

**From:** Maya Miracle <[mmiracle@cbeccal.org](mailto:mmiracle@cbeccal.org)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2025 12:32 PM

**To:** Clerk of the Board <[ClerkOfTheBoard@cob.cccounty.us](mailto:ClerkOfTheBoard@cob.cccounty.us)>

**Subject:** Invest \$8 Million to Prevent Hunger and Homelessness in Contra Costa

Clerk of the Board Clerk , Dear Board Chair Candace Andersen and Supervisors John Gioia, Diane Burgis, Ken Carlson, and Shanelle Scales-Preston, I am writing to urge you to use former ARPA funds to increase funding for community-based food assistance

Clerk of the Board Clerk ,

Dear Board Chair Candace Andersen and Supervisors John Gioia, Diane Burgis, Ken Carlson, and Shanelle Scales-Preston,

I am writing to urge you to use former ARPA funds to increase funding for community-based food assistance by \$5 million and one-time emergency rental assistance by \$3 million. Hunger and homelessness often go hand in hand. As the federal administration continues to refuse to meet its obligations to SNAP recipients, and enacts policies that are increasing the cost of living for working people, our county must push back.

Food and housing insecurity cannot be addressed without each other. Without more food assistance, families will be forced to spend more out of pocket to feed themselves, making it harder to pay rent. And without more rental assistance, the need to prioritize the rent to avoid homelessness will make it more likely that families go hungry. Like the county's main food and rental assistance providers, I encourage you to take courageous action to meet both problems head on.

By investing \$5 million in the Food Security Collaborative of Contra Costa, you can help the entire food security system—both the big agencies that provide backbone infrastructure and the smaller pantries and CBOs that reach communities in need—meet the current surge in demand for food aid. And by investing \$3 million in the Measure X-funded rental assistance providers, you can reverse the two-year decrease in rental assistance funding and meet the significant increase stemming from the current economic and immigration crises.

Please do not let our most vulnerable residents go hungry or become homeless. Investing in emergency food and rental assistance is not only morally necessary, but economically sound.

On behalf of Communities for a Better Environment

Maya Miracle

340 Marina Way  
Richmond, California 94801

11/18/2025

Candace Andersen, Chair, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors  
John Gioia, Supervisor  
Diane Burgis, Supervisor  
Ken Carlson, Supervisor  
Shanelle Scales-Preston, Supervisor

Dear Supervisors:

My name is Katherine Walley. I am a resident of Walnut Creek and a member of ACCE.

Throughout our county we are seeing the impacts of federal budget cuts on essential county services. Families are having to make the difficult decisions of whether to purchase food, pay for rent or receive needed health care. Communities are coming together to try to make up for the shortfall through food drives and mutual aid networks. On a personal level, my family regularly contributes to a local food bank & a mutual aid organization that provides wrap-around support for members of underrepresented communities in addition to organizing food drives and direct giving campaigns with our neighbors and my child's school. These individual and grass-roots actions make an impact, and yet we know that it can't replace the essential community services provided by the County.

I was one of the many county residents who attended a district town hall intended to obtain public input on allocating the remaining former ARPA funds. At the townhall I attended, I heard community members speak to each of the top community priorities as identified across all Supervisorial districts, including:

- **Food security:** Enhancing access to fresh and healthy food
- **Housing affordability, stability, and homelessness:** Offering a range of supports from rental assistance to home ownership pathways
- **Health and wellness:** Increasing healthcare access, cultural competence, preventive care, and mental health services
- **Safe, healthy, and vibrant neighborhoods:** Improving infrastructure, recreation, arts, employment, and social connection

As you decide how to use the remaining \$9.7 million in ARPA funds, I ask that you **use these funds in alignment with the community-identified priorities** so as to prevent further erosion of essential supports. If necessary, **utilize funds from the County's nearly \$500 million general fund reserve to preserve vital safety net services**, not only to protect the wellbeing of our county residents, but also to avoid the costly public health safety crises that will arise should our safety net services fail. And lastly, **please prioritize protecting our most vulnerable neighbors** - including children, youth and young adults, families, seniors, people with disabilities, immigrants, undocumented immigrants and residents from racially and economically marginalized communities.

Thank you,  
Katherine Walley