



CONTRA COSTA COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND DISTRICT 1 TOWN HALL REPORT

November 13, 2025

Executive Summary

Background

In June 2025, the Board of Supervisors allocated \$5 million to create the Contra Community Impact Fund, with \$1 million designated for each Supervisor's District. To gather input for this fund, the Board of Supervisors/County Administrator's Office launched a Community Impact Fund Survey. Each Supervisor also conducted an independent process to receive feedback from their District residents. Supervisor John Gioia and staff led five town halls and a focus group across his Supervisorial District One, engaging 275 residents, youth, organizational leaders, and advocates. The goal was to gather authentic community input on how to allocate \$1 million to promote equity and address health and economic disparities in West Contra Costa.

Data Overview

The 5 town halls and one focus group were well-attended, with a total of **275 participants**.

- Latina Center Focus Group (Richmond): 15 attendees (in-person, Spanish)
- Youth Only Town hall (RYSE, Richmond): 60 attendees (ages 13–24, in-person)
- Pinole Town hall (City Hall): 30 attendees (hybrid)
- St. Peter CME Church Town hall (El Cerrito): 50 attendees (hybrid)
- RYSE Center Town hall (Richmond): 48 attendees (hybrid)
- San Pablo Town hall (City Hall): 72 attendees (hybrid)

Key Categories

The feedback collected from these sessions revealed a wide variety of community needs and priorities, which can be categorized as follows:

- **Public Health:** Emphasis on mental health services, wellness programs, and healthcare access.
- **Education:** Support for educational programs, resources for schools, and youth development initiatives.
- **Vocational Opportunities:** Expansion of job training programs and employment resources.
- **Housing:** Advocacy for affordable housing projects and homelessness prevention measures.
- **Local Environment:** Enhancements to parks, green spaces, and community beautification projects.
- **Legal Services:** Access to legal aid and justice-related services for vulnerable populations.
- **Arts and Culture:** Investment in cultural programs, arts initiatives, and community events.
- **Transportation:** Improvements in public transportation infrastructure and accessibility.

Methodology

Participants were invited to share their input through various means, including in-person and virtual oral comments, posted written sticky notes, Zoom tools, and surveys. Comments were transcribed, categorized, and prioritized to reflect community priorities. All participant comments were recorded and categorized to ensure the diverse needs and voices within the community were effectively captured. Spanish and ASL interpretation were offered, and Spanish interpretation was utilized.

Conclusion

The synthesis of the data and narratives collected provides a roadmap for elected officials and policymakers to make informed and equitable public investments that address the critical needs of the community. The commitment to language justice and inclusive engagement was central to ensuring all community members could participate fully, reinforcing the importance of equity in decision-making processes.

Full Town Hall Report Findings

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Background

In June 2025, the Board of Supervisors allocated \$5 million to create the Contra Community Impact Fund, with \$1 million designated for each Supervisor's District. To gather input for this fund, the Board of Supervisors/County Administrator's Office launched a Community Impact Fund Survey. Each Supervisor also conducted an independent process to receive feedback from their District residents to aid in their decision-making process to determine how to spend this fund of money.

Supervisor John Gioia and staff led five town halls and a focus group across his Supervisorial District One, engaging 275 residents, youth, organizational leaders, and advocates. The goal was to gather authentic community input on how to allocate \$1 million to promote equity and address health and economic disparities in West Contra Costa.

The outreach strategy was robust, and Supervisor Gioia's Office thanks the community partners that assisted with outreach, planning and organizing the events, including Collective Care CoCo, St. Peter C.M.E. Church, RYSE Center, City of San Pablo, and City of Pinole. The town halls across District One revealed diverse community needs embedded in thematic consistencies. People of all backgrounds participated with notable, energetic optimism. We can confidently report that our constituents want County funding and believe in its ability to enable enhancements in public health, education, vocational opportunities, housing, local environment, legal services, arts, and transportation.

The following report synthesizes the priorities, narratives, and direct quotes from these sessions, providing a roadmap for elected officials and policymakers to advance equitable public investments.

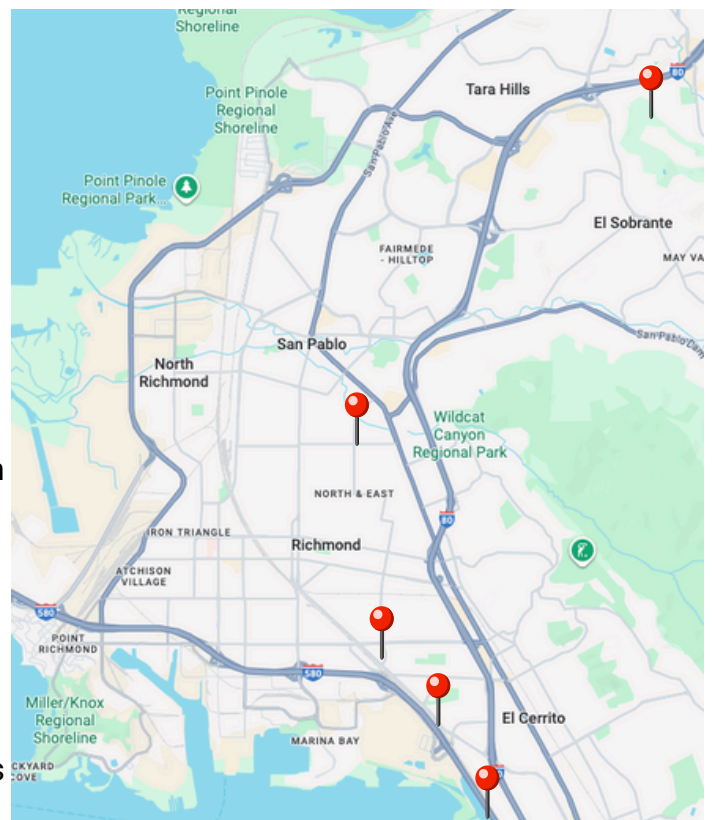
Data Overview

Attendee Profile

West County residents, organizational leaders, resident advocates, a small number of government staff, and CBOs seeking to expand services.

Methodology

The goal was to gather authentic community input on how to allocate \$1 million to promote equity and address health and economic disparities in West Contra Costa. The focus group and five town halls provided a background and overview of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the Board's allocation of \$5 million. The discussion portion began with the question "How would you spend \$1 million to promote equity and address economic health disparities in West Contra Costa?"



Location of Town Hall Meetings

Input was collected via in-person and virtual oral comments. in-person participants were also invited to write their ideas on sticky notes, staff also transcribed comments on sticky notes in real time. Virtual tools were utilized by participants such as Zoom whiteboard, chat, surveys, and email. Comments were prioritized using sticky notes, dot stickers, and frequency of comments. All contributions were recorded and categorized to reflect community priorities. This comprehensive approach ensured that the diverse needs and voices within the community were effectively captured. Additionally, the commitment to language justice principles ensured that all community members could participate fully, regardless of their language proficiency. Spanish and ASL interpretation were offered, and Spanish interpretation was utilized. The Latina Center focus group was held in Spanish, co-facilitated with staff from the Latina Center and Office of Supervisor John Gioia.

Date	Time	Location	Attendance
9/18/2025	9:30 AM	Latina Center Focus Group, Richmond (in-person)	15
9/23/2025	5:00 PM	Youth Only Town Hall, RYSE Richmond (Hybrid)	60
9/30/2025	6:00 PM	Pinole Town Hall, City Hall (Hybrid)	30
10/2/2025	5:30 PM	St. Peter CME Church, El Cerrito (Hybrid)	50
10/6/2025	1:30 PM	RYSE Center, Richmond (Hybrid)	48
10/9/2025	6:00 PM	San Pablo Town Hall, City Hall (Hybrid)	72

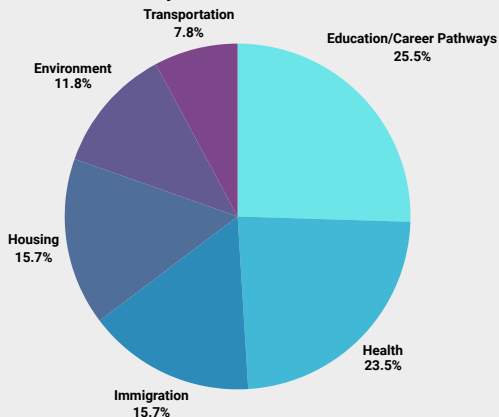
Highlights

Identified Populations of Concern

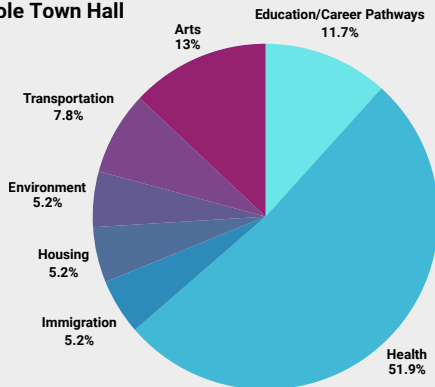
- Children 0–12
- Youth / Young Adults 13–24
- Seniors
- African American Population
- Asian Communities
- Latino/x Population
- Immigrants
- Reentry Population
- North Richmond Residents

Priority Needs by Town Hall

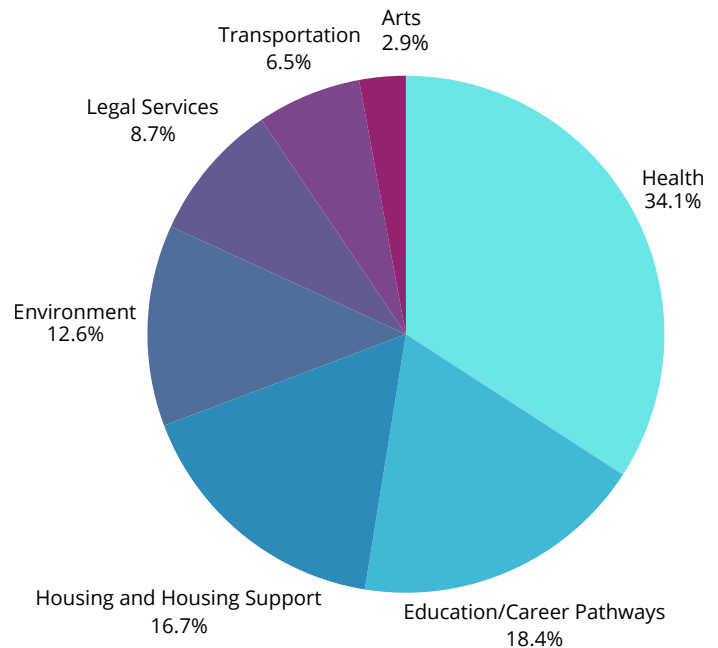
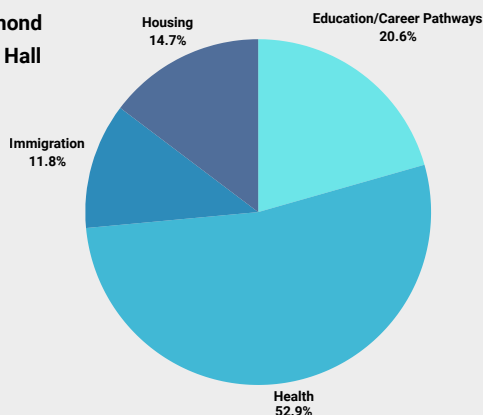
Latina Center Focus Group



Pinole Town Hall

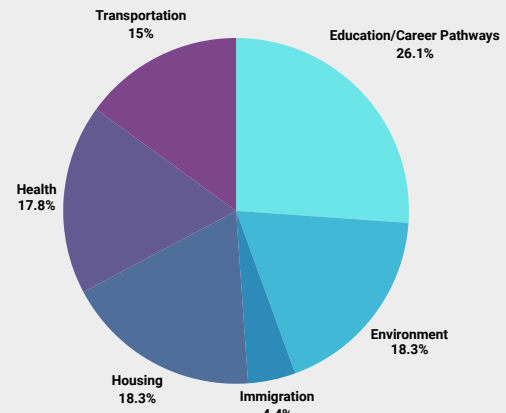


Richmond Town Hall

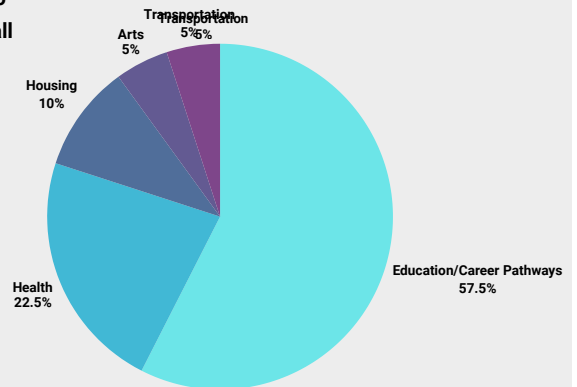


Priority Needs (All Town Hall Data, above)

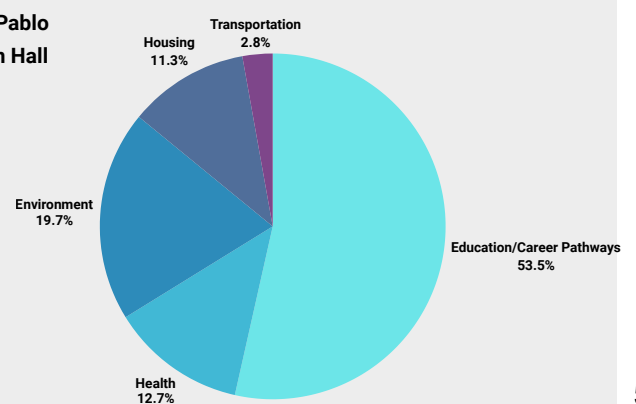
RYSE- Youth ONLY Town Hall



El Cerrito Town Hall



San Pablo Town Hall



Community Input: Narratives, Data, and Quotes by Category

1. Health, Mental Health & Wellness (141 attendees prioritized)

Narrative

Residents across a diverse range of town halls consistently called for affordable, accessible healthcare, mental health support, and culturally competent services, especially for youth, seniors, African American, immigrant, and unhoused populations. Nutrition support and mental health resources for vulnerable populations – and often hard to reach populations where stigmas about mental health persist – were frequent highlights of the health, wellness, and equity related feedback.

Key Priorities

- Affordable healthcare, expansion of clinics, free medical services for the unhoused
- Mental health and behavioral health support for parents and youth
- Nutrition, food security, and increased food distribution capacity
- Culturally competent AA mental health providers, maternal health programs, and doulas
- Peer-based wellness centers, addiction recovery, and respite services for seniors
- Support for vulnerable families, childcare, and children with disabilities

Quotes

- “Mental Health and Behavioral Health support for parents and youth who are dealing with anxiety, feeling unsafe, truancy due to ICE riots.”
- “Free Therapy/Therapists in Schools/Mental Health Improvement Activities.”
- “We should have herbalist/motivational speakers, hormone health and more. This because my mom was part of a research hub that talked about creating a sex education curriculum that went more in depth of healthy overall health. Maybe we should do something like that here.”
- “Funding for health and wellness of the most vulnerable, especially African American populations.”
- “Expansion of community-based clinics and free medical services for the unhoused.”

2. Education/Career Pathways (76 attendees prioritized)

Narrative

Community members emphasized scholarships, mentorship, and career pathways in STEM, health, and entrepreneurship, with a focus on African American youth, immigrants, and economically vulnerable populations. Respondents noted that funding for education and career pathways may be an excellent investment for our relatively limited dollars because these investments into youth could compound over time. Attendees were generally very positive but cognizant of deep inequities and the failures of public investments in the past, while also remaining optimistic and intentional that the dollars must be leveraged for long-term utility rather than one-time, transitory stimulus. Phrases like investments, leveraging, and long-term were consistent.

Key Priorities

- Scholarship funds for students interested in medicine and STEM
- Mentorship programs for STEM and MATH with AA mentors
- Wage support for early childhood educators
- Entrepreneurial education, job training, and arts for young people
- Career building internships, resource centers for immigrants, and intergenerational programs

Quotes

- “Scholarship funds for students interested in medicine and STEM.”
- “Mentorship programs for STEM and MATH with AA mentors.”
- “Funding for entrepreneurial education programs for AA youth.”
- “Choices for different pathway to education programs and career building like Welding, Beauty Industry, Fashion Design and Medical Certifications.”
- “Youth who do not qualify to existing programs due to immigration status or other barriers.”
- “African American doctors like me are getting older ... without providing financing for scholarships for students interested in going into medicine, they have no hope.”

Community Input: Narratives, Data, and Quotes by Category (continued)

3. Housing & Housing Supports (69 attendees prioritized)

Narrative

Affordable housing and transitional supports for youth, immigrants, and the unhoused were urgent themes. Residents advocated for emergency housing, group homes, rental assistance, and pathways to homeownership. Housing investments were a prominent theme particularly among young town hall participants, possibly reflective of the challenging housing market that confronts most young people as they enter the workforce or look to move out of the homes or apartments in which they grew up.

Key Priorities

- Transitional housing for youth and young adults (YYAs)
- Affordable apartments, emergency housing, and homeless shelters
- Rental assistance, homeownership programs, and grants for rehabilitation
- Housing programs for immigrants and single parents

Quotes

- “Give us more affordable apartments.” (youth)
- “I want a housing program for teens cause it’s not fair for them to be kicked out of their home.” (youth)
- “I want cheaper/affordable housing and better home quality.” (youth)
- “Housing programs for immigrants.”
- “More homeless shelters to get people off the street”

4. Environment (52 attendees prioritized)

Narrative

Environmental justice was a recurring theme, with calls for community clean-ups, improved air and water quality, and safer, greener public spaces. Equity in public spaces was a recurrent theme, with participants noting that factors like safety, cleanliness, transportation, and history can all play roles in reducing usage of existing public spaces. Accessibility and walkability were frequent themes, and often in the context of providing a holistic approach at improving health and reducing healthcare costs.

Key Priorities

- Community clean-up events, clean air and water
- More gardens, trees, and solar power
- Street safety initiatives, better lighting, and school facility improvements

Quotes

- “I would like to see a community that cleans up the streets and parks. Cleaner river, ponds, oceans. More care over the animals/wildlife.”
- “Parts of Richmond near Foods Co need to be cleaned up and BART.”
- “Clean Air/More regulations on refinery.”

Community Input: Narratives, Data, and Quotes by Category (continued)

5. Legal Services (36 attendees prioritized)

Narrative Legal support for immigrants, reentry populations, youth, and homeowners was highlighted, alongside advocacy for tenant rights and protection from police misconduct. The relatively small investment needed to radically positively impact local lives was cited as a logical reason for this investment, as was the current political climate and the troubling attacks on undocumented residents that have come from the current federal administration.	
Key Priorities • Immigration support, reentry reintegration, clean slate housing programs • Pro bono lawyers, tenant-landlord dispute resolution, legal counsel for homeowners • Info sessions, know-your-rights, and funding for organizations like SAFE Center	Quotes • “Immigration.” • “Reentry reintegration.” • “Pro Bono Lawyers.” • “Protection from police misconduct.” • “Info Sessions/Know Your Rights.”

6. Transportation (27 attendees prioritized)

Narrative Improved transportation options, free driver training, and expanded services for youth and seniors were requested. Attendees pointed to the growing needs of West County seniors and others to maintain mobility as cuts in defined route transit systems loom and the costs of owning and operating a vehicle continue to climb.	
Key Priorities • Free driver training, free Clipper cards, more buses • Expanded Richmond Moves service area, amenities at bus stops, better lighting	Quotes • “Free Driver Training.” • “Expand Richmond Moves Area of Service and hire more drivers.” • “More transportation options.”

7. Arts and Culture (12 attendees prioritized)

Narrative Arts advocacy focused on programming for youth and elders, culturally competent initiatives, and support for local creative projects. Arts programs for both youth and seniors were pitched as low-cost, engaging approaches to improve health outcomes, fuel educational and vocational attainment, and provide needed recreation and mental stimulation. It was also noted that access to high level artistic programming remains a serious equity issue, as the arts are often among the most notable imbalances between affluent communities and those struggling to satisfy basic material needs.	
Key Priorities • Advocacy through the arts, support for arts programming • Culturally competent programming in arts, health, and environment	Quotes • “Advocacy through the arts.” • “Support for arts and arts programming.”

Input in the Process

Narrative

Participants raised critical questions about transparency, equity, and long-term impact in fund distribution. There was strong advocacy for local control, inclusion, and sustainability. Residents were favorable to the investments and tolerant of the limited funds (\$1M) but were equally insistent on transparent processes and investments that will leverage existing resources to enhance impacts.

Key Questions, Quotes, and Feedback

- “Will there be a grant application process? And if so, what is the likely deadline?”
- “How can we ensure that investments in equity and health in West Contra Costa are not just short-term fixes, but long-term, community-driven solutions that empower families and youth to break cycles of poverty and thrive for generations?”
- “Can we ensure that the money is spent in west CCC and not just for west CCC? That is, don't spend it on outside consultants and contractors, spend it HERE with US, where we can keep it circulating amongst us.”
- “How will this funding be structured to allocate and proposals to be scored to give smaller nonprofits a fair chance?”
- “Will there be residents on the application review team? Also, will there be a chance to comment on the scoring/ranking criteria before the application period begins?”

Narrative Note

Feedback at St. Peter CME in El Cerrito was optimistic and intentional that the dollars must be leveraged for long-term utility rather than one-time, short-term, transitory stimulus.

Conclusion

The community's priorities are clear: invest in health, mental health, housing, education, vocational opportunities, environment, legal services, transportation, and the arts, with a focus on equity and long-term impact. The voices and narratives captured here provide a blueprint for spending \$1M to address health and economic disparities in District 1. The details in terms of allocation ratios and particular investments into partners and institutions remain their own consequential decision points, but the general outline of priorities can guide our approach.

As we reflect on the community sentiments gathered at town hall meetings throughout West County, I'm inspired by the compassion and creativity of our residents. Their ideas, powered by intelligence and heart, advance health and equity in our communities. Together, we prove yet again that we can transform visions into reality, ensuring that equity uplifts all policies in health, recreation, education, workforce training, and more. I thank the community's commitment and dedication to building a brighter future for all in West Contra Costa County.

**In partnership,
Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia, District 1**