

Investing in Equitable Opportunities and Community Priorities in Contra Costa

A Report on the Public Input Process for Former American Rescue Plan Act Funds



ENSURING OPPORTUNITY
CONTRA COSTA



Authored by Rachel Rosekind, PhD, MLIS
Prepared for the Contra Costa Budget Justice Coalition
and Ensuring Opportunity

NOVEMBER
2025

Executive Summary

This report documents the urgent priorities, service gaps, and areas of opportunity identified by community members during the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors' public input process on the County's remaining former American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.¹ Representatives from the Contra Costa Budget Justice Coalition attended all 15 district town halls in Fall 2025 to hear directly from residents about the conditions, barriers, and possibilities they experience in their communities and how additional public funds could respond to them.

Top priorities included:

- **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

Throughout the town halls, there was clear convergence that these priorities were particularly important for specific populations:

- African Americans
- Families struggling to make ends meet
- Immigrants
- Low-income seniors
- People reentering community after incarceration
- Unhoused and unsheltered community members
- Youth

Residents also identified the need for enhanced resource navigation, more trust in public systems, and greater investment in community-sourced solutions.

The findings shared in this report are intended to inform the Board of Supervisors' decision-making at this critical time of uncertainty and need and lay the groundwork for investments toward a more thriving and equitable future for all Contra Costa residents.



Introduction

Since 2021, the Contra Costa Budget Justice Coalition has uplifted the importance of transparency, equity, and accountability in Contra Costa County's allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Through consultation with members of the Board of Supervisors and the County Administrator's Office (CAO), the Budget Justice Coalition has monitored, analyzed, and publicly reported on the County's processes and priorities, while simultaneously educating residents and collaborating with partners to advocate for critical needs, gaps, and opportunities across the county.

American Rescue Plan Act funds were issued during the pandemic to promote equitable recovery and address both long-standing and emergent disparities in health and well-being. The Budget Justice Coalition believes equity must likewise be the frame and foundation for the Board's allocation of the remaining former ARPA funds.

The opportunity and resource gaps documented during the public input process can be bridged through intentional investments that honor the dignity, preserve the stability, and enhance the mobility of residents across Contra Costa County.

The Budget Justice Coalition believes that every resident plays a role in ensuring that Contra Costa is a place where people of all incomes and backgrounds can be and feel at home. At this moment of escalating needs, threats, and harms to our most vulnerable community members, we urge the Board to respond with bold investments and equity-driven strategies that recognize the burdens and barriers too many of our residents face—not just to pursue their dreams but to meet even their most basic needs. Our county's health and well-being rely on a cycle of robust public input and responsive public investment. This report contributes to that effort.



The American Rescue Plan Act in Contra Costa: Prioritizing Investments in Community Well-Being

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed and amplified long-standing social inequities and vulnerabilities associated with and perpetuated by economic disadvantage, race, documentation status, and zip code. The federal government's response to this emergency was to issue a broad array of resources, including ARPA funds, to foster equitable economic recovery and transformative investments to promote healthier communities. The program's design, implementation, and reporting were intentionally structured to ensure funds addressed pre-existing and emergent health and economic disparities in underserved communities.²

Contra Costa County was awarded a total of \$224,058,903 in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSLFRF), one of ARPA's key programs. Given the County's extensive and unique scope of responsibilities as a healthcare provider, the Board of Supervisors allocated two significant tranches to the Health Services Department for COVID-19 response activities (\$112 million for Fiscal Year [FY] 21–22 and \$83 million for FY 22–23). These funds supported three primary projects: prevention and mitigation of COVID-19, delivery system treatment and medical services, and addressing disparities in public health outcomes.



At the FY 23–24 budget hearings, the CAO provided an update on the County's major COVID-19 funding sources: the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, Coronavirus Relief Fund, ARPA Fiscal Recovery Fund, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Program. These sources totaled approximately \$760 million. At that time, the County was awaiting reimbursement for a number of claims submitted to FEMA. Thus, the CAO recommended that the Board retain the remaining \$37.5 million in ARPA funds pending reimbursement. This strategy was intended to hedge against risk to the General Fund if reimbursements were not paid.

At the FY 24–25 budget hearings, the CAO reported that the federal deadline for obligating ARPA expenditures was approaching and recommended that the Board claim the \$37.5 million in remaining ARPA funds to offset a portion of the General Fund subsidy to the Hospital Enterprise Fund and include a general fund assigned reserve designation in a like amount, henceforth referred to as the "COVID-19 FEMA Reserve." The Board directed the CAO to return at least annually with an update as to the status of FEMA program claims and conduct public processes to seek community input on how to allocate funds as they became available.

At the FY 25–26 budget hearings, the CAO provided a Year 1 report on the status of the COVID-19 FEMA program claims and recommended that the Board reclassify up to \$20.9 million from Assigned fund balance to Unassigned fund balance. At that meeting, the Board allocated \$6.4 million of the released funding to support the following initiatives:

- \$3.5 million for the Services and Access For Everyone (SAFE) Center
- \$2.5 million for Stand Together Contra Costa
- \$400,000 for refugee resettlement

The Board appropriated the remaining \$14.7 million to the General Fund for contingencies.

Over the course of several meetings in the summer of 2025, the Board made critical decisions regarding the public process for input on former ARPA allocations, including:

- establishing the Contra Costa Community Impact Fund, allocating \$1 million per supervisorial district (for a total of \$5 million) to address district-specific priorities;
- deciding to conduct town halls or equivalent community outreach in each district to gather public input, with funds allocated to cover costs related to language interpretation and other expenses for the convenings; and
- approving a county-wide survey to gather additional resident feedback.

Following the adoption of the FY25-26 budget, the County received reimbursement from FEMA for the remaining three program claims, along with an additional allocation related to a testing claim, cumulatively totaling \$8.18 million. On November 4, 2025, the Board of Supervisors voted to declare a state of emergency in response to the federal government's discontinuance of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits payments. They allocated \$21 million to fund the lost benefits for CalFresh recipients in November, taking \$8.18 million from former ARPA funds and \$12.8 million from the County's fiscal reserves. Excluding the \$5 million allocated across the five districts, the remaining unallocated former ARPA funds now total \$9.7 million. These funds will be discussed by the Board on November 18, 2025, along with the results from the community town halls and countywide survey.



Resident Input: Community Impact Fund Survey and District Town Halls

Community Impact Fund Survey

To gather asynchronous feedback from residents across the county, the County Administrator implemented a digital survey, which ran from August 25 through September 30, 2025. Responses were anonymized, though individuals were asked to identify their district. Survey questions focused on household and community priorities and challenges, populations in need of support, quality of life, necessity of investment in under-resourced communities, and confidence in local government's response to community needs and priorities.

The survey received 2,758 responses. County staff shared the results via a public dashboard that allows users to disaggregate responses through several filters, including district, zip code, race/ethnicity, and age.³

District Town Halls

Each Supervisor developed a unique public input process, including resident town halls, grant opportunities, and focus groups. The quantity, scope, accessibility, format, and attendance levels of public input opportunities varied across districts. A detailed chart is provided in Appendix 1.

Supervisors and their staff noted that they were collecting additional public input via other community presentations and conversations (e.g., Municipal Advisory Councils), supplementary surveys, comment cards distributed at town halls, and communication with individual district residents via phone, email, and other avenues.

All five county supervisors are implementing a grants process to allocate funds, with varying specifications. Districts 2, 3, 4, and 5 have closed their application periods. District 4 is the sole district that has completed their allocations, as of November 4, 2025. It is anticipated that District 1 will announce their grants process in January 2026.



Community-Identified Priorities, Issues, and Investments

A diverse range of service providers, community-based organizations, advocates, and residents attended the town halls. Attendees shared compelling concerns, persistent challenges, and concrete ideas to enhance the quantity and quality of resources, supports, and opportunities available in their communities. They highlighted specific policies and issues, along with the deeper values they want to see reflected and inspired by the County's investments, including equity, compassion, belonging, and justice.

In addition to the common and fundamental community supports identified, such as rental assistance and food security, participants proposed innovative ideas and concrete solutions to address urgent needs and priorities in their communities. These on-the-ground, from-the-ground proposals inspired meaningful discussion, new connections, and a robust exchange of ideas.

"We need opportunity—we are capable." —District 1 Town Hall participant

Town hall participants uplifted both community assets and vital needs. They shared their desire for more opportunities that promote social bonds, connect people to community resources, and build healthier communities. Residents also spoke of subregional resource gaps that impacted capacities and connections for support. For example, a District 2 town hall participant noted that because the infrastructure for basic needs support is not as robust in wealthier districts and neighborhoods, residents there don't necessarily know where to go to seek help.

Participants offered community-sourced and community-specific solutions to seed more opportunity and investment for residents of all backgrounds. These public convenings confirmed that residents are looking for tangible solutions and direct supports such as rental assistance, immigrant legal services, affordable childcare, and recreation. Further information on community-identified priorities for each supervisorial district is included in Appendices 2 and 3.

Many residents spoke powerfully about how they and their neighbors were navigating scarcity and negotiating excruciating tradeoffs that pit one basic need over another. Many expressed that they or people they know were one financial shock away from falling behind on rent and at risk of eviction and homelessness. Across all districts, town hall attendees expressed remarkable consistency in naming their top priorities:



Many of these priorities are directly linked to human impacts and outcomes that foster thriving and equitable communities.



Stability: Health, Food, Housing, Childcare, Basic Needs



Opportunity: Access to education, recreation, enrichment, transportation



Belonging: Services for vulnerable populations, increased opportunities for civic engagement and connection

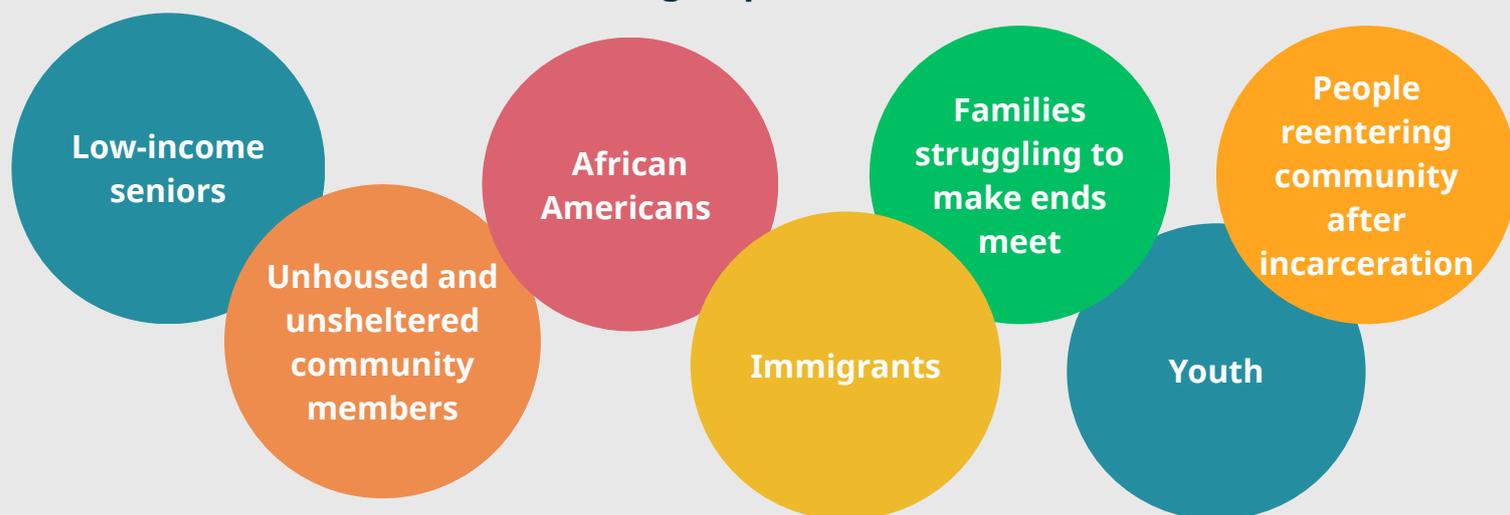


Mobility: Employment and career pathways, entrepreneurship support, mentorships



Town hall participants relayed how these universal needs were especially important to protect and support at-risk and vulnerable populations who have endured and continue to experience the effects of historical disinvestment, political and social marginalization, and inequitable resourcing.

These groups include:



The focus on these priority populations reflects a collective desire to support conditions of well-being and preventive measures that promote equitable opportunities for safety, opportunity, and stability for all residents.



Food Security

Feeding America's *Map the Meal Gap* study estimates that over 10% of the Contra Costa County population is food-insecure. Fifty-two percent of these households earn too much to qualify for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP; in California, called CalFresh) yet don't earn enough to meet their basic needs.⁴ A significant number of additional residents are eligible but not enrolled, while others are ineligible due to immigration status. Food insecurity is a pervasive and escalating issue across the county.

In 2025, members of the Contra Costa Food Collaborative reported that community need has risen substantially over the past year, with increases ranging from 22% to 47%.

Loaves and Fishes currently serves approximately 3,000 meals a day, as compared to 680 meals pre-pandemic.

The Board of Supervisors recently took action to address food insecurity in Contra Costa by allocating \$21 million to backfill the federal government's failure to fund CalFresh benefits in November 2025 for the 107,000 county residents who depend on them. The County's Employment & Human Services Department (EHSD) has acknowledged that the number of food-insecure residents in Contra Costa far exceeds the number who are currently enrolled in CalFresh. This enrollment gap is intensified by the high costs of other basic needs (like housing and childcare) that these same residents must also navigate. The harms caused by this persistent resource gap were corroborated by town hall testimony from residents and providers who represent these diverse populations—including seniors, youth, and immigrants, among others—who shared details about the challenges their communities face in affording and accessing healthy and fresh food. These same individuals proposed concrete solutions such as free grocery pantries and clothes closets (Districts 3 and 5), a grocery store in North Richmond (District 1), and increased funding for local community commercial kitchens (multiple districts).



Rising costs of living and historical forces of displacement, segregation, and environmental racism have saddled low-income households and households of color with severe rent burdens and resource disparities that affect generational well-being and mobility. At the town halls, residents and service providers gave compelling testimony about how rental assistance has helped families stabilize and individuals to pursue further education, demonstrating how financial support at critical thresholds is not just a short-term solution but a long-term, sustainable investment that addresses acute emergencies and prevents their evolution into life-altering crises. As of October 2025, there are approximately 2,700 households in the County's Housing Continuum of Care's Coordinated Entry Community Queue.⁵ This figure represents an increase of 34% from 16 months ago, when there were 2,014 households in the queue. It is clear that Contra Costa residents are feeling the strain and stressors of rising costs of living.

Public investments in programs that prevent housing loss have proven effective in reducing the number of people experiencing homelessness even amidst increasing housing needs. Early intervention works; in 2024, 2,019 households were served by homelessness prevention programs in the community and the County's Continuum of Care, with 97% exiting to a permanent or temporary setting.⁶ As the County braces for devastating cuts to its public healthcare ecosystem, residents will be faced with higher rates of medical debt—a leading driver of homelessness—producing a vicious cycle that requires bold and holistic solutions. Cognizant of these conditions, town hall attendees consistently urged the supervisors to respond with proven and tangible supports to increase the preventive pipeline (i.e., keeping people housed) alongside targeted programs that address the acute and discrete needs of unhoused community members and specific subpopulations impacted by housing insecurity and affordability.

In this heightened time of overt discrimination and fear, immigrant renters, particularly undocumented or mixed-status families, are more vulnerable to housing insecurity due to fear of retaliation for reporting violations. Given that as of 2023, 1 in 7 residents in Contra Costa County was living in an undocumented or mixed-status household, this critical issue requires heightened attention and resources.⁷



Health and Wellness

Across the town halls, residents voiced concern about the lack of accessible, affordable, and culturally and linguistically competent health services. They underscored how these service gaps affect numerous populations, especially youth, seniors, LGBTQIA+, immigrants, and African Americans, hindering positive health outcomes and amplifying other vulnerabilities and inequities. These concerns are magnified in the wake of imminent federal and state cuts to enrollment access, subsidies, and services that will inhibit the preventive and comprehensive health pathways of hundreds of thousands of county residents.

Projected impacts on the county's most vulnerable residents could be profound and devastating. Approximately 97,500 Contra Costa residents are expected to lose healthcare coverage as a result of the federal budget bill (HR 1), leading to more emergency room visits, longer wait times, and delayed or unavailable preventive healthcare. Thanks to years of health access expansion and enrollment efforts, fewer than 5% of Contra Costa residents are currently uninsured, but that number could nearly triple based on current projected impacts of HR 1 and the FY 25–26 State Budget Agreement.⁸ Notably, this figure does not include the expiration of Affordable Care Act (ACA) premium tax credits, which have been critical for increasing enrollment among people of color. Between 2021 and 2024, marketplace enrollment among Blacks and Latinos grew by 186% and 158%, respectively, compared to 63% for other racial and ethnic groups.⁹

A District 1 town hall participant who raised children in Richmond's Iron Triangle noted how often she had missed work to attend to her children's asthma. She underscored the importance of high-quality, affordable, and accessible healthcare for all residents, particularly in areas of heightened environmental risk and toxicity.



Residents amplified the importance of prevention in mitigating negative public health impacts and advancing generational well-being. They noted that health and wellness encompass dimensions that affect all aspects of quality of life, from concrete supports like mental health services to broader opportunities like employment pathways, arts programs, and career mentorship. District 3 town hall participants highlighted the lack of nearby community clinics and the need for mobile services to reach populations in more geographically isolated areas. They also relayed the importance of parks, recreation, and intergenerational programs for community stability and cohesion. Districts 1 and 5 attendees called attention to the health risks and impacts affecting residents due to toxic environmental exposure.

Safe and Vibrant Communities

Everybody deserves and desires to live in communities where they can be supported and able to thrive. This holistic vision of public safety requires that we all take part in shaping and implementing solutions to address current gaps and inequities.

Many town hall participants uplifted the need for additional safety and health-protective measures in their communities, including street lighting, crosswalks, community-wide clean-ups, stop signs, traffic lights, speed bumps, fire mitigation, accessible transportation, and public parks. These concrete improvements to the physical environments that residents inhabit and share with neighbors promote collective safety and well-being. It is notable that concerns about and desired investments in public safety did not focus on additional law enforcement presence or patrols.

Beyond these infrastructure improvements, residents emphasized the importance of creating additional opportunities for community enrichment and social belonging. District 2 town hall attendees conveyed the need for a theater, bike park, pop-up recreation spaces, and community center for LGBTQ+ people. Districts 3 and 5 town hall attendees expressed interest in additional youth recreation facilities, shared green spaces, literacy programming, and afterschool activities. District 1 attendees emphasized the importance of STEAM education, uplifted the need for a playground shade structure at a local elementary school, and highlighted areas of opportunity like a multicultural wellness center, peer-based support for encampment residents, and scholarships for students entering the health professions.



In addition to the priorities named above, the following items were reflected in town hall input across numerous districts:

- Leveraging former ARPA funds to make greater impact
- Securing public-private partnerships to address urgent and escalating community needs
- Promoting nonprofit resilience and connectedness
- Establishing a countywide Collective Care Fund to help residents meet basic and emerging needs
- Expanding transportation access, equity, and routes
- Supporting entrepreneurship, wealth-building opportunities, and economic development in vulnerable and underinvested communities
- Providing resource navigation guidance and removing barriers to access to services
- Building on community assets, e.g., youth talent and initiative, by providing concrete pathways to sustainable employment



Conclusion

“What’s going to happen when these cuts hit our communities and there’s nothing to support people?” – District 1 Town Hall Participant

Today, our social safety net, and many residents who rely on it, are under siege and in crisis. American Rescue Plan Act funds were intended to promote equitable recovery and address economic and health disparities, and equity was affirmed as a core pillar of successful implementation and evaluation. The Budget Justice Coalition believes that equity must likewise be the frame and foundation for the Board of Supervisor’s allocation of the County’s remaining former ARPA funds.

Community priorities surfaced at the town halls clearly demonstrate the criticality of equity-based issues and initiatives. Moreover, the Community Impact Fund survey attests that 72% of respondents across all districts believe that investing resources in communities that have faced long-term disinvestment and disparities is *“very important”* or *“extremely important.”*¹⁰

In recent years the County has made significant investments in promoting equity and expanding our social safety net.¹¹ Nonetheless, the strain on many residents is growing at a rate that demands that we increase these investments, not contract them. When the federal government fails in its duties to protect and care for vulnerable populations, local jurisdictions must navigate the fallout with compassion and boldness.

The County devoted extensive resources to designing, convening, and reporting on this public input opportunity. The community data yielded from that rich process has affirmed the overwhelming scale of needs and the breadth of resident solutions proposed to meet them. It is therefore imperative that we leverage all available resources to meet this critical moment and fund the community-identified priorities uplifted in the countywide survey and district forums.

“This process is about more than data—it’s about understanding lived experiences. The Board is committed to a transparent, inclusive approach that captures the full story of our communities—their needs, strengths, and aspirations. By aligning future investments with the realities people face every day, we can turn insights into actions that continue to strengthen Contra Costa’s communities for years to come.” —*Community Impact Fund data dashboard*

Per the Board’s stated commitment to “a transparent, inclusive approach” and “aligning future investments with the realities people face every day,” the urgent priorities that residents named must be accounted for in the remaining allocation of former ARPA funds.

At this critical juncture, the Board has the opportunity and responsibility to:

- Follow through on the commitment to a transparent, inclusive, and community-driven process that aligns investments with the needs and aspirations of County residents.
- Use the remaining former federal relief dollars to fund community-identified needs by making targeted and transformative allocations.
- Elevate and address urgent and entrenched opportunity and resource disparities across the county.

Together, we can meet this moment with boldness, compassion, and equity, in service to ARPA’s intent and in full-hearted response to our community’s needs and aspirations.



1 As detailed on pp. 3–4 of this report, the County's stewardship of American Rescue Plan Act funds has been a lengthy process, and the funds have been designated by different names at various milestones. This report uses the term "former ARPA funds," where appropriate, to maintain the Budget Justice Coalition's accountability to and clarity for the community. The latter is particularly important, as we have engaged with service providers, advocates, residents, and community-based organizations across the county for years to provide consistent and clear reporting on the County's stewardship of ARPA funds. Retaining "ARPA" as a signpost enables us to be in integrity with that through line and our role as convener and connector across multiple coalitions and advocacy groups in Contra Costa.

2 U.S. Department of the Treasury. 2022. "STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS Equity and Outcomes Resource Guide: How Governments Are Incorporating Equity, Community Engagement, Evidence, and Performance Management Into Their Use of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds." <https://Home.Treasury.Gov/System/Files/136/SLFRF-Best-Practices-Guide.Pdf>.

3 Contra Costa County. 2025. "Community Impact Fund." October 2025. Accessed November 2, 2025. <https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/10528/113528/Community-Impact-Fund>.

4 Feeding America. n.d. 2023 "Food Insecurity in Contra Costa County, California." Map the Meal Gap Study. Accessed November 4, 2025. <https://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2023/overall/california/county/contra-costa>.

5 This information was provided by Contra Costa County Health, Housing and Homeless Services staff in response to a data request by the author on October 29, 2025.

6 This information was obtained from Contra Costa County Health, Housing and Homeless Services staff in response to a data request by the author on November 13, 2025.

7 This data is sourced from the California Immigrant Data Portal. See <https://immigrantdata.ca.gov/indicators/mixed-status-families?geo=04000000000006013>.

8 Contra Costa Health. n.d. "Contra Costa Health Atlas Uninsured Rate." Accessed November 11, 2025. <https://atlas.cchealth.org/topics/UNS?topic=uninsured-rate>.

9 Roughly half of enrollees' races were unknown in 2024 marketplace enrollment data. The estimates cited here are limited to states that use the HealthCare.gov platform and include imputations of missing race and ethnicity data, which greatly improves the usefulness of the data but does not disaggregate beyond broad racial and ethnic categories. Anupama Warriar et al., "HealthCare.gov Plan Selections by Race and Ethnicity, 2015-2024," Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Health and Human Services, October 1, 2024, <https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/healthcaregov-plan-selections-race-ethnicity-2015-2024>.

10 Contra Costa County. 2025. "Community Impact Fund." October 2025. Accessed November 2, 2025. <https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/10528/113528/Community-Impact-Fund>.

11 These investments include the following: A3 (Anyone, Anywhere, Anytime) Crisis Response provides timely, tiered, and mobile support for individuals experiencing behavioral challenges or safety concerns; African American Holistic Wellness and Resource Hub funds organizations providing critical services to increase and expand wellness, safety, and healing to African American communities; Clean Slate Program assists individuals with record clearance to reduce barriers to employment and housing; Contra Costa Thrives Guaranteed Income Pilot will provide 170 individuals from select populations with direct financial support; Family Resource Navigators help families access services across the county; Measure X Housing Fund supports affordable housing needs and countywide projects; Services and Access For Everyone (SAFE) Center will serve as a resource hub for immigrant communities; Stand Together Contra Costa offers free legal representation for immigrants in deportation proceedings; and three new youth centers in Central and East County will serve young people through a network of County- and community-based providers and programs.

Appendix 1

Town Halls by District

District 1 Supervisor Gioia (West County)			
Date	Location	In-Person/Hybrid	Number of Attendees
9/18/2025	Latina Center, Richmond	In-Person	15
9/23/2025	RYSE Center, Richmond	Hybrid	60
9/30/2025	Pinole Town Hall	Hybrid	30
10/2/2025	St. Peter CME Church	Hybrid	50
10/6/2025	RYSE Center, Richmond	Hybrid	48
10/9/2025	San Pablo City Hall	Hybrid	72
		TOTAL	275
District 2 Supervisor Andersen (South and Central County)			
Date	Location	In-Person/Hybrid	Number of Attendees
9/10/2025	Parkmead Elementary School, Walnut Creek	In-Person	12
	Danville Community Center	In-Person	28
	Lafayette Veterans Hall	In-Person	30
		TOTAL	70
District 3 Supervisor Burgis (East and Far East County)			
Date	Location	In-Person/Hybrid	Number of Attendees
9/25/2025	Oakley Recreation Center	In-Person	85
		TOTAL	85
District 4 Supervisor Carlson (Central County)			
Date	Location	In-Person/Hybrid	Number of Attendees
8/14/2025	Pleasant Hill Community Center	In-Person	45
9/19/2025	Supervisor Carlson's Pleasant Hill Office	In-Person	50
		TOTAL	95
District 5 Supervisor Scales-Preston (East County and Northern Waterfront)			
Date	Location	In-Person/Hybrid	Number of Attendees
9/22/2025	Hercules City Hall	In-Person	21
9/29/2025	Pittsburg City Hall	In-Person	47
9/30/2025	Martinez City Hall	In-Person	29
		TOTAL	97
Districts 3 and 5 (East County)			
Date	Location	In-Person/Hybrid	Number of Attendees
10/14/2025	Nick Rodriguez Community Center, Antioch	In-Person	52
		TOTAL	52

Note: Attendance numbers are based on visual counts conducted at each town hall. These totals may differ from those observed by County Supervisors and staff.

Appendix 2

Key Priorities and Populations by District

Districts held a varying number of town halls, focus groups, and grantee information sessions. The following is a list of the key priorities and focus populations that emerged at the town halls held in each of the five supervisorial districts. Although we strove to retain fidelity to the language used by town hall participants, some information has been consolidated for readability and concision.

DISTRICT 1 (West County)

Food Security

- Support for a central commercial kitchen
- Preventing food waste
- Support for faith-based organizations providing food

Health and Wellness

- Addressing environmental health risks and disparities
- Mental health
- More health supports for African Americans, including maternal health programs
- Supports for substance use disorder
- Therapists in schools
- Services for youth experiencing substance use disorder
- Health insurance, especially for those without insurance and/or employment
- Peer-based wellness services for unhoused individuals
- Improved resource and service navigation
- Collective Care Fund

Safe & Vibrant Neighborhoods

- Public safety infrastructure, e.g., more stop signs, speed bumps, street lights, lighted crosswalks
- Neighborhood block cleanups and community-wide clean-ups
- Recreation opportunities
- Arts education and enrichment opportunities
- Additional opportunities for social connection
- Expanding accessible, affordable transportation options

Immigrant Protections & Support

- Support for families impacted by deportation
- Support for immigrant victims of crime
- Support for single mothers who are undocumented
- Legal services for immigrants

Populations most often mentioned by participants: Families struggling to make ends meet, immigrants, low-income seniors, people reentering community after incarceration, tenants at risk of eviction, unhoused community members, youth

Housing Security

- Supportive housing
- Services for unhoused community members
- Rental assistance
- Youth housing

Support For Youth

- Paid internships that enable youth to live in and contribute to their communities and offer pathways to sustainable employment
- More robust and diverse educational and enrichment opportunities (e.g., physical education, music, arts, STEAM, STEM)
- Grants for college-bound students
- Career development opportunities for students who complete high school and may not go to college
- Access to free counseling in schools and community
- Safer school environments
- More subsidized and supportive housing for youth and young adults
- Access to affordable, high-quality, and culturally relevant early childhood education
- Support for grandparents and guardians raising African American children
- More funding for libraries
- More funding for youth community centers
- Resources and system navigation for youth in and exiting Juvenile Hall

Education

- Support for wealth-building, mentorships, job training
- Scholarships and mentorships for students interested in STEM careers and medicine, especially African Americans
- Support for entrepreneurs
- Enhanced wages for early childhood educators
- More Black-owned early childhood education facilities
- Homeownership seed funding to support African-American wealth-building
- Programs that build awareness, interest, and engagement in STEM career pathways

DISTRICT 2 (South and Central County)

Food Security

- Access to healthy food
- Food insecurity for seniors

Health & Wellness

- Access to affordable healthcare
- Mental health services, especially for youth, LGBTQ, and seniors
- Support for seniors to age in place

Safe & Vibrant Neighborhoods

- Fire mitigation
- Arts and recreation opportunities for all ages
- Fire and disaster preparation
- LGBTQ community center

Housing Security

- Rental assistance
- Affordable housing
- Housing supports for youth and young adults
- Homelessness prevention
- Pro bono eviction legal services

Support For Youth

- More services and resources for foster youth
- Jobs and workforce development
- Healthy cooking, farming, and nutrition classes

Educational & Economic Training

- Workforce development
- Education for immigrants
- Access to affordable, high-quality childcare

Other Basic Supports

- Basic needs supports for families with young children
- Diapers
- Collective Care Fund
- Legal services for low-income seniors
- Bridge funding for nonprofits to ensure continuity of services for vulnerable populations
- Childcare subsidies

Populations most often mentioned by participants: Families struggling to make ends meet, foster youth, immigrants, LGBTQ+, low-income seniors, tenants at risk of eviction, youth

DISTRICT 3 (East/Far East County)

Food Security

- Food access
- Reducing food waste

Health & Wellness

- Mental health services that are culturally and linguistically competent and affordable
- Mobile health clinics
- Reentry services

Other Basic Needs

- After-school programs
- Accessible transportation across the district
- Child welfare prevention
- Support for seniors
- Assistance with resource navigation

Housing Security

- Housing affordability
- Homelessness prevention
- Rental assistance
- Dignified housing for farmworkers

Support For Youth

- More services and resources for foster youth

Educational & Economic Training

- Workforce development for young people
- Fair wages for farmworkers
- Access to affordable childcare
- Literacy equity

Safe & Vibrant Neighborhoods

- Restorative Justice and healing for those most harmed

Populations most often mentioned by participants: Families struggling to make ends meet, farm workers, justice-involved residents, low-income seniors, residents at risk of child welfare involvement, tenants at risk of eviction, youth

DISTRICT 4 (Central County)

Food Security

- Access to nutritious and affordable food
- Vulnerability of immigrant populations to afford basic needs, including food

Education & Workforce Development

- Support for Latinx students and families
- Workforce development opportunities

Immigrant Protections

- Immigrant legal protections

Housing Security

- Rental assistance
- Housing affordability

Safe & Vibrant Neighborhoods

- Disaster resilience
- Funding for nonprofit organizations

Note: District 4 held one convening for potential grant applicants and one follow-up meeting. Both were primarily composed of representatives of various nonprofits, who discussed their focus areas and initiatives. The list above thus includes both participants' stated funding priorities and nonprofit representatives' broader input.

Populations most often mentioned by participants: Families struggling to make ends meet, immigrants, low-income seniors, residents facing hunger, tenants at risk of eviction

DISTRICT 5 (East County and Northern Waterfront)

Food Security

- Access to healthy and affordable food

Health & Wellness

- Healthcare access
- Preventive healthcare
- Environmental health - air quality
- Respite for family caregivers

Safe & Vibrant Neighborhoods

- Restorative Justice
- Disaster preparation and mitigation

Other Basic Needs

- Support in meeting basic needs
- Support navigating public systems and resources
- Immigrant protections

Housing Security

- Rental assistance
- Affordable housing
- Housing for low-income and extremely low-income communities

Support For Youth

- Youth arts programming
- Resource navigation, emotional support, and vocational training for youth exiting Juvenile Hall

Educational & Economic Thriving

- After-school programs
- Affordable childcare
- Access to high-quality and sustainable jobs in the community

Populations most often mentioned by participants: Families struggling to make ends meet, food-insecure, immigrants, justice-involved youth, low-income seniors, unhoused and housing-insecure

DISTRICTS 3 & 5

Food Security

- Free grocery pantries
- Access to healthy food

Education & Economic Thriving

- Early literacy programs
- Financial literacy training
- Job training and placement
- Workforce development for young adults

Safe and Vibrant Neighborhoods

- More arts districts
- Disaster education & kits
- Restorative justice

Health & Wellness

- Services for disabled veterans

Supports for Youth

- After-school programs
- Cultural and historical education in schools
- Youth recreation complex
- Intergenerational programs
- Youth center for the performing arts

Housing Security

- Mobile showers and laundry service for unhoused residents
- Rental assistance

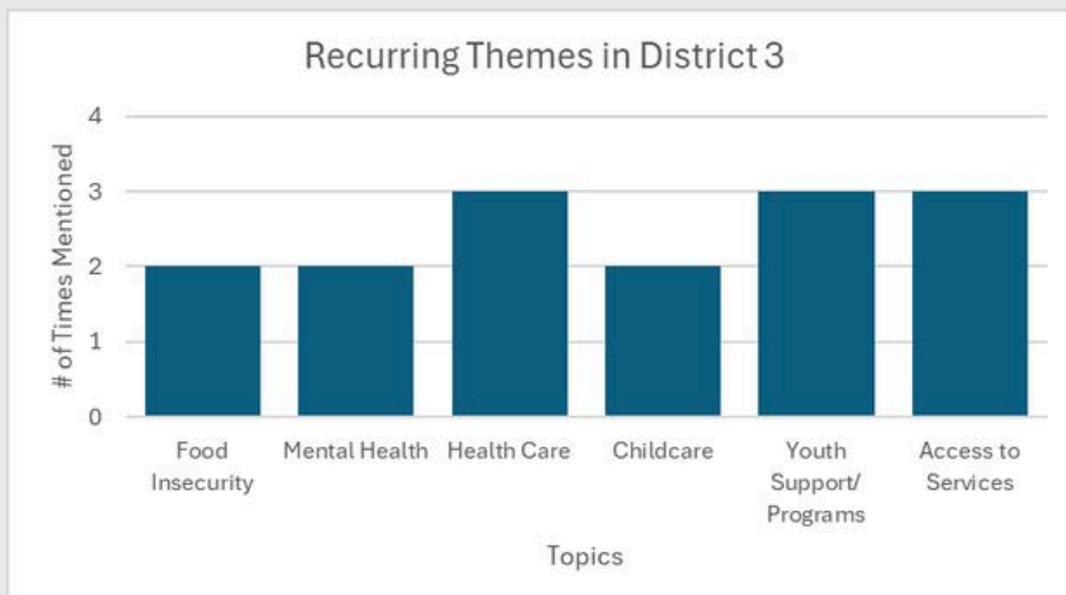
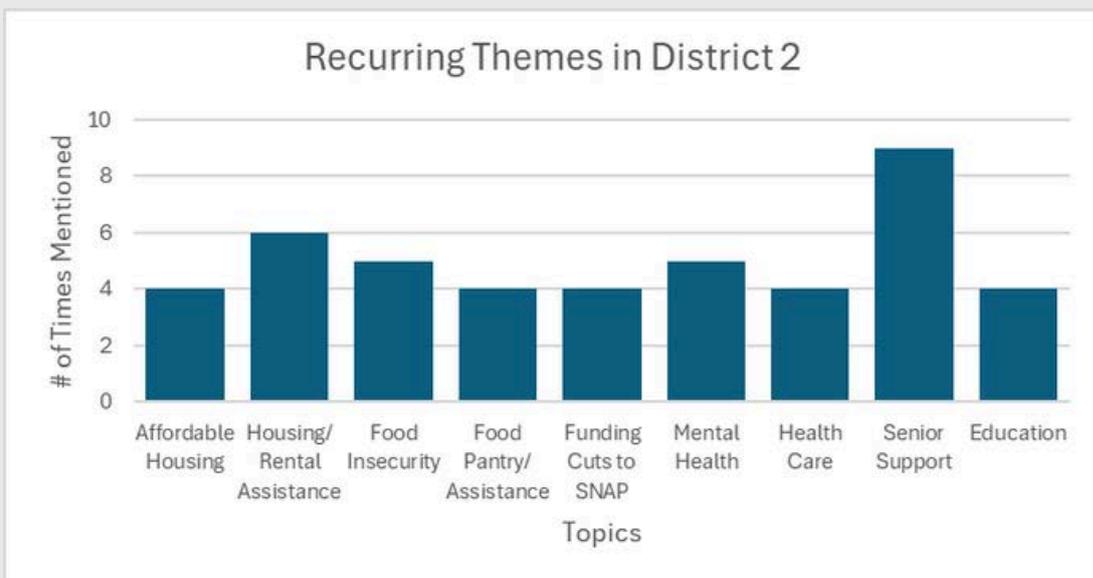
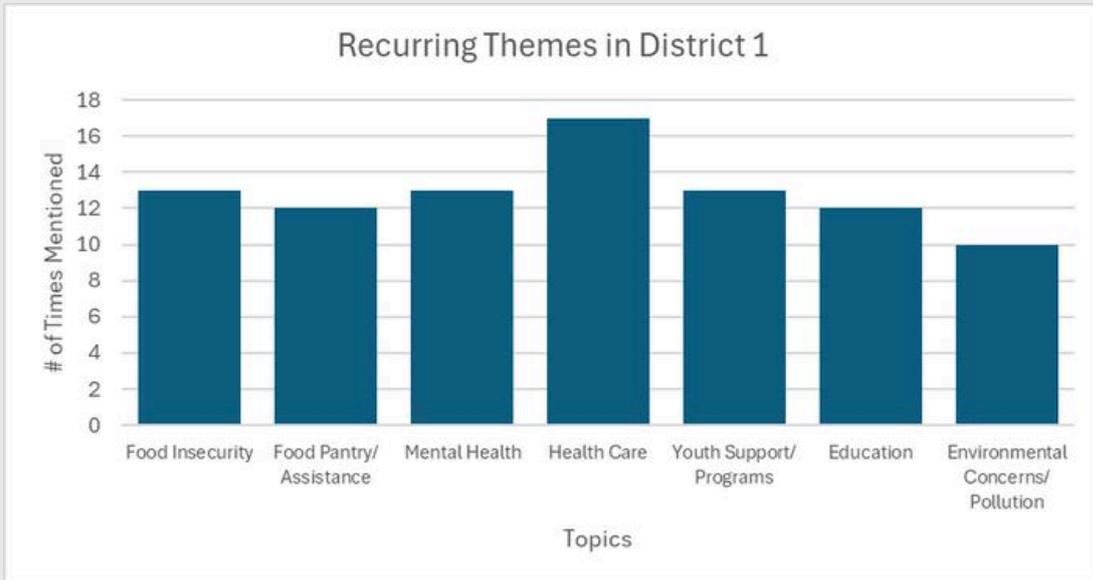
Other Basic Needs

- Free clothes closet for working families

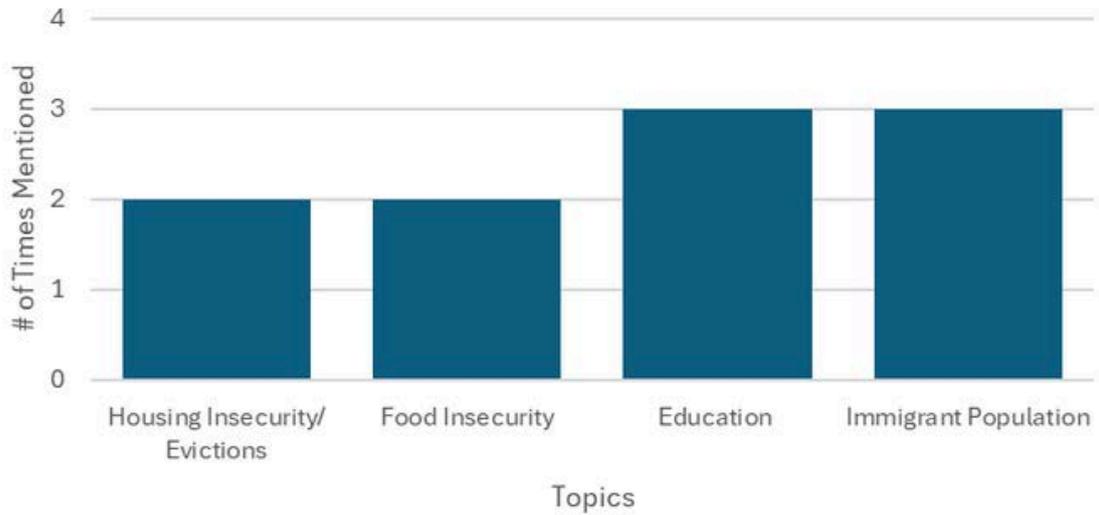
Appendix 3

Visual Representation of Priorities by District

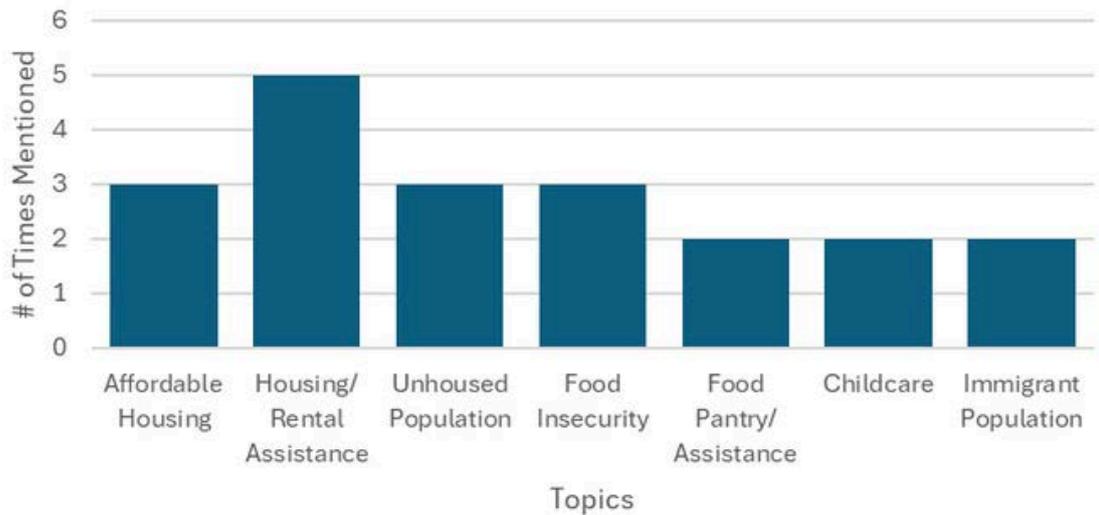
The following graphs highlight the prevailing themes that emerged in each district and at the joint town hall held by Supervisors Burgis and Scales-Preston (Districts 3 and 5).



Recurring Themes in District 4



Recurring Themes in District 5



Recurring Themes in District 3 & 5 Town Hall

