



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Committee Meeting Minutes - Draft

Economic Opportunity Council

Thursday, January 8, 2026

6:00 PM

1470 Civic Court, Suite 200, Room 207,

Concord | zoom:

<https://cccouny-us.zoom.us/j/84112970168> | call

in: 8882780254 | code: 7038773

Agenda Items: Items may be taken out of order based on the business of the day and preference of the Committee

Present

Karanbir Bal, Jessica Cisneros, Karen Coleman, Christian Dean, Ajit Kaushal, Buffie Lafayette, Janelle Lafrades, Nikki Lopez, Desire Medlen, Monisha Merchant, Tu'Liisa Miller, Devlyn Sewell, Kanwar Singh, Victor Tiglao, and Renee Zeimer

Absent

Patricia Campbell, and LaTonia Peoples-Stokes

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Medlen called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm. Quorum Established.

Staff Present: Jen Quallick, Christina Castle-Barber, Ali Vahidizadeh, Roshunda Ward, M J Robb, Melissa Molina

2. Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to two minutes).

No public present.

3. APPROVE the EOC Business Meeting Minutes of 11/13/2025.

[25-5464](#)

Attachments:

[EOC Buisness Meeting Minutes of Novmeber 13 2025 draft](#)

A motion was made by Zeimer, seconded by Lafayette, to approve the EOC Business Meeting Minutes of 11/13/25 . The motion carried by the following vote:

Motion: Zeimer

Second: Lafayette

Aye: Bal, Cisneros, Dean, Kaushal, Lafayette, Lafrades, Lopez, Medlen, Merchant, Miller, Sewell, Singh, Tiglao, and Zeimer

Absent: Campbell, and Peoples-Stokes

Abstain: Coleman

Result: Passed

4. APPROVE Sonya Bynum as an alternate member of the Economic Opportunity Council.

[25-5465](#)

Attachments: [Bynum Sonya \(EOC\) 12-07-25 D3_Redacted](#)

Applicant has withdrawn her application. She is serving on two other boards.

This Consent Item was withdrawn.

5. RATIFY approval of the 2026-2027 Subcontractor allocations. [25-5466](#)

Attachments: [2026 RFP 1227 Scoring final](#)

Christina shared that this was inadvertently not voted on at the last meeting so we are ratifying the Executive Committee's decision. Christina shared a remediation plan to ensure scoring and selection is a seamless process in the future.

A motion was made by Kaushal, seconded by Lopez, to approve the final 2026-2028 Subcontractor Allocations . The motion carried by the following vote:

Motion: Kaushal

Second: Lopez

Aye: Bal, Cisneros, Coleman, Dean, Kaushal, Lafayette, Lafrades, Lopez, Medlen, Merchant, Miller, Sewell, Singh, Tiglao, and Zeimer

Absent: Campbell, and Peoples-Stokes

Result: Passed

6. RATIFY approval of the 2025 EOC Annual Advisory Body Report to the Board of Supervisors. [25-5467](#)

Attachments: [2025 Economic Opportunity Council Annual Advisory Body Report FINAL](#)

Castle-Barber presented the report.

A motion was made by Kaushal, seconded by Lopez, to approve the 2025 EOC Annual Advisory Body Report to the Board of Supervisors. The motion carried by the following vote:

Motion: Kaushal

Second: Lopez

Aye: Bal, Cisneros, Coleman, Dean, Kaushal, Lafayette, Lafrades, Lopez, Medlen, Merchant, Miller, Sewell, Singh, Tiglao, and Zeimer

Absent: Campbell, and Peoples-Stokes

Result: Passed

7. RECEIVE the October Fiscal Report for Grant #25-6007. [25-5468](#)

Attachments: [CSBG October 2025 Budget to Actual](#)

Vahidzadeh presented the October Fiscal Report for Grant #25-6007.

Tiglao asked about the Supplies for Outreach/Homeless line item, to which Castle-Barber and Ward answered that the corrected amount will be reflected on the next meeting's report.

This Discussion Item was received.

8. RECEIVE Budget Presentation and APPROVE the budget for Grant #26F-5007.

[25-5469](#)

Attachments:

[DocuSign 2026 CSBG 26F-5007 Contra Costa Co 2026 CSBG Spending Authorization Letter](#)
[Spending Authorization Spreadsheet - December 18 2025](#)
[Copy of Proposed Budget 2026 rev 12-31-25](#)

Castle-Barber informed that the full budget for the upcoming cycle has been received by the state and how it is affected by federal changes.

Ward presented the itemized annual budget.

Kaushal and Zeimer asked for clarifying questions about the local travel conference, student interns, salary allocation, and LIHEAP.

A motion was made by Lopez, seconded by Dean, to approve the Budget for Grant# 26F-5007. The motion carried by the following vote:

Motion: Lopez

Second: Dean

Aye: Bal, Cisneros, Coleman, Dean, Kaushal, Lafayette, Lafrades, Lopez, Medlen, Merchant, Miller, Sewell, Singh, Tiglao, and Zeimer

Absent: Campbell, and Peoples-Stokes

Result: Passed

9. Staff Report

Castle-Barber presented everyone with copies of the revised Brown Act and provided an overview of the changes.

Castle-Barber shared that Head Start Program completed their F1 review and it went very well. A letter will be received in 45-60 days with the formal results.

10. Chair Report

Chair Medlen thanked members for their hard work on scoring the RFP applications and praised members for their resiliency during these difficult times.

11. Policy Council Report

Coleman reported that the Policy Council talked about concerns regarding funding for Head Start.

12. EOC Member Report

Cisneros invited members to a town hall on affordable housing hosted Assemblymember Avila Farias on February 6th from 7-8PM.

Zeimer invited to a webinar about the Politics of Hunger.

Sewell informed members about the Concord Library's Pop up Prom for Teens.

13. Next Steps

Molina will send out links to events reported by members to the entire body.

Fiscal will update the budget for next meeting.

14. Meeting Evaluation

Efficient

Ended early.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for February 12 at 6pm.

15. Adjourn

Chair Medlen adjourned the meeting at 7 pm.

The Committee will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend the Committee meetings. Contact the staff person listed below at least 72 hours before the meeting. Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the County to a majority of members of the Committee less than 96 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at 1470 Civic Court, Suite 200, Concord, during normal business hours. Staff reports related to items on the agenda are also accessible online at www.contracosta.ca.gov. If the Zoom connection malfunctions for any reason, the meeting may be paused while a fix is attempted. If the connection is not reestablished, the committee will continue the meeting in person without remote access. Public comment may be submitted via electronic mail on agenda items at least one full work day prior to the published meeting time.

For Additional Information Contact: Christina Castle-Barber, 925-608-8819.