



CONTRA COSTA  
**BUDGET JUSTICE**

Looking Ahead at State & Federal Impacts  
& ***The Need to Center Equitable Budget Processes***

Sara Gurdian, Program Manager

February 4,



# Who We Are

## Our Mission

*Driven by a deep commitment to racial equity and economic justice, the Budget Justice Coalition advocates for and demands a more transparent, inclusive, and participatory budgeting process in Contra Costa County that centers and lifts community needs and priorities.*



# State Impacts & Federal Threats

## Healthcare Access & Medical

California's health care system faces significant challenges as the Trump administration signals plans to cut healthcare funding. Medi-Cal, accounts for almost two-thirds (64.4%) of all federal funding.

## Public Assistance

Reducing federal spending on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), the federal-state program generally described as "welfare," by 10%, to produce \$15 billion in savings over a decade

## Housing

Housing programs already experienced deep cuts totaling over \$1 billion in the 2024 budget and this year the administration proposes completely abandoning any new state investments for housing.

## Homelessness

California's 2024 point-in time count showed over 187,000 Californians experiencing homelessness on a single night — with over 65% living in unsheltered spaces. No new investments were made in this coming fiscal year's budget.

# Potential Impacts In Contra Costa

## HEALTH SERVICES

Funding cuts could affect the 235,000 Medi-Cal enrollees through CCHP.

## EMPLOYMENT & HUMAN SERVICES

Safety Net Programs that support child welfare, foster care, CalWorks, and other critical services that assist low-income and vulnerable residents

## IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

Contra Costa County is known for its diverse and flourishing residents, who many may be impacted by Federal threats



# Contra Costa's Shared Definition of Equity

## Shared Definition of Equity

Equity means that each and every person receives what they need to achieve positive health and well-being and nurture their full economic and social potential. We apply equity in our work when those most impacted by structural inequity are meaningfully involved in the creation and implementation of the institutional policies and practices that impact their lives.

Different from equality, equity accounts for the unique identities, circumstances, and histories of different people, as well as the different and uneven experiences with institutions and systems, and considers those factors when determining how resources are allocated and distributed.



# Centering Equity In Budget Development

The Contra Costa Budget Justice Coalition led efforts in developing a County specific tool to help guide Departments identify gaps in community investment, engagement and service performance.

In Partnership with The Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice, a considerable amount of time and effort has been dedicated to the development of the *Budget Equity Tool* by BJC, community partners and County staff.

**THANK  
YOU**



## CONTRA COSTA COUNTY BUDGET EQUITY TOOL

# What is a Budget Equity Tool(BET)?

### WHAT IS THE TOOL?

This tool is composed of questions that guide departments to integrate equity into their budgetary decision making process

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

In this case, the ORESJ facilitates this process through the development of this tool, training materials, and technical assistance as well as reviewing and providing feedback on Departments' completed tool.

### WHY WE USE IT?

This tool encourages departments to identify and articulate the equity impacts of their budget requests, with the goal of promoting racial and economic equity.

# Guiding Questionnaire

## Internal Reflections

1. What persistent funding gaps or limitations in your overall budget could inhibit your department's ability to advance racial equity and social justice? These might include the funding constraints outside of your control, time limitations, or inadequate funding to address the needs of the most vulnerable community members you serve.
2. Given the above, what strategies does your department recommend/implement to reduce the impact of barriers to (or changes in) services for low-income and communities of color? Examples could include services to improve or ensure access, such as transportation or translation and interpretation services.

## Internal and External Reflections

1. How has your department used or plan to use racial/ethnic and economic data to develop and prioritize criteria for resource distribution? What are some service disparities or gaps your department has identified, and how do your overall budget and/or new funding requests address them? Identify specific programs, policies, practices, and structures that are intended to address historical and/or ongoing racial injustice and harm.
2. What additional disaggregated demographic data will your department collect, track, and analyze to assess equity impacts in the community moving forward and for future budget decisions?
3. In what ways will your department use the budgeting process to advance equity? Examples could include adding staff dedicated to equity initiatives, providing staff with racial equity training opportunities, or investing in data collection or analysis tools to illuminate relevant outcomes.
4. How will your department use targeted data to help inform recruitment, retention, and promotion for staff of color, including executive, supervisory, entry-level, part-time, and field staff? Reference your department's Equal Opportunity Plan (add link)



# Guiding Questionnaire

## External Reflections

1. Describe how your department engages with community members, particularly those identified as impacted by service gaps and disparities, in the budget development and evaluation process. Discuss communication and outreach strategies, evaluation of impact, accountability measures, assessment of engagement, and how community engagement drives resource allocations and aligns with equity outcomes.

# The Budget is a **MORAL** Document.

*A set of values and principles that guide decision-making. A key to considering how those most impacted by the budget are affected by our choices.*

al





# Community Commitments

---

## **EQUITY**

Does everyone in our county have the building blocks to improve the conditions of their lives?

## **BELONGING**

How are we ensuring that all residents feel valued and protected in Contra Costa County?

## **INCLUSION**

How is Contra Costa County fostering a culture of resident engagement to ensure they feel prioritized in decision-making processes?



CONTRA COSTA  
**BUDGET JUSTICE**

---

**THANK YOU**

Sara Gurdian

[Sara@budgetjusticecc.org](mailto:Sara@budgetjusticecc.org)

[www.contracostabudgetjustice.org](http://www.contracostabudgetjustice.org)