



# CONTRA COSTA BUDGET JUSTICE



**CONTRA COSTA**  
COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

## Contra Costa County Budget Equity Tool, Partnership x Process



## Equity 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 residents' needs and priorities.



# BJC's County Budget Goals



- ❖ Urge the county to focus on community values and priorities
- ❖ Develop systems for a more transparent process
- ❖ Conduct authentic community engagement

# BJC's Budget Equity Campaign

The Contra Costa Budget Justice Coalition focused on two elements of the budget process within six key departments

- Analyzed current equity measures and metrics that reflect both internally and externally.
- Explored each department's current process for engaging with community members who are impacted by the department's services, and how their input influences budgetary priorities.

# Key Findings



**Documented  
internal and  
external  
budget  
development  
processes**



**Identified  
gaps**



**Explored  
equitable  
budget  
models &  
engagement  
tools**

# Budget Equity Tool Process

**Our Goal:** Partner with the new Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice and other community partners to address equity gaps found throughout key departments' budget processes. With these findings we recommend the implementation of a Budget Equity Tool

**Researched** other jurisdiction in the Bay Area. **Conducted** informational interviews with other County staff

**Partnered** with ORESJ & BJC member organizations

**Gathered Input** via a working group table held by BJC

**Ready for launch!**

# Budget Equity Tool Timeline

- Phase 1: Research - in six months, BJC and ORESJ collaborated on selecting a budget equity tool model that best addressed the needs and priorities of Costa Costa County. We met with Senior Analyst of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion from Monterey County.





# Community Engagement

**Together,  
we win.**

- Phase 2: BJC sets up a table for our member organizations to discuss the selected model and shared with community networks for feedback.
  - And we received input and support!
- East Contra Costa Community Alliance
  - NAMI Contra Costa
  - The Young Women's Freedom Center
  - United Latino Voices
  - Rubicon Program
  - Healthy Contra Costa
  - First 5 Contra Costa
  - Ensuring Opportunity
  - Opportunity Junction
  - Contra Costa Senior Services
  - Raise the Roof Coalition
  - Others





# Collective Implementation

- Phase 3: As we continue discussing implementation, we are focusing on how WE as a collective can develop policies and strategies to address the equity gaps identified throughout the county's annual budget cycle.
  - Community Oversight Committees
  - Open tables with community partners and County Department staff
  - Collaborative and meaningful partnerships with community stakeholders

Thank you for your support!

