

MXCAB Priority Recommendations for 2025–26 County Budget Hearings

Introduction

On April 16, 2025, the Measure X Community Advisory Board (MXCAB) voted unanimously to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the \$1.57 million in available one-time Measure X funding be allocated to the priorities listed below. Poll results are listed on the final page of this document.

The MXCAB's recommendations are unified by an intent to jointly prioritize prevention and triage and maximize the impact of limited one-time dollars by targeting resources to address known gaps, urgent threats, and ongoing harms. They are also informed by the many residents who reached out to our Board members and provided live testimony at recent MXCAB meetings in support of the following priorities. In alignment with our core values and operating principles, we ask the Board to ensure that equity is centered in the processes and practices related to funding these priorities.

Additionally, the MXCAB urges the Board of Supervisors to expedite implementation of the African American Wellness and Resource Hub. Immediate funding for services that provide trauma-informed and culturally-relevant modalities to promote health and well-being will begin the lengthy process of more capably addressing the generational harms and barriers faced by Contra Costa's African American residents.

Priority Recommendations (in alphabetical order)

1. **Early childhood and family support.** These include: (1) expanding mental health consultation for child care sites, (2) expanding Family Navigation Services to children under age 6, (3) investing in parent peer support services, and (4) investing in Family Support Services to strengthen protective factors for families.
2. **Increased Innovation Fund dollars for programs that specifically focus on African American males.** This population experiences disparate resourcing and negative outcomes across several life dimensions and county systems. A stronger and more targeted focus on supporting African American males will lift up those most harmed and promote intergenerational thriving.
3. **Mental health services for priority populations, including Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) and school-aged youth.** The MXCAB has consistently elevated the need for mental health resources to support the county's AAPI populations, but this has not yet been funded. Additionally, in the most recent \$1.4

million mental health allocation to priority populations, school-aged youth received the smallest portion, at \$100,000, despite evidence of the escalating mental health crisis affecting this population and the overwhelming need for resources to address it. This is especially critical given the potential cuts to Medicaid, which provides significant financial resources for school-based mental health services.

4. **Resources to address youth and young adult homelessness, which may include housing vouchers, infrastructure investments, or other strategies**, as aligned with the Contra Costa County Continuum of Care's Youth and Young Adult (YYA) Homelessness Priority Strategies, Objectives, and Actions and Community Needs Assessment for YYA Homelessness in Contra Costa County (2024). At the November 12, 2024 joint meeting of MXCAB and the Board of Supervisors, the supervisors unanimously indicated interest in examining how remaining one-time funds could support needs related to housing and homelessness.
5. **Rental assistance to support households at risk of eviction and housing insecurity**. There is a huge demand for rental assistance and it is a particularly useful way to invest one-time funds.

Core Values and Operating Principles

Our recommendations continue to elevate the core values and operating principles that have guided MXCAB's work over the past four years. These include:

1. Holding a shared responsibility to practice core values of equity, justice, inclusion, and compassion
2. Recognizing the importance of a strong safety net
3. Addressing prevention as well as current system gaps
4. Actively seeking transformational ideas
5. Leveraging other funding sources
6. Prioritizing the perspectives of residents most impacted by community needs, with a recognition that solutions must be interconnected and intersectional
7. Naming inequities and disparities, and recognizing those most harmed (especially by anti-Black racism)
8. Recognizing that economic opportunity and equity are at the heart of our work
9. Creating a culture of inclusion, welcoming, and belonging

We believe that the identified priorities encompass these values and principles and represent critical opportunities to advance them in our county.

Appendix

Measure X Community Advisory Board Priorities Poll Results

2. Please select your top 4 priorities from this list.

- Apply entire amount to support planning phase for African American Holistic Wellne... 3
- Early childhood and family support 9
- Education for new wildfire home hardening and national weather service category... 5
- Increase innovation funding available to specifically focus on African American males 11
- Mental health services for priority populations, including Asian Americans an... 9
- Refugee resettlement 2
- Rental assistance to support households at risk of eviction and housing insecurity 12
- Resources to address youth and young adult homelessness, which may include housing... 11
- SAFE Center 6

