



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Committee Meeting Minutes - Draft

Economic Opportunity Council

Thursday, September 11, 2025

6:00 PM

1470 Civic Court, Suite 200, Room 207,

Concord | Zoom:

<https://cccounty-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, Patricia Campbell, Jessica Cisneros, Karen Coleman, Christian Dean, Ajit Kaushal, Buffie Lafayette, Nikki Lopez, Desire Medlen, Monisha Merchant, LaTonia Peoples-Stokes, Kanwar Singh, Victor Tiglao, and Renee Zeimer
Absent	Devlyn Sewell
Non-voting	Janelle Lafrades

1. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Chair Medlen at 6:07 pm. Quorum Established.

Staff present: Christina Castle-Barber, Alexandra Heinitz, Roshunda Ward, Melissa Molina

Guest: Janelle Lafrades, participating from a conference.

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 8-14-2025.

[25-3511](#)

Attachments: [EOC Business Meeting Minutes for 8-14-25 - DRAFT](#)

A motion was made by Campbell, seconded by Lafayette, to approve the EOC Business Meeting Minutes of 8-14-25. The motion carried by the following vote:

Motion: Campbell

Second: Lafayette

Aye: Bal, Campbell, Cisneros, Coleman, Dean, Kaushal, Lafayette, Medlen, Merchant, Peoples-Stokes, Singh, Tiglao, and Zeimer

Absent: Sewell

Abstain: Lopez

Result: Passed

4. APPROVE the budget for Amendment 1 for Grant #25F-6007. [25-3512](#)

Attachments: [DocuSign 2025 CSBG Amendment 1 25F-6007 Con Copy of CSBG Amend A1 25F-6007](#)

A motion was made by Lopez, seconded by Peoples-Stokes, to approve Amendment 1 for CSBG Grant 25F-6007. The motion carried by the following vote:

Motion: Lopez

Second: Peoples-Stokes

Aye: Bal, Campbell, Cisneros, Coleman, Dean, Kaushal, Lafayette, Lopez, Medlen, Merchant, Peoples-Stokes, Singh, Tiglaio, and Zeimer

Absent: Sewell

Result: Passed

5. CONDUCT and APPROVE election of EOC Executive Officers for 2025-26. [25-3513](#)

Attachments: [Executive Committee Positions and Responsibilities](#)

A secret ballot was used to elect officers.

A motion was made by Lafayette, seconded by Zeimer, to approve Desire Medlen as chair, Nikki Lopez as Vice Chair, and Victor Tiglaio as Secretary. The motion carried by the following vote:

Motion: Lafayette

Second: Zeimer

Aye: Bal, Campbell, Cisneros, Coleman, Dean, Kaushal, Lafayette, Lopez, Medlen, Merchant, Peoples-Stokes, Singh, Tiglaio, and Zeimer

Absent: Sewell

Result: Passed

6. RECEIVE July Fiscal Report for Grant #25F-6007. [25-3514](#)

Attachments: [2025 CSBG July](#)

Heinitz presented the report. Ward presented subcontractor demands to date.

This Discussion Item was received.

7. RECEIVE reports on NCAP Conference in Detroit.

Castle-Barber shared LIHEAP funding and by the end of October, there will be a concrete budget, and there is bipartisan support in Congress, and highlighted the hope that resonated at the conference, and shared the Court-ordered stay on the citizenship question on federal funding, shared concerns about increasing funding for cost of living adjustments for teachers, shared her first time hosting a workshop and received rave reviews

Ward shared changes in criteria asked of subcontractors, that they should anticipate these changes, tentative contract that showed increase in funding

Zeimer shared her advocacy efforts in support of Community Action, to which Castle-Barber

shared her optimism

Lopez shared her experience, noted the unity among the attendees, and professional experience

This was read into the record.

8. RECEIVE report on CSBG Roundtable at Congressman DeSaulnier's Office.

Medlen shared that she shared her experience as a recipient of Head Start, and she push for collaboration more money goes around, instructed staff to get the Native American organization that serves Contra Costa residents

Kaushal shared that the meeting went well.

This was received.

9. RECEIVE update on CSBG RFP 2026-2027.

[25-3723](#)

Attachments: [RFP-1227-Community-Action-Projects-Posted 9-4-2025](#)

Castle-Barber presented CSBG RFP 2026-2027, shared that Exec Director Marla Stewart had concerns about how many organizations we fund and EOC should consider reducing number of subcontractors and funding deeper programming.

This Discussion Item was received.

10. Discuss 2025 Subcontractor Roundtable Event in October.

Castle-Barber shared that the Outreach Committee will lead the upcoming subcontractor roundtable in October.

This was approved.

11. Staff Report

Castle-Barber shared the 2024 Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States report that showed the importance of social services ([census.gov](https://www.census.gov))

12. Chair Report

Medlen shared her experience with elected officials and encouraged others to share their stories to them.

13. EOC Members Reports

Zeimer encouraged board members to speak up in favor of Community Action funding and social services at large.

Tiglaio shared that SB 411 officially passed both chambers of the State Legislature unanimously this week and is going to the Governor's desk for his signature, and shared funding opportunities from First 5 Contra Costa and the Board of Supervisors' Community

Impact Fund.

14. Next Steps

Molina to work with Tiglao to get a Roundtable AdHoc Meeting set up.

15. Meeting Evaluation

Efficient; good information

The next meeting is currently scheduled for October 9, 2025 at 6pm.

16. Adjourn

Chair Medlen adjourned the meeting at 7:24 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