program applications;
- ✧ Awarded $3.6 million to 102 first-time home buyers with an average home purchase of $551,000; and
- ✧ Generated more than $54.5 million in home sales across the County.

### ❖ Emergency Rent Relief Program

The County's ERRP was launched on December 17, 2025, providing emergency rent and mortgage relief to eligible landlords, tenants, and some displaced homeowners experiencing unpaid rent, mortgage, utilities, or other related housing expenses due emergency-related financial hardship, such as the January 2025 wildfires. The program prioritizes small landlords, vulnerable tenants, and high-need communities, while helping prevent evictions, stabilize households, and preserve rental housing in the County. Eligible applicants may receive up to six months of relief, capped at $15,000 per rental unit with limited exceptions, with community-based partners available to help applicants through the process. Since launched, ERRP has:

- ✧ Received over 31,000 applications from landlords and tenants; and
- ✧ Approved approximately $15.8 million in disbursement supporting 1,752 households.

### ❖ Household Relief Grant

The Household Relief Grant (HRG) launched in response to the January 2025 wildfires and provided flexible financial assistance to households directly impacted by the Eaton and Palisades wildfires, with priority given to residents who experienced the most severe losses, including destroyed or uninhabitable homes and fire-related casualties. The HRG used an equity-centered prioritization process to focus resources on households with significant vulnerabilities and unmet needs, including renters, uninsured or underinsured households, seniors, people with disabilities, and households receiving public benefits. Eligible households received grants of $6,000, $12,000, or $18,000 based on household size and composition. Grants were used to help cover fire-related costs not covered by insurance or other assistance and to support short-term recovery and stabilization. The HRG has successfully:

- ✧ Funded 3,425 households in response to the more than 11,200 applications received; and
- ✧ Disbursed approximately $31.79 million in direct financial assistance.

### ❖ Expansion of Financial Coaching

DCBA's Financial Coaching Partnership project was launched to increase the capacity of CBOs to provide financial coaching and debt avoidance services to residents of the County that were 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 2,757 hours of free financial coaching to more than 2,000 residents resulting in communities building a collective total of $400,000 in savings.

## Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education

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

Workforce Pathways LA (WPLA) is a comprehensive workforce development program that supports early educators in their professional growth and career advancement. The program's stipend initiative and newly launched apprenticeship community of practice provide support to early educators working in early learning centers, family childcare homes, and Family, FFN care settings. The program also assists FFN providers who are working toward becoming licensed family childcare providers. To date, WPLA has:

- ✧ Processed $1,952,763 in financial stipends for 1,184 early educators who improved their qualifications across the areas listed below:
    - 27 stipend awards for completing child development training or obtaining a Family Child Care Home License.
    - 564 stipend awards for completing 21 hours of professional development.
    - 461 stipend awards for completing college courses.

- 54 stipend awards for obtaining an initial Child Development Permit.
- 80 stipend awards for achieving an associate or bachelor's degree.
- 693 WPLA participants received at least 1 session of college and career advisement.
- 148 WPLA participants completed antibias training, *Embarking on Our Anti-Bias Journey to Transform ECE/Embarcando en nuestro viaje contra sesgos para transformar la educación infantile*.

✧ Provided $150,000 to support the apprenticeship community of practice in partnership with the Los Angeles Education Partnership, resulting in:

- 223 early educators' participation in professional development training focused on strengthening inclusive practices, family engagement, and early identification strategies within ECE; and
- 2 convenings of apprenticeship-focused learning sessions that brought together 22 participants representing 13 organizations across the County and California to develop shared ECE apprenticeship goals.

## Los Angeles City, Community Investment for Families Department

### ❖ Solid Ground Homelessness Prevention Program Expansion

The Solid Ground Homelessness Prevention Program, created in 2020, aims to slow the inflow into the homelessness system by providing supportive services, temporary financial assistance, and financial coaching to help participants stabilize their living conditions. The program is administered through the City's 19 FamilySource Centers as part of a strategic expansion that was launched in July 2023. Since the expansion, the program has:

✧ Provided financial assistance totaling more than $10 million to 1,951 households, impacting 7,495 individuals; and

✧ Established instrumental support in preventing households from experiencing homelessness, demonstrating the effectiveness of an integrated approach to combating poverty and homelessness.

### ❖ LA City Emergency Fund

The LA City Emergency Fund, launched in January 2025, aids vulnerable survivors of domestic violence, intimate partner violence, human trafficking, and other forms of violence through securing safe, permanent housing. A network of 10 contracted providers administers housing and financial empowerment-focused case management paired with time-limited financial assistance to support housing stabilization. The network of providers received specialized training to ensure services offered are trauma informed. Services include participant training focused on budgeting, credit repair, debt management, and financial wellness. Since launched, the LA City Emergency Fund has:

✧ Provided approximately $635,000 in cash assistance to 456 participants.

## California State

### ❖ California Kids Investment and Development Savings Program

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 automatic scholarship accounts to millions of California children and students, with funds designated for college and career training expenses. CalKIDS is now, officially, the largest auto-enrolled child savings account program in the United States, with over 6 million opened accounts and more than $2.2 billion invested in children's futures to date. Key outreach efforts led by the state and administered locally include:

- Launched the first phase of a partnership with the California Student Aid Commission in October of 2025, integrating CalKIDS into WebGrants 4 Students, the portal through which students and families navigate the Free Application of Federal Student Aid and California Dream Act Application. High school counselors now have access to a CalKIDS Dashboard, allowing them to see claim rates by county, school district, and school site for students in grades 9-12 resulting in nearly 150,000 students using CalKIDS scholarship funds toward their academic success at a college or career training program.
- Launched a statewide marketing campaign in late 2025, with actress America Ferrera as the spokesperson, resulting in more than 25 million virtual impressions, driving more families and eligible students to claim accounts.
- Launched a CalWORKs text campaign, pushing more than 1.7 million messages to eligible families, including more than 300,000 families here in the County.

While efforts this year have increased claim rates of accounts, there remain millions of accounts unclaimed. The State Treasurer marked a goal of increasing the rate of accounts claimed to 25% next fiscal year. The County will continue to engage in local marketing and outreach efforts, integrating CalKIDS into Poverty Alleviation Initiatives Countywide anti-poverty pledge.

## First 5 LA

### ❖ Increasing Family, Friends, and Neighbors who Provide Child Care

An advanced organization initiative focused on increasing home-based childcare, which is childcare offered in a provider's home or in the child's home and primarily includes providers that are FFN. 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 early home-based educators to guide implementation of the Framework for Future Planning;
- Maintained the recently launched one-stop shop resource information hub tailored to FFN and Family Child Care providers; and
- Convened Child Care Resource and Referral agencies with Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) sponsors to support linkages of nutrition programs and resources with home-based providers.

### ❖ The Thriving Providers Project

The Thriving Providers Project (TPP) is a guaranteed income program that launched in April 2025 as part of a broader project, Home Grown. TPP provides participants with bi-monthly direct cash transfers for 18 months and optional training opportunities for FFN caregivers. The initial cohort included 25 FFN caregivers. A second cohort of 25 additional FFN caregivers launched in February 2026, prioritizing fire-impacted caregivers, with 5 caregivers experiencing total loss of residence and 12 additional caregivers experiencing hardship due to the January 2025 wildfires. To date, TPP has:

- Supported more than 70% of FFN caregivers in the initial cohort with optional training activities including CPR certification provided in partnership with Visión y Compromiso;
- Provided access across both cohorts to free legal counsel on federal immigration actions and policy changes provided in partnership with Public Counsel;
- Stabilized caregivers across each cohort, based on early findings from Standford Center on Early Childhood research, which found that participating caregivers agree or strongly agree that payments help them to continue working as a childcare provider; and
- Developed an initial series of recommendations to increase access to and strengthen the provision of FFN care in the County through the following three priorities:
  - Engage decision-makers on the critical role of FFN care and advocate for an equitable childcare system that recognizes FFN caregivers as a core part of the ECE system, elevates FFN care in ECE policy and budget decisions, and increases the visibility of FFN caregiving across workforce, economic security, and family-wellbeing decisions.
  - Increase FFN caregiver access to food and nutrition programs for both them and the children in their care, ensuring inclusion of FFN caregivers in CACFP funded resources.
  - Expand access to culturally and linguistically affirming quality improvement opportunities that support FFN caregivers through trusted community-based organizations, specifically building on partnerships with organizations run by and for Black, Indigenous, Latine, and immigrant communities.

## Office of Food Systems

### ❖ Food Base LA Dashboard

The County's Office of Food Systems (OFS) was created in response to recommendations produced by the Food Equity Roundtable. The OFS has been integral in bringing food system partners together to respond to emerging needs, with a focus on shaping and developing policy that governs how we purchase and supply food while equitably increasing food access. The OFS released the Food Base LA Dashboard, in partnership with the Annenberg Foundation, USC, and Cedars Sinai. The Dashboard details food insecurity leveraging research produced by USC as well as mapping layers that demonstrate opportunity to expand food access. The OFS announced the release of the Dashboard in their Year in Review report, published on their webpage. The OFS is currently facilitating sustainability planning and expanded partnership with the County, with progress reported on through a preliminary report back in June of 2026 and final recommendations to be shared with the Board in October of 2026.

## Department of Economic Opportunity

### ❖ High Road Training Partnerships

DEO continues to lead implementation of California's High Road Training Partnership (HRTP) framework, bringing together employers, labor unions, educational institutions, community-based organizations, and workers to create industry-driven pathways into quality careers. HRTPs focus on sectors that offer family-sustaining wages, career advancement opportunities, and long-term economic mobility.

Since the department launch in 2022, DEO has invested approximately $37.4 million to support 27 HRTPs across industries, including healthcare, construction, aerospace, life sciences, early care and education, social services, and the creative economy. This year, DEO has:

- ✧ Awarded 20 new HRTP grants across all industries for a total of 27 HRTPs; collaborating across 200+ HRTP organizational partners; and
- ✧ Served over 2,312 participants with 1,095 successful graduates and of those graduates:
  - 502 have been placed in unsubsidized employment.
  - 559 have been placed in apprenticeships across 142 employers.

A second round of funding for current HRTPs will be announced in July 2026, with an additional HRTP Fund solicitation expected in Fall 2026. HRTPs are designed to reduce poverty by connecting residents facing systemic barriers to stable employment pathways that offer opportunities for advancement and long-term economic security.

## ❖ Preparing Los Angeles for County Employment: A Public Sector High Road Training Partnerships

The County's Preparing Los Angeles for County Employment (PLACE) program is the County's own public sector HRTP and serves as a direct pathway to County careers. As the region's largest high-road employer, the County provides access to quality jobs with family-sustaining wages, benefits, and career advancement opportunities. PLACE prioritizes residents facing barriers to employment and provides paid training, Civil Service exam preparation, career coaching, stipends, and supportive services.

To date, the program has:

- ✧ Resulted in 381 hires made by County departments;
  - This year, DEO enrolled 137 participants in PLACE, resulting in 66 participants hired by County departments.
- ✧ Partnered with 100% of County departments assessing workforce needs, vacancies, and hiring opportunities.

PLACE continues to demonstrate how public employment can serve as a powerful poverty alleviation strategy while helping County departments address workforce needs.

The department has an active procurement underway for new PLACE providers that reflect continuous improvement of the model, including expedited and promotional pathways into County employment.

## ❖ Worker Equity Fund

DEO continues to support HRTP participants by providing emergency and flexible financial assistance through the Worker Equity Fund, helping ensure they can successfully complete their training programs. The Fund offers $1,500 in direct cash aid for essential expenses, such as rent, childcare, transportation, and legal services, all of which are costs that often pose barriers to enrollment and completion.

To date, the Worker Equity Fund has:

- ✧ Distributed $1,342,500 to 895 HRTP participants; and
- ✧ This resulted in 399 training completions and 348 employment outcomes.

## ❖ Youth@Work and Youth@Work Elevate

DEO's Youth@Work provides paid work experience, career exploration, professional development, and supportive services for youth ages 14-24. In 2022, leveraging American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, DEO launched Youth@Work Elevate, an enhanced version of the traditional Youth@Work program. This included an expansion of paid work experience hours from 120-160 hours to 400 hours, integration of universal mentorship, and recruitment targeting youth with high need, including youth impacted by COVID-19, foster youth, youth experiencing homelessness, and other vulnerable youth populations.

To date, the program has:

- Matched 752 youth to a paid work experience with an employer;
- Provided 1,205 youth with personal enrichment training;
- Engaged 917 youth in group mentoring sessions;
- Secured unsubsidized employment for 872 youth, with 210 connected to employment in a high growth sector; and
- 89 youth enrolled in post-secondary education or advanced training.

DEO strengthened Youth@Work's reach and impact by aligning resources across County departments through the Countywide Youth Bridges initiative, resulting in 755 youth placed in paid positions, helping position the County as an employer of choice for young people, including placements with Parks, Libraries, the Registrar Recorder/County Clerk, and Animal Care and Control. In partnership with DCFS, DEO expanded paid work opportunities for 50 foster youth participating in the ENRICH program.

As paid work experience remains one of the most effective anti-poverty interventions for young people, DEO is using data and participant feedback to further strengthen the program. A comprehensive Youth@Work review and redesign is underway to ensure the program continues to meet the evolving needs of young people and employers.

## ❖ Economic Mobility Initiative

The Economic Mobility Initiative (EMI) is a $25 million County investment designed to expand economic mobility, entrepreneurship, and wealth-building opportunities in historically underserved communities. Implemented through more than 15 trusted community partners, EMI provides accessible business education, technical assistance, certifications, contracting support, capital access, and entrepreneurship training through virtual and in-person services, including Spanish-language, evening, and weekend offerings.

To date the program has:

- Served more than 11,640 entrepreneurs and small businesses;
- 940 participants enrolled in entrepreneurship academies;
- Graduated 2,226 businesses through training and technical assistance component;
- Provided certifications in government contracting to 192 businesses, 57 of which are now LA County Certified vendors; and
- Launched two cornerstone capital development programs funds:
  - **Commercial Acquisition Fund (CAF):** Enabled seven nonprofit organizations to acquire vacant or underutilized commercial properties across all five Supervisorial Districts. Additionally, CAF leveraged $5.9 million in private

investment to acquire space for 23–39 small businesses, three nonprofit organizations, and 125 creative studios.

- **Small Business Mobility Fund (SBMF):** SBMF is comprised of three components - Formalization Grants, Entrepreneurship Academy Grants, and Launch Grants.
  - *Formalization Grants* launched in March of 2025 with an initial $1 million investment, offering $500-$5,000 grants to sidewalk vendors to help them comply with permitting and regulatory requirements under LA County's Sidewalk Vending Ordinance, creating a pathway for local vendors to participate in the region's growing open-air economy.
  - *Entrepreneurship Academy Grants* launched in January of 2026 with an initial $140,000 investment, offering $2,000 grants for graduates of the Entrepreneurship Academies coordinated by DEO, supporting 70 new start-ups with building a financial, marketing, and business plan.
  - *Launch Grants* launched in January of 2026 offers grants up to $325,000 to new or soon to be opened brick-and-mortar businesses who need capital for their new physical locations. This grant prioritizes fire-impacted communities, disbursing 12 grants to date.

## ❖ Economic Opportunity Grant

The Economic Opportunity Grant (EOG) Program was one of the largest locally administered small business relief programs in the nation, designed to help small businesses, nonprofits, and microbusinesses recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and other economic disruptions. Funded through ARPA and State resources, the program streamlined access to relief through a single application process, reducing administrative burdens and accelerating access to capital for organizations facing the greatest barriers to recovery. The program ran for a three-year period, investing more than $56.3 million across 5,302 grants to support business stabilization, job retention, nonprofit sustainability, and long-term economic resilience. The program was administered through five phases designed to address evolving economic needs:

- ✧ Phase 1 - Microbusiness Grants: grants of up to $2,500 for microbusinesses with less than $50,000 in annual revenue.
- ✧ Phase 2 - Small Business and Nonprofit Recover Grants: Grants of up to $25,000 for small businesses and nonprofits recovering from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✧ Phase 3 - Entertainment Business Interruption Fund: targeted support for businesses indirectly impacted by the Hollywood strikes, including caterers, florists, laundry services, prop suppliers, and other entertainment-dependent businesses.
- ✧ Phase 4 - Holiday Stabilization Grants: grants of up to $5,000 to support businesses experiencing reduced seasonal revenues and ongoing economic challenges.
- ✧ Phase 5 - Chamber of Commerce Grants: investments supporting local chambers of commerce as critical small business support organizations and economic anchors in communities throughout the County.

The EOG Program provided critical relief to businesses and nonprofits operating on thin margins while serving as essential economic and community resources, strengthening neighborhood economies through business stability, job preservation, and local economic recovery.

## ❖ Capital Development and Community Revitalization

DEO continues to expand its role in community development through strategic investments that connect housing, economic opportunity, and neighborhood revitalization. Capital development is a powerful poverty alleviation effort that creates affordable housing, supports small business growth, prevents displacement, creates jobs, and builds long-term community wealth in historically underserved neighborhoods. In the past year, DEO formalized its new Capital Development branch and advanced a pipeline of key community revitalization projects resulting in the creation of 4,200 housing units, 1,200 of which are affordable units, across seven County-supported mixed-use development projects. Major projects include:

- Evermont - 180 affordably housing units and home to the Launch Pad business incubator;
- General Hospital Redevelopment - currently underway with Board-approved stabilization and master planning efforts;
- New High Village - formally Lot 45, a County operated parking lot in the heart of Chinatown, currently underway through community-led design; and
- First and Rowan - recently completed façade improvements for more than 12 small businesses housed in this mixed-use development space.

## ❖ Economic Recovery and Resiliency

Major economic disruptions such as natural disasters, public health emergencies, and infrastructure failures can rapidly destabilize workers, small businesses, and entire communities. For households already living paycheck-to-paycheck, even a short-term loss of income can lead to housing insecurity, food insecurity, debt accumulation, business closure, and long-term financial hardship. For many low-income residents, these disruptions do not simply deepen existing poverty, but they can create entirely new instances of poverty for families and small business owners who were previously economically stable. Recognizing these impacts, DEO has established itself as the County's economic first responder, leading efforts to stabilize workers, businesses, and communities before economic shocks resulting in permanent job loss, business closures, displacement, or increased poverty. The DEO has responded to multiple economic disruptions, including the January 2025 wildfires, entertainment industry strikes, the Topanga Landslide, major layoffs, and immigration enforcement activity. The DEO developed an expanded suite of economic recovery strategies and programs designed to provide immediate relief while supporting long-term recovery. To date, DEO has:

- Launched an Altadena Job Center to support local recovery;
- Established on-the-ground support for Disaster Recovery Centers to engage with community directly at time of emergency;
- Led multi-lingual and culturally competent communications for impacted workers and businesses during emergencies; and
- Created two critical programs:
    - **Fire Recovery and Resilience Workforce Program:** created in response to the 2025 wildfires, the program invested $14.2 million to support 1,000 dislocated workers through paid work experience, job training, rapid reemployment services, and recovery-focused employment opportunities. The program helps workers regain income while supporting community recovery efforts, including debris removal, rebuilding activities, and humanitarian assistance. The program will continue through Spring of 2027.

- **LA Region Small Business and Worker Relief Funds:** raising more than $27.5 million, leveraged more than 40 partners for in-community and in-language targeted outreach to wildfire impacted areas, resulting in grants disbursed to 2,181 small businesses and nonprofits and 2,892 workers, ensuring all eligible who applied received direct cash assistance.

## In Early Stages of Implementation

### California State

#### ❖ CalAccount

CalAccount is California's soon-to-be universal, zero-fee public option for banking established in partnership with private banking institutions. The Governor included an initial $1 million investment in the last budget cycle to launch these State-administered accounts, which will become available to every Californian regardless of income or banking history. Over 2.5 million households are currently unbanked or underbanked, paying hundreds of dollars a year in fees to access their own money. The CalAccount Community Coalition is currently working on the technical implementation plan in partnership with the State Treasury. The PAI will partner with statewide leads in expanding access to accounts across the County once launched.

# Next Steps

PAI continues to develop the PAI State of Poverty Dashboard (Dashboard), in partnership with UCLA, ISD, and the CIO. Through an investment of $500,000 from the Hilton Foundation, the Dashboard serves as one of three components of a broader five-year meta evaluation underway for more than 25 projects that align with PAI's strategic framework. The meta evaluation will include a qualitative analysis and a quantitative analysis leveraging the conceptual model introduced in PAI's strategic framework.

The Dashboard now has 2025 annual census data integrated with near real-time administrative data that includes CalFresh, CalWORKs, and Medi-Cal. The Dashboard demonstrates the impact of our safety net on local poverty rates, serving as a critical tool to manage and track impacts relative to H.R. 1 and in times of emergency. During the federal government shutdown in October and November of 2025, CalFresh benefits experienced a delay in issuance for the first time in the program’s history. The Dashboard was quickly leveraged to identify high impact areas, overlaying real-time CalFresh enrollment data at the neighborhood level with food pantry data to determine where to target additional food resources. Through a $10 million investment identified by the County and in partnership with DPH, the CEO's Policy Alignment and Implementation Branch, and the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, more than 7 million pounds of food was disbursed through 21 large scale distribution events and across more than 800 local food pantry partners. The Dashboard continues to evolve to meet emerging needs in addition to serving a critical role in PAI's broader evaluation efforts.

To stay up to date with PAI's evaluation, you can visit us online at [ceo.lacounty.gov/pai/](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 fifth year of implementation of the PAI strategic framework.