

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



ITEM: 3.54
(ID # 14289)

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, January 12, 2021

FROM : EXECUTIVE OFFICE:

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE OFFICE: Approval of the County of Riverside 2021 Legislative Platform, [All Districts] [\$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the 2021 Legislative Platform and direct the Executive Office and the County's Sacramento and Washington D.C. based representatives to advance the legislative proposals contained herein.


ACTION:Policy


Brian Nestande 1/7/2021

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Jeffries, seconded by Supervisor Hewitt and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Hewitt
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: January 12, 2021
xc: E.O.

Kecia R. Harper
Clerk of the Board
By 
Deputy

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
NET COUNTY COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
SOURCE OF FUNDS:			Budget Adjustment:	NO
			For Fiscal Year:	21/22

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE

BACKGROUND:

Summary

In accordance with Policy A-27, each year, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors adopts a legislative platform to guide the legislative advocacy efforts at the State and Federal levels. The Executive Office, working in conjunction with Board members and departments, developed the platform to address a variety of crucial issues facing the County.

The 2021 platform includes key State and Federal legislative priorities, new policy items and selected policy items of continuing high importance to Riverside County. Furthermore, as per the dynamic nature of the legislative process additional State and Federal legislative issues of concern to the County will be brought forward to the Board for appropriate action throughout the year as the need arises.

2021 will begin the new two-year term for the Legislative Platform, the first year of the new term will bring forward specific State and Federal legislative proposals pursued during the next two years. The Legislative Platform for the second year of the current term will bring forth only new additions.

The full version of the Legislative Platform has been attached to this Form 11. Below you will find the Executive Summary. After approval from the Board of Supervisors, the 2021 Legislative Platform will be accessible through the County of Riverside's Legislative Affairs website.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Executive Summary highlights issue of particular concern to the county. Furthermore, these issues are always not specific to a department or in some cases cross jurisdictions of departments.

FUNDING INEQUITIES

Issue:

Riverside County is financially disadvantaged through funding formulas and grant requirements set by state agencies. These monetary harms in turn become chronic social discriminations. The following programs have funding allocations that egregiously disadvantage Riverside

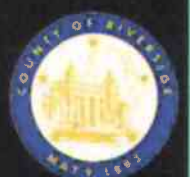
**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

County: Behavioral Health, Child Support Services, Public Health- HIV/Aids and tobacco tax revenue from propositions 99 and 56. In total, these funding inequities amount to an annual shortfall of over \$140 million for Riverside County. The county continues to advocate for legislation and budget adjustments in order to equalize funding among counties and provide fair distribution formulas for the above-mentioned programs. The county will advocate for legislation and budget adjustments to equalize funding among all counties and provide fair distribution formulas for the above-mentioned programs.



2021-22 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



RIVERSIDE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Kevin Jeffries
First District

District1@rivco.org
(951) 955-1010

Represents the cities of Wildomar, Lake Elsinore, Canyon Lake, and most of the city of Riverside. Unincorporated communities include DeLuz, Gavilan Hills, Good Hope, Lake Hills, Lake Mathews, LaCresta, Mead Valley, Meadowbrook, Spring Hills, Temescal Valley, Tenaja, Warm Springs, and Woodcrest.



BOARD CHAIR

Karen Spiegel
Second District

District2@rivco.org
(951) 955-1020

Represents the cities of Corona, Norco, Jurupa Valley, and Eastvale. It also includes approximately 1/3 of the City of Riverside, including the following city of Riverside neighborhoods: Northside, Downtown, Wood Streets, Magnolia Center, Grand, and the northern half of Arlanza and La Sierra Acres. Unincorporated communities include Home Gardens, El Cerrito, Coronita, and Highgrove.



Chuck Washington
Third District

District3@rivco.org
(951) 955-1030

Represents constituents from Idyllwild to Anza Borrego Desert State Park, and from Temecula to San Jacinto. Representation includes the cities of Hemet, Murrieta, San Jacinto, and Temecula, and the communities of Aguanga, Anza Valley, Cahuilla, East Hemet, Gilman Hot Springs, Homeland, Idyllwild, Lake Riverside, Mountain Center, Murrieta Hot Springs, Pine Cove, Pine Meadow, the Pinyon Communities, Poppet Flats, Rancho California, Soboba Hot Springs, Valle Vista, and Winchester.



V. Manuel Perez Fourth
District

District4@rivco.org
(760) 863-8211

Represents the cities of Blythe, Cathedral City, Coachella, Desert Hot Springs, Indian Wells, Indio, La Quinta, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, and Rancho Mirage. Unincorporated communities include Bermuda Dunes, Chiriaco Summit, Colorado River communities, Desert Center, Desert Edge, Eagle Mountain, Indio Hills, Lake Tamarisk, Mecca, Mesa Verde, North Shore, Oasis, Ripley, Sky Valley, Sun City, Palm Desert, Thermal, Thousand Palms, and Vista Santa Rosa.



VICE CHAIR

Jeff Hewitt
Fifth District

District5@rivco.org
(951) 955-1050

Represents diverse areas that stretch from Palm Springs in the north east to Menifee in the south. The cities within the Fifth District are Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Menifee, Moreno Valley and Perris. Unincorporated areas include Banning Bench, Cabazon, Cherry Valley, Desert Hills, Desert Hot Springs, El Nido area, Juniper Flats, Lake Perris, Lakeview, Lakeview Mountains, Mission Springs, Nuevo, North Palm Springs, Painted Hills, Quail Lake, Reche Canyon, San Jacinto Wildlife Reserve, San Timoteo Canyon, Snow Creek, the Sovereign Nation of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Twin Pines, West Garnet, Whitewater and Windy Point.



LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION ROSTER



UNITED STATES CONGRESS



SENATOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN

Representing the state of California



SENATOR ALEX PADILLA

Representing the state of California



CONGRESSMAN RAUL RUIZ, M.D

36th DISTRICT

The 36th District encompasses the entire Coachella Valley, as well as the cities of Banning, Beaumont, Blythe, Hemet and San Jacinto



CONGRESSMAN MARK TAKANO

41st DISTRICT

The 41st District encompasses the cities of Riverside, Moreno Valley, Jurupa Valley and Perris



CONGRESSMAN KEN CALVERT

42nd DISTRICT

The 42nd District encompasses the western edge of Riverside County including the cities of Eastvale, Norco, Corona, Lake Elsinore, Wildomar, Canyon Lake, Menifee, Murrieta and a portion of Temecula. The district also includes the unincorporated areas of El Sobrante, Woodcrest, Temescal Valley, Lakeview, Nuevo, Homeland, Winchester, and Aguanga.



CONGRESSMAN DARRELL ISSA

50th DISTRICT

The 50th District consists of portions of Riverside County and San Diego County. Riverside County regions consist of Temecula.



CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE



SENATOR
ROSILICIE OCHOA
BOGH

23rd DISTRICT

The 23rd State Senate District covers portions of Riverside County and San Bernardino County. The Riverside county portions are Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Cherry Valley, Homeland, Hemet, Highland, Menifee, Nuevo, and San Jacinto.



SENATOR
MELISSA MELENDEZ

28th DISTRICT

The 28th District stretches from the vineyards of the Temecula Valley to the Colorado River and includes the cities of Blythe, Canyon Lake, Cathedral City, Coachella, Desert Hot Springs, Indian Wells, Indio, Lake Elsinore, La Quinta, Murrieta, Temecula, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage, and Wildomar.



SENATOR
RICHARD ROTH

31st DISTRICT

The 31st State Senate District covers all or portions of the following communities: Corona, Moreno Valley, Norco, Eastvale, Jurupa Valley, Riverside, and Perris.



CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY



ASSEMBLYMEMBER
CHAD MAYES

42nd DISTRICT

The 42nd Assembly District consists of Banning, Beaumont, Cabazon, Calimesa, Cherry Valley, Hemet, Indian Wells La Quinta, Palm Desert, Palm Springs Rancho Mirage, San Jacinto, Whitewater.



ASSEMBLYMEMBER
EDUARDO GARCIA

56th DISTRICT

The 56th Assembly District comprises a number of cities and unincorporated communities in eastern Riverside County and Imperial County, including Blythe, Brawley, Bermuda Dunes, Calexico, Calipatria, Cathedral City, Coachella, Desert Hot Springs, El Centro, Holtville, Imperial, Indio, Mecca, Oasis, North Shore, Salton Sea, Thermal, Thousand Palms, and Westmorland.



ASSEMBLYMEMBER
SABRINA CERVANTES

60th DISTRICT

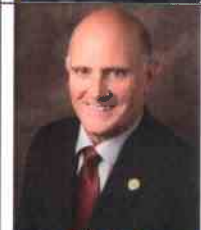
The 60th Assembly District comprises of the cities of Corona, Eastvale, Jurupa Valley, Norco, a portion of Riverside, and unincorporated communities of Home Gardens, El Cerrito, and Corona.



ASSEMBLYMEMBER
JOSE MEDINA

61st DISTRICT

The 61st Assembly District consists of Riverside, Moreno Valley, Perris and Mead Valley.



ASSEMBLYMEMBER
KELLY SEYARTO

67th DISTRICT

The 67th Assembly District consists of Canyon Lake, East Hemet, El Sobrante, French Valley, Good Hope, Homeland, Lake Elsinore, Lake Mathews, Lakeland Village, Menifee, Murrieta, Nuevo, Temescal Valley, Wildomar and Woodcrest.



ASSEMBLYMEMBER
MARIE WALDRON

75th DISTRICT

The 75th Assembly District consists of portions of Riverside County and San Diego County. Riverside County regions consist of De Luz and Temecula.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The executive summary highlights issue of particular concern to the County. Furthermore, these issues are not always specific to a department or in some cases cross jurisdictions of departments.

Per Board Policy A-27 Legislation Coordination, the County's Legislative Platform is the official policy agenda for a term of two years and an amendment will be performed as necessary to incorporate only new submittals. This 2021-22 Legislative Platform consist any relevant issues of last year's platform and the new submittals.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

FUNDING INEQUITIES (STATE & FEDERAL)

ISSUE

Riverside County is financially disadvantaged through funding formulas set by state agencies. These financial harms, in turn, become chronic social discriminations.

The following programs have funding allocations that disadvantage Riverside County: Behavior Health, Child Support Services, Public Health- HIV/Aids and tobacco tax revenue from propositions 99 and 56. In total, these funding inequities amount to an annual shortfall of over \$140 million for Riverside County. The county continues to advocate for legislation and budget adjustments in order to equalize funding among counties and provide fair distribution formulas for the above-mentioned programs.

The Department of Behavioral Health is the most severe example of the inequities. Lack of adequate funding has resulted in a suboptimal network of care for county residents in need of Behavioral health services, which is funded by the 1991 and 2011 realignment formulas. An individual in Riverside County does not have access to the same level of care as individuals in other counties.

In numerous reports, the Legislative Analyst Office has documented funding inequities in the programs funded with 1991 allocations. The most recent report, "Rethinking the 1991 Realignment," was released on October 15, 2018. The document details that counties receive different amounts of funding for the services covered by the 1991 realignment formulas. The report concludes with options for curing the funding inequities. Riverside County endorses the proposed option titled, "Update Counties Growth Allocations for Health and Mental Health Responsibilities." The report describes the recommended process and states, "Under this option, the amount of funding each county receives for health and mental health services would be updated to reflect counties' current populations (rather than being based on what counties provided in the 1990s)." Riverside County believes that adjusting revenue on a per capita basis is the fairest way to end the discrimination. Access the full LAO Report here: <https://lao.ca.gov/reports/2018/3886/1991-realignment-101518.pdf>.

ACTION

- ❖ Adjust 1991 and 2011 realignment formulas.
- ❖ Advocate for funding of a behavior health campus. This innovative plan creates a comprehensive approach to addressing behavior health needs specifically to those most in need of intensive services.
- ❖ Seek support for federal language encouraging agencies, when feasible, to collect and report county-level data for programs funded with Federal dollars.

SALTON SEA (STATE & FEDERAL)

ISSUE

The Salton Sea is the largest lake in California. Unfortunately, lower inflows due to a water transfer between the Imperial Irrigation District and San Diego Water District are causing an increase in salinity and exposing the shoreline. The deteriorating water quality and exposed shoreline is causing significant ecological damage. In 2018 Riverside and Imperial Counties signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreeing on a course of action to restore the sea. The MOU describes a financial commitment from both counties through the implementation of enhanced infrastructure finance districts (even though the state has accepted full responsibility for the costs of mitigation). However more funding is needed.

ACTION

- ❖ Support designated funding for the Salton Sea in any state bond designated for water, parks or climate resiliency.
- ❖ Advocate for streamlining of state and federal permitting and process in order to begin construction of the restoration.
- ❖ Work with Department of Interior for either a land exchange, lease agreement, or acquisition of Federal property near the Salton Sea.

HEALTHCARE FUNDING FOR INMATES (FEDERAL)

ISSUE

When a person enters jail, their insurance coverage is suspended, and the county is responsible for the cost of care. The County of Riverside is working closely with the National Association of Counties (NACO) on this issue. To access NACO's legislative priorities relevant to this and other issues please click on the following link:

<https://www.naco.org/resources/featured/2020-naco-policy-priorities>

ACTION

- ❖ The County supports legislation that repeals the prohibition of medical insurance coverage for inmates. Similar legislation was introduced by Rep. Hastings, [D-FL-20] H.R. 165 Restoring the Partnership for County Health Care Costs Act of 2017.
- ❖ The County supports Medicaid dollars to continue covering the unadjudicated and convicted population.

BROADBAND (STATE & FEDERAL)

ISSUE

COVID-19 has exposed the lack of universal coverage in internet service, specifically regarding education and online learning. Many parts of the county lack access to broadband services or experience inconsistent quality of service. The County of Riverside supports the California State Association of Counties' (CSAC) position on this issue. Please click on the following link to access the CSAC comment letter regarding the broadband action plan: https://www.counties.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/csac_letter_to_ca_broadband_council_2020-11-20.pdf

ACTION

- ❖ The county supports legislation at the state and federal level to ensure all residents have equal opportunity access to broadband internet service.

FACILITATING GRANT APPLICATIONS “TRUSTED VENDOR” (STATE & FEDERAL)

ISSUE

Our departments constantly monitor and track grants that would benefit the community. Several of our departments are awarded the same grants every year; however, they are required to go through the same screening and application process. This process can sometimes take weeks to months and can sometimes approach \$50,000-\$100,000 to prepare. The duration and cost to finish a grant application can discourage departments to go after available funding.

ACTION

- ❖ Support legislation that would facilitate grant applications in which trusted agencies and departments would have a faster and easier grant process than new applicants.

HOMEOWNER TITLE AND COVENANT RESTRICTIONS (STATE)

ISSUE

There are parcels and neighborhoods in the State of California that historically have been designated on various maps relied on by financial institutions, realtors, and governmental agencies to determine various factors affecting the value of homes in these areas, including the alleged financial risk of mortgages, and to whom such homes would be sold. This map designation is also known as “red-lining”. It remains the responsibility of government, rather than private citizens, to remove racially restrictive provisions of all deeds within its jurisdiction thereby relieving homeowners of the burden of removing such language.

ACTION

- ❖ Urge the California legislature and governor to pass legislation that would allow county recorders to purge racially restrictive provisions of all deeds within their jurisdiction.

COVID-19 (STATE/FEDERAL)

ISSUE

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed a financial strain on county departments and services. The federal government has passed three bills to provide relief to state and local governments, however those funds have been exhausted.

At the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, Riverside County has taken the lead in responding to the public health crisis and promoting economic recovery. As key partners in the federal state-local partnership, Riverside County has called for direct and flexible federal funding to allow us to best serve our residents. However, Riverside County will need additional state and federal resources to meet the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

ACTION

- ❖ Riverside County will continue to press the State, Congress, and the Administration to provide financial support to keep our communities safe and healthy.



AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER &
SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES

AGRICULTURE FUNDING (STATE)

ISSUE

The County of Riverside Agricultural Office opposes any reductions in funding and services, or increased costs to agricultural businesses. The Agricultural Commissioner protects the environment, public health, and Riverside County's \$1.3 Billion Agricultural industry. Any reductions in funding will harm the mission of promoting and protecting the agricultural industry of the county and its environment, ensuring the health and safety of the county's citizens, and fostering confidence and equity in the marketplace.

ACTION

- ❖ Support efforts to prevent the introduction and potential spread of invasive pests and diseases harmful to agriculture, including strengthening inspections at borders.
- ❖ Support incentives to encourage counties to preserve farmland and open space.
- ❖ Support Williamson Act subventions to encourage farmland preservation.



CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

FUNDING (STATE)

ISSUE

Continued funding is needed to bring the Department of Child Support Services (RCDCSS) into parity with other child support agencies around the state. The Riverside County Department of Child Support Services has received only one annual funding increase since 2000. During this timeframe, the cost of providing services has increased substantially. Because of these two dynamics, RCDCSS struggles to maintain high performance levels in measures tracked by the State Health and Human Services. The August 2018 Federal Performance Measures rank Riverside County at, or near, the bottom in two of four measures.

ACTION

- ❖ Support proposals that result in increased State funding to RCDCSS that will adequately meet the growing costs of administering mandated child support, paternity, and medical needs services.
- ❖ Advocate and support legislative, administrative and budgetary efforts to revise the California Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) funding allocation methodology to ensure that the Riverside County child support program receives proper funding that will directly benefit Riverside County families and children.

REDUCE INTEREST RATE (STATE)

ISSUE

Decrease or eliminate interest on child support arrears from the current ten percent per annum. Currently, interest on child support arrears accrues at ten percent as each payment becomes overdue (that is, if a monthly child support payment is not made by the last day of the month, any unpaid amount(s) begin to accrue interest – at ten percent – the first day of the following month).

Many low-income child support payors find it difficult to consistently meet their court ordered support payments and often fall behind in their obligations. It is not uncommon for this scenario to go on for years. Although a payor may eventually get caught up on the principal owed, a large interest balance may persist – even after the payor's children have emancipated. Compared with other laws that address unpaid child support (license suspension, passport denial, and even incarceration), charging interest does not directly promote compliance with support orders, and thus, may be considered unnecessary and overly punitive.

Beginning July 1, 1983, legally mandated per annum interest on money judgments increased from seven percent to ten percent. This increase was reasonable, and justified, since the United States Fed Funds Rate in 1983 was above eight percent. In fact, at that time, interest rates were on the increase (peaking at almost twelve percent in August 1984). However, since 1984, interest rates have decreased dramatically. And in 2009, the Fed Funds Rates dropped to zero. This rate has since increased (currently at 2.25 percent), but it is still significantly lower than the 8+ percent it was in 1983. Simply stated, the law regarding interest on unpaid money judgments has not kept up with the times – especially when it comes to child support arrears.

ACTION

- ❖ Advocate and support legislation that would allow an exception to California Code of Civil Procedure §685.010 (Interest accrues at the rate of ten percent per annum on the principal amount of a money judgment remaining unsatisfied).

Safety Net (State)

ISSUE

Child Support is a needed and effective program. It currently lifts more than one million families above the government's official poverty line, reduces single parenthood, and improves child outcomes, all by enforcing and facilitating personal responsibility at very low cost to taxpayers. Currently Child Support Enforcement stands apart from other safety net programs. While most social services programs involve providing government-funded assistance to families, child support ensures that parents take responsibility for their children and provide financial support from their own resources. This difference between child support and traditional government programs leaves the child support program alone in the realm of antipoverty policy.

ACTION

- ❖ Support legislation that provides equitable funding and policy protections for the Child Support Program, and the Child Support Agencies (LCSAs/Local County Child Support Agencies) who must provide this safety net service.



BUSINESS SERVICES

OPPORTUNITY ZONE STATE TAX CONFORMITY (STATE)

ISSUE

State of California Opportunity Zone Tax Conformity. The Opportunity Zone incentive is a bipartisan law that garnered more than 100 Democratic and Republican co-sponsors in Congress interested in attracting new investment into struggling urban, suburban and rural communities around the country. California has identified 879 census tracts as Qualified Opportunity Zones, representing 4.2 million individuals, or 10.7% of the state population. Riverside County currently has 49 census tracts designated as Opportunity Zones.

California is one of only four U.S. states that has yet to adopt state-level tax conformity to the federal Opportunity Zone incentive. The added benefit of state conformity is essential to the competitiveness and viability of the Opportunity Zone incentive in California, particularly in areas like the Inland Southern California region that traditionally struggles to attract private investment at levels commensurate to larger metros.

Riverside County supports the Governor's desire to focus conformity on affordable housing and clean energy projects. However, conformity should also be available to other worthy projects that communities are eager to see happen, including new health care clinics, rural broadband, growth capital for small businesses, new teacher, workforce and transit-oriented housing, and grocery stores in food deserts. The State should provide discretion for localities to designate additional project categories to be eligible for favorable state tax treatment.

ACTION

- ❖ Support a State of California legislative framework that provides tax conformity for the Opportunity zone program. It is anticipated that a legislative proposal will be introduced during the next legislative session.



HOUSING, HOMELESS PREVENTION & WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

AFFORDABLE HOUSING - (FEDERAL)

ISSUE

Riverside County lost 86% of State and Federal Funding for housing production and preservation from FY2008 to FY2017-18. Additional funding and regulatory changes are needed to meet the affordable housing needs of Riverside County residents. Riverside County needs 64,452 more affordable rental homes to meet current demand based on research estimates, additionally there are more than 97,000 households registered for the Riverside County Section 8 Waiting List with wait times averaging 7-10 years.

Currently in Riverside County, 84% of Extremely Low-Income households are paying more than half of their income on housing costs compared to just 7% of moderate-income households. Renters in Riverside County need to earn \$30.29 per hour - 2.5 times the State minimum wage to afford the median monthly asking rent of \$1,575.

ACTION

- ❖ Urge lawmakers to support the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act. The bill is estimated to incentivize the building of more than 550,000 affordable homes over the next decade and generate \$48.5 billion in wages and business income, \$19.1 billion in additional tax revenue and 510,000 jobs.
- ❖ The Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) is one of the most unique and flexible sources of financing to address the unique local housing needs of residents of Riverside County. The County of Riverside has seen dramatic cuts to its HOME allocation in recent years and urges the federal government to return the HOME program to FY10 levels of \$1.8 billion nationally.
- ❖ Urge lawmakers to continue to invest in rural housing programs through the United States Department of Agriculture-Rural Development (USDA-RD). USDA-RD's various single family and multifamily programs are critical to serving the housing needs of those living in the rural parts of Riverside County.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING - (STATE)

ISSUE

Cuts in Federal and State funding have reduced investment in affordable housing in Riverside County by nearly \$159 million annually since 2008, an 86% reduction. Low Income Housing Tax Credit production and preservation in Riverside County decreased 70% from 2016-2018. Additional funding and regulatory change is needed to meet the affordable housing needs of Riverside County residents.

Riverside County needs 64,452 more affordable rental homes to meet current demand based on research estimates, additionally there are more than 97,000 households registered for the Riverside County Section 8 Waiting List with wait times averaging 7-10 years. Currently in Riverside County, 84% of Extremely Low-Income households are paying more than half of their income on housing costs compared to just 7% of moderate-income households. Renters in Riverside County need to earn \$30.29 per hour - 2.5 times the State minimum wage – to afford the median monthly asking rent of \$1,575.

ACTION

- ❖ Introduce legislation to replace redevelopment funding for affordable housing with at least \$1 billion annually to help local governments meet their State-mandated production goals. Similar to redevelopment, this legislation would provide funding for predevelopment, development, rehabilitation and preservation of affordable housing; transit-oriented development; and projects promoting strong neighborhoods.
- ❖ Make permanent the expansion of the State's Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program from \$94 million to \$500 million per year to jumpstart affordable housing production and preservation.
- ❖ Consolidate Housing & Community Development (HCD) Funding Programs – HCD currently administers 22 individual funding programs. Consolidating HCD's various multifamily rental funding programs within the omnibus Multifamily Housing Program would allow developers to apply to a single HCD source for all funding needs and avoid the time-consuming process of applying to multiple HCD program and allow the state to streamline its legal underwriting and compliance obligations.
- ❖ Preserve Existing Affordable Housing and set aside additional funding in the state LIHTC program to fund rehabilitation of affordable homes.
- ❖ Incentivize the sale of existing affordable housing to purchasers who will make units permanently affordable.
- ❖ Rebuild housing and communities impacted by disaster and create a new revolving loan fund modeled on the Golden State Acquisition Fund to quickly deploy housing-related disaster assistance.
- ❖ Establish a flexible block grant for disaster assistance similar to CDBG-DR.
- ❖ Provide climate resilience grants to cities, counties, and tribes seeking to fortify existing homes and reduce the vulnerabilities of new homes.

HOMELESS FUNDING (STATE)

ISSUE

The number of individual and families experiencing homelessness has risen significantly in California and Riverside County. Local jurisdictions need additional financial resources to combat and end homelessness within their communities. This includes funding for outreach/navigation, permanent supportive housing, housing vouchers earmarked for homeless households; employment programs, substance abuse services and educational support for homeless students (K-12 and adults).

Homelessness is an issue that affects all communities in California. Riverside County became the first large county in the nation to reach functional zero for homeless veterans, with sufficient support from the federal and state we believe we can achieve similar results for our general homeless population.

ACTION

- ❖ Provide funding to expand the number of permanent supportive housing units statewide. Specifically, provide an annual allocation to fund the Homeless Housing Assistance Program (HHAP) over a five-year period of time.
- ❖ Provide funding for Public Housing Agencies to develop affordable housing earmarked for homeless households.
- ❖ Provide funding for supportive services and multi-disciplinary service teams.

- ❖ Provide funding for the development and implementation of community mental health and substance abuse plans.
- ❖ Ensure existing funding programs distribute funding throughout the State and allow funding to be earmarked for new and innovative approaches.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (FEDERAL)

ISSUE

Regulatory reform of the Community Development Block Program (CDBG) program is needed to ensure long-term sustainability and effectiveness for economic development and infrastructure revitalization. **Stable Funding:** Previous funding reductions together with stagnant funding levels in recent years continue to leave the CDBG program at its lowest funding level, when adjusted for inflation, since the program's beginning. It is imperative that the funding for CDBG remain stable, or preferably increase, to account for increasing program administrative costs that must be incurred by grantees, and sub-recipients, and HUD to appropriately and effectively administer these valuable programs.

Entitlement Reform: CDBG regulations must be modified to change the "formula" or thresholds for grantees to attain "entitlement" status. In 1984, there were 795 grantees dividing up a \$3.486 billion CDBG allocation. For FY 2017, there are more than 1250 grantees dividing up \$3 billion. The effectiveness and viability of the CDBG program is at risk and cannot be sustained. Therefore, the County should advocate for legislation that corrects and adjusts the number of grantees to ensure program viability.

Economic Development and Infrastructure: Encourage special supplemental appropriations of CDBG funds aimed at sustainable, community-based economic development, as well as infrastructure revitalization. The funding would be used to target job creating economic development and infrastructure improvement activities in areas with higher percentages of poverty, unemployment, and other barriers to economic opportunity, and inadequate and deteriorating infrastructure. To encourage grantee participation, CDBG regulations pertaining to job creation (CDBG \$ per job), public benefit, and other performance issues need to be amended.

ACTION

- ❖ Support increased appropriations for CDBG to assist state and local government's efforts to address chronic poverty, unemployment, and deteriorating infrastructure;
- ❖ Support regulatory reform of the CDBG Entitlement Program to modify thresholds for grantee entitlement status to ensure long-term viability; and
- ❖ Support supplemental CDBG appropriations for economic and infrastructure development activities and modify public benefit/job creation requirements and other regulatory requirements.

WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (FEDERAL)

ISSUE

Federal workforce investments have declined sharply over the past two decades. Since 2001, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding has been cut by 40 percent, Career and Technical Education funding by 29 percent and Adult Basic Education (remedial educational services for adults) funding by almost 15 percent. These cuts mean fewer Riverside County residents have access to services necessary to find and keep good jobs and businesses continue to look for skilled workers.

In today's economy, we need to invest in our workforce more than ever. Businesses continue to struggle with job openings and workers don't have access to training and education necessary to access good jobs. As our workforce faces the impending impact of technology, automation and AI, reports suggest more than 60 percent of jobs will significantly change in the next decade and a smaller, but still significant, portion will be eliminated – meaning more than 90 million workers will need skills training to continue working.

On a regional level, Riverside County is working proactively to align education and workforce development initiatives across the region's K-12 system, community colleges, universities and the private sector to ensure our residents have access to the education and training necessary to obtain family supporting jobs locally. It is critical that the federal government make the necessary investments to ensure that we have the financial resources at the local level to develop a workforce system that is poised to address the needs of industry, automation and future economic downturns.

ACTION

- ❖ Increase federal funding for programs funded through the Department of Labor which fund workforce development, training and education. These programs include the WIOA, Youth Build, Ex-Offender Activities, Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers and Job Corps.

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (FEDERAL)

ISSUE

Youth unemployment remains at a high rate nationally and in Riverside County. The national unemployment rate has dropped significantly since the recession, yet youth unemployment remains at a high rate nationally and in Riverside County. Youth employment increases household income for low-income families; provides opportunities for skills development and career exploration; and increases community engagement.

A re-implementation of the "summer youth employment program" rooted in career and industry sector pathways would be of significant benefit to high poverty communities and households. In 2009, Riverside County received over five million dollars through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to implement a summer youth employment program. Funds were allocated to eleven youth service providers, including the two operators of the County's

Youth Opportunity Centers. Through this program, youth and young adults ages 14 through 24 received meaningful work experience preceded by work readiness training.

During a period of two summers, over 3,000 individuals participated in the program, gaining valuable workplace competencies. Re-implementing a summer youth employment program rooted in career and industry sector pathways would be of significant benefit to high poverty communities and households.

ACTION

- ❖ Provide funding for summer employment programs for low-income and disengaged youth.

MOVING TO WORK DESIGNATION (FEDERAL)

ISSUE

Supporting Moving to Work (MTW) Program Reform. The 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act authorizes HUD to expand the MTW demonstration. Currently, there are 39 MTW Public Housing Authorities (PHA) nationwide and HUD plans to expand the program to an additional 100 PHAs by 2022. However, only 3 of the 100 MTW designations will be allocated to large PHAs. The rest will be for PHAs with less than 6,000 units of Section 8.

Further expansion of the MTW demonstration would allow larger public housing agencies to develop measures to promote economic independence for families with children, whose head of household is working, seeking work, or preparing to obtain employment and become economically independent, by participating in job training, educational programs or other supportive services and programs that assist in meeting such goals.

MTW designation would give public housing agencies and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development the flexibility to design and implement various approaches for providing and administering housing assistance that reduce cost and achieve greater cost effectiveness and Federal expenditures. Previous expansion opportunities were not conducive to the Housing Authority of the County of Riverside's participation. Past opportunities were limited to smaller agencies, very large agencies or mandated rent requirements that would be detrimental to struggling families.

ACTION

- ❖ Support an expansion of the MTW program to include larger Public Housing Authorities such as the Housing Authority of the County of Riverside. Ensure that expansion opportunities allow local agencies to set rent levels, work requirements and participation time limits.

MOBILITY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (FEDERAL)

ISSUE

In high cost and tight rental markets, Section 8 voucher holders are having a difficult time accessing quality housing in healthy neighborhoods which provide economic and educational opportunities. The federal Housing Choice Voucher Program plays a critical role in helping to address housing needs for extremely low-income households. Its most important advantage is that vouchers give recipients the freedom to choose the kinds of housing and the locations that best meet their needs. As a consequence, many voucher recipients live in healthy neighborhoods that offer social, educational, and economic opportunities for themselves and their children.

Not all families who receive vouchers are able to find a house or apartment where they can use them. Shortages of moderately priced rental housing, tight market conditions, racial and ethnic discrimination, landlords who are unwilling to accept voucher payments, and ineffective local administration all contribute to this problem.

Two promising strategies for making the basic voucher design work better could be implemented within the existing program structure and could potentially improve outcomes for families substantially: 1) mobility counseling and assistance can help voucher recipients understand the locational options available, identify housing opportunities, and negotiate effectively with landlords; and 2) aggressive landlord outreach, service, and incentives can substantially expand the housing options available to voucher recipients.

ACTION

- ❖ Urge Congress to implement a Mobility Demonstration Project to increase access to healthy neighborhoods and economic opportunities.

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM (SECTION 8) (FEDERAL)

ISSUE

There are more than 97,000 households registered for the Section 8 waiting list in Riverside County and the additional 727 chronically homeless individuals awaiting an affordable or supportive housing unit. Riverside County's Section 8 program is at maximum capacity and cannot serve any additional households.

The Housing Choice Voucher program also known as "Section 8" provides resources essential to ensuring that vulnerable seniors, families, veterans, and people with disabilities have access to decent, safe, and sanitary affordable housing to help stabilize and improve the quality of their lives. More than 5 million people in more than 2 million low-income families use vouchers to help pay for housing that they find in the private market.

About half of the households using vouchers are seniors or people with disabilities; most of the rest are working families with children. These households have incomes of about \$16,100, on average, well below the poverty line. Vouchers sharply reduce homelessness and other hardships, lift more than 3 million people out of poverty, and give families an opportunity to

move to safer, higher income neighborhoods. These effects, in turn, are linked to educational, developmental, and health benefits that can improve children's long-term prospects and reduce costs in other public programs.

Vouchers specifically designated for the 727 chronically homeless individuals provides an effective means to quickly end homelessness for these individuals. Supported services would be provided off-site through existing social service programs. In 2016, Riverside County reached a "functional zero", eliminating veteran homelessness. The same can be achieved through these targeted vouchers.

ACTION

- ❖ Urge Congress to increase funding to the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8).



FLOOD CONTROL

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION PROJECTS (FEDERAL)

ISSUE

The District relies on annual federal funding appropriations providing funding to the Corps of Engineers for projects authorized in the bi-annual federal Water Resource Development Act, and other bills to assist with construction and emergency repair of critical stormwater management projects. Federally funded projects include: the Santa Ana Mainstem Project; Murrieta Creek Flood Protection; Environmental Restoration and Recreation Project; Santa Ana River Levee Repair Project and emergency projects associated with the 2019 Valentine's Day storm.

The District currently partners with federal agencies, including FEMA and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to deliver flood infrastructure of national interest in Riverside County. These projects, totaling over \$500 million in combined infrastructure value, are dependent on annual appropriations from Congress and Work Plan approvals and inclusion from agencies including the Office of Management and Budget, FEMA and the Army Corps. It is important that the District work with the agencies and the local Congressional delegation to ensure that the project requirements and funding needs are understood and properly incorporated into federal agency funding requests and congressional legislation.

ACTION

- ❖ Ensure that the implementation of the Water Resources Development Act, Stafford Act and other federal authorization and budget bills benefits/addresses Riverside County Flood Control issues, projects and programs.
- ❖ Support funding and completion of vital flood and water infrastructure projects including the Santa Ana Mainstem Project, Murrieta Creek Project, the Santa Ana Levee Restoration project and recent emergency projects responding to federally declared disasters.
- ❖ Support for efforts through the Corps, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) and the Office of Management and Budget to include funding on a project basis for the District's projects in the Corps' annual Work Plans.

ENSURE EFFECTIVE AND APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS (FEDERAL)

ISSUE

District operations can be impacted by changes to the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, and other federal laws, rules and regulations. For example, proposed changes to the federal definition of "Waters of the United States" under the Clean Water Act could have significant impacts on District Clean Water Act Section 404 permitting needs and costs. Additionally, District maintenance projects are also subject to renewable environmental permits that may require new mitigation expenditures for each permit renewal – even in cases where the maintenance regimen does not change. The imposition of new mitigation requirements as part of each permit renewal significantly increases maintenance costs and is an unnecessary byproduct of federal agency interpretation of regulations. Riverside County Flood Control operations are impacted by the Clean Water Act, the Endangered

Species Act and other federal laws, rules and regulations. Looking for opportunities to streamline federal laws, rules and regulations in ways that can reduce local agency costs, while still effectively protecting public safety and the environment is critical to sustainably managing our communities.

ACTION

- ❖ Support clarification of the definition of "Waters of the US." consistent with the recommendations of the National Association of Counties and National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies.
- ❖ Support legislation that would amend Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to clarify a narrow exemption for maintenance activities involving the removal of sediment, debris and vegetation from flood control channels, dams and other facilities.

PROMOTE EFFECTIVE AND APPROPRIATE REVISIONS TO THE RENEWAL OF THE FEDERAL NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

ISSUE

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) authorized in 2012 has been extended temporarily by a continuing resolution from Congress. Due to extensive flooding of the eastern and southern coasts of the United States, there are several potentially significant revisions to the NFIP under consideration. Revisions considered include expanded use of private flood insurance, alternate risk and premium calculation methodologies and new requirements for land use and building code standards for local governments in exchange for local access to federal flood insurance and local access to certain federal disaster recovery and grant funds. These amendments could impact residents carrying flood insurance and the obligations of local agencies that administer NFIP floodplain management programs.

ACTION

- ❖ Support legislation that sensibly renews the National Flood Insurance Program consistent with the recommendations of the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies and the National Association of Counties.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SHORTENED CONSULTATION PERIOD FOR MAINTENANCE (FEDERAL)

ISSUE

Endangered Species Act Section 7 Regulations protecting endangered/threatened species are too vague. Interpretations of the time allowed to complete the Section 7 consultation can be lengthened by regulators. This may prevent or delay necessary actions to ensure the resilience of existing flood facilities and provide intended and expected public health and safety benefits.

Section 7 and federal regulations poorly define the time limits to finish the consultation process, and do not provide emergency work or maintenance exemptions. Section 7 and the related regulations do not provide shortened consultation periods for signatories to adopt Habitat Conservation Plans such as the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan. Lengthy Section 7 consultation periods can delay necessary flood control infrastructure to protect public health and safety.

ACTION

- ❖ The prescribed time frames in Section 7(b) of the Federal Endangered Species Water Act should clearly define the time limit to complete the Section 7 consultation. The time frames should be shortened for emergency work and maintenance of existing flood control facilities, and activities that are consistent with an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan.

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR OPERATORS OF SUBSURFACE INSTALLATIONS (STATE)

ISSUE

There is a lack of competent record keeping and responsiveness from certain underground utilities to municipal agencies with franchise authority over these underground facilities. Subsurface operators, particularly telecommunications companies, have facilities that interfere with critical new municipal infrastructure, e.g., water, sewer, storm drain, street improvements, etc. These operators often refuse to comply with the terms of the franchise agreements under which they operate. This creates enormous cost increases and delay and public inconvenience when undisclosed interfering subsurface facilities are discovered during project construction.

ACTION

- ❖ Legislation that imposes significant consequences on subsurface operators for noncompliance with existing "One Call" laws and franchise agreements allowing use of the public right of way is necessary. Increased civil penalties and stronger regulatory language would be of immense public benefit.

NON-FEDERAL IMPLEMENTATION OF FEDERAL PROJECTS (FEDERAL)

ISSUE

Lack of staffing, resources and other factors is impairing the efficient planning, design, and construction of federal flood management projects. Associated delays expose local sponsors and communities to unnecessary flood risk and other issues. The federal delivery process also tends to make projects much more expensive than a similar project delivered at the local level.

As a result of federal project delays and budget overruns, Congress authorized several initiatives to streamline project delivery and implement a temporary pilot program that would allow local sponsors to deliver projects on behalf of the federal government (e.g., Section 1043 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2014, entitled Non-Federal Implementation Pilot Program and the USACE Public-Private Partnership Pilot Program). The programs allow for the Corps of Engineers to transfer federal funds to complete design or construction of an element or elements of a federal project to the local sponsor. This initiative, applied to Riverside County, could help speed the delivery of federal projects and reduce the overall cost to the public. Section 1043, however, expired in 2019 and funding for the public-private partnership program is limited to a few pilot projects.

ACTION

- ❖ Work with the local congressional delegation to reauthorize Section 1043 of the Water Resource Development Act of 2014 or a program of similar intent.
- ❖ Promote the inclusion of local federal projects, such as the Murrieta Creek Flood Management, Environmental Restoration and Recreation Project, in a list of pilots for any future programs.
- ❖ Promote legislation to allow local agencies to move independently forward with the construction of certain elements of federal projects and receive credit for such work against the local cost share, without putting future federal funding at risk, should federal funding for projects not be available.
- ❖ Work with the congressional delegation to include language in the final WRDA 2020 conference agreement to identify Murrieta Creek as a project to receive priority funds for the completion of this project.

ACTION

- ❖ Work with the local congressional delegation to reauthorize Section 1043 of the Water Resource Development Act of 2014, THE Non-Federal Implementation Pilot Program in the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 negotiations now underway between the House and Senate.

- ❖ Promote the inclusion of local federal projects, such as the Murrieta Creek Flood Management, Environmental Restoration and Recreation Project, in a list of pilots for any future programs.
- ❖ Promote legislation to allow local agencies to move independently forward with the construction of certain elements of federal projects and receive credit for such work against the local cost share, without putting future federal funding at risk, should federal funding for projects not be available.
- ❖ Work with the congressional delegation to include language in the final WRDA 2020 conference agreement to identify Murrieta Creek as a project to receive priority funds for the completion of this project.

STORMWATER RESOURCE FUNDING (STATE)

ISSUE

The District pursues state grant funding and subvention funding to support regional flood management projects, to offset costs of recovery associated with federal disaster declarations and to assist the District, cities and County compliance with increasingly stringent obligations of federal Clean Water Act stormwater quality permits. The voters have approved several water bond measures in recent years, but those bond measures typically have limited support for southern California flood control projects. Proposition 68, the most recent water and parks bond, included \$550 million in funding for flood protection and repair. However, only \$100 million was available for projects in southern California. Proposition 68 also did not include direct funding for stormwater quality projects.

Voters have approved several water and parks bonds including Proposition 40 (2002), Proposition 84 (2006), Proposition 1 (2014) and Proposition 68 (2018). The bonds often have limited support for southern California flood management projects. Similarly, bond funds for stormwater quality projects often pale in comparison to the costs of water quality mandates placed on local governments by state regulatory agencies and may include requirements that limit the utility of available funds.

The state also provides flood subvention funding from the General Fund for certain federal flood management projects and federal disaster recovery projects. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) manages the flood control subvention program. Projects must be submitted to DWR for evaluation. DWR then makes recommendations to the state Legislature. The Legislature can then recommend amendments to the California Water Code that authorize the project's inclusion in the subvention program. State funding of subvention is dependent on separate budget authorizations by the Legislature.

ACTION

- ❖ Promote language in state water bonds that addresses local flood and stormwater management needs and promote continued funding for state subvention of federal flood control projects and federal disaster recovery projects in Riverside County.
- ❖ Promote language in state water bonds that ensures a fair-share distribution of flood management grant funds.

FLOOD LEVY PROTECTION (STATE)

ISSUE

Homeless are cutting, altering, defacing and otherwise destroying levees that provide critical flood protection to residents of Riverside County. Legislation is needed to prohibit the altering, occupying and/ or physical or visual obstructing of levees to prevent public health and safety risks to flood prone areas.

ACTION

- ❖ Support AB 137 and similar legislation that make obstruction, damage or defacing levees a misdemeanor that allows both local law enforcement and levee maintenance agencies to quickly act to prevent and restore impacts to levees.



PARKS & OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLE FACILITY FUNDING (STATE)

ISSUE

Under current regulations, counties that do not manage legal OHV riding facilities are ineligible to receive funding from a share of registration fees commensurate with the number of vehicles registered in the county; rather, the funds are distributed based on availability of OHV areas. The impacts on counties are dramatic; for example, the County of Imperial, which has only about 9,000 registered OHVs, receives about five times the funding that the County of Riverside receives in a given year, even though there were approximately 116,000 OHVs registered in Riverside County in Fiscal Year 2015/16. In Fiscal Year 2015/16, Riverside County residents accounted for about 8.9% of the approximately \$15.1 million in annual registration fees paid statewide.

The County was awarded a planning grant through the California State Parks Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Division and, if successful in identifying property suitable for an OHV park, will pursue additional grant funds for the acquisition, development, and subsequent operation of the park. Establishing a publicly owned legal OHV riding area would result in numerous benefits, including:

- Reduced illegal OHV use throughout Inland Southern California; and improved air quality
- Reduced recreational vehicle traffic along the region's freeways, which are heavily impacted by congestion
- Investment and job growth related to the creation of a new center for OHV activity in an area that already has a significant concentration of registered OHVs.

ACTION

- ❖ Secure funding for the County of Riverside to purchase properties identified as a suitable OHV facility and establish a legal, County-owned public OHV riding area.
- ❖ Work with the California State Parks Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Division to modify language that penalizes those jurisdictions that do not currently have an OHV facility.

EQUITABLE OHV SCORING ON GRANT APPLICATIONS (State)

ISSUE

Riverside County has the 4th highest off-highway vehicle recreation usage in the state, though the off-highway vehicle (OHV) funding given is not equitable and the grant program does not favor acquisition and development of land for legal OHV uses. Riverside County has the 4th highest usage in the state, though the funding given is not equitable. The grant funding comes from deposits to the OHV trust fund.

Riverside County is at a significant disadvantage for the competitive grant process (with a loss of 76 points) for not having legal riding areas and parks. Additionally, grant funding disbursement does not favor acquisition but rather ground operations. Riverside County is working towards developing a site with establishment of an OHV committee and feasibility plan. Once a site is established, receiving equitable funding for acquisition and development will be required.

ACTION

- ❖ Support changes to the allocation of competitive state OHV funding to increase amounts for acquisition and development.
- ❖ Support criteria that favor environmental impacts and types of species impacted.
- ❖ Support the amount of direct county allotment, thereby reducing the amount of grant funding, so that distribution is more equitable to county size, number of users and need for acquisition of legal riding areas.
- ❖ Support funding local governments operating within the state rather than providing operational assistance to federal government.



PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

DATA SHARING (STATE)

ISSUE

Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) divisions and programs face challenges when customer consent is required to share customer information with other partnering departments and agencies, prior to referring customers for services. Each year new initiatives are introduced that require DPSS to share customer level information across departments and agencies. As required by Welfare Institutions Code (WIC) 10850, data sharing agreements in Riverside County currently require customer consent prior to sharing customer information. The process of having to solicit consent poses the following challenges:

- DPSS staff are the first point of contact to explain unfamiliar programs or services, and the benefits of those programs
- A delay for the partner department or agency to receive customer information, and
- The consent requirement may hinder the opportunity to provide timely wraparound services for the most vulnerable populations.

Previous outreach efforts by DPSS staff for partnering agency services have shown less customer engagement when compared to outreach efforts by the administering agency. Since DPSS staff are not the administrators of the partnering agency's services, they may lack the expertise needed to adequately explain the benefits of referral programs and/or services. This results in missed opportunities for the partnering agency as a high percentage of customers choose not to have their information shared as a result. Removing the consent requirement would allow the administering agency to be the initial point of contact for the customer, therefore increasing customer participation for their programs.

Agencies have also reported that the delay of waiting for customer consent for voluntary programs greatly decreases the number of customer consents received, and consequently, participation in the programs/services. For example, 3000 customers were potentially eligible for the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Home Visiting services, and out of the 3000, only 20 percent agreed to participate and have their information shared with the agency administering the program. By removing the customer consent requirement, there would be less of a delay and an increase in program/ service participation.

ACTION

- ❖ Support legislation that allows for data sharing between programs administered by, or in partnership with DPSS.

ALIGNMENT OF MEDICAID AND SNAP PROGRAMS (State & Federal)

ISSUE

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid (titled CalFresh and Medi-Cal in California) regulations are very different, however these programs usually share the same customer base. Customers face many challenges with initial and continued eligibility due to the differences in regulations and timeline requirements for each program.

Dual program Medi-Cal/ CalFresh workers were created in Riverside County to better serve this population by:

- providing one (1) point of contact for customers applying for both Medi-Cal and CalFresh, and
- allowing management to better shift resources as needed, for the purposes of providing accurate and timely delivery of services.

DPSS internal research has shown that customers benefit greatly from having one (1) worker to administer both CalFresh and Medi-Cal programs. With one (1) assigned worker, customers report changes to a single worker and are more likely to receive consistent information from one (1) point of contact. The continued challenges with Medi-Cal and CalFresh can be greatly decreased through the alignment of regulations and timeline requirements in these programs.

ACTION

- ❖ Support legislation that aligns the Medi-Cal and CalFresh programs to better support the administration of these programs.

SHARING OF GENERAL ASSISTANCE AND GENERAL RELIEF INFORMATION AMONGST COUNTIES (STATE)

ISSUE

Current statute prohibits counties from sharing General Assistance (GA)/General Relief (GR) information with other California (CA) counties. Welfare Institutions Code (WIC) 17006 requires that GA/GR records remain confidential, except in limited circumstances including the inspection of records by a grand jury or law enforcement.

Although CA law requires that each county administer and fund their own GA/GR program, the same statutes impose certain program requirements that deem it necessary for counties to seek out GA/GR information from other counties. For instance, WIC 17001.5(a)(4) prohibits GA recipients deemed as "employable" from receiving more than three (3) months of aid within a 12-month period.

The ability to access other county GA/GR records is necessary for counties to better discern whether an applicant was aided elsewhere. A change in statute is needed as the sharing of GA/GR information among counties would lead to more accurate eligibility determinations, prevent counties from double aiding the same customers, and reduce unnecessary expenditure of county funds to ineligible recipients.

ACTION

Support legislation that would allow for the sharing of GA/GR information across all 58 California counties including, but not limited to:

- ❖ sanction information
- ❖ employable or unemployable statuses
- ❖ beginning dates of aid
- ❖ reapplication dates within the last 12 months, and
- ❖ time limits/time spent on GA or GR.

ACCESS TO FINANCIAL RECORDS FOR FINANCIAL ABUSE INVESTIGATIONS (STATE)

ISSUE

Improve Adult Protective Services (APS) access to financial records for financial abuse investigations. Over one-third (35%) of all elder and dependent adult abuse investigations involving abuse by others involve allegations of financial abuse. In order to adequately investigate financial abuse, it is critical that APS has access to the alleged victim's records from financial institutions.

While current statute provides APS access to financial records, it limits access to a period of 30 days before, and up to 30 days following, the date of the alleged illegal act involving the account. Current statute also requires that APS files a police report in order to access these records. A thorough financial abuse investigation requires an investigator to identify the normal spending habits of the alleged victim over a period of time to assess whether the reported allegations have merit. A maximum period of 60-days as current law allows, is not enough time to conduct a thorough financial abuse investigation.

ACTION

- ❖ Support legislation that allows an APS Report of Abuse to suffice as certification that a crime report has been filed for reports involving financial abuse and extends the period for which APS may request records prior to and following the alleged illegal act.

INFORMATION SHARING BETWEEN ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES AND CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES (STATE)

ISSUE

Child Protective Services (CPS) and Adult Protective Services (APS) agencies are not authorized to share investigative information. The work of CPS and APS can overlap in a variety of ways including when clients are members of blended households e.g., the home includes minors, dependent adults or elderly individuals. Although overlap exists, current statute does not permit the sharing of investigative information between these agencies.

APS can provide information to other social service agencies for the purposes of administering services; however, this does not include the sharing of APS investigative information. Additionally, WIC 15633 and WIC15633.5 authorizes APS to share records of reported elder abuse with statutorily authorized recipients only, which does not include CPS. Similarly, CPS can only share information with authorized recipients, not including APS.

ACTION

- ❖ Support legislation that grants CPS access to APS investigative information, and APS access to CPS investigative information when it is relevant to their investigation.

CHILDRENS SERVICES

CHILDRENS SERVICES FOSTER CARE PAYMENTS & SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD) (FEDERAL)

ISSUE

Though the federal Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) includes provisions allowing for Title IV-E Foster Care maintenance payments to licensed residential family-based treatment facilities, access to these treatment facilities for child welfare-involved families is generally difficult without State licensing and established rates.

Federal legislation passed in 2018 provides an opportunity to minimize childhood trauma and support positive outcomes for youth and families impacted by substance abuse. FFPSA includes a provision allowing issuance of Title IV-E foster care maintenance payments to licensed residential family-based treatment facilities. FFPSA also allows parents and children to be jointly placed into such facilities together.

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) issued guidance clarifying that licensed residential family-based treatment facilities for substance abuse are not considered a childcare institution, as defined under Section 472(c) of Title IV-E. As such, while the facility must meet state licensure requirements, there is no requirement to meet Title IV-E licensing and background check requirements. State legislation is needed to align to the federal program.

ACTION

- ❖ Support legislation that directs the State to establish Title IV-E licensing requirements and rates for residential treatment facilities.

PLACEMENT OF DEPENDENT YOUTH IN LOCKED FACILITIES (STATE)

ISSUE

County child welfare agencies continue to face challenges when placing children that have severe mental and behavioral health, developmental delays, or emotional disturbances that cause the child to be a danger to himself or others.

Periodically, there are children that require placement in facilities offering the highest level of care, including secure containment due to the child's severe mental health, behavioral health, developmental delays, or emotional disturbances that cause the child to be a danger to himself or others.

Often, these children have been bounced from placement to placement and the county has ran out of placement options due to the acute nature of their needs. Current statute dictates that placement in a facility that provides secure containment is not permitted without a court order and the child's consent. Furthermore, the placement of the child is considered voluntary, and consequently, children seldom remain in a facility long enough to obtain a thorough assessment of their needs and are less likely to obtain appropriate treatment.

ACTION

- ❖ Support legislation that allows for children to be placed in lockdown facilities via a court order, when it is determined by a professional that the child lacks the capacity to consent and/or they are at grave risk to themselves or others.

CHILDREN SERVICES DIVISION HUMAN RESOURCES INVESTIGATIONS (STATE)

ISSUE

Sharing of confidential child welfare information with the child welfare agency's Human Resources (HR) department is needed when employee investigations require review of such records. When a Riverside County Children Services Division (CSD) employee is the subject of an HR investigation and HR requests child welfare records as part of their investigation, CSD is not authorized to release the records pursuant to Welfare Institutions Code (WIC) 827.

Riverside County HR would need to file a *Request for Disclosure of Juvenile Case File*, in Juvenile Court in order to obtain that information, which is a process that can take between 30-60 days. The lack of prompt access to these records can result in HR's inability to complete a thorough investigation of the employee. A change to current statute is needed to better assist child welfare agencies in thoroughly vetting their workforce, and as a result, better protect the children they serve.

ACTION

- ❖ Support legislation that adds child welfare agency HR departments to the list of entities allowed to inspect juvenile case files for child welfare agency employees or potential employees.

ADULT SERVICES- OFFICE ON AGING (STATE & FEDERAL)

PERMANENT FUNDING AND PRIORITIZED SUPPORT FOR HOMELESS OR UNSTABLY HOUSED SENIORS

ISSUE

Adult Protective Services (APS) requests permanent funding to provide housing and related support services for elders experiencing homelessness or unstable housing. Additionally, senior citizens need additional priority/exception consideration for housing support services.

The face of Riverside County's homeless population is growing older. The increase of elder homelessness locally and nationally is widely attributed to the aging of existing chronically homeless and those who are experiencing homelessness for the first time later in life. The complexity of their circumstances requires that planners and policymakers adopt multifaceted short and long-range solutions to address the medical, social, emotional and economic needs of those who are aging and homeless. The needs of the aging homeless in our local communities are quickly mounting. In coming decades, the population those over 60 years of age in Riverside County is expected to increase by 250%, placing Riverside in the top five California counties with the largest older-adult population. Sustained economic uncertainty, a falling away of social supports and shrinking supply of affordable housing are putting a growing number of aging County residents at risk of homelessness.

Riverside County was recently the recipient of the Home Safe grant, which provided 3-years of funding to select county participants to provide housing-related support to APS clients who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness. Although instrumental, this funding stream is temporary and scheduled to end June 2021.

In addition to the need for more funding, this population faces other hurdles in obtaining housing including the lack of affordable housing units available and the stringent HUD policies that give priority housing vouchers to seniors who are 75 years of age or older, when one (1) in four (4) enrollments into Riverside County's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) between 2015 and 2019, were persons age 55 or older.

ACTION

- ❖ Support legislation that provides a permanent funding source for housing support services for APS clients experiencing homelessness or unstable housing; and expand priority for seniors to receive Housing and Urban Development (HUD) housing vouchers at the earlier age of 60 years of age, rather than the current age of 75.
- ❖ Expand the inventory of low-income senior housing funding for extended specialized housing case management services to support seniors as they transition into permanent housing.
- ❖ Allow exceptions to specific HUD housing criteria, as well as landlord rental criteria, that pose barriers for seniors to secure permanent housing.

SOCIAL SERVICE BUDGET ITEMS (STATE & FEDERAL)

ISSUE

Social Services programs require increased funding to ensure benefits are available to those in need. Increased funding is also needed for the administration of programs to ensure timely delivery of benefits. Disaster CalFresh (DCF) Benefits – DCF benefits are issued in the event of a presidentially declared disaster to quickly meet the needs of disaster victims. In 2017 California counties experienced an unprecedented number of Federally declared disasters, resulting in six (6) California counties issuing DCF or mass benefit replacements.

Currently, the electronic benefit systems do not fully support the issuance of DCF benefits and required reporting. As a result, manual processes are required taking from time needed to focus on processing DCF applications and staffing Emergency Operation Centers.

With funding the DCF program can be automated to:

- ensure benefits are issued more quickly and accurately (prevention of duplicate aid)
- enable the County to more efficiently provide mandated reporting
- enable cross-county assistance to disaster impacted counties, and
- reduce the administrative costs of issuing DCF benefits.

Expansion of the Medi-Cal Aged and Disabled Program – Disproportionate Medicaid (Medi-Cal) share-of-cost for the aged (65 and older) and disabled population under the non-Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) program when compared to those with similar income levels receiving MAGI MC benefits.

Funding increases will allow more of the County's aged and disabled population to receive needed medical services.

Caseload Study and Housing Navigation Services

Foster youth need specialized support and assistance to secure eligible housing and to meet their transitional goals. However, resources are insufficient to support effective practices in conjunction with the Extended Foster Care Program (EFC).

ACTION

- ❖ Support legislation that provides a funding carve out for the aging homeless population
- ❖ Support legislation that adds clarity and uniformity around general assistance guidelines
- ❖ Support policies and funding for a fully automated system of benefits distribution that enables cross-county assistance during disasters.



RUHS-BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (State)

ISSUE

Protect Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding which represents a significant percentage of Riverside's overall behavioral health budget. In FY 2018-19 Riverside received over \$100 million in MHSA funding (\$104,968,417) and used these resources to leverage millions in additional federal funds for Riverside's behavioral health delivery system. The Mental Health Services Act, also known as Proposition 63, was approved by voters in 2004. The MHSA imposes a 1% tax on personal income above \$1 million. Most of the revenue generated from this tax is used to sustain the public behavioral health system statewide.

ACTION

- ❖ Oppose legislation and state policy proposals that seek to divert or restrict MHSA funds currently allocated to the public behavioral health system.

RESPONDING TO UNIQUE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS (State)

ISSUE

Public behavioral health systems support the most vulnerable among us – children with serious emotional challenges, children in the child welfare system, adults with serious mental disorders, justice-involved populations, individuals at-risk or experiencing homelessness, and people living with substance use disorders.

ACTION

- ❖ Advocate for additional equitable investments in the state's EPSDT entitlement to meet the increasing needs of children with behavioral health conditions.
- ❖ Support efforts to increase behavioral health services to foster youth.
- ❖ Advocate for funding to increase the number of school sites with on-site integrated services including county behavioral health and medical services.
- ❖ Support broad policy efforts to focus on prevention of homelessness, such as expanded rental and housing options for all very low-income Californians and those with behavioral health needs.
- ❖ Invest in new state funding for diversion programs including new opportunities for justice system-involved individuals living with mental illness.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE (State)

ISSUE

Riverside County Behavioral Health is financially disadvantaged through 1991 and 2011 Realignment funding formulas. Lack of adequate funding has resulted in a suboptimal physical infrastructure for county residents in need of Behavioral health services. An individual in Riverside County does not have access to the same level of care as individuals in other counties.

ACTION

- ❖ Support efforts to acquire State and or Federal money for Behavioral Health Infrastructure.

CALAIM – BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REFORM (Federal)

ISSUE

California's 1915(b) waiver, which authorizes county mental health plans to provide specialty mental health services and California's 1115 waiver, which gives counties the option to implement the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) are both expiring in 2020. The state is negotiating new waivers through the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) initiative.

CalAIM, is a multi-year initiative by the Department of Health Care Services to improve the quality of life and health outcomes for Californians by implementing broad delivery system, program and payment reform across the Medi-Cal program. Some significant components of CalAIM seek to build upon the successful outcomes of various pilots (including DMC-ODS and WPC pilots) from previous waivers.

ACTION

- ❖ Advocate for behavioral health payment reform as a means to improve the quality of county behavioral health services and to create greater efficiencies within the public behavioral health system.
- ❖ Support waiver proposals that promote behavioral health integration, including through incentives and easing of regulatory barriers. Riverside has already taken bold steps to integrate behavioral health services within the county.
- ❖ Support efforts to improve quality outcomes and drive delivery system transformation through value-based initiatives, modernization of systems and payment reform.
- ❖ Strongly support the continuation of the DMC-ODS model. This model has afforded counties an invaluable opportunity to build more comprehensive continuums of care for Medi-Cal beneficiaries with substance use disorders while working to improve quality and delivery positive treatment outcomes.
- ❖ Strongly support that the state build on the successes of Whole Person Care (WPC) pilots by developing Enhanced Care management (ECM) and In-Lieu-of-Services (ILOS) programs that can be implemented across the state as partnerships between Managed Care Plans (MCPs) and counties, including county behavioral health plans.



RUHS-MEDICAL CENTER & CLINICS

PRESERVE HEALTH CARE ACCESS, QUALITY, AFFORDABILITY / INTEGRATION (STATE/FEDERAL)

ISSUE

The 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) launched January 2014 and has been successful in reducing the rates of uninsured in Riverside County while alleviating some of the cost burden associated with caring for the uninsured.

ACTION

- ❖ Support increase in Medicaid reimbursements in California, which has one of the lowest rates of reimbursement in the country.
- ❖ Preserve and support Medicaid DSH funding, as well as other supplemental and directed Medicaid payments.
- ❖ Support policies and legislation that expand access to health coverage and that streamlines Medicaid (Medi-Cal) enrollment and retention.
- ❖ Support renewal of the Medicaid (Medi-Cal) waiver in 2020, and/or new waiver replacement funding/programs in follow up to the Medi-Cal 2020 waiver, which expires in 2020.
- ❖ Support expansion of access to dental care and preventive services.
- ❖ Support Medi-Cal reimbursement for medical and behavioral health services provided to incarcerated individuals.
- ❖ Support funding models to promote access to forensic examinations for cases of domestic violence/strangulation.

ACTIONS TO PROMOTE HEALTH AND DISEASE PREVENTION, INNOVATION, MEDICAL EDUCATION (STATE/FEDERAL)

ACTION

- ❖ Support preservation and increase in funding for Federally Qualified Health Centers, including legislation to allow reimbursement for mental health and clinical services on the same day.
- ❖ Support financing programs and structures for innovative technologies such as Telehealth that improve access to healthcare, integration, value and efficiency.
- ❖ Effect legislation that would allow teaching institutions to be reimbursed for the graduate medical education as a percentage of Medicaid reimbursements and not just Medicare, as many public hospitals are teaching hospitals with a large majority of Medicaid patients.
- ❖ Support continuance of Whole Person Care project (and/or succeeding program/structure) and similar initiatives aimed at integration, transitions, and improvements in care management/coordination of behavioral health, substance use treatment, primary care, housing, nutrition and other social services with better patient outcomes.
- ❖ Support efforts to reduce health disparities and improve health equity.
- ❖ Support policies and legislation that improve chronic pain management and reduce inappropriate prescribing of opioids.

- ❖ Support Telehealth is the use of technology to better harness providers' time and expertise and connect patients to the care they need more quickly and conveniently.
- ❖ Support efforts to address workforce that could improve access for patients and/or create efficiencies within the system, such as expanding the scope of practice for nurse practitioners, creating new licenses/certificates for other provider types (ex: peer support providers), and other workforce initiatives.

OPPOSE REFORM PROPOSALS/POLICIES THAT NEGATIVELY IMPACT SERVICES (STATE/FEDERAL)

ACTION

- ❖ Protect the 340B federal drug program, and pharmacy reimbursement, from any legislative or administrative changes that would restrict or negatively impact RUHS and its patients.
- ❖ Eliminate or delay cuts to Medicaid DSH funding and oppose restrictive changes and/or cuts to supplemental payments to public hospitals.
- ❖ Oppose efforts to change the definition of Public Charge and any initiative that would restrict or remove access to health coverage and services.
- ❖ Oppose cuts to Medicaid and Medicare that would cut reimbursement or restrict eligibility or services.
- ❖ Oppose efforts to weaken the ACA.



RUHS-PUBLIC HEALTH

CALIFORNIA CHILDRENS SERVICES PROGRAM (STATE)

ISSUE

The California Children's Services (CCS) program provides diagnostic and treatment services, medical case management, and physical and occupational therapy services to children under the age of 21 with CCS-eligible medical conditions. In Riverside County, the CCS program is administered as a partnership between the county and the California Department of Health Care Services. The growth in CCS caseload and program costs has steadily increased over time.

ACTION

- ❖ Support strategies to streamline funding and program complexities of the California Children's Services (CCS) program in order to meet the demands of the complex medical care and treatment needs for children in Riverside County with certain physically disabling conditions. Monitor the CCS program and seek protections against increased county program costs. Oppose any efforts to require counties to provide funding for the CCS program beyond their Maintenance of Effort (MOE).

CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION & WELLNESS PROMOTION (FEDERAL)

ISSUE

In 2010 as part of the federal Affordable Care Act, Congress created the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF) that was designed to expand and sustain the necessary infrastructure to prevent disease, detect it early, and manage conditions before they become severe. This fund created an unprecedented opportunity for local health departments to augment and expand existing chronic disease programs or to participate in new programs to address longstanding chronic disease issues in their communities.

However, over the years, the PPHF has become increasingly vulnerable and has been diverted to fund other purposes, such as the 21st Century Cures Act passed in December 2016 and a shift of \$750 million to the CHIP program in January 2018. Congress also cut an additional \$1.35 billion over ten years from PPHF in February 2018. Chronic diseases in Riverside County, including heart disease, cancer, lung disease, stroke, diabetes and asthma, continue to impact our communities, particularly in low-income communities and communities of color.

ACTION

- ❖ Support a dedicated funding stream to fund preventive health services or activities that improve community health outcomes, such as proposals to develop a statewide funding source for public health prevention and wellness.

- ❖ Advocate for flexibility for California to design prevention programs to encourage the provision of base funding to state and local health departments with additional funding available on a competitive basis.
- ❖ Encourage the allocation of new revenue streams in an equitable manner across all local health jurisdictions. Seek to improve nutrition, obesity and fitness education programs as well as health literacy in California's population, and reduce food insecurity.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL (FEDERAL)

ISSUE

The control of infectious disease, through immunizations, surveillance, disease investigation, laboratory testing, and response activities has long been a fundamental and statutorily required responsibility assigned to local government public health agencies. However, resources to support these essential activities have been largely insufficient. There is little capacity to respond to new and re-emerging infectious diseases that may impact our residents and visitors. Preventing and controlling communicable diseases such as COVID-19, sexually transmitted diseases, and other vaccine preventable diseases such as measles and pertussis, hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis remain ongoing challenges for local health departments, including Riverside County.

ACTION

- ❖ Support increased and flexible state and federal funding and resources directed at building the capacity of local public health departments and infrastructure to combat and control communicable diseases.
- ❖ Support funding for a new reporting system that is electronically connected to both major as well as small testing labs throughout California.
- ❖ Oppose efforts to reduce state and federal funding streams which would create cost shifts to local health departments.
- ❖ Support regulatory changes to add local data to the state electronic reporting system for specific or unique populations e.g. farmworkers, people with AIDS, etc.
- ❖ Workforce- determine where the deficiencies are in the public health arena: lab directors, epidemiologists, microbiologists etc.
- ❖ Create strategic partnerships with public or private university institutions for workforce development and lab systems.

FUNDING FOR HIV/AIDS

ISSUE

HIV/AIDS cases are traditionally assigned to a local health jurisdiction based on where the patient was living when first diagnosed. This determines the prevalence rate, used for funding and resource allocation, for the jurisdiction regardless of where that person moves after diagnosis leading to an inaccurate portrayal of the true population of persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH). The current method significantly underestimates the number of PLWH in the county due to in-migration of PLWH from other areas of the state and the country. Consequently, there are 51% more PLWH in Riverside County than has been reported. Increases in people living with HIV/AIDS are seen in all regions of the county, age groups and racial/ethnic categories examined.

ACTION

- ❖ Change the method of reporting HIV/AIDS cases, the county could receive 50% more funding to better address the needs of the HIV/AIDS population and improve the health outcomes and healthcare costs of this population.

FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL DETERMINATION

ISSUE

Federal Poverty Level Determinations are too low for the residents served in Riverside County. The Federal Poverty Level does not measure poverty through multiple factors such as housing costs, transportation costs, and regional economic differences. The cost of living in California is higher than the national average; therefore, the poverty measure should be adjusted to account for the higher cost of living.

Alaska and Hawaii have already adopted higher poverty levels to determine eligibility due to their high cost of living. More accurate estimates of typical family expenses, and adjustments for local costs, would produce substantially higher dollar amounts, thus making more disadvantaged families eligible for services. Last, gross income is counted before subtracting payroll, income, and other taxes, overstating income for some families thereby decreasing the number of eligible participants. Our customers are not eligible for vital programs such as utility assistance because higher cost of living is not taken into consideration.

ACTION

- ❖ Create regional poverty thresholds that accurately reflect the cost of food, clothing, shelter and other living expenses.
- ❖ Adjust thresholds by region to account for variation in the cost of living.
- ❖ When counting families' resources to determine whether they fall below the poverty line: use families' post-tax income.



TRANSPORTATION LAND
MANAGEMENT AGENCY

SAFE COUNTY ROADS (STATE)

ISSUE

Within the last five years, the County has experienced a significant increase in traffic volumes, and a 21% increase in fatal collisions and 46% increase in injury collisions. The collisions have been primarily caused by distracted driving, driving under the influence, and maneuvers such as speeding and unsafe passing; it is estimated that 94% of accidents are caused by human error.

Countywide, traffic volume has grown significantly, and the County is actively working on road widening projects and other measures to address the need for increased capacity. However, given that these projects will take significant time to complete, the County must take steps to enhance driver safety now. The Transportation Department is dedicated to providing the citizens of Riverside County with improved quality of life and orderly economic development through provision and management of a safe, efficient and convenient transportation system.

The Department collaborates with the CHP, Caltrans and other County Departments to reduce collision rates on County roads through measures such as capital improvements, enhanced enforcement, and education and awareness. Designation of sections of Ramona Expressway, Gilman Springs Road, Cajalco Road, and Grand Avenue as Safety Awareness Zones would introduce an additional tool for regional collaboration and measure of enforcement that would assist in adjusting behavior toward safer driving practices.

ACTION

- ❖ Pursuant to CA Streets & Highways Code Section 97.1, pursue designation of certain segments of Ramona Expressway, Gilman Springs Road, Cajalco Road, and Grand Avenue within unincorporated areas of the County as Safety Awareness Zones.

IMPROVE SAFETY AT COUNTY AIRPORTS (FEDERAL)

ISSUE

Airport towers enhance the safety of air traffic' clear communication between pilots and a control tower is vital. Contract towers are air traffic control towers that are staffed by employees of private companies rather than by FAA employees. The FAA considers applicants based on a cost-benefit analysis (CBA) to determine eligibility for funding the operation of a contract tower. Aspects considered on a CBA include based aircraft, aircraft operations, and the characteristics of the airport, i.e. safety, airspace complexity, fleet mix, etc. The safety and efficiency benefits of a tower must exceed its costs, and the CBA received from the FAA must be at least 1.0, in order for the tower to be admitted into the program.

ACTION

- ❖ Submit a Federal Contract Tower application for both French Valley and the Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airport.

JACQUELINE COCHRAN REGIONAL AIRPORT (FEDERAL)

ISSUE

A U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) General Aviation Facility (GAF) at the Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airport would enhance current operations at the airport by bringing international arrivals, both visitors and commerce. The airport sits in close proximity to the Union Pacific railroad, State Route 86 and Interstate 10 and could spur growth in logistics and industrial uses. The airport is also near world-class golf resorts and spas, polo fields, the BNP Paribas Open, the Coachella and Stagecoach music festivals, the new Thermal Club motorsports facility and other popular and high-quality attractions.

A GAF designation for Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airport would complement efforts to attract more business development around the airport. Over the last 10 years, Riverside County has invested \$82.9 million in Thermal community projects to build infrastructure needed in the community. This region is primed to be the epicenter of future development and economic opportunity in our rapidly growing county.

ACTION

- ❖ Pursue a collaborative partnership with the federal government for GAF designation at Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airport and provide access to services offered by the United States Customs and Border Protection Division of Homeland Security.



WASTE RESOURCES

LOCAL SOLID WASTE DIVERSION MANDATE (STATE)

ISSUE

California has adopted a Statewide 75% waste recycling goal for the year 2020 (AB 341). AB 341 included language saying the State "shall not establish or enforce a diversion rate on a city or county that is greater than the 50 percent diversion rate established pursuant to Section 41780" (from Section 41780.01 (b) of the Public Resources Code). Local jurisdictions are concerned that the 75% Statewide recycling goal might one day be a mandate for them before they are capable of complying with it or that additional fees may be imposed.

Local jurisdictions in California are currently mandated to divert 50% of all solid waste from disposal in landfills. It is believed that forcing the diversion of solid waste that is "source reduced, recycled or composted" by an arbitrary deadline does not allow time for sustainable solutions to be developed. Additionally, foreclosing on the utilization of any diversion opportunities that might develop elsewhere, such as with conversion technologies, is short-sighted. Diverse strategies are needed to create additional tools for increased diversion and market development.

ACTION

- ❖ Support legislation that keeps the local diversion mandate of 50% in place until the recycling and composting infrastructure is more developed, additional tools are available to local governments to increase diversion, including recycling options (i.e. compost facilities, material recovery facilities, anaerobic digestion facilities, etc).
- ❖ Oppose any increase in State fees that do not directly fund local infrastructure projects on a dollar for dollar basis.

EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (EPR) (STATE)

ISSUE

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) – Requires producers of goods that contain materials requiring special handling (i.e. mercury, etc.), and are harmful to the environment, to be accountable for products during their lifespan (from "cradle to the grave"). The California law that banned the landfill disposal of items commonly referred to as Universal Wastes that are considered harmful to the environment went into effect on February 8, 2006 (CCR, Title 22, Division 4.5, Chapter 23).

Universal Wastes include household batteries, fluorescent light bulbs and tubes, thermostats and other items that contain mercury, and electronic devices such as video cassette recorders, microwave ovens, cellular and cordless phones, printers, computers and radios. Since that time, Sharps (needles) have also been banned from landfill disposal.

As a result of these unfunded mandates, local governments have had to develop new programs to handle the disposition of such wastes. The County of Riverside Department of Waste Resources collects and processes these waste items through its hazardous waste collection and landfill load check programs. The two programs cover the entire County and are funded with a combination of landfill fees and grant monies. The use of public monies for the final disposition of these hard-to-handle products equates to subsidies in favor of the

producers. Extended Producer Responsibility makes the final handling of such products a cost of doing business for the producer, which more accurately reflects the true cost of the product. The costs are then incorporated into the purchase price and only borne by the user of the product rather than by all rate payers. Local governments (and the rate payer) will no longer have to fund costly programs for this purpose. By placing the life cycle burden on producers, better products are designed, which will reduce the toxicity of products, lessen the amount of packaging, and better plans for final disposition of the product (whether it be recycling or disposal).

The concept of extended producer responsibility has also been applied to products that do not necessarily fall into the categories above. For instance, the Governor signed bills from the 2010 legislative session into law that involved Extended Producer Responsibility for paint and carpet. The paint program is already saving the County \$300,000 per year and has increased re-use of paint.

ACTION

- ❖ Support legislation that places responsibility for product design, distribution for sale, and collection for recycling or disposal on the producer of said product and, thereby, relieves local jurisdictions from having to bear the cost of product collection for recycling and disposal programs.

DEVELOPMENT OF CONVERSION TECHNOLOGIES (STATE)

ISSUE

Conversion Technologies – Those technologies that process through thermal (without combustion), chemical or biological means the organic portion of municipal solid waste, that remain after recycling, into useable products such as electricity and fuel, and as a result decrease the amount of solid waste disposed in landfills. The statewide level of diversion is estimated to be 65% and recycling 50% ([CalRecycle AB 341 Report](#)).

Materials suitable for composting, mulch, anaerobic digestion, or other organics recovery strategies account for about 40% of California's disposed waste stream. This includes food, vegetative materials, clean wood materials, and compostable paper ([CalRecycle 2014 Characterization Study](#)). This material could be feedstock for a number of different technologies commonly known as conversion technologies: gasification, pyrolysis, anaerobic digestion, hydrolysis, distillation, plasma arc, and fermentation. Such facilities provide additional opportunities to keep recoverable materials out of the landfill.

There have been no conversion facilities developed in the United States. Part of the problem has been government regulations. In California, pyrolysis and distillation are considered forms of "Transformation" (which is considered disposal) and are limited in terms of how much of the processed material can count toward a jurisdiction's diversion total. Feedstock sent to a transformation facility can count for no more than 10% of a jurisdiction's 50% requirement. Conversion Technologies are expensive to develop, and local governments will need a number of positive factors in their favor to justify their development. Generous credit toward a jurisdiction's State mandated diversion requirement is one important factor. Conversion technologies do not incinerate the feedstock so they should not be considered transformation facilities.

It is widely accepted by stakeholders that jurisdictions should send feedstock to a conversion facility only after the waste stream has been subjected to recycling and other diversion programs (i.e. curbside recycling, Material Recovery Facility (MRF) processing, and commercial recycling, etc.). Though conversion facilities produce worthwhile products, including some technologies producing energy, the existing infrastructure is seen as getting recyclable materials to higher and more beneficial uses. Conversion technologies can make good use of solid waste materials that are not appropriate for these other diversion programs.

ACTION

- ❖ Support legislation that encourages the development of conversion technologies by removing legislative/regulatory barriers to them and by granting diversion credit on behalf of those jurisdictions that make use of them.

DEVELOPMENT OF COMPOST FACILITIES (STATE)

ISSUE

Compost – The product resulting from the controlled biological decomposition of organic material which can enhance soils and decrease the amount of solid waste disposed in landfills. A 2010 California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) assessment of the State's Compost and Mulch-Producing infrastructure estimated that 9.3 million tons of compostable materials were processed into an estimated 13 million cubic yards of products in 2008. Even so, it is believed that approximately 40% of all materials disposed of annually in California landfills can be processed into compost or mulch.

Composting as an industry, and a waste management process, is not using more of the compostable material available because of the difficulty in establishing markets and the sometimes-constraining impact of government regulations. In terms of marketing, the industry's rates have to be competitive with landfill rates in order to capture more feedstock. Products also have to meet the requirements of potential users and convince them that the application of compost will be of benefit to their soils (and crops), and that they are an adequate replacement for chemical fertilizers.

Regulations can impair the use of additional compostable material at processing facilities. For instance, current regulations call for green material to have no more than 1.0% contaminants by weight. Material collected in curbside collection programs often times have a higher level of contaminants when delivered to facilities. Regulations can be changed to increase the level of contamination permissible in green waste received at processing sites and add a maximum contamination level for material leaving compost sites. The contaminant level for material leaving a facility would have to be consistent with standards for determining when it can be used, where it can be used, or when it is to be disposed. Another regulation related issue is that rules of multiple agencies can be redundant and/or inconsistent and cause uncertainty on the part of prospective operators. Efforts to clear up conflicting requirements among regulatory agencies can assist in the development of compost facilities and the industry.

Composting is beneficial to the environment because it replenishes soils with needed nutrients. The amount of compostable material still available for processing underscores the importance of the industry in helping jurisdictions meet, and maintain, the required diversion level of 50%.

ACTION

- ❖ Support legislation that encourages the development of, and/or removes barriers to, compost facilities so jurisdictions have additional outlets (other than disposal) for organic materials and have an additional tool to increase and meet the required 50% diversion rate.



VETERANS

CALIFORNIA VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS FUNDING (STATE)

ISSUE

Currently, the counties pick up the majority of the funding. As part of this legislative effort, the CACVSO will continue to educate the Governor's Office, the Legislature, and the public on the importance and value of County Veterans Service Officers.

ACTION

- ❖ Support legislation to fully fund CVSOs by permanently appropriating the full \$11 million in local assistance funding as reflected in Military and Veterans Code Section 972.1(d). Current State funding is now at \$5.6 million annually.

STATE GRANTS FOR VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS (STATE)

ISSUE

Awarding of state grants.

ACTION

- ❖ Support Legislation that would award state grants through CalVet to veteran's service organizations and veterans service agencies that provide claims assistance and outreach to California Veterans.

VETERANS LICENSE PLATE (STATE)

ISSUE

Restoration of the veterans only specialized license.

ACTION

- ❖ Support legislation that would restore the Veterans only specialized license plate, so that there would be two plates available for sale- (Veteran & Honoring Veterans)

GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (STATE)

ISSUE

USDVA Veterans claims backlog.

ACTION

- ❖ Support legislative, regulatory or policy changes that would create a federal/state/local government partnership to reduce the USDVA veteran's claims backlog and expand outreach services to veterans.

ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO VETERAN MILITARY SERVICE RECORDS (FEDERAL & STATE)

ISSUE

Records access was reduced following a hacking/ electronic security breach. Enhancing this access will result in better, timelier services to claimants and reduce the workload in USDVA call centers.

ACTION

- ❖ Support legislation that would provide increased access for CVSOs to USDVA information systems (i.e., VBMS, VACOLS, SHARE, MAPD, etc.)
- ❖ Increase access for County Veterans Service Officers to United States Department of Veterans affairs information systems.
- ❖ Support legislation that would provide for payment of Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP) for all military retirees, regardless of the percentage of their service-connected disabilities.
- ❖ Support legislation that would eliminate Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)-Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) offset.
- ❖ Support legislation that would eliminate the requirement for war-time service as an eligibility requirement for non-service connected and death pension.

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