

LA COUNTY CARES

Report to the Board of Supervisors on CARES Act
Funding Allocations and Outcomes

March 2020 - December 2020



LOS ANGELES COUNTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary.....	1
Background.....	2
Funding Categories Chart.....	4
Lessons Learned.....	5
The Road Ahead.....	6

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS

Community Health Worker Outreach Initiative.....	8
Project Roomkey	9
Food Security.....	10
Homeless Outreach.....	12
Rent Relief.....	13
LACOE Computers & Hotspots.....	14
Library Laptop and Hotspot Lending Program.....	15
LA Regional COVID- 19 Recovery Fund.....	16
Childcare.....	17
Small Business Revitalization Grant Program.....	18
Keep LA County Dining.....	19
Arts Relief Fund.....	20

CARES ACT FUNDING 2020 HIGHLIGHTS BY CATEGORY

Health & Food Security.....	22
Housing & Helping to Bridge the Digital Divide.....	28
Support for Small Businesses, Workers & Community Organizations.....	31
Funding to Staff Emergency & Community Response.....	34
Acknowledgments.....	35

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In March 2020, Los Angeles County, like local jurisdictions across the United States, confronted a stark new reality as the COVID-19 pandemic brought swift, devastating and unprecedented hardships to the communities we serve.

The Chief Executive Office and County departments immediately began pivoting resources, programs, and services to address these impacts in real time as this public health crisis accelerated, bringing death, illness, and economic catastrophe to tens of thousands of our residents—especially those in economically disadvantaged communities of color.

An essential resource in funding our urgent response efforts was \$1.22 billion in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Coronavirus Relief funding from the U.S. Treasury. We have used CARES Act funding to support the health and well-being of our residents and communities through a wide range of programs—from diagnostic testing and contact tracing to food distribution, rent relief, support for businesses and investments in technology to help bridge the digital divide.

Today, as we await developments in Washington D.C., we are hopeful that the American Rescue Plan now pending final approval will deliver another significant boost to Los Angeles County and municipal governments around the country as we move forward to meet our continuing frontline safety net responsibilities to the people we serve.

With this in mind, this report looks back at the road we have traveled so far—allocations, outcomes, lessons learned—with highlights of key CARES Act-funded programs and services offered by the County to its residents during the COVID-19 pandemic from March 2020 through December 2020, unless otherwise noted.



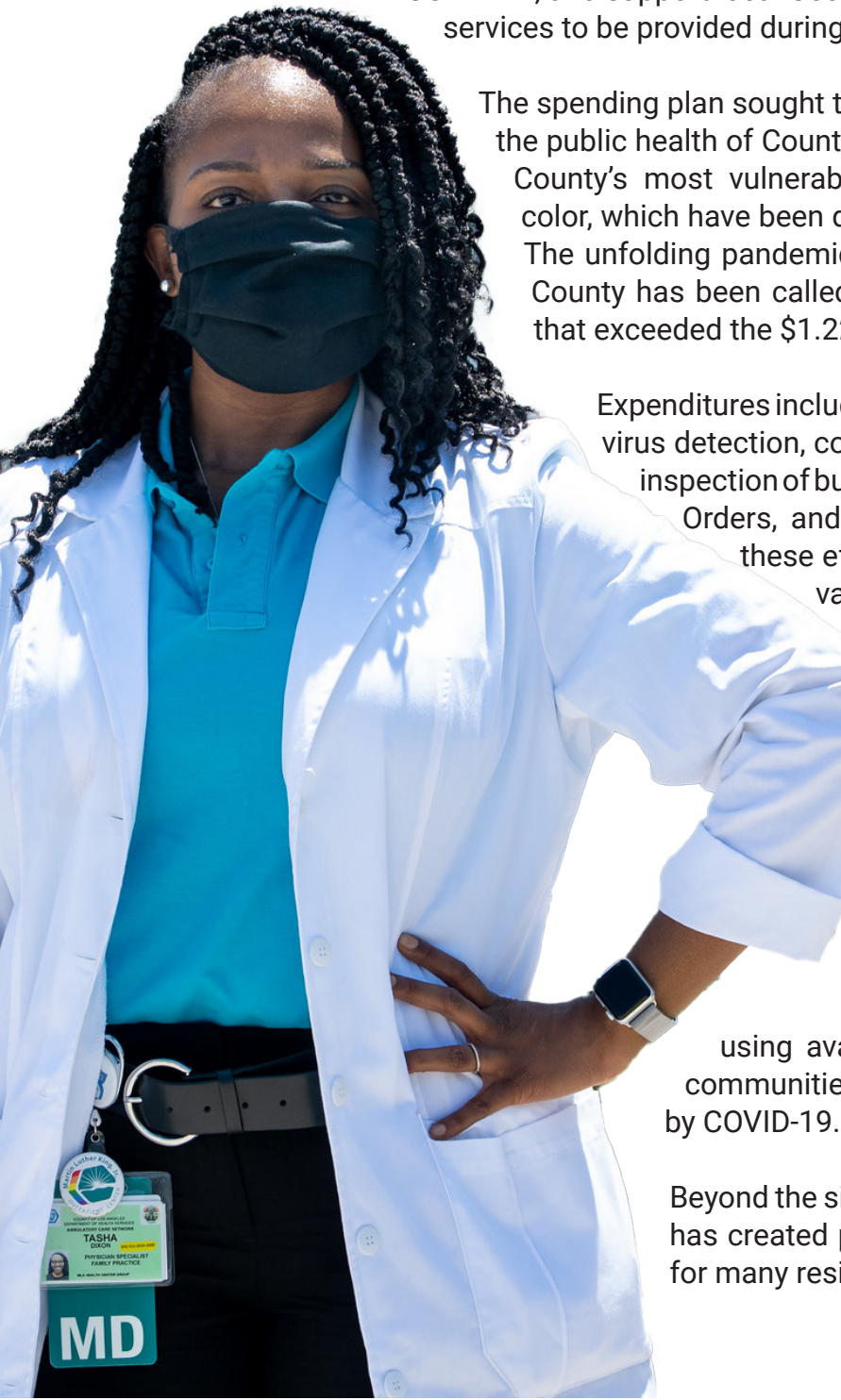
BACKGROUND

On July 21, 2020, the Board of Supervisors approved a spending plan for the County's CARES Act allocation of \$1.22 billion for COVID-19-related expenditures. On September 15, 2020, the Board approved a supplemental spending plan totaling \$129.7 million, which supplemented the original CRF allocations and programs identified in the July 21, 2020 spending plan. On November 10, 2020, the Board approved a second supplemental spending plan allocating a total of \$65.24 million, which further supported the objectives of the July 21, 2020 spending plan and the September 15, 2020 supplemental spending plan. The initial spending plan and its supplements continue to support the County's efforts to address the health, safety, and welfare of County residents and their communities; support small businesses, nonprofits, and childcare operators negatively impacted by COVID-19; provide needed rental assistance to County residents who are unable to pay rent because they are economically impacted by COVID-19; and support local County government by enabling COVID-19-related services to be provided during the pandemic.

The spending plan sought to strike the right balance between supporting the public health of County residents while addressing the needs of the County's most vulnerable populations, particularly communities of color, which have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. The unfolding pandemic was and continues to be dynamic, and the County has been called upon to address a variety of needs—needs that exceeded the \$1.22 billion in available funding.

Expenditures included support for the County's efforts targeted at virus detection, contact tracing, and infection control (including inspection of business facilities, enforcement of Health Officer Orders, and a robust communication campaign around these efforts.) In addition, expenditures supported a variety of sheltering types (medical sheltering for COVID-19 positive individuals, quarantine and isolation for individuals possibly exposed to COVID-19, non-quarantine and isolation sheltering for COVID-19 vulnerable individuals, and sheltering and services for survivors of domestic violence.) The CEO worked with the Department of Health Services, the Department of Public Health, and other relevant departments to ensure that these resources were thoughtfully deployed to address the pandemic, while using available data to prioritize the needs of those communities of color being disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

Beyond the significant public health impacts, the crisis also has created profound economic hardship and uncertainty for many residents and businesses.



According to the State Employment Development Department, the unemployment rate in the County skyrocketed to 20.8 percent in May 2020, a level not seen since the Great Depression. The spending plan supported food and nutrition, rent relief, landlord and tenant protections, and childcare for essential workers whose children were unable to attend school due to school closures driven by COVID-19. The CEO worked with the Department of Public Health (DPH); the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA); the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS); the Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS); and the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA) to ensure an equitable distribution of these resources.

In the pages ahead, you'll see the results of some of our CARES Act-supported efforts to support community health workers (promotores); distribute millions of meals to struggling families and individuals; provide millions of dollars in rent relief to residents and aid to small businesses; conduct outreach and provide temporary housing through Project Roomkey for vulnerable people experiencing homelessness; reach across the Digital Divide to provide laptops and WiFi hotspots; and grants to arts organizations to keep the light of creativity—and jobs—alive in our communities during this challenging period.



Funding Categories and Program Highlights

March 2020-December 2020

Housing & Helping to Bridge the Digital Divide

Project Roomkey
\$24.5 million
7,000 people served

Project Homekey
\$25.530 million
455 people served

ODR housing
\$6 million
1,062 people served

Homeless Outreach
\$5 million
10,963 people served

Rent Relief
\$110 million
11,007 grants made

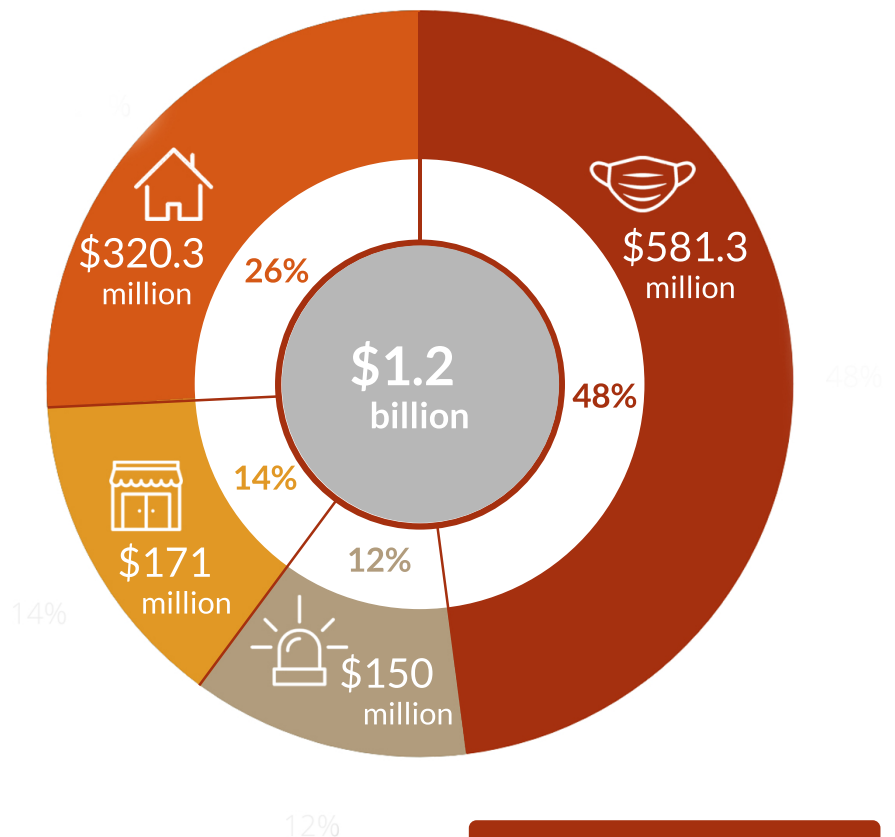
Computers/Hotspots
\$17.27 million
11,196 iPads; 36,892 chrome books; 32,290 hotspots

Wi-Fi Expansion
\$825,000
124,000 customer sessions provided

Funding to Staff Emergency & Community Response

Safety net services to County's
10 million residents

57 million face masks ;
4.7 million meals distributed



Support for Small Businesses, Workers & Community Organizations

Childcare LACDA/Small Business
\$10 million
462 child care providers/centers assisted

Regional COVID-19 Recovery
\$65 million
4,320 grants made

Small Business Revitalization Program
\$10 million
124 businesses served

Employer Assistance Grant Fund
\$54 million
1,430 business served; 5,700 layoffs averted

Arts Relief Fund
\$12 million
337 awardees

Health, Food Security & Slowing the Spread

COVID-19 Testing
\$169 million
1.265 million tests administered

Contract tracing
\$75 million
4000+ outbreaks investigated

Medical Sheltering
\$15 million
2,833 occupants served

Food Security
\$137.1 million
9.1 million pounds of food served

Patient-Care settings; Community medical & PPE supplies
\$102 million
2,265 customers served

Community Outreach
\$18.5 million
369,000 people reached

LESSONS LEARNED

Since the CEO and County departments moved to address the devastating and unprecedented impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, some valuable lessons have emerged that may assist the Board in developing data-driven policies through an equity lens for a potential new round of stimulus funding. These lessons include:



Investments should be made within existing programs and infrastructure. Launching and creating the supportive infrastructure (i.e. staffing) for new programs takes time, further taxing departments and CBOs already strained by pandemic response. It is generally more efficient to expand existing programs that have brand recognition and existing infrastructure, outreach channels, and partnerships.



Focus should be on high-impact, high-needs core programs with a track record of deployment and use. As the needs related to the pandemic exceed the amount of available funding, the high demand for core pandemic response programming (e.g. economic relief, food, public health response, etc.) is expected to continue. These high-impact, high-needs core programs should be prioritized for funding to ensure that continued support is available.



Other federal and state resources should be leveraged, as feasible. Because CRF is limited and various federal and state resources support efforts similar to those supported by CRF, leveraging those other resources will enable the County to more efficiently use all funding sources and maximize CRF impact by identifying funding gaps and investing CRF in those areas.



Funding should be allocated to broad impact areas with administrative flexibility to allocate funding across programs. Given that the pandemic response is dynamic and challenging, funding allocations should target impact areas, but leave discretion for the CEO and County departments to determine program-level funding and reallocate funding across impact areas. This will provide the necessary flexibility to allocate funding to programs in high demand and reallocate funding from programs that are not serving a substantial need. This will allow the County to remain nimble enough to react to new trends.



Should new programs be developed, they should be sequenced appropriately to ensure sufficient rollout capacity. Because departments and CBOs are dealing with staffing challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the launching of new programs should be staggered to provide flexibility in addressing these challenges.



Plans should be made for a long recovery. The pandemic has continually proven to be a fluid situation. As a result, the County must not overestimate how quickly the pandemic will end or underestimate how much funding will be needed during recovery. Plans to allocate any new stimulus funding should presume a long recovery period and include contingency planning so that funding remains available for the duration of the recovery period.

THE ROAD AHEAD

The arrival of vaccines promises hope and healing ahead—but only if we can get them into the arms of our residents as swiftly, safely and equitably as supplies permit.

A major component of the American Rescue Plan now pending in Washington, D.C. is significant funding to create a national vaccination plan and expand vaccination and testing centers, including mobile units. Other elements in the plan as currently drafted include small business relief and funds to support childcare centers and essential workers' childcare costs.

The tentative rescue plan also proposes distributing \$65.1 billion to counties nationwide, based on population size.

Los Angeles County, like other local governments, has lost hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue due to the ongoing pandemic. Unfortunately, the original CARES Act did not allow funding to offset lost revenue due to the pandemic. As a result, the County has had to mitigate revenue losses thus far with departmental curtailments, use of one-time departmental trust accounts and other revenue, and savings from management cost reductions. The County has been able to focus its resources on a sustained response to COVID-19 through these cost-saving measures and our longstanding commitment to fiscal discipline.

As we look to the future, we must focus on preserving vital programs and services to our communities, including maintaining a strong and nimble workforce capable of delivering those programs and services. That commitment has guided our efforts in mitigating layoffs so far; further reductions in revenue without additional funding to offset losses could once again force us to consider staff cutbacks that would harm our ability to serve at the very time that our residents need us the most.

We are hopeful that the American Rescue Plan will provide a new round of stimulus funding to replace revenue that was lost, delayed, or decreased as a result of the pandemic. This funding, if it materializes, could be allocated in part to offset revenue losses to keep the County's services, programs, and workforce strong.



A woman with dark hair in braids, wearing a light blue surgical mask and a high-visibility yellow and orange safety vest over a green t-shirt, is smiling at the camera. She is standing next to a dark-colored car. In the open back seat of the car, there is a large white cardboard box. The box has text on it, including "USEFUL RESOURCES FOR OUR COMMUNITY", "PREMIUM CALIFORNIA TABLE GRAPES", and a logo for "USDA Farmers to Families FOOD BOX". The background shows palm trees and a clear sky, suggesting an outdoor setting in a warm climate.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS

SPOTLIGHT: COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER OUTREACH INITIATIVE

- \$18.5 million to Public Health to support grassroots community outreach to ensure that accurate and up-to-date information regarding COVID-19 reached all communities, especially those most highly impacted by the virus.

ADVANCING EQUITY THROUGH OUTREACH

Investing in community partners is essential in providing accurate information via trusted messengers to communities experiencing significant surges. The initiative includes community health workers from multiple peer outreach disciplines—health outreach workers, promotores, gang intervention workers, essential worker advocates, parent advocates, and advocates for indigenous people and people of color—to reach diverse communities disproportionately impacted by the virus. The initiative also provides workforce development for community health workers, many of whom are entry level staff.

Empowered community health workers are making difference and taking a leadership role in their communities, dispelling myths, and helping people live safely and access critical information and resources during a traumatic time.



BY THE NUMBERS:

More than **900** community health workers mobilized

16 community-based organizations enlisted

207,000 outreach activities

277,000 face coverings distributed

73,000 hand sanitizers distributed



WHAT'S AHEAD: The program has been extended through March 2021 with CARES funding, and Public Health has allocated additional funding from the Centers for Disease Control to extend this initiative through December 2021.

“ I am very happy to be able to do this outreach for my community, to contribute my grain of sand. To create awareness so that we all get out of this together. And I do it for myself, for you for everyone. ”

— Promotora, East LA Women's Center

SPOTLIGHT: PROJECT ROOMKEY

- \$24.5 million to support Project Roomkey, a first-in-the-nation effort to secure hotel and motel rooms for elderly and medically fragile homeless individuals and couples at risk of complications if they become infected with COVID-19.



Temporary shelter to approximately 7,000 people, protecting them and the community and reducing the strain on the healthcare system. From the beginning, the County and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) prioritized viewing the project through an equity lens. LAHSA collects and assesses demographic and other data to ensure the program is inclusive and serves a diverse population.

Agreements with 30 hotels and motels enabled them to stay in business despite

the economic downturn, keeping many of their workers employed. Project Roomkey is a collaboration among the State of California, the County of Los Angeles, LAHSA, and nonprofit homeless service providers.

The County and its partners are committed to ensuring that, as PRK sites close, participants are not returned to the streets. As a part of the recovery effort, all PRK participants are matched to housing subsidies and connected to permanent housing upon exiting PRK. If permanent housing is not immediately available, participants are placed in other temporary housing until they can be permanently housed.



“When I got here, I actually slept the first night. I slept like a baby. This program here put me in a safe place.

— Michael, Project Roomkey Participant

Suddenly, Project Roomkey gave us the ability to have a rebirth.

— Rachel, Project Roomkey Hotel Owner

”

SPOTLIGHT: FOOD SECURITY

- \$137.1 million for on-the-ground programs to get food to hundreds of thousands of County residents struggling with food and economic insecurity during the pandemic.

LA REGIONAL FOOD BANK

\$10 million to support the LA Regional Food Bank's efforts to provide nutritious food to those in need. More than 9 million meals were provided to nearly 450,000 residents struggling with food and economic security since April 2020.

WDACS AND SENIOR MEAL DELIVERY PROGRAMS

\$75 million to provide meals to older and high-risk adults and to support local restaurants and workers during the pandemic.



Through the Great Plates Delivered (GPD) program, WDACS helped reduce hunger and food insecurity and stimulate the local economy by partnering with local restaurants, food providers/agricultural workers and business owners to provide older adults with daily meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) every day.

As of February 22, 2021, the GPD program served 9,047 clients and delivered approximately 4,290,969 meals in partnership with 79 restaurants.

“ Getting food every day feels like Christmas, so exciting to open the bags and see what's there!! This service has changed my life. There were days I didn't eat, either because I didn't have anything to cook or my arthritis was so bad, I couldn't use my hand. You are literally changing lives and probably saving a couple along the way. ”

—Sharon P., Great Plates recipient





“Great Plates gave us the opportunity to keep all our current staff on, and also bring more staff into the mix. You’ve kept us afloat and grounded. We feel extremely lucky and thankful.”

—Great Plates Contractor

FOOD SUPPORT FOR UNSHELTERED PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

\$3 million to support DHS in providing daily distribution of meals to people experiencing homelessness (PEH). The meals program helped meal scarcities for vulnerable PEH, whose usual food sources had decreased or had been cut off due to COVID-19. The program has provided 900,804 meals for unsheltered PEH.

ELDERLY NUTRITION PROGRAM

Home delivered and drive-thru/pick-up meals served 31,561 clients, delivering 4,740,219 meals in partnership with 29 meal providers.

BY THE NUMBERS: NUTRITION AND FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMS

\$120 million to various organizations to provide food, grants, vouchers, infant formula, and to enhance outreach and education to support food security programs.

\$20 million in nutrition grants were given to 46 organizations providing groceries, meals, or delivery services to individuals and families in need.

\$21 million in grocery-store vouchers were provided to 29,740 families.
The Food Distribution Program served 9.1 million pounds of food to 148,217 households.

SPOTLIGHT: HOMELESS OUTREACH

- \$5 million to support the Department of Health Services' Multi-Disciplinary Teams, known as MDTs, in providing COVID-19-related services to unsheltered people experiencing homelessness.

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAMS

The MDTs provide street-based homeless outreach, engagement, and specialty services seven days a week. Teams include health, mental health, and substance use specialists, as well as people with lived experience and case managers.

Homeless outreach in Los Angeles County significantly shifted with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The MDTs focus on identifying and serving unsheltered COVID-19 vulnerable PEH and providing life-sustaining interventions and services.



BY THE NUMBERS:

65,517 services provided

10,963 unsheltered clients served

388,800 meals provided

289,450 snacks

71,568 bottles of water

SERVICES

Providing food; distributing personal protective equipment and other hygiene products; assessing and triaging street-based people experiencing homelessness who have COVID-19 symptoms; providing street-based COVID-19 testing and timely notification of test results; assisting with safety planning and conducting daily wellness checks for COVID-19 positive unsheltered people experiencing homelessness who prefer to shelter in place.

SPOTLIGHT: RENT RELIEF

- \$110 million to provide emergency rental assistance grants to income-eligible County households economically impacted during the COVID-19 pandemic through job loss, furlough, or reduction in hours or pay. Emergency rental assistance grants are rental payments made on behalf of an income-eligible household, up to \$10,000 to maintain housing and/or to reduce rental payment delinquency in arrears as a result of the economic downturn during the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, 11,007 applicants have received grants, and awards will continue to be disbursed until funds are expended.



POPULATION SERVED

Income-eligible renters in the County of Los Angeles who are financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Those who are currently 50 percent or below the median income.

Rental unit must be within the County of Los Angeles, excluding the City of Los Angeles, which established its own rent relief program

IMPACT

The LA County COVID-19 Rent Relief Program assisted impacted households struggling to pay rent or were behind on rent. Throughout the course of this program, the LACDA learned that renters were incurring debt or going without food, medicine, or not paying bills in order to keep up with rental payments. This emergency rental assistance helped minimize additional debt accumulation for these households.

“ There are many resources in Los Angeles County, and I am so happy that I asked for help in these hard times. ”

—Rita, Rent Relief Recipient



BY THE NUMBERS:

11,007 grants made

\$60+ million in rental payments distributed

55% of rental assistance provide to renters in high-risk eviction areas

SPOTLIGHT: LACOE HELPS BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

➤ \$17.2 million to enable students to connect to their schools and teachers in a safe and secure instructional environment through the efforts of the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE).

ADVANCING EQUITY THROUGH OUTREACH

Barriers to students' learning were reduced with the distribution of Chromebooks and iPads. Hot spots with unlimited data and content filtering were also provided. LACOE partnered with T-Mobile to distribute hot spots directly to school districts. They also worked with Apple and Omnicore to deliver devices and provide technical support to districts. The assistance from these vendors helped LACOE streamline the process to get devices into the hands of students quickly. LACOE's ability to leverage bulk inventory assisted to fast track distribution since districts working in isolation were challenged with supply chain demands from vendors.

“In partnership with our County Board of Supervisors and County Office of Education, we can begin establishing a baseline of technology and network access for all that ultimately enables us to go above and beyond access to technology to access to opportunity.”

— Compton Unified School District Board President Micah Ali



BY THE NUMBERS:

55 school districts served

11,196 iPads

36,892 Chromebooks

32,290 Hot Spots



WHAT'S AHEAD: Although digital technology is widely used across Los Angeles County, many communities and low-income households do not have access to technology, including broadband access—a disparity that the pandemic brought starkly to the forefront. LACOE is working on long-term solutions and signed a non-disclosure agreement with Charter Communications to identify students needing internet access at home. LACOE is also collaborating with the County Chief Information Office on their plan to develop a comprehensive regional digital divide strategy and is actively engaged in advocating for federal and state legislation to find long-term solutions.

SPOTLIGHT: LIBRARY LAPTOP AND HOTSPOT LENDING PROGRAM

- \$650,000 to expand Library's laptop and hotspot kit lending program, first launched in September 2020 with 60 take-home kits at 10 libraries in communities with the lowest household internet subscription rates.

LA County Library's new technology-focused services offer many ways for countless LA County residents who lack reliable internet or access to computers at home to gain the connectivity essential for their lives, making steps toward bridging the digital divide. As COVID-19 forced libraries to close to the public, and shifted many activities online, LA County Library quickly developed methods for bringing connectivity to those who need it most.



The digital divide has continued to negatively impact many LA County communities, and the COVID-19 pandemic has only compounded its effects. Those without reliable internet or access to computers at home may not be able to complete work or school, to access health-related information, perform essential tasks such as ordering groceries or household items, or to connect with family and friends.

LA County Library is among the first in the Los Angeles area to offer a take-home kit that includes a laptop along with the mobile hotspot, a pairing that fully enables those who may not have access to one or both of these essential technologies.

The program was promoted through direct mail, at food distribution events, and through radio ads, digital ads, social media ads and on-site marketing.

“ I just want to praise you guys for coming up with this loan program. It's done so much to ease and even end my feelings of isolation and feeling 'cut off.' Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! ”

— West Hollywood Library Customer



BY THE NUMBERS:

3-week checkout time for kits, with the opportunity to renew up to 3 times

560 loaner laptop/hotspot kits now available to borrow

80 Library locations currently operating Sidewalk Service

378 kits checked out to customers in just Feb 2021

SPOTLIGHT: LA REGIONAL COVID-19 RECOVERY FUND

- \$65 million to the LA County Development Authority to provide economic relief to small businesses and nonprofits financially impacted by COVID-19 through a fund managed by the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, in partnership with the City of Los Angeles, and supported by Wells Fargo Foundation, Citi, and MUFG Union Bank Foundation.

FUNDS WERE DISTRIBUTED TO APPLICANTS IN FIVE GROUPS:

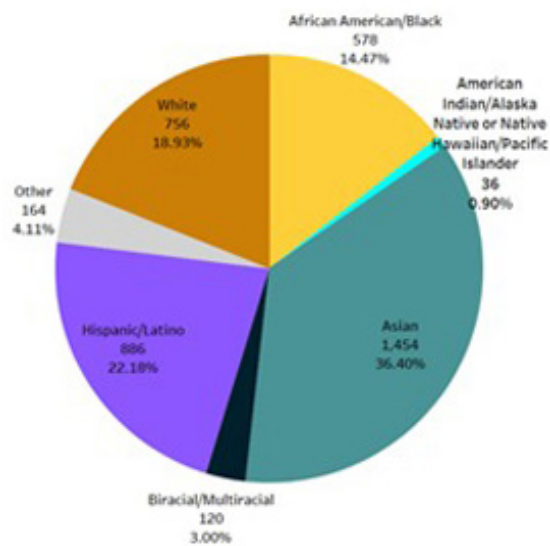
Micro-entrepreneurs: Gig workers, street vendors, sole proprietors, independent contractors, 1099 workers, and/or LLCs with revenues of \$100,000 or less

Very small businesses: Registered for-profit business entities that have a yearly gross revenue of more than \$100,000 but less than \$1 million

Small businesses: Registered for-profit business entities that have a yearly gross revenue of more than \$1,000,000 but less than \$5,000,000

Very small non-profits: Registered 501(C)(3) or 501(C)(6) Chambers of Commerce organizations that have a total annual revenue of less than \$1 million

Small non-profits: Registered 501C3 non-profit entities that have a yearly gross revenue of more than 1,000,000 but less than \$5,000,000



BY THE NUMBERS:

65,677 applications received

\$60,755,000 was awarded

4,320 recipients

8,500 hours of support to thousands of small businesses

15 languages

SPOTLIGHT: CHILDCARE

- \$10 million to the LA County Development Authority to provide grant assistance to licensed childcare operators experiencing economic hardship due to COVID-19.

These grants provided economic assistance to maintain facilities with available childcare slots and played a key role in helping to sustain trained early childhood educators. The program highlighted the fact that childcare providers are an essential sector of the business community—not an afterthought.

“ This grant will help me stay in business and provide care for essential workers and low-income families during the COVID-19 pandemic. I will also use it to buy essential cleaning supplies to continue to provide a safe and clean environment for the families in my care. ”

— Childcare Business Operator



BY THE NUMBERS:

\$9.75 million in grant payments distributed

462 grants to childcare operators

349 grants to family home childcare providers

113 childcare centers assisted

\$15,000--size of grants to home childcare providers

\$40,000--size of grants to childcare centers



SPOTLIGHT: SMALL BUSINESS REVITALIZATION GRANT PROGRAM

➤ \$10 million to provide economic relief to small businesses impacted by COVID-19.

This grant program provided assistance to small businesses that were disproportionately impacted because they were required to remain closed under local health orders at a time when they would have been permitted to reopen under state health orders. The program helped businesses retain their employees during these unprecedented times by providing assistance with employee payroll expenses, working capital to continue operations and payment of outstanding business expenses.

WHO WAS ELIGIBLE?

Eligible businesses, with 100 or fewer employees and average annual gross receipts of \$10 million or less over the previous three years, included:

- Breweries with no kitchen
- Wineries with no kitchen
- Miniature golf parks
- Batting cage facilities
- Kart racing centers



“The program allowed us to keep our part-time employees during the hardest period, continue to purchase grapes during harvest, and weather the storm until we can re-open.”

— Grant recipients Amy and Jasper, Co-Owners, Angeleno Wine Co.



BY THE NUMBERS:

281 applications received

124 grants totaling
\$3.72 million

\$30,000 grants to
eligible business



SPOTLIGHT: KEEP LA COUNTY DINING GRANT PROGRAM

- \$10.05 million in funding for COVID-impacted restaurants to help them retain their employees and stay afloat during the pandemic.

Restaurants contribute to the identity of our communities and are also responsible for employing a large workforce in the County. This grant program focused on restaurants with 25 or fewer employees located in Los Angeles County, but outside of the Cities of Los Angeles and Pasadena. Preference was given to restaurants that were providing outdoor dining as of November 24, 2020.



“This grant allowed us to keep our doors open to serve our community and support our team during this challenging time.”

— Grant Recipient Sidney, Owner, Noble Bird restaurant



BY THE NUMBERS:

2,596 applications received

335 grants issued

\$10.05 million in grant payments distributed



SPOTLIGHT: ARTS RELIEF FUND

- \$12 million awarded to arts nonprofits suffering from COVID-19 business interruption and closures.



Arts Relief Fund grants helped impacted arts nonprofits stay afloat, kept employees working during the pandemic, and allowed organizations to continue to provide critical services and programming to their communities. This funding provided relief to organizations of several artistic disciplines, including visual, literary, and media arts, and youth-serving organizations, many with deep and culturally-rooted ties to the community.

COVID-19 has been devastating to L.A. County's arts and culture sector, which is a major part of the economy and plays a vital role in healthy communities. From theaters, museums, and arts centers, to programs in music, dance, film, and arts education, arts organizations large and small were severely impacted, ending a nine-year trend in economic growth.

WHO WAS HELPED

In pursuit of equity, the majority of the \$12 million in grants went to small and mid-sized organizations: 73% to 264 organizations with annual revenue of less than \$1 million; 95% to organizations with annual revenue of less than \$15 million.



BY THE NUMBERS:

\$12 million in grants

337 arts nonprofits

\$1,000 to \$45,000--range of awards

“Your tremendous generosity will keep our Everybody Dance! students dancing in bedrooms, living rooms and backyards; collaborating and thriving amidst a pandemic that has severely impacted their academic experiences and family livelihoods.”

—Julia Miele, The Gabriella Foundation



CARES ACT FUNDING 2020 HIGHLIGHTS BY CATEGORY

HEALTH, FOOD SECURITY AND SLOWING THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

TOTAL ALLOCATION: \$581.3 MILLION

Protecting public health, and making sure County residents can put food on the table, are paramount priorities during this crisis. Allocations in this category funded critical programs such as contact tracing; testing; public health surveillance and inspections; and quarantine and isolation housing for essential workers, medical caregivers and residents who had no place to shelter safely after exposure to or testing positive for COVID-19.

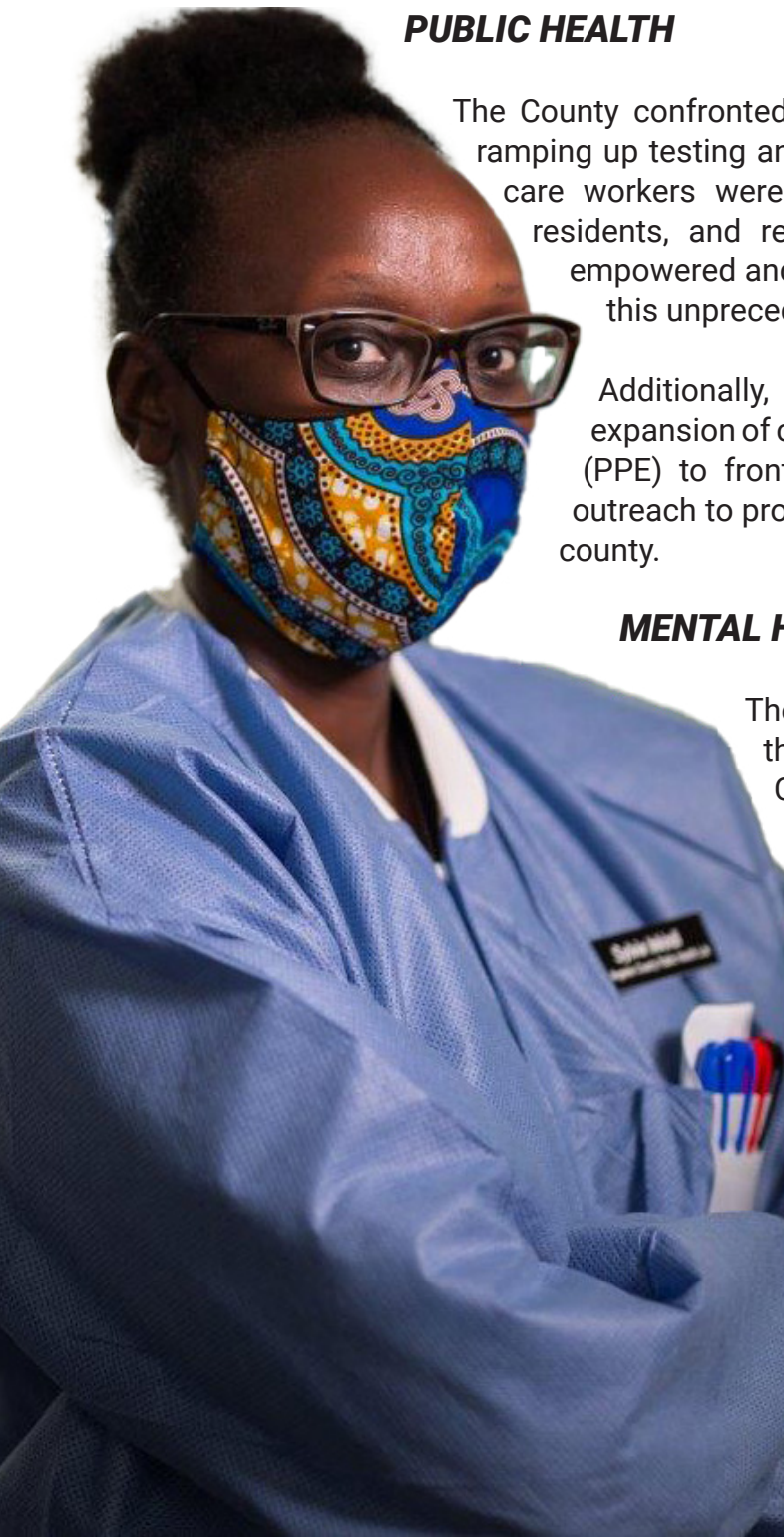
PUBLIC HEALTH

The County confronted the COVID-19 pandemic by following the science, ramping up testing and contact tracing, making sure residents and health care workers were safely equipped, caring for our most vulnerable residents, and reaching out to the community so they would be empowered and informed with the most accurate information about this unprecedented pandemic.

Additionally, the County provided community-based testing, expansion of contact tracing efforts, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to frontline healthcare workers, and intensive community outreach to protect the public's health in the nation's most populous county.

MENTAL HEALTH

The Board allocated \$7 million of CARES Act funding to the Department of Mental Health (DMH). During the COVID-19 crisis, the County witnessed an increased need in mental health services for those who have struggled with isolation, anxiety, and depression. To help address this, DMH has maintained a robust 24/7 help line to provide critical mental health support and referrals, which reported a 50 percent increase in total calls in 2020. The County also partnered with Head Space to offer a free collection of mindful meditation resources to County residents; more than 50,000 individuals have signed up for this resource. Additionally, DMH invested in Promotores and the Community Ambassador Network Program (lay mental health access agents, navigators, and mobilizers) to outreach and engage underserved communities by educating, training, referring, and linking individuals dealing with COVID-19-related mental health



matters. Approximately 6,667 residents were served through the Promotores program, and another 114,813 were served through the Community Ambassador Network Program.

COMMUNITY-BASED COVID-19 TESTING

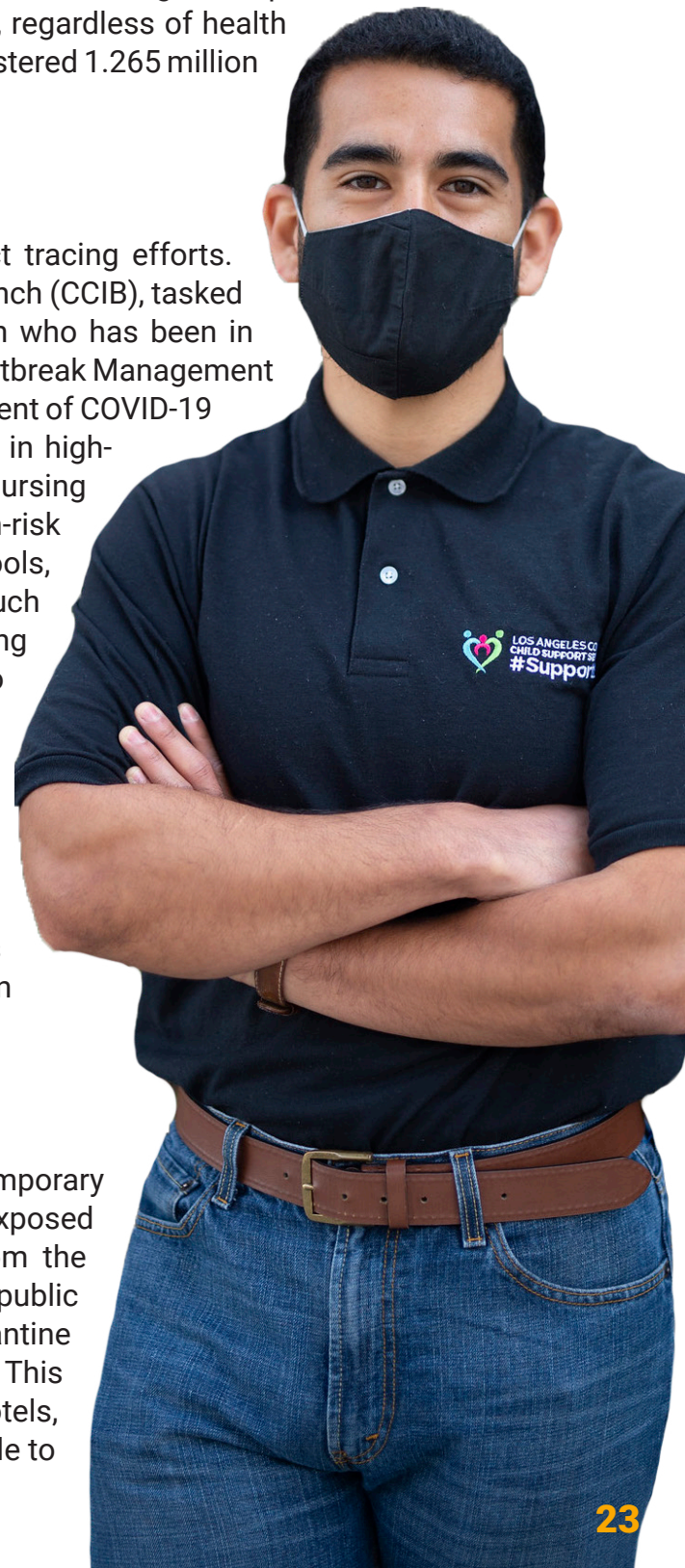
The Board allocated \$169 million to support the ramp up of community-based COVID-19 testing, including testing of people experiencing homelessness and people in correctional settings. The DHS and DPH provided COVID-19 testing at over 35 sites throughout the County that included drive-through and walk-up sites, and provided ancillary support to State-operated testing sites. These efforts allowed COVID-19 testing for members of the general public who had symptoms of or potential exposure to COVID-19, regardless of health insurance status or immigration status. The County administered 1.265 million COVID-19 tests through December 2020.

CONTACT TRACING

The Board allocated \$75 million to support DPH contact tracing efforts. These efforts included the Case and Contact Interview Branch (CCIB), tasked with interviewing every case and identifying every person who has been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, and the Outbreak Management Branch (OMB), tasked with the investigation and management of COVID-19 outbreaks (three or more cases in less than two weeks), in high-risk healthcare facilities. Such facilities include skilled nursing facilities and residential congregate facilities, and less high-risk settings such as daycare and childcare facilities, K-12 schools, worksites, places of worship, and other common spaces such as apartment buildings, gyms, and movie theaters. Funding allowed for seven-days-per-week operation, and ability to quarantine those exposed (contacts) and isolate those who are sick (cases) to prevent further transmission. There were approximately 3,000 individuals deployed to the OMB to support cases with suspected and confirmed infection, and to assure that isolation and quarantine measures were implemented, testing was conducted, and all guidance and agency-level HOO were followed. As of December 2020, more than 4,000 outbreaks had been investigated.

MEDICAL SHELTERING

The Board allocated \$15 million to DHS to support temporary quarantine and isolation housing for people who were exposed to COVID-19, had to isolate, and needed assistance from the County to do so. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 public health emergency, the County stood up temporary quarantine and isolation housing to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This temporary housing consisted of recuperative care beds, hotels, and motels throughout the County that were made available to



individuals who were subject to COVID-19 isolation or quarantine requirements, and those who did not have a means to safely shelter in place. These facilities were a critical resource for symptomatic and COVID-19 positive persons not having an alternative isolation option. As of December 2020, a total of 2,833 occupants were served through the medical sheltering program.

COMMUNITY AND MEDICAL PPE AND SUPPLIES

The Board allocated \$59 million for PPE and medical equipment and supplies for Countywide and community needs. Additionally, DHS received \$43 million to acquire additional medical supplies, medical equipment, technology, and PPE to address the needs of patients, staff, and clinicians in clinical, hospital, administrative and other patient-care settings. DPH also received funds for acquisition and distribution of PPE for health care workers, disaster service workers, social service providers, community-based organizations, and small businesses. A portion of PPE funds were designated to various other County departments to purchase PPE for County employees. PPE deliveries were completed for 2,265 customers, including 373 skilled nursing facilities; 511 elderly residential care facilities; 782 adult residential/board and care facilities; 111 congregate care facilities; 10 domestic violence shelters; 5 enhanced behavioral health facilities; 16 gang intervention/outreach facilities; 101 homeless shelters; 187 intermediate care facilities; 10 RCFE-continuing care retirement communities; 3 facilities for chronically ill; 12 social rehab communities; and 144 substance use disorder sites. Further, 100,000 cloth masks have been delivered to community health workers. Similarly, WDACS received \$2.030 million in funds to respond to the need for businesses to remain compliant with the HOOs, and make available PPE to employees and the public they served.



INSPECTIONS AND CALL CENTER

The Board allocated \$12 million to DPH to support call center operations and re-opening inspections. The call centers provide instructions and clarification regarding enforcement of the HOO and reopening protocols. The call center also addressed complaints and conducted investigations; assisted with outbreak investigations; handled difficult situations with operators impacted by the HOO; translated HOO updates for access by business owners; provided education to County departments, industry, and stakeholders on infection control; held compliance reviews with operators or businesses that violated the HOO; and reviewed daily attendance reports. They also responded to inquiries and complaints from the public, industry, and stakeholders. DPH completed a total of 63,389 inspections.

DPH SURVEILLANCE

The Board allocated \$6 million to DPH's surveillance efforts. These infrastructure enhancement efforts expanded COVID-19 testing capacity by upgrading the laboratory information system; supporting instrument maintenance agreements; and purchasing refrigerators, freezers, reagents, testing kits, and other necessary supplies for existing testing and onboarding new platforms. Funding also allowed for improving facilities for safe testing at the Public Health Laboratory, enhancing public health information systems for flexible data collection, reporting, analysis and visualization, and adding surveillance capacity to improve utilization of electronic health data.

DPH COMMUNICATIONS

The Board allocated \$2 million to DPH to support COVID-19 communications to County residents in multiple languages and with a variety of culturally-targeted approaches. Communications dollars allowed for infrastructure enhancements by expanding the strategic capacity of the DPH Communications Office to enhance culturally, linguistically, and literacy-appropriate public education campaign and outreach to communities of color and low-income wage earners that were disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.



INTERIM HOUSING

The Board allocated \$3.7 million to DHS, who partnered with Brilliant Corners, a supportive housing and rental assistance organization, to provide site assessments and to coordinate the one-time purchase of risk mitigation equipment, items, and service for each site. Items and equipment purchased included hospital grade or industrial equivalent infection control equipment such as electrostatic sprayers, air filtration systems, and improved ventilation devices. Other types of items included room dividers, outdoor furnishings, and other equipment to support social distancing.

211 LA

The Board allocated \$3 million to support the increased call volume to 211 LA attributed to COVID-19. Since the beginning of the pandemic, 211 LA received almost triple its normal call volume, which initially caused long wait times and high call abandonment rates. To address these issues, the CEO executed amendments to the 211 LA contract, which enabled 211 LA to double its workforce through the hiring of temporary Community Resource Advisors. This resulted in the handling of over 300,000 additional COVID-19-related calls, which was approximately double the call volume that it handled under normal circumstances.

DCBA HYPERLOCAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

The Board allocated \$1 million to DCBA to support communication efforts to inform immigrants and communities of color about wraparound County services available to them and their families in a linguistically, culturally, and immigration status-sensitive manner. Among the program's goals were assisting immigrants, communities of color, and their families in accessing County services; connecting these populations with County departments that could provide such support; supporting ethnic and hyperlocal social media by using their advertising and reach capacity; and connecting the County with these populations by creating a uniform and trusted brand. Program aspects included paid advertising and earned media in ethnic media and hyperlocal social media to leverage standing as trusted messengers. Through 98 media outlets, and in 14 County threshold languages, the campaign reached an estimated 10 million impressions. Some of the detailed statistics include:

- 175 print ads across 39 media outlets reached approximately 1,648,776 impressions;
 - Digital ads through 31 media outlets reached approximately 3,125,000 impressions;
 - 3,079 radio ads through 14 radio stations reached approximately 3,290,776 impressions; and
 - 2,458 TV ads through 14 TV stations reached approximately 7,349,600 impressions.
- Election Safety - Election Preparation and Administration

The Board allocated \$7 million to the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk for emergency protective measures to protect staff and the public during the November 2020 election. Although the pandemic added an additional challenge to the election process, the additional emergency protective measures had a positive impact and the County saw record numbers of voters participating in the elections despite the pandemic. With the funding, the County was able to provide sanitation and PPE. The protective measures served 5,813,167 registered voters.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER/SERVICE

The Board allocated \$5 million to DPH to provide funding to domestic violence shelters to help offset the

cost incurred for COVID-19-related expenses. Expenses included: PPE and HEPA Filters for the shelters, client assessment/intake, case management, counseling services, legal services (non-immigration), mental health services, and childcare services. Clients also received food assistance, emergency hotel/shelter assistance, necessities of life (i.e., food vouchers and transportation costs, food, gas, bus or metro passes, and other personal care items [such as shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, diapers, and other personal care items]) for domestic violence survivors and their family members. Funding was provided to 46 shelters, serving approximately 1,700 clients. Of that number, 244 were provided with emergency housing assistance via hotel shelter beds; 144 were provided with transportation; and 1,600 were provided with necessities of life assistance, which included food and diapers for families displaced due to domestic violence during the pandemic.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS REOPENING

The Board allocated \$3 million to DPH to provide technical assistance to school districts to assist in reopening efforts. DPH created detailed operating protocols for safe operations of K-12 schools. Funding also allowed for a team of Health Educators to be trained and available to answer questions and provide technical assistance, support, and information on how schools can implement the protocols and comply with State and County COVID-19 safety requirements and recommendations. Notification forms for specialized services and support were received from 1,692 schools. Of these, 1,292 received site visits. In addition, 375 schools applied for waivers, of which 297 schools were approved. A total of 82,219 students and 33,373 staff have returned to schools open for specialized support and services. An additional 35,535 students and 6,328 staff returned for schools open under the TK-2 waiver program.

SLOW STREETS PROGRAM

The Board allocated \$425,000 to the Department of Public Works (DPW) to develop a Slow Street Program as part of the County's local emergency response to COVID-19. The program aimed to enhance traffic safety and encourage physical activity and community compliance with physical distancing guidelines. Slow Street Networks posted temporary signs at key intersections alerting motorists to slow down and be aware of people using the street for physical activity. Approximately 23,000 residents were served through the program.



HOUSING AND HELPING TO BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

TOTAL ALLOCATION: \$320.3 MILLION

From Project Roomkey (PRK) and winter shelters, to rent relief for struggling residents, the County assisted people with obtaining housing, remaining housed, or coming in from the cold. Simultaneously, the County created bridges to address the digital divide by providing millions of dollars to school districts for student computers and hotspots, while also funding a laptop lending program and Wi-Fi in library parking lots.

Caring for residents experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic was a County priority, both for the safety of the most vulnerable and the community at large. To meet this urgent need, the County allocated CARES Act funding to combat homelessness, and was able to assist residents experiencing homelessness who were vulnerable to the virus by providing temporary shelter in motel/hotel rooms, and allowing for isolation and quarantine shelter for those who had been exposed to the COVID-19 virus. Funds also covered testing and food support for those in need.

The Board allocated a total of \$158 million to support Countywide efforts to provide non-congregate emergency shelter for people experiencing homelessness (PEH) who were 65 or older, or otherwise particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 and other related efforts. The allocation was for PRK and related housing efforts such as Project Homekey (PHK), and Recovery Rehousing through Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA); and capital projects, including PHK Capital Projects, the Redondo Beach Pallet Shelter, Los Padrinos Interim Housing, and Vignes Street Housing project.

PROJECT HOMEKEY

Of the total \$158 million Board allocation, \$25.530 million was allocated to support the State's PHK efforts to purchase and rehabilitate properties to provide housing for PEH. The County submitted applications to California Housing and Community Development Department, of which 10 were approved to purchase and rehabilitate. The County will net 850 new housing units for PEH (individuals and families). Approximately 450 PEH already reside at a PHK site. Eight sites are now open.

INTERIM/PERMANENT HOUSING

Of the total \$158 million Board allocation, \$42 million was allocated to the Vignes Street Housing Project for PEH. The funds will provide shelter/housing using prefabricated modular shipping containers and temporary trailers to expedite construction. The Vignes Project is located on a four-acre site and will provide approximately 232 units with private bathrooms in approximately 60,500 square feet; a 6,000 square foot modular building that will include kitchen, dining, and administration spaces for the shelter service provider; a small parking area for staff members and overflow parking for the residents. Landscaped courtyards and other amenities for outdoor activities are also part of the project.

The Board allocated \$420,000 toward the capital costs to develop the Emergency Shelter Housing Pallet Project in partnership with the City of Redondo Beach. The emergency shelter project provides interim housing made of pallets. In addition, the shelter will provide wraparound services, mental health services, and drug and substance abuse programming with the goal of helping residents find

permanent housing. To date, 19 clients have been served including three clients who transitioned to permanent housing.

The Board allocated \$490,000 to fund the capital costs associated with converting a building in the former Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall to a 20-bed, interim bridge housing facility for female Transitional Age Youth (TAY) experiencing homelessness. The County has partnered with Jovenes Inc., a homeless service provider, to provide bridge programming and link individuals to short and long-term housing solutions and gainful employment opportunities. The facility provides much-needed shelter services to this vulnerable population, and critical bridge housing resources to assist individuals in permanently exiting homelessness.

OFFICE OF DIVERSION AND REENTRY HOUSING

The Board allocated \$6 million to support the Office of Diversion and Reentry's (ODR) housing program for vulnerable and at-risk clients released from jail. Working with a community-based partner, Brilliant Corners, ODR secured 211 beds in ten community-based housing facilities (as of April 1, 2020), to provide housing and related support services to medically-fragile individuals being released from custody in the County Jail System. The County reduced its jail population from approximately 17,000 to as low as approximately 12,000 inmates as part of a COVID-19 jail decompression plan. Services to individuals housed through the program included intensive case management, interim housing (room and board), and clinical services. A total of 1,062 individuals were assessed/screened and 385 entered into an ODR bed.

MAINTAINING WINTER SHELTER SITES

The Board allocated \$2 million to support extending the Winter Shelter Program operations. The funds covered additional LAHSA costs associated with COVID-19 extended Winter Shelter Program operations, including keeping most sites open for 24-hours from April - October 2020 (instead of closing) and for maintaining 24-hour operations from November - December 2020 (instead of 14-hour/day operations).

IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES BRIDGE SERVICES

The Board allocated \$500,000 to provide In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)-type bridge services for PRK residents. These IHSS Bridge Services enabled people experiencing homelessness who



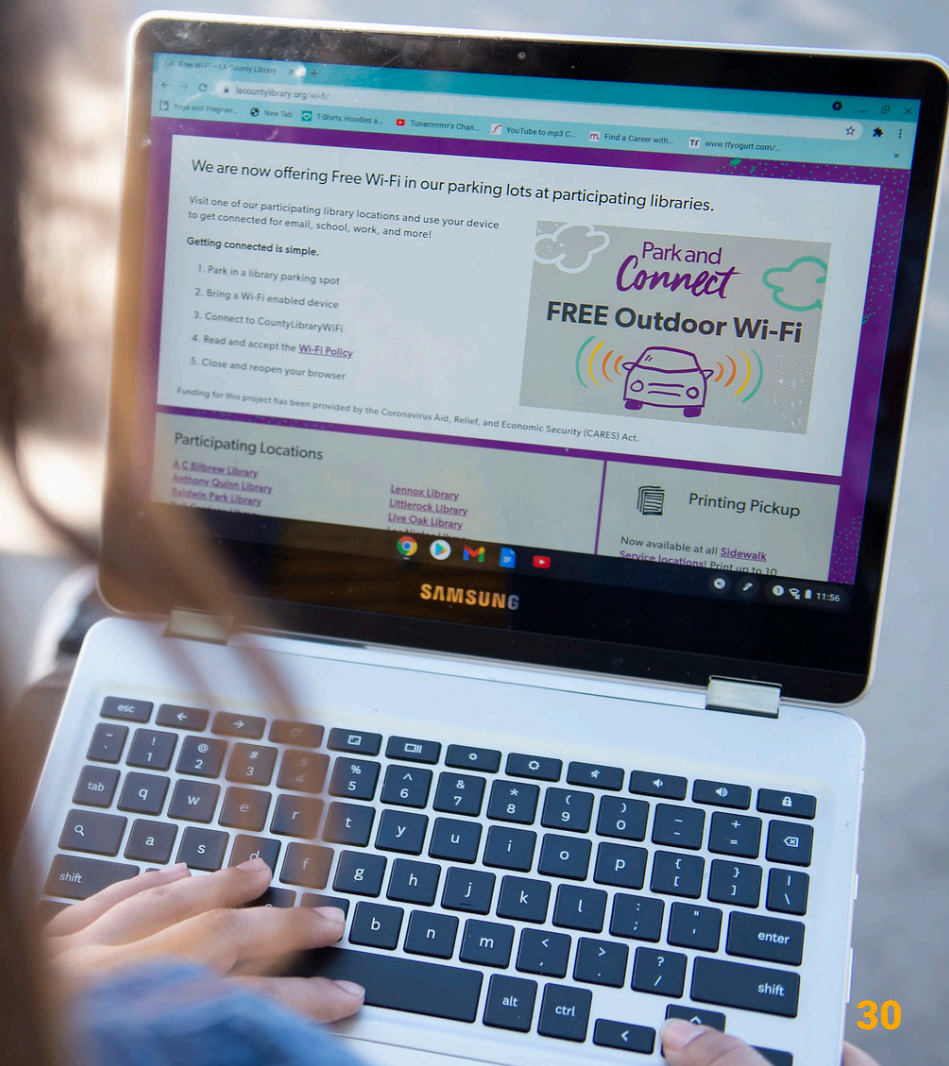
were at high-risk of serious COVID-19 complications to be placed in a PRK hotel/motel and receive the assistance and care they need while they await IHSS approval. A total of 60 PRK residents received services, which included a combination of personal care, non-medical care, and/or paramedical services based on individual needs.

HOME VISITATIONS

The Board allocated \$100,000 to DPH to cover costs for computer devices to support perinatal and early childhood home visitation programs. This program is in development. Approximately 615 laptops were requested from the 26 home visiting sites across the County; 200 pregnant/parenting families Countywide in the eight Service Planning Areas will be provided with the laptops and internet connectivity. Distribution is scheduled to take place February-March 2021.

DIGITAL DIVIDE

With virtual learning a necessity for many students during the pandemic, bridging the digital divide has never been more important. To meet this urgent need, the County allocated \$18.745 million in CARES Act funding for digital divide services to ensure students had access to distance learning during the school closures from COVID-19. These funds made it possible for school districts throughout the County to supply students with computers and Wi-Fi hotspot access, and allowed our County library system to enhance connectivity services for those communities in need.



SUPPORT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES, WORKERS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

TOTAL ALLOCATION: \$171 MILLION

The COVID-19 pandemic has precipitated an economic recession that has disproportionately affected micro-businesses, very small, and small businesses, especially those owned and operated by people of color and immigrants, who are less likely to secure Federal disaster aid or qualify for other loans or lines of credit to help weather a crisis. With CARES Act resources, the County responded to the need by supporting a regional recovery fund, a transitional jobs program, childcare provider grants, and help for nonprofit arts organizations.

Collectively, small businesses represent the economic engine of the County's local economy. The pandemic has caused both a national and local economic downturn. Regional estimates reflect that small businesses have suffered dramatic declines in business revenues, causing some small businesses to lay off employees, dramatically reduce services, or shut their doors temporarily or permanently. For those small businesses that can remain open, some struggle to modify their business operations and physical layout to comply with HOO for potentially permissible use variances (e.g., outdoor dining). Funding supported a mix of programs focused on small business grants to address COVID-19 impacts. The small business portion of the plan spearheaded by LACDA, DCBA, and WDACS, placed a strategic focus on those small businesses least able to absorb the economic impact of COVID-19 and those serving communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.



TRANSITIONAL JOBS PANDEMIC RELIEF PROGRAM

The Board allocated \$6 million to WDACS to support the LA County Cares – Transitional Jobs Pandemic Relief Employment Program (PREP). The program targeted County residents whose employment had been adversely affected by the pandemic, to assist with the County’s COVID-19 relief efforts, while receiving wages and supportive services. While this effort eased financial burdens caused by job loss among County residents, it also assisted the County by relieving County Disaster Service Workers (DSWs) from these essential efforts, freeing them up to serve in other areas. PREP focused on three primary components providing participants with full-time transitional jobs. Each component was provided by a dedicated America’s Job Center of California (AJCC) One-Stop Operator (OSO).

The three program components included:

1. PRK East San Gabriel Valley AJCC - A collaborative effort by the State, County, and LAHSA to secure hotel and motel rooms for vulnerable people experiencing homelessness. This program staffed County PRK sites, filling 181 essential positions.
2. Contact Tracing (Antelope Valley AJCC) - This program helped DPH by providing 200 Contact Tracing Interviewers, Team Leaders, and Division Leaders to be able to respond to the rising needs in the community.
3. Other COVID-19 Relief Efforts (Pomona Valley AJCC) - Participants assigned to this component of the program supported the Disaster Help Center by assisting LA County businesses and residents with filing Small Business Administration loan applications; offering information on what constitutes an “essential business”; providing resources to businesses seeking COVID-19-related safety policies and resources; and supplying local businesses with resources on how to keep their doors open, as well as provide comprehensive support for their workers.

EMPLOYER ASSISTANCE GRANT FUND

The Board allocated \$54 million to WDACS to provide grants through the Employer Assistance Grant Fund (EAGF), to eligible businesses to avert layoffs and business closures. To date, a total of 1,430 businesses and 215 CBOs have been served, with an estimated 5,700 layoffs averted.

RAPID RESPONSE BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Board allocated \$1.02 million to WDACS to assist small businesses, workers, and consumers to navigate and incorporate government protocols and best management practices to safely return to work, and to activate business recovery, continuity, and the avoidance of layoffs to businesses suffering interruptions or business closures as a result of the pandemic. The program consists of three components: Industry and Workforce Analyses, Safer at Work Campaign, and Layoff Aversion and Business Recovery:

The Industry and Workforce Analyses component includes quantitative and qualitative industry and workforce analyses, in partnership with businesses and CBOs, to garner a deeper understanding about industries and workers that have been most impacted by the secondary economic impacts of the pandemic. This analysis helps businesses prepare for the prolonged recovery period, and develops

effective strategies to help businesses, industries, workers and, by extension, the communities plan both for their long-term recovery and for their improved resilience going forward.

The Safer at Work Campaign involves a partnership between WDACS and the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC), who will leverage data from their Business Assistance and LA Community Connector programs to develop an informational campaign to raise awareness among the County business community about how to return to work and reopen businesses safely and cost-effectively. The focus will be in economically distressed communities.

The Layoff Aversion and Business Recovery component will expand WDACS's Layoff Aversion Program (Business Technical Assistance) with LAEDC to inform and provide critical one-on-one direct strategic and tactical assistance to businesses and their employees. The Business Recovery Program will focus on very specific critical business needs, ranging from access to capital and secure liquidity, to alternative selling modalities (e.g., e-commerce) and access to new clients and/or markets, to expense reduction strategies and accounting help.

COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

The Board allocated \$3 million to the Alternatives to Incarceration Initiative (ATI) to support the ATI Incubation Academy, which will provide funding and technical assistance to CBOs significantly impacted by pandemic-related economic shortfalls and increased needs for services. These CBOs provide reentry and diversion services that further the County's "Care First, Jails Last" model. This program is still being developed.



FUNDING TO STAFF EMERGENCY AND COMMUNITY RESPONSE

TOTAL ALLOCATION: \$150 MILLION

Since the inception of the pandemic, the County workforce continued to provide services, with service delivery occurring in different ways. Many County employees served as Emergency Response and/or DSWs to perform COVID-19-related functions that they would not otherwise perform if not for the public health emergency. Also, County departments performed functions to enable small businesses and schools to comply with the California Governor's Executive Orders and the County's HOO. The spending plan supported costs for County staff serving as DSWs and performing other emergency response functions.

Under the leadership of the CEO and the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), several departments worked together to provide critical services during this time of crisis. The County's workforce rose to the challenge of bringing a safety net of services to 10 million residents across 4,700 square miles during a pandemic. Whether providing life-saving health care, serving as DSWs at PRK sites, or delivering other kinds of essential services, County employees mobilized to meet the moment.

The efforts of County employees performing pandemic-related work made it possible to distribute 55 million pieces of PPE and more than 57 million face masks to departments and organizations throughout the County, and nearly 4.7 million meals to more than 83,000 households experiencing food insecurity. The County continues its commitment throughout this pandemic to support the public health of County residents while addressing the needs of some of the County's most vulnerable populations.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The CARES Act-funded services and activities documented in this report were made possible through the leadership of the Board of Supervisors and the exceptional public service of County departments and our workforce, including the more than 48,000 employees who have served as Disaster Service Workers since the pandemic started. This work is dedicated to the 10 million residents we serve.

Compiled by Chief Executive Office, Strategic Integration Branch

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