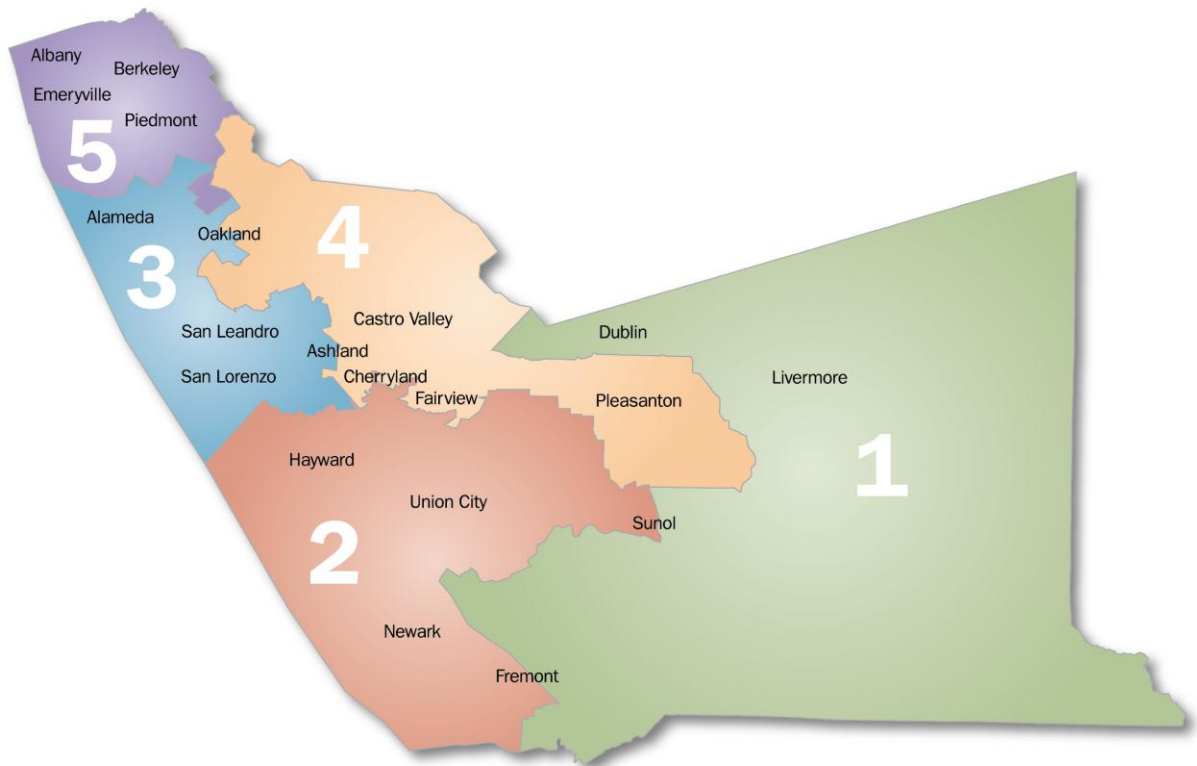




# 2014

## Alameda County Legislative Process



### Board of Supervisors

Scott Haggerty	District 1
Richard Valle	District 2
Wilma Chan	District 3
Nate Miley	District 4
Keith Carson	District 5

Susan S. Muranishi,  
**County Administrator**

Adopted as of January 28, 2014

# Table Of Contents

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## Table Of Contents - Contd.

<p> <b>Planning Land Use and Housing and Community Development.....</b>  <b>Sustainability.....</b>  <b>Transportation.....</b>  <b>Education.....</b>  <b>Immigration.....</b>  <b>Jobs and Economic Development.....</b>  <b>Flood Control and Water Resources.....</b>  <b>Local Government Revenue.....</b>  <b>Federal Legislative Priorities.....</b>  <b>Human Services.....</b>  <b>Health.....</b>  <b>Public Safety.....</b>  <b>Planning Land Use and Housing and Community Development.....</b>  <b>Sustainability.....</b>  <b>Transportation.....</b> </p>	<p> 60 62 63 68 68 72 73 74 75 81 86 88 89 89 </p>
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## Table Of Contents - Contd.

Education.....	92
Immigration.....	94
Jobs and Economic Development.....	95
Flood Control and Water Resources.....	99
Local Government Revenue.....	100

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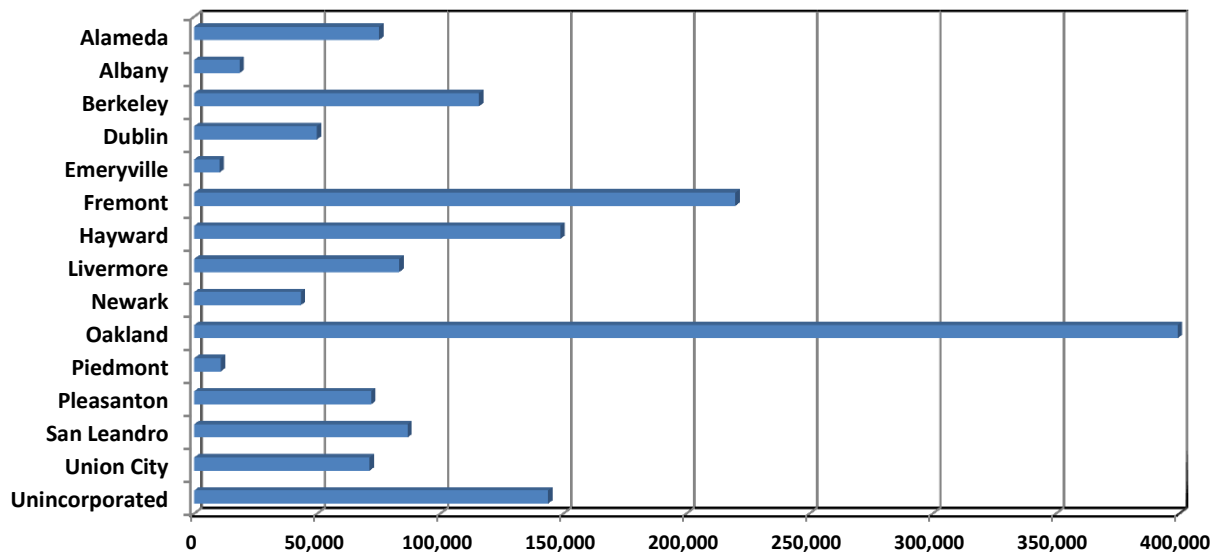
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**Population of Alameda County Cities and Unincorporated Area**

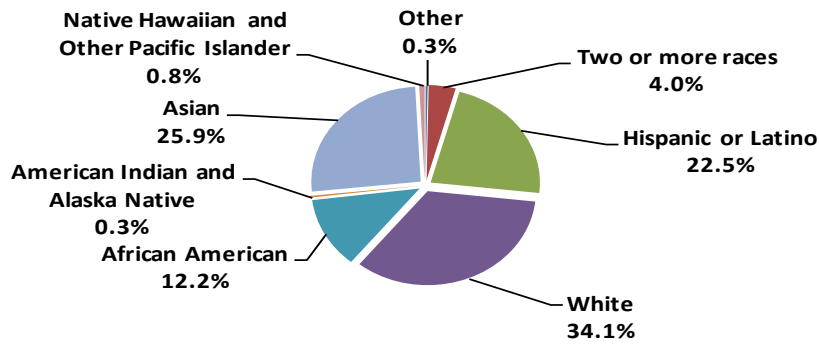


Source: State of California, Department of Finance, E-1 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State with Annual Percent Change — January 1, 2012 and 2013. Sacramento, California, May 2013."

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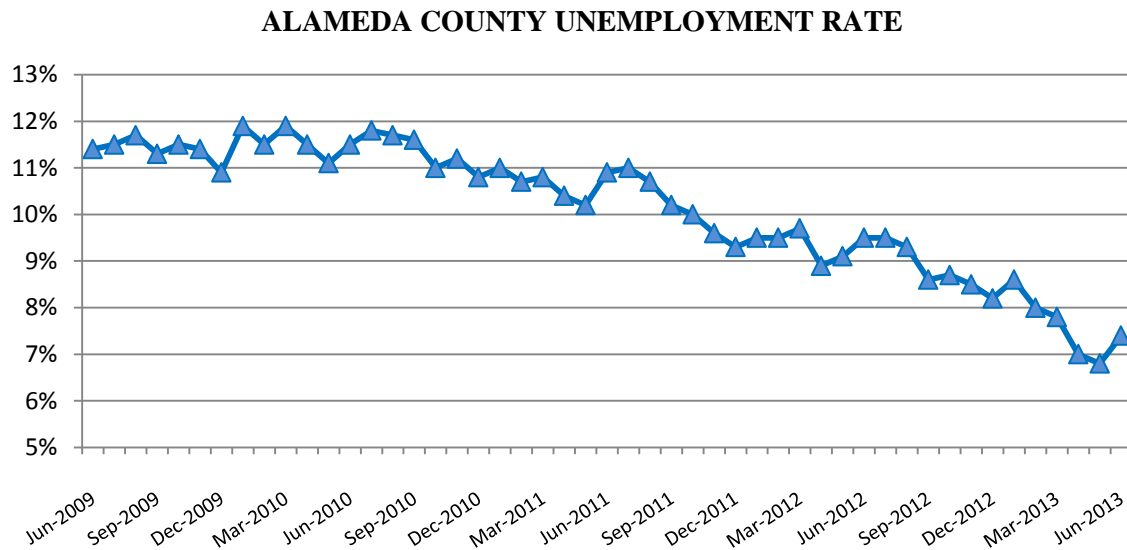
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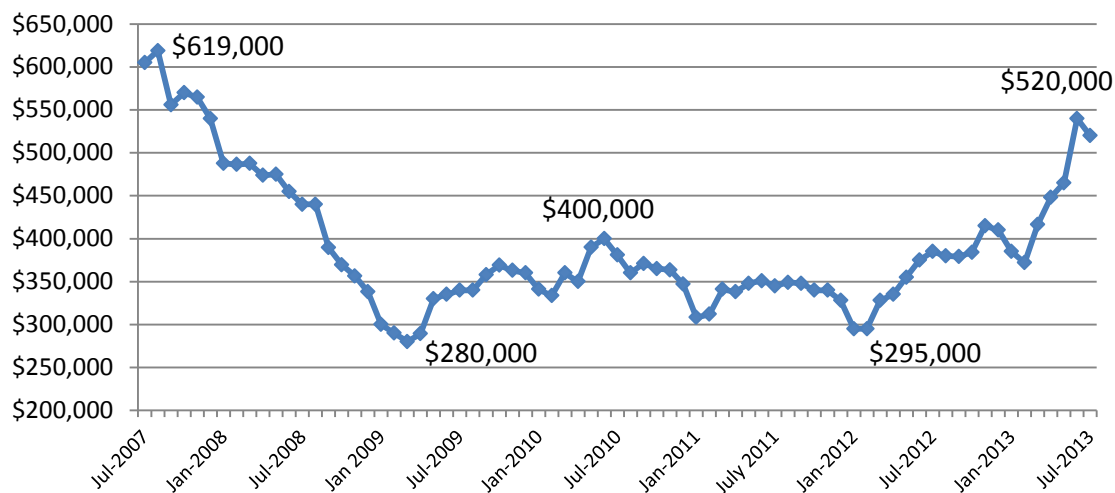
**Alameda County  
Race/Ethnicity**

Source: Census 2010

While there are some positive signs, the national economy remains sluggish. Although improving, the unemployment rate remains higher than pre-recession levels. In April 2012, Alameda County's unemployment rate was 8.9%, compared to 10.9% in California and 8.1% nationwide.



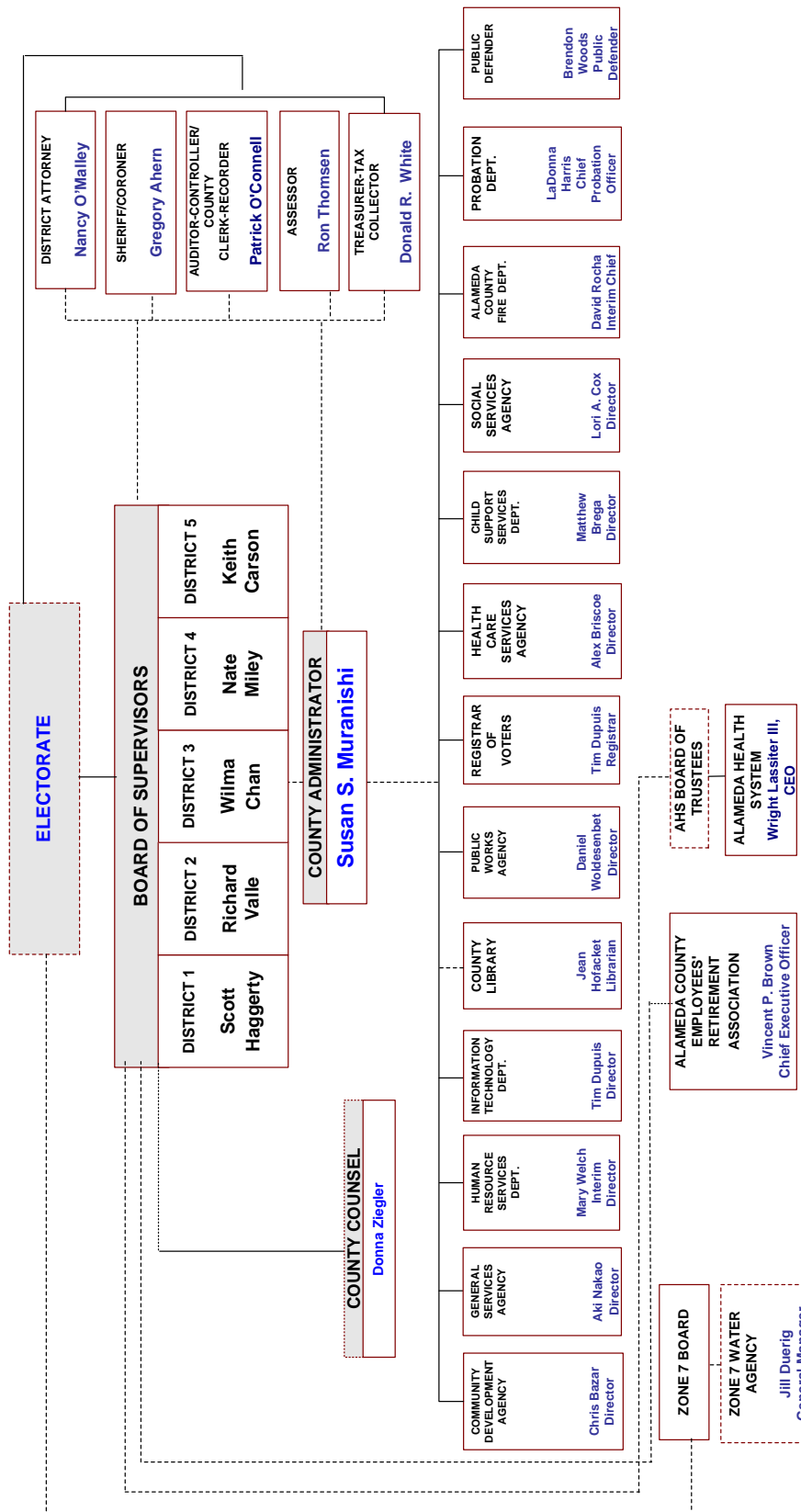
Source: California Economic Development Department, July 2013

**ALAMEDA COUNTY MEDIAN HOME VALUES**

Source: *DQNews*, July 2013

Alameda County's median home value was \$520,000 as of July 2013, up 35.1% from a year ago but down 16% from the peak of \$619,000 in August 2007.

# ALAMEDA COUNTY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



BILL TITLE	POSITION	STATUS AT THE END OF LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2013
AB 13 (Chavez) Nonresident tuition exemption: veterans	Support	2 year bill
AB 24 (Buchanan) Budget Act of 2012	Sponsor	AB 24 contained language reappropriating funds to the Alameda County East County Courthouse. The reappropriation was included in SB 68, 5/30/13 Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 5, Statutes of 2013.
AB 59 (Bonta) School districts: parcel taxes	Support	2 year bill
AB 65 (Achadjian) Crimes: rape	Support	09/09/13 Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 259, Statutes of 2013.
AB 174 (Bonta) Public school health centers	Support	Vetoed
AB 191 (Bocanegra) Strengthening the Connection between CalFresh and Medi-Cal	Support	10/10/13 Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 669, Statutes of 2013.
AB 197 (Stone) CalWORKs Vehicle Asset Test	Support	Concept was chaptered in the 2013-14 budget
AB 210 (Wieckowski) Transactions and use taxes: County of Alameda and the County of Contra Costa	Support	8/28/13 Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 194, Statutes of 2013.
AB 218 (Dickinson) Fairness in Government Hiring Practices	Support	10/10/13 Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 699, Statutes of 2013.
AB 258 (Chavez) State Agencies: veterans	Support	9/06/13 Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 227, Statutes of 2013.
AB 271 (Mitchell) Repeal of the Maximum Family Grant	Support	2 year bill
AB 307 (Campos) Protective Orders	Support	9/09/13 Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 291, Statutes of 2013.
AB 361 (Mitchell) Medi-Cal: Health Homes for Medi-Cal Enrollees and Section 1115 Waiver Demonstration Populations with Chronic and Complex Conditions	Support	10/08/13 Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 642, Statutes of 2013.
AB 402 (Ammiano) Disability income insurance: mental illness	Support	10/04/13 Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 550, Statutes of 2013.
AB 403 (Stone) Solid waste: home-generated sharps	Support	2 year bill
AB 411 (Pan) Medi-Cal: performance measure	Support	Vetoed
AB 422 (Nazarian) Health care application	Support	10/01/13 Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 440, Statutes of 2013.
AB 492 (Quirk) Nonviolent Drug Offenses	Support	06/24/13 Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 13, Statutes of 2013.
AB 535 (Quirk) Emergency Alert System	Sponsor	09/23/13 Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 328, Statutes of 2013.
AB 537 (Bonta) Meyers-Milias-Brown Act: impasse procedures	Oppose	10/13/13 Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 785, Statutes of 2013.
AB 545 (Mitchell) Dependent children: placement: nonrelative extended family member	Support	9/09/13 Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 294, Statutes of 2013.
AB 578 (Dickinson) Knox-Keene Licensure Transparency Act	Support	2 year bill
AB 604 (Ammiano) Medical cannabis: state regulation and enforcement	Support	2 year bill

BILL TITLE	POSITION	STATUS AT THE END OF LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2013
AB 616 (Bocanegra) Local public employee organizations: dispute: fact finding panel	Oppose	2 year bill
AB 651 (Bradford) Reentry & Employment Opportunities Act	Support	10/10/13 Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 724, Statutes of 2013.
AB 741 (Brown) Local Government Finance: tax equity allocation formula	Oppose	2 year bill
AB 767 (Levine) Vehicles: additional registration fees: vehicle-theft crimes	Support	09/06/13 Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 241, Statutes of 2013.
AB 880 (Gomez) Medi-Cal Program costs: large employer responsibility	Support	2 year bill
AB 900 (Alejo) Medi-Cal: reimbursement: distinct part nursing	Support	2 year bill
AB 924 (Bigelow) Grand theft	Support	10/07/13 Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 618, Statutes of 2013.
AB 954 (Maienschein) Developmental services: habilitation	Support	2 year bill
AB 975 (Wieckowski and Bonta) An act to amend Sections 127280, 127400, and 129050 of, to add Chapter 2.6 (commencing with Section 127470) to Part 2 of Division 107 of, and to repeal Article 2 (commencing with Section 127340) of Chapter 2 of Part 2 of Division 107 of, the Health and Safety Code, and to amend Section 214 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, relating to health facilities	Support	2 year bill
AB 999 (Bonta) Prisoner Protections for Family and Community Health Act	Support	Vetoed
AB 1040 (Wieckowski) Peace Officer: Firearms	Oppose	2 year bill
AB 1041 (Chesbro) Developmental services: Employment First Policy	Support	10/10/13 Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 677, Statutes of 2013.
AB 1263 (Perez) Medi-Cal: CommuniCal	Support	Vetoed
AB 1273 (Ting) Tidelands and submerged lands: City and County of San Francisco: Piers 30-32: multipurpose venue.	Oppose	9/27/13 Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 381, Statutes of 2013.
AB 1324 (Skinner and Bonta) Vehicles: additional registration fees: vehicle theft crimes	Support	2 year bill, concept adopted through AB 767, 9/06/13 Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 241, Statutes of 2013.
AB 1329 (V. Manuel Perez) Hazardous Waste	Support	10/05/13 Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 598, Statutes of 2013.
AB 1330 (John Perez) Environmental justice	Support	2 year bill
SB 1 (Steinberg) Sustainable Communities Investment Authority	Support	2 year bill
SB 23 (Lara) Task Force on Immigrant Integration	Support	2 year bill
SB 54 (Hancock) Retirement: county employees	Sponsor	SB 54 was amended to address hazardous materials management; 10/13/13 Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 795, Statutes of 2013

BILL TITLE	POSITION	STATUS AT THE END OF LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2013
SB 59 (Evans) Crimes: sex crimes.	based on support of AB 65	9/09/13 Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 282, Statutes of 2013.
SB 68 (Committee on Budget) Budget Act of 2012.	Sponsor	5/30/13 Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 5, Statutes of 2013.
SB 107 (Corbett) An Act to amend Penal Code Section 13823.95	Support	08/26/13 Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 148, Statutes of 2013.
SB 126 (Steinberg) Health care coverage: Pervasive developmental disorder or autism	Support	10/09/13 Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 680, Statutes of 2013.
SB 130 (Corbett and Anderson) An Act to amend Penal Code Section 868.5 and 868.6	Support	06/28/13 Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 44, Statutes of 2013.
SB 191 (Padilla) Emergency Medical Services	Co-Sponsor	10/05/13 Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 600, Statutes of 2013.
SB 283 (Hancock) CalWorks and CalFresh Eligibility	Support	2 year bill
SB 391 (DeSaulnier) California Homes and Jobs Act of 2013	Support	2 year bill
SB 402 (De Leon) Breastfeeding	Support	10/09/13 Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 666, Statutes of 2013.
SB 473 (Block) Human Trafficking	Support/ Sponsor	2 year bill
SB 488 (Hueso) Substandard housing: regulations	Support	08/12/13 Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 89, Statutes of 2013.
SB 577 (Pavley) Autism, and other developmental disabilities: pilot program: employment	Support	2 year bill
SB 612 (Leno) Residential tenancy: victims of human trafficking and elder or dependent adult abuse	Support	08/19/13 Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 130, Statutes of 2013.
SB 622 (Monning) Taxation: sweetened beverage tax: Children's Health Promotion Fund	Support	2 year bill
SB 648 (Corbett) Electronic Cigarettes: Restriction of use and advertising	Support	2 year bill
SB 691 (Hancock) Nonvehicular air pollution control: penalties	Support	2 year bill
SB 717 (DeSaulnier) Credibility of witnesses: sexual conduct evidence	Support	09/20/13 Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 317, Statutes of 2013.
SB 727 (Jackson) Drug Abuse Prevention and Safe Disposal Act	Support/ Sponsor	2 year bill
SB 782 (DeSaulnier) Sexual Assault Victim Equity Act (S.A.V.E. Act)	Support	2 year bill
SB 791 (Wyland) Motor vehicle fuel tax: rate adjustment.	Oppose	2 year bill
State-based Medicaid expansion option, while maintaining all 1991 realignment funding for the residually uninsured	Support	State-based option was chaptered as part of 2013-14 Budget Act, realignment funding was not fully maintained. AB 85, 6/27/13 Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 24, Statutes of 2013.

<b>BILL TITLE</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>STATUS AT THE END OF LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2013</b>
Increased truck size or weight beyond the current federal standards	Oppose	HR 612 was referred to the House T&I Subcommittee on Highways and Transit in February 2013. It is still pending at the subcommittee.
Resolution of the Board of Supervisors in support of the legalization of marijuana	Support	Adopted by the Board of Supervisors on November 5, 2013.

# Legislative Principles

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors supports legislation that is consistent with the following principles:

1. County Revenues

- Support the guarantee of dependable, predictable, and equitable revenue streams to support County programs, as well as additional revenue raising authority and flexibility for counties.
- Support preservation of existing revenues and revenue authority.
- Support new opportunities for State and federal funding and expanded opportunities to generate local revenues.
- Oppose the imposition of State and federal mandates for which funding is not fully provided, and any State and federal budget actions that would result in a negative fiscal impact to Alameda County.
- Support increased funding of the County's infrastructure needs.

2. Services to Families and Children

- Support simplification of eligibility determination and income reporting requirements for the CalWORKs program and support expanded educational opportunities and funding for CalWORKs participants through adult education and regional occupational programs.
- Support incentives for guardianship, adoption and kinship care, such as clothing allowances.
- Support reauthorization of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and oppose any cuts to SNAP.
- Support incentives for family placement of foster children.
- Support Head Start programs/funding.
- Oppose legislative and budgetary actions that result in reduced levels of service to impacted populations in Alameda County, or the shift of program responsibility to the County without adequate funding.

3. Program Flexibility and Integration of Services

- Support actions that provide program flexibility in all areas including job training, integrated children's services, and other social service and health program areas.
- Support reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).
- Support adequate funding for preventative and family preservation services for families with at-risk children.
- Support program service integration to meet the needs of children and families.
- Support the pooling of federal, state, and county resources to provide integrated safety net services and adequate funding for the provision of safety net health and welfare services.

4. Health Insurance for the Uninsured and Underinsured

- Support funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).
- Support efforts to include all children in health insurance programs.
- Support adjusted funding distribution for Proposition 63 (mental health programs).

5. Health and Retirement Benefits

- Support legislation that continues to further address pension reform, specifically efforts to allow local government flexibility in negotiating pension benefits that maintain financial stability for counties.
- Support efforts to reduce healthcare costs while maintaining sufficient service levels for employees and their families.

6. Public Safety and Justice

- Support efforts to maintain or enhance local government funding for public safety realignment and retain local authority to enhance efforts for integrated re-entry programs for parolees and rehabilitative programs.
- Support funding for substance abuse treatment and related services.
- Support funding for violence prevention initiatives.
- Support continued funding for Proposition 36 services (drug offenders' programs).
- Support enhancement of the rights and protections of all victims of crime, including increased funding to expand services.
- Support funding for VAWA (Violence Against Women Act).

7. Housing, Land Use, Transportation and Infrastructure

- Support efforts to establish a national multi-modal freight network and a program to fund improvements, maintenance and operations.
- Support coordinated planning, funding and implementation of the transportation infrastructure network at the local, county, regional and inter-regional level.
- Support efforts to address regional housing needs and homelessness, including efforts to protect homeowners from predatory foreclosures, maintain tenant rights, and rehabilitate and preserve the existing housing stock.
- Support funding for increased affordable housing and end homelessness.
- Support efforts to close the regional jobs/housing imbalance.
- Support State and federal funding efforts to enhance County streets and roads, transportation, infrastructure, hospital, flood control and seismic safety, including seismic repair and maintenance of Estuary bridges.
- Support funding for economic development, capital and downtown/neighborhood improvements.
- Support methods to increase gas tax and alternative revenue sources, including legislative efforts to provide for a county or regional gas tax for infrastructure improvements.
- Support rewarding states that provide significant funding into the transportation systems.
- Increase funding for and flexibility of transit investments and for non-motorized transportation.

8. Federal Assistance to Facilitate the Economic Recovery of California

- Support actions such as administrative relief from federal penalties, restoration and program funding enhancements for programs such as Medicaid DSH, Medicare and State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), and implementation of equitable funding formulas such as that for Homeland Security funding.
- Support Election Reform.
- Support funding for costs of services to immigrants and refugees.
- Oppose federal penalties for California's Child Support Programs.

- Support legislation to enable California counties to access Medicaid funds.
- Oppose unfunded mandates and legislation or regulations that preempt county authority.

9. Sustainability

- Support climate change legislation and regulation development at both the State and federal levels to ensure that the interests of local governments are addressed, public health concerns are taken into account, and that the County receives necessary resources for implementation.
- Support Alameda County eligibility as a carbon offset receiving area where carbon offset resources can be realigned and invested.
- Support green transportation initiatives including multi-modal community designs.
- Support funding efforts to enhance the disaster preparedness of critical County facilities and infrastructure.
- Support policies and incentives that promote efficiencies in the built environment, including green public building design, energy conservation, greenhouse gas reduction, home and commercial energy efficiency retrofits and renewable power generation.

10. Elections – Poll Workers

- Support legislation that will assist in providing adequate staffing at polling places, including designation of public employees as Election Service Workers.

11. Veteran's Services

- Support funding to assist veterans and their dependents and/or survivors with job training and placement, mental and physical health care, educational opportunities, housing, benefits and other quality of life services.

12. Immigration Reform

- Support immigration reform that provides an expedited, common-sense route to citizenship for new Americans who aspire to be citizens, recognizes the contribution of immigrants, and keeps families together here in this country.
- Support reforms that will reduce the negative impacts for detention and deportation programs on public safety, civil liberties, public health, and the conditions of detainees.
- Support efforts that protect children of parents detained or deported within the current system.
- Oppose any restrictions in services to undocumented immigrants.
- Oppose any discriminatory or unequal treatment based upon immigration status.

# Legislative Proposals

## Health

### Safe Needle Disposal Legislation

#### **PROPOSAL SUMMARY**

The County sponsorship of legislation that amends the Health & Safety Code so that pharmaceutical manufacturers whose product is dispensed in California via a “sharp” be responsible for providing their patient/client with a safe needle disposal method.

#### **DISCUSSION/KEY COMPONENTS**

The County seeks sponsorship of legislation to increase the safe disposal of hypodermic needles and lancets, otherwise known as “sharps.” While in previous legislative sessions, Alameda County has successfully sponsored “safe needle disposal” legislation, current law does not regulate the mass generators of these needles: the pharmaceutical industry. Every year more than 3 billion needles and syringes are used nationwide outside of health care settings (i.e. at home). These “at-home” injectors are people with diabetes and patients receiving home health treatment (i.e., allergies, infertility, multiple sclerosis, HIV, Hepatitis B & C, arthritis, etc). Many of these self-injectors are unaware of safe disposal methods available to them and simply throw their used needles in the trash posing a risk of injury and potential infection from diseases such as Hepatitis B or C and HIV. The improper disposal of these needles poses serious health risks to children, workers, and the general public. Due to recent legislative efforts, to simply throw these needles in the trash is now illegal, yet an estimated 1 million Californians must self-inject prescription medications annually to treat a broad range of serious health problems. It is estimated that these 1 million Californians generate more than 389 million sharps per year. The number of people with diabetes continues to grow at epidemic rates and is expected to increase even more due to rising obesity rates. The use of injection devices is an effective method of prescription drug delivery and is expected to increase significantly in the future. However, the increased use of injection devices will generate more home-generated sharps each year. The Legislature has found that convenient means for collecting and destroying home-generated sharps is readily available and that the cooperative efforts of the pharmaceutical industry is needed to develop a safe needle disposal system for California.

### Safe Medication Disposal

#### **PROPOSAL SUMMARY**

Existing law requires, among other things, that all medical waste be hauled by either a registered hazardous waste hauler or by a person with an approved limited-quantity exemption granted pursuant to specified provisions of law. Under the law, an enforcement agency may bring an action to enjoin the violation or threatened violation of those provisions or issue a specified order to a person who is responsible for a violation or threatened violation. A violation of that order, and other provisions of law, is a crime.

It is recommended that the County continue its support of Extended Producer Responsibility legislation.

#### **DISCUSSION/KEY COMPONENTS**

The County seeks an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policy approach for home-generated pharmaceuticals. It would require the producers (manufacturers) of pharmaceuticals to develop and implement a

collection system with oversight by CalRecycle, thereby establishing an effective and convenient collection program described in a stewardship plan and approved by CalRecycle. Producers have the primary responsibility to design, operate and publicize a collection program for home-generated pharmaceutical products. Allowing the private sector to design and operate the program ensures it will be the most cost-effective and efficient system. We are looking for an approach that follows highly successful models in Canada and Europe that are very cost-effective and convenient programs for pharmaceuticals and hazardous and hard to handle waste, including, but not limited to: e-waste, paint, tires, batteries, compact fluorescent bulbs, sharps, mercury thermostats, and other mercury containing products. This proposal also follows the efforts of Alameda County which became the first local government in the country to require producers of home-generated pharmaceuticals to develop and implement a collection system for the safe and proper disposal of these products.

## **BENEFITS**

This proposal will compliment Alameda County's Safe Drug Disposal Ordinance by establishing a requirement of a product stewardship program statewide. If passed, the bill does not preempt our local ordinance but it might render it unnecessary. It is anticipated that the bill will be revised to include over the counter medicines.

This proposal does not have the potential of affecting another County agency/department. If this legislative proposal is enacted, the State agency CalRecycle will be responsible for oversight and monitoring of the medication take back program.

## **Healthcare for All Residents Regardless of Immigration Status**

### **PROPOSAL SUMMARY**

Supervisor Valle proposes that Alameda County sponsor legislation that the State of California eliminate citizenship as a requirement for access to safety net services.

### **DISCUSSION/KEY COMPONENTS**

Currently under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), Pub. L. No. 111-148, 124 Stat. 224, and the Social Security Act (SSA), information must be provided regarding immigration status to determine eligibility for coverage, meaning undocumented immigrants are now excluded under the Affordable Care Act and also ineligible to receive any assistance through government sponsored health programs. This is contrary to the Alameda County Principle which is to provide access to services for all residents. Although it is true that the majority 79% of uninsured are U.S. citizens, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, without access to healthcare services, the undocumented wait until they get so sick they are forced to go to the emergency room resulting in expensive costs for care and increased cost to the County. The benefits to the inclusion of the undocumented would improve overall public health and potentially lower costs to the County resulting in an estimated \$59,520,000 per year for direct health services, not including dental. (Note that this is not the full cost of the program as there are funding sources that do not run through the County and these do not cover transportation or administrative costs.)

## **Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Training**

### **PROPOSAL SUMMARY**

Alameda County proposes sponsorship of legislation to remove the requirement of "when appropriate equipment is available" from the California Education Code as it is a barrier to teaching CPR in elementary and secondary levels. By deleting this language, we feel this will remove a possible barrier and create more opportunities for CPR to be taught.

**DISCUSSION/KEY COMPONENTS**

Alameda County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) has proven that 7th graders can learn to perform community CPR. The existing Education Code creates a barrier to schools teaching community CPR. The current Education Code states that the courses of study in grades 1 through 12 should include, as stated in §51202, “The adopted course of study shall provide instruction at the appropriate elementary and secondary grade levels and subject areas in personal and public safety and accident prevention, including emergency first aid instruction, instruction in hemorrhage control, treatment for poisoning, resuscitation techniques, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation when appropriate equipment is available.”

- In the past, “equipment” was a barrier to teaching CPR, as well as the trained personnel to teach it. Currently available is the CPR Anytime kit that includes a manikin and a DVD. This low-cost option means that “equipment” is no longer a barrier.
- In schools the only personnel needed is a facilitator. Comprehensive training of staff and equipment is not needed.
- Currently the California Department of Education (CDE) health education framework for 7th grade health class states students should “learn about CPR.”
- Orange County Office of Education has also embarked on a program to train their 7th graders
- Palo Alto Unified requires CPR certification as a graduation requirement.
- The majority of California School Districts does not teach CPR to students or provide the hands-on experience to give students the skill set to perform chest compressions with confidence. Most teachers are just demonstrating the skills, if they are teaching it at all.

**BENEFITS**

It is the aim of Alameda County to improve hospital outcomes for cardiopulmonary arrest victims by using a systems based approach. Training students will help to increase the number of bystanders in the community. The bystander is the person who witnesses an event or finds a victim unresponsive, not breathing and appearing lifeless. In Alameda County we know that bystanders perform CPR only 28% of the time prior to EMS arrival. However, increasing bystander involvement is critical. If a bystander calls 911 and performs CPR in the first few minutes of an event, the persons chance of survival increases. For every minute without CPR, a witnessed victim’s chance of survival decreases 7-10%.

Through a pilot and continued work to train 7th graders to perform CPR, Alameda County is increasing the number of bystanders every year. This innovative public health approach with 7th graders is a countywide initiative to help reduce premature death and disability for those that survive cardiopulmonary arrest.

**Transportation****Double Fine Zones on Rural Roads****PROPOSAL SUMMARY**

The County proposes legislation to authorize the County of Alameda Board of Supervisors, as the local authority, in consultation with the California Highway Patrol, in the interest of public safety, to reduce the number of accidents, traffic injuries and fatalities, shall by ordinance or resolution, identify, establish, and administer specially designated rural roadways within their jurisdiction as “Safety Enhancement-Double Fine Zones.”

**DISCUSSION/KEY COMPONENTS**

Rural roadways designed as local farm-to-market roadways continue to be used as bypass routes by frustrated motorists to avoid freeway congestion in the Bay Area. This leads to an increase in motor vehicle accidents and a dramatic impact to agricultural activities and operations in rural areas. Adjudication efforts such as double fine zones in rural areas greatly help with the 3 E's for traffic safety (enforcement, education, and engineering).

**BENEFITS**

The desired impact to Alameda County includes improving public safety, reducing the number of accidents, and reducing traffic injuries and fatalities. Authorizing the County of Alameda Board of Supervisors, in consultation with the California Highway Patrol, to identify, establish and administer specially designated "Safety Enhancement-Double Fine Zones" in rural areas in their jurisdiction will provide an additional tool to increase safety for motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians, residents, and livestock. Additionally, the extra revenue generated can be used to fund public awareness campaigns, which also increase the along rural roadways.

**Reinstating Double Fine Zone in Vicinity of Schools****PROPOSAL SUMMARY**

The County proposes legislation to reinstate the safety enhancement - double fine zones for specific traffic offenses committed in proximity to school grounds in Alameda County or any city within Alameda County.

**DISCUSSION/KEY COMPONENTS**

On September 16, 2002, AB 1886 was signed by the Governor and chaptered into law. This law (Chapter 509) enacted increased penalties, including but not limited to double fine amounts, for specific traffic offenses committed in proximity to school grounds in Alameda, Santa Barbara, Ventura Counties, or any city in any of those counties. The sunset date for this legislation was January 1, 2007.

Simply setting a reduced speed limit in a school zone is not likely to produce the entire desired speed reduction on its own. Additional tools used to reduce vehicle speeds in school zones include police enforcement (i.e., conventional, automated speed cameras, double fine zones), public awareness campaigns, and engineering counter-measures. Traffic engineering tools include school speed limit zones and traffic calming measures such as curb extensions or raised crosswalks. Applying a combination of measures in conjunction with the reduced speed limits is more likely to slow traffic.

Alameda County will continue to make improvements to roadways and sidewalks in school zones in an effort to improve pedestrian safety.

**BENEFITS**

Reinstating the Board of Supervisor's authority to designate Double Fine Zones in school zones will continue the County's ability to enhance the safety of the students as well as other pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists in the vicinity. Additionally, the extra revenue generated can be used to fund public awareness campaigns, which also increase the safety of the students, other pedestrians and bicyclists, and motorists.

## **Jobs and Economic Development**

### **Professional Licenses**

#### **PROPOSAL SUMMARY**

Currently in the State of California different professions have different qualifications for issuing a license or getting a license reinstated after a conviction.

Supervisor Carson in cooperation with the Public Defender and the Probation Department would like to explore crafting legislation that would propose developing a uniform procedure for receiving a license or getting a license reinstated after loss due to conviction across as many job professions as possible.

#### **DISCUSSION/KEY COMPONENTS**

The proposed idea of uniform, licensing is aligned with current County policy of removing barriers to employment for those who have criminal convictions. Alameda County's commitment to "Clean Slate" initiatives and our "Ban the Box" policy and other activities clearly demonstrate our commitment to successful re-entry for people who have been in contact with the criminal justice system.

While no analysis has been done, it is thought that administrative costs are minimal, and the net economic impact would be positive. As far as the political climate, it is important to note that the County is now responsible for assisting people who were formerly the responsibility of the state to successfully re-enter our communities.

#### **BENEFITS**

If successful, Alameda County will clearly benefit by increasing the number of people who are able to obtain livable wage employment and thus become better contributors their communities and families.

If successful, the pool of qualified candidates for jobs in the County would expand.

## **Local Government Revenue**

### **Protection of Local Revenues**

#### **PROPOSAL SUMMARY**

Currently, the State is able to incorporate local tax revenues into formulas that determine how much state funding a local entity receives. In those cases, residents of a county who have chosen to tax themselves for improved or additional services are penalized.

Alameda County proposes that legislation be introduced to ensure that local government tax revenues are not used by the State to reduce funding that would otherwise be allocated to those local governments.

#### **DISCUSSION/KEY COMPONENTS**

An example of current law penalizing Alameda County occurred in 2013 when legislation was passed creating a

formula for determining how much 1991 realignment funding each county would have to return to the State after implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Alameda County continues to grapple with the costs that come with fulfilling its obligation to provide health care to all residents. In 1991, California began providing block grants to counties for the provision of public health services and health care services to the indigent – these block grants are referred to as 1991 realignment funds. 1991 realignment funds have been used to provide health care for medically indigent adults without children or disabilities, many of whom will remain the County’s responsibility even after health care reform is in effect. Because counties will be relieved of some of their financial responsibilities to the indigent as more people enroll in Medi-Cal and Covered California, a formula was created to determine how much of the 1991 realignment funding each county would retain after January 1, 2014. The calculation of how much 1991 realignment funding a county will retain is based on a formula that takes into account all counties’ current revenues for indigent care. Alameda County will likely be required to return a large amount of 1991 realignment funding to the State because residents chose to tax themselves for health care services above the minimum level already provided. If they had not chosen to do so, or if they choose not to do so in the future, they would be allowed to retain more of the 1991 realignment funding. In effect, Alameda County residents are taxing themselves not to enhance the County’s health care system, but to redirect funds back to the State. This formula penalizes counties for investing in local health care systems. Therefore, Alameda County proposes legislation that protects local governments’ tax revenues from being used as a discount for the State.

### **BENEFITS**

This proposed legislation would improve the County’s budget by providing protections to prevent the State from using local voter approved tax revenues to balance its budget. Residents who choose to tax themselves for enhanced services at the local level should not have to worry about that decision resulting in a decrease in state funding that would not otherwise occur.

# Overview

## Human Services

Despite recent improvements in our State and local economy, the recovery is fragile and Alameda County residents are still experiencing high rates of poverty and hunger. In 2012, 13.1% of Alameda County residents (approx. 199,000 residents) lived below the poverty line. The rates are even higher for children, with 1 in 6 (17.4%, approx. 59,000 children) living in poverty. According to the California Poverty Measure (CPM) [a new measure that takes into account regional differences in the cost of living, includes more accurate estimates of household expenditures, and factors in the usage of tax credits and in-kind assistance], 18.4% of Alameda County residents live in poverty (5 percentage points higher than the official poverty measure).

Even considering these staggering figures, the true cost of living in the County is much higher than the federal poverty level or the CPM. According to the Self-Sufficiency Standard, an adult with two children in Alameda County would need to work 40 hours per week at \$30.15 per hour, equivalent to \$63,674 annually, in order to cover basic costs for housing, food, health care, transportation, child care, and taxes. This is equivalent to more than three full-time jobs at the California minimum wage. Even for families who work full- or part-time, it is very difficult to cover basic needs. Recent estimates find that 1 in 3 (37%) of those in poverty in the East Bay are working full- or part-time jobs.

These statistics have significant impacts on our children. The number of children in poverty in Alameda County increased by 22% from 2000 to 2012 (48,221 to 58,813) and the Alameda County Community Food Bank estimates that 1 in 3 children in Alameda County faces the threat of hunger every day. Many of these children have parents who work, but low wages and unstable employment leave their families struggling to make ends meet. Poverty can impede a child's ability to learn and contributes to social, emotional, and behavioral problems. Poverty can also lead to poor health outcomes. The risks are greatest for children who experience poverty when they are young and/or experience deep and persistent poverty. The research is clear that poverty is the single greatest threat to children's well-being.

Poverty rates are also closely tied to the health and well-being of our residents. In Alameda County, people living in the most affluent neighborhoods (where less than 10% of the residents live in poverty) are expected to live, on average, 6 years longer than people living in the highest poverty neighborhoods (where 30% or more residents live in poverty). These statistics disproportionately impact people of color because 1 in 3 African Americans and 1 in 4 Latinos in Alameda County live in high poverty neighborhoods (compared to 1 in 10 White residents).

The new California Poverty Measure report revealed the importance of safety net benefits such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), CalFresh, and CalWORKs in moderating poverty, especially for children. The report finds that the child poverty rate would be 14 percentage points higher (39% instead of 25%) in the absence of safety net programs. Social safety net programs helped keep almost 3 million California residents out of deep poverty. But too many families are still struggling. The state and federal government should restore recent cuts to human services programs and make strategic enhancements to better serve children and families.

Alameda County agencies and community partners provide critical support to individuals and families. In some cases, safety net services are the only thing standing between an individual and homelessness, hunger, abuse and neglect, and poor health. Alameda County is committed to leveraging the power of government to create lasting economic change in our local communities. Specifically, we work to offer client-centered services that promote social and economic independence, and community economic development, which in turn will help sustain thriving neighborhoods.

2014 will be a historic year because of the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), which will increase access to health coverage. Alameda County wants to leverage the unprecedented opportunity of ACA to enroll low-income individuals and families in a range of other public benefits for which they are eligible. An Urban Institute report found that only 5% of low-income, working families with children receive the full package of supports for which they qualify (Food Stamps/SNAP, child care, and Medicaid).

However, Alameda County is not immune to the challenges that human services agencies are facing across the state and country. The economy has yet to recover from one of the worst economic downturns in decades and human services agencies and low-income clients experienced profound and deep cuts in state and federal funding over the past few years – all during a time of increased need. The pressure of providing cost effective, high quality services in the face of falling revenue and increasing demand is driving change in human services organizations. Alameda County has embraced innovation in processes, technologies, and approaches that will maximize the effectiveness of our services. We are looking to the State and federal government to be partners in this effort. Local agencies and low-income residents need restorations of critical benefits, increased flexibility, expansions of programs that work, and the simplification/streamlining of processes and systems.

Alameda County supports public policies that strengthen our social safety net for the most vulnerable while also investing in the future. Specifically, we support policies that provide high-quality early care and learning experiences for children, educate and develop our workforce, make strategic investments in places and neighborhoods with the highest need, encourage and support savings and wealth-building, and promote the economic and social well-being of individuals, families, neighborhoods, and communities.

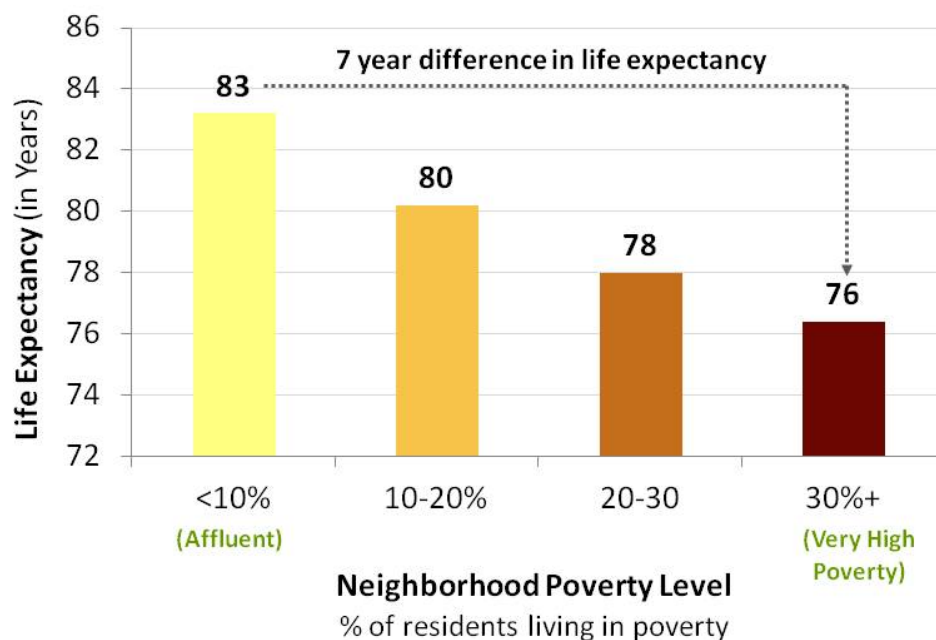
The Human Services Chapters outline a policy agenda for advancing economic prosperity and equity so that all children and families have the opportunity to succeed.

## Health

Health, disease and death are not randomly distributed. Illness concentrates among low-income people, people of color, and people with disabilities residing in certain geographical places. Inequities in economic, social, physical and service environments continue to create and maintain clear patterns of poor health in Alameda County, statewide, and nationally.

The gap in life expectancy between Blacks and Whites in Alameda County has been widening. In 2009, African Americans lived (on average) almost 7 years less than Whites. Similar inequities exist when comparing neighborhoods in Alameda County with the highest poverty levels to those with the lowest poverty levels (see chart below). The geographic concentrations of race, poverty, disability, and poor health reflect a legacy of racial discrimination and segregation as well as present day policies and practices that perpetuate unjust and unequal patterns. Due to constant pressures and lack of control over their environment, as well as experiences of racism and discrimination, people living in these high poverty neighborhoods often face a chronic stress response, which over time actually wears down body systems and increases the risk of health conditions like hypertension or diabetes. In order to address the health inequities between different racial and ethnic groups and other subpopulations, policies must be adopted that correct the social and environmental inequities underlining these health outcomes. A core mission of Alameda County's Health Care Services Agency is to eliminate these health and social inequities.

## Life Expectancy by Neighborhood Poverty Level: A Social Gradient in Health



Source: Alameda County Vital Statistics files, 2008-2010

The ten leading causes of death in Alameda County account for 75% of the total number of deaths. Of these ten leading causes of death in Alameda County, 7 out of 10 causes and 90% of the total deaths were caused by chronic diseases. The table below outlines these ten leading causes of death.

Leading Causes of Death, Alameda County, 2010-2012		
	Number	%
Total	27991	100.0%
Cancer	6832	24.4%
Diseases of Heart	6054	21.6%
Stroke	1739	6.2%
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	1277	4.6%
Alzheimers Disease	1224	4.4%
Unintentional Injuries	1014	3.6%
Diabetes Mellitus	952	3.4%
Influenza & Pneumonia	641	2.3%
Essential Hypertension & Hypertensive Renal Disease	640	2.3%
Chronic Liver Disease & Cirrhosis	457	1.6%

Although chronic diseases are among the most prevalent and costly health problems, they are also among the most preventable. Access to prevention and health care services affect chronic disease burden and outcome. To a large degree, the major chronic diseases—heart disease, cancer, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and diabetes—result from our lifestyles and our habits of daily living. Socioeconomic status is also an important determinant of chronic disease risk. People who are poor, have lower levels of education, or are isolated are more likely to engage in a wide array of risk-related behaviors. The social environment influences risk behaviors through the shaping of norms, patterns of social control, or environmental opportunities that determine individual behavior choices. Additionally, the social environment can impact people in ways that go beyond individual behavior choice. These can include factors which individuals may have little control over and can impact the health of entire communities, such as: exposure to environmental hazards, lack of access to quality education, and lack of clean and affordable housing. Alameda County supports policy solutions that address each of these intervention points in order to prevent chronic diseases and reduce their inequitable burden across different racial and ethnic groups, as well as other subpopulations.

When looking at the burden of chronic disease it is also important to factor in the issues of mental illness. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) reports that people with mental health and substance use conditions die 25 years earlier than the general population mostly due to preventable health conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular, respiratory, or infectious diseases (including HIV). The stigma associated with mental illness often prevents those that are in the most need of treatment, for these preventable diseases, from accessing and utilizing primary care services, resulting in increased morbidity and mortality.

The life course perspective brings a critical additional lens to this understanding of health, highlighting the importance of ensuring that babies and children live in supportive community environments that will foster optimal health, development, and well-being over the course of their lives. The life course perspective suggests that health disparities do not stem just from differential access to health care but are the result of broad social, economic, and environmental factors that affect one's experiences and opportunities over a lifetime, with the greatest impact occurring during critical periods of development, such as pregnancy, early childhood, and adolescence. However, without the reversal of the cumulative disadvantages and inequities experienced over a lifetime or several lifetimes there will continue to be racial inequities in birth outcomes. Multi-level interventions are needed to address these disparities – both by providing needed services and by advancing systemic change to address the root causes that have shaped the neighborhood conditions where poor health clusters.

On the other end of the life spectrum, Alameda County has experienced a 54% increase in 60+ populations since 1980. Current projections predict that Alameda County will have a senior population of 513,367 by the year 2040. If this projection is accurate, the next 30 years will bring a 108% increase in the senior population of Alameda County, compared with the 54% increase experienced over the last 30 years. Evidence shows that rates of disability rise with age. Currently, 18.7% of the U.S. population has some level of disability while 12% have a severe disability. These percentages will increase rapidly with the aging population and the growing Autism epidemic. People with disabilities tend to be in poorer health and to use health care at a significantly higher rate than people who do not have disabilities. They also experience a higher prevalence of secondary conditions and use preventive services at a lower rate than people without disabilities, primarily due to lack of access and cultural competence. They are also affected disproportionately by barriers to care. Significant policy and systems changes will be needed to care for the growing population of seniors and people with disabilities.

Implementation of the Affordable Care Act provides a historic opportunity to provide access to preventative health services to previously underserved populations. California and Alameda County have led the country in aggressively implementing the ACA. However, many challenges still lie ahead to ensure that all those who can benefit from the new law are able to do so. Additionally, certain Alameda County residents, such as undocumented immigrants, will

not benefit from the new law. Continued legislative action will be needed to ensure that no one falls through the cracks of our health care system.

Additional challenges remain due to budget cuts at both the state and federal levels that have occurred over the last several years. These cuts disproportionately impacted our most vulnerable populations including the people with disabilities, seniors, and low-income children and adults. Some efforts have been made to reinstate these cuts, but additional funding and reinstatement of lost services is necessary to preserve the safety net system of care.

Alameda County supports policies that allow everyone, no matter who they are, where they live, how much money they make, or the color of their skin, to have access to the same opportunities to lead a healthy, fulfilling and productive life. The following legislative platform proposals reflect this vision.

## Environmental Health

The mission of Alameda County's Environmental Health Department is to protect the health, safety and well-being of residents in the County through promotion of environmental quality and food safety. This is accomplished through the following regulatory and direct service programs:

**Food Safety.** The department enforces the California Retail Food code (Calcode) via a vigorous inspection program for retail food establishments which include; restaurants, markets, bakeries, liquor stores, bars, certified farmers' market, food service at fairs and festivals, catering trucks, hot dog carts, ice cream trucks, produce vehicles, and food vending machines. The food safety program also conducts multi-lingual food safety classes, conducts plan reviews for new and remodeled facilities, and issues permits, investigates complaints and suspected food borne illnesses, and carries-out food recalls. The public is kept informed via a restaurant grading system that requires food facilities including mobile food trucks to display color coded placards issued by the department attesting to a facilities compliance with food safety laws.

**Hazardous Materials, Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Spills, Leaks Investigation and Cleanup (SLIC) Local Oversight Programs.** Through Memoranda of Understanding with the State of California Department of Toxics Substances Control (DTSC) and the Regional Water Quality Control board, is a Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) which enforces state law with respect to the Hazardous materials management plan program (HMMP/HMBP), underground storage tank program, tiered permitting program, local oversight SLIC/LUST program and risk management program in the cities of Alameda, Albany, Castro Valley, Dublin, Emeryville, Piedmont, Newark, San Lorenzo, Sunol, and the unincorporated areas of Fremont, Hayward, Livermore, Pleasanton, San Leandro and parts of Byron, Mountain House and Tracy.

**Solid & Medical Waste.** The Department is the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) for Medical Waste under the Medical Waste Management Act (MWMA) and for Solid Waste disposal laws regulating transfer stations and landfills. The Solid Waste LEA also oversees the management of 42 closed landfills in the county. The Medical Waste program pursuant to a county ordinance regulates tattoo and body art establishments.

**Land Use (Septic).** The department regulates and permits septic systems in areas of the County that cannot connect to municipal sewerage.

**Vector Control and Household Hazardous Waste Service Programs.** The Vector Control program's mission is to prevent and minimize the spread of vector-borne diseases, injury and discomfort to the residents of Alameda County. The program provides assistance to residents and the community as a whole by monitoring and controlling rodent and other disease vectors, assisting residents in mitigating vector infestations on their property, surveillance of vector borne diseases such as West Nile fever and Lyme disease.

The Department operates the Household Hazardous Waste program under a MOU with the Alameda County Waste Management Authority, (ACWMA) the JPA charged with AB939 responsibilities for the County with respect to proper handling for home generated hazardous and medical waste. The program has 3 facilities that accept hazardous waste from the public and small businesses pursuant to State and federal regulations.

## Public Safety

In Alameda County, we have seen an increase in violent and serious crimes. At the same time, the State of California is decreasing the number of individuals who are incarcerated and the types of crimes for which an individual can be sent to State Prison. Alameda County has historically retained locally, individuals who have been convicted of low level felonies such as non sexual, non violent and non serious crimes. Recent reports show an upward trend of felony crimes being committed across the State and Alameda County is experiencing an increase as well. Alameda County supports more efforts in rehabilitation programs and programs that provide options for incarcerated and/or formerly incarcerated individuals to make safer, healthier and crime free-choices. Alameda County supports collaborative efforts among government entities, community based organizations, non-profit entities and private entities to reduce recidivism.

In 2014, Alameda County District Attorney's Office will celebrate 40 years of its Victim-Witness Assistance Division, the first program in the country to recognize and address the needs of the victims of crime. Alameda County continues to provide the highest level of service, care and consideration for those individuals in our county who have been victims or impacted by crime. In 2013, the District Attorney's Office successfully enhanced protections for victims of crime through the legislative process. Alameda County will continue to support legislation that provides compassionate, comprehensive and effective care and support for victims of crime, particularly the most vulnerable victims including our seniors, children and persons with disabilities.

In keeping with the progressive nature of Alameda County, Public Safety has formed stronger working relationships with Social Services, Health Care, and Community Development Agency, particularly Housing. Alameda County supports legislation that adds to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), signed into law by the President in 2011. Alameda County advocates for expansion of the ACA to cover and provide insurance for individuals who are at risk for incarceration and those who have been incarcerated. In 2014, 1.4 million Californians will be newly eligible for Medi-Cal. As of January, 2014, incarcerated individuals are eligible for Medi-Cal. This advancement is seen as significant as more than half of all prison and jail inmates, including 56 percent of state prisoners, 45 percent of federal prisoners and 64 percent of local jail inmates, were found to have a mental health problem, according to a study published by the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). This Medi-Cal expansion makes prevention and early intervention for treatment of mental health problems and substance use more accessible. Therefore, this has potential to help reduce recidivism that occurs due to mental health and substances abuse problems which play a large role in behaviors that lead to incarceration. By extension, it is anticipated that this can help Alameda County to reduce the number of people cycling through the criminal justice system. This will also contribute to reducing racial disparities in incarceration that arise from disparate access to treatment. Alameda County supports legislation that provides a protocol to assist more people getting signed up for these benefits.

Alameda County supports legislation and funding to help reduce the DNA backlog throughout the state. In Alameda County, there is a backlog of between 700-1,200 untested rape kits. DNA is one of the greatest evidentiary tools available to law enforcement and prosecutors. When a victim is sexually assaulted she or he is eligible for a medical/forensic examination at no cost, directly or indirectly, to the victim. Local law enforcement is responsible for paying for the forensic examination, though a victim is entitled to a forensic exam even if she or he is not engaging with law enforcement or if law enforcement declines to pay for it. Through the examination, specially trained forensic examiners working through the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), conducts a medical exam and a

thorough forensic exam. Due to the nature of DNA evidence, the FBI oversees a national database called “CODIS” (Combined DNA Index System) and unidentified DNA profiles, identified or validated by a government crimes lab, are uploaded into CODIS for comparison to known DNA profiles. There is a growing number of rape kits that sit on evidence and property room shelves indefinitely or until it is sent to the Sheriff or Oakland Police Crime Labs. As law enforcement agencies manage higher case volumes and tighter budget constraints, the number of rape kits that add to the backlog are ever increasing. As a state, California can put more effort into leveraging more federal funds to reduce this backlog. Further, Alameda County supports the efforts of the District Attorney’s Office in its pilot project to eliminate the backlog of rape kits within our county and create a sustainable program to ensure no backlog. As part of the pilot project, the District Attorney’s Office has journaled the process and is creating a “toolkit” for all communities to eliminate backlogs and to test forensic rape kits in a timely manner.

Alameda County supports legislation that provides more funds for realignment. Realignment is a state initiative that provides strong opportunities for individuals who have committed crimes to access resources such as education, employment training, substance abuse counseling and mental health services. Realignment aims to provide the support networks and services that will help these individuals make crime-free choices. This will reduce criminal behavior and protect the public from being victimized by crime.

The intent of realignment is to increase public safety by realigning lower level offenders to community corrections programs strengthened through community based punishment, improved supervision strategies and evidenced based practices, supervision practices demonstrated by research to reduce recidivism. This includes employing proven alternatives to incarceration for low-risk offenders.

For Alameda County low-level offenders who meet the statutory criteria will continue to serve their prison sentence in Santa Rita, our county jail, under the jurisdiction of the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office and not in the state prison under the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Many inmates released from prison are no longer supervised by the state parole office but rather are supervised by Alameda County Probation under Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS).

The District Attorney is the only entity that has the constitutional and statutory authority to file criminal charges against an individual. The filing decision lies within the discretion of the District Attorney and each case is evaluated at all stages on a case-by-case basis. The District Attorney will continue to effectively negotiate with the Public Defender and defense attorneys to identify alternatives to incarceration through formal felony probation. The District Attorney’s Office has documented that the use of felony probation has been effective, with only a 27 percent recidivism rate. The Public Defender and District Attorney continue to meet and navigate processes and protocols to provide early termination of formal probation and Clean Slate which will allow the conviction to be set aside under appropriate circumstances.

When an individual who is on felony probation, PRCS or parole is alleged to have committed a new offense, the District Attorney coordinates with Probation and Parole determining whether the District Attorney will file new charges in lieu of, or in addition to probation’s filing of a revocation petition. The District Attorney has similar power to revoke PRCS and Mandatory Supervision. The District Attorney’s Office staffs the courts that handle these revocation proceedings.

Alameda County supports more programs and opportunities for youth. Law enforcement entities within the County have already created opportunities for youth to give them a positive view of law enforcement and give them work experience. For example, the Alameda County District Attorney’s Office has a program for youth called the District Attorney Justice Academy. This program provides youth ages 16 to 18 with the opportunity to learn about the justice system by participating in educational seminars and paid internships. Students are placed in a paid internship in a legal or government office to gain work experience as well as different skills needed in the real-world.

## Planning Land Use and Housing and Community Development

The “built environment” refers to the human made surroundings that provide the setting for human activity, such as roads, buildings, sidewalks, farms, or parks. Public health professionals understand the powerful impact the built environment has upon health choices and outcomes, and planners comprehend the strong correlations between what makes a well-designed community for design’s sake and what makes a well-designed community for health’s sake. However, there is a long way to go to start putting the health lens back into planning actions and decision-making.

With the passage of AB 32 and SB 375 that require the reduction of greenhouse gases (GHG) and the integration of transportation, land use and housing planning, California is on the forefront of built environment policies. The implementation of these two bills at the regional and local level can have an impact on land use planning decisions in local communities to reduce GHGs and improve health. As the older existing housing stock is one of the greatest GHG producers and greatest users of energy, a key component in the strategy must be housing rehabilitation and energy efficiency. Especially financial incentives and technical assistance for seniors citizens and low- and moderate-income residents.

There is a growing recognition of how the built environment and local land use planning has impacted the obesity epidemic in this country. A major factor in our “expanding waistlines” is a built environment that implicitly discourages physical activity, while encouraging the consumption of greater quantities of energy-dense, low-nutrient foods, particularly in low-income communities of color. Risk factors include an absence of grocery stores or access to healthy fresh foods in low-income neighborhoods, a concentration of low-quality, nutrient-poor junk food in convenience stores, liquor stores, or fast food establishments, and conditions that discourage walking such as lack of sidewalks, adequate lighting, or safe crosswalks across busy streets. These contribute to poor land use planning and obesity disproportionately impacting low-income communities of color.

In addition to obesity, there are additional links to be made between the built environment and health. Road design and the siting of polluting industries in close proximity to residences affect air quality and thus rates of asthma and other lung diseases. Lack of needed infrastructure improvements and traffic congestion can make pedestrians vulnerable to traffic injuries and death. The placement of jobs and services away from homes without reliable and affordable public transit options decreases opportunity for social interaction and access to jobs, and increases reliance on polluting cars. Furthermore, for populations with pre-existing health conditions like hypertension or asthma, additional sources of pollution and stressors have a cumulative impact on communities.

Alameda County proposes policies that foster the health and well being of all individuals and communities by supporting and developing a healthier built environment. Such legislation would seek to reduce the use of car trips, prevent displacement, reduce pollution, reduce greenhouse gases, improve access to public transportation, improve safety, increase the supply of affordable housing, make communities walkable, bikeable, and increase access to parks, green space, grocery stores, and farmers’ markets, particularly for low-income communities of color. These efforts will increase physical activity, improve access to nutritious foods, reduce asthma hospitalization rates and chronic disease rates, reduce motor vehicle collisions and pedestrian deaths and injuries, reduce environmental exposures, make communities safer, strengthen community interaction, and improve housing conditions, supply, and affordability.

## Transportation

Alameda County is responsible for the planning, implementation, and maintenance of transportation infrastructure in unincorporated areas, including the design, construction, and maintenance of roadways, sidewalks, bike lanes, and traffic control facilities. The County strives to provide, maintain, and preserve public infrastructure in an efficient and effective manner while promoting a healthy and sustainable environment that supports safe and livable communities.

To deliver all its transportation services to the community, Alameda County depends on local, state, and federal funding sources. With increasing fuel efficiency and the introduction of hybrid and electric vehicles, revenues from the Gas Tax, the primary source for transportation infrastructure maintenance and project delivery, are expected to continue to decline. The purchasing power of existing revenue streams continues to decline, while budget constraints have delayed needed maintenance and improvements. An aging infrastructure, rising construction costs, new regulatory requirements, and reduced revenues also contribute to the funding shortfall. Other factors such as heavier vehicles, better vehicle fuel efficiency, increasing traffic and accommodation of alternative modes of transportation like buses, bicyclists and pedestrians place increased demands on roads. New sustainable sources of revenues must also be created, and a significant portion should be focused on preservation of the existing roadway network and improving safety for non-motorized users. Once the system is in a state of good repair, the need for maintenance will be reduced.

State legislative priorities for the transportation program include supporting any method of increasing the gas tax and alternative methods of financing transportation revenues through a variety of sources including, but not limited to, fuel taxes, vehicle miles travelled (VMT) fees, Vehicle License Fees, etc. Additional priorities include supporting any legislation which increase road safety, particularly in rural areas, (i.e., double fine zones, rural road improvement programs, etc.), and improving bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure throughout Alameda County.

Federal legislative priorities for the transportation program include supporting the California Consensus Principles, supporting the reauthorization of the federal transportation bill (MAP-21), addressing challenges shared with declining or modified revenue allocation structures, and supporting legislation that will improve regulatory streamlining. To address regulatory inefficiencies which continue to hamper the effective and timely delivery of transportation projects, Alameda County supports legislative remedies to streamline regulatory burdens while advocating for funding support to provide adequate staffing at the local, State, and federal regulatory agencies.

Alameda County also supports legislative priorities set forth by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Alameda County Transportation Commission which benefit transportation and infrastructure improvements in unincorporated areas of Alameda County.

## Education

Ensuring high quality educational opportunities for all residents across the life course is a critical component of realizing Alameda County's vision of being one of the best counties in which to live, work and do business. Despite the large array of educational resources in this County, and the centrality of education to our shared and individual prosperity and health, there is a persistent racial and socio-economic gap in educational outcomes. For instance, in Oakland Unified School District, 72% of students from affluent neighborhoods are at or above proficiency in 3rd grade reading and language arts, as compared to 30% of students from very high poverty neighborhoods (OUSD 2011-2012). This statistic is particularly alarming because 3rd grade reading and language arts proficiency is an early predictor of high school graduation rates.

Educational performance and attainment gaps grow out of differential access to high quality educational opportunities rooted in long-term, national patterns of underfunding early childhood programs and schools serving low-income youth and youth of color. While it is estimated that only 42% of 4 year olds are in a publicly funded pre-K or Head Start program nationally, 20 robust studies show that positive education results are strongly correlated with early childhood programs. Pre-K education, especially for disadvantaged children, has been shown to decrease special education placement by 49%, improve grade retention by 50%, increase high school graduation by 31% and college attendance by more than 80%. However, Alameda County has at least 5,000 children who would qualify for subsidized care on waiting lists.

In California, schools with the highest percentage of African American and Latino students are much more likely than Whites and Asians to attend schools facing critical resource challenges, including teachers with lower levels of credentials and experience, high teacher turnover rates, shortages of educational materials, rundown facilities, few resources for English language learners and undocumented students, and a lack of programs involving parents. Furthermore, schools struggling to meet high needs within the classroom have little capacity to ensure students begin each day ready to learn.

The Local Control Funding formula recently adopted in California provides supplemental funding for low-income students, English language learners, and foster youth with the goal of reducing the persistent achievement and opportunity gaps found throughout California. However, a student's path toward high school graduation and future economic security is set even before a child starts school, and therefore support for academic success must begin during the critical prenatal and early childhood periods. From a very early age, many Alameda County youth, specifically low-income youth of color, are exposed to trauma and violence at home and in their communities. This exposure to adverse childhood experiences is a significant contributor to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, anxiety and depressive disorders, and chronic health conditions, and results in barriers to student learning. A safe and healthy environment that protects the community from stress, violence and poverty from the prenatal period onward is essential for academic success.

Measures that support student health will also impact educational attainment. School attendance impacts academic performance and likelihood of graduation. In high poverty neighborhoods, 1 out of 6 students are absent from school for 10% or more of the school year – a rate that is over 2 times higher than seen in affluent neighborhoods. Health conditions, disabilities and chronic diseases are common contributors to absenteeism. Student absenteeism also impacts a school district's income from the state based on attendance, which further erodes the school's ability to meet the educational and social needs of students. For example, California schools lose about \$30 million annually due to asthma-related absences.

## Immigration

California is a gateway for many immigrants, adding to the State's economic and cultural vibrancy. California's immigrant population continues to grow. According to the Immigration Policy Center, 1 in 4 Californians is an immigrant (foreign-born), and in Alameda County, the percentage of the population is even higher, as 30.8% of our residents are foreign born. Of the 10.2 million immigrants in California, 45.6% are naturalized U.S. citizens. Immigrants and their adult, U.S. born children account for 28.9% of all California voters. Finally, immigrants are a major part of the California economy, comprising 34.6% of the Californian workforce and paying roughly \$30 billion in federal taxes, \$5.2 billion in State income taxes, and \$4.6 billion in sales taxes each year.

Given immigrants' integral role in California's economic and social fabric, policies that support California's immigrant populations support California overall. For instance, Raúl Hinojosa-Ojeda, founding director of the North American Integration and Development Center at the University of California, Los Angeles, estimates that within the

first three years of a legalization program for unauthorized immigrants now in the country, the wages of unauthorized workers in California would increase by \$26.9 billion, generating an additional \$5.3 billion in tax revenue and creating 633,000 new jobs. All of California would benefit from the boost that a path to legal status would provide.

On the other hand, California and the nation are weakened without immigration reform. The current system is expensive – the federal government has spent an estimated \$186.8 billion on immigration enforcement since the last major immigration reform in 1986 – and ineffective, as the number of unauthorized immigrants has tripled to more than 11 million since 1986 (Immigration Policy Center). Additionally, the current system places the health of immigrants and the broader community at risk. According to the U.S. Border Patrol, 5,570 migrants died in the quest to reach family members and jobs by crossing the U.S.-Mexico border between 1998 and 2012. Furthermore, policies that increase stress and anxiety damage the physical and mental health of immigrants, authorized or not. Fear of Immigrations and Customs Enforcement increases immigrants' vulnerability to crime and violence and decreases public safety overall. Decreased health care utilization by immigrants not only leads to sicker people but also strains the emergency care system.

## Jobs and Economic Development

Although Alameda County has considerable wealth and is located in one of the most prosperous and powerful countries in the world, economic prosperity is not shared by all residents. The Census Bureau's new poverty and income data for 2012 shows that more people are poor or near poor today than in 2008, the first full year of the recession. Income and earnings declined for the vast majority of Americans during the same time that the highest-income groups saw income and earnings rise; children and communities of color are disproportionately poor; and more households are paying a higher percentage of their income on rent. Alameda County's poverty rate has not improved since 2011, remaining at 13.1%, while Oakland's has risen from 21% to 22%.

Unemployment rates remain high in our communities despite recent decreases. In August 2013, the unemployment rate for Alameda County was 7.4%; down from 9.3% a year earlier. However, the rate for the City of Oakland remains high at 11.4%. As distressing as these rates are, they do not capture the underemployed or the long-term unemployed who have given up looking for work. Nor do the rates show the disproportionate representation of people of color in the ranks of the unemployed.

Despite strong government and community-based efforts to create an Alameda County where all people can prosper, poverty continually disproportionately impacts people of color and neighborhoods with concentrations of people of color. Deeply concentrated and persistent poverty is rooted in the history of discrimination against people of color (through red-lining and sun-down laws to name two), and has been exacerbated by State and federal policies that destabilized entire families and neighborhoods (from Urban Renewal and moving industrial jobs overseas, to the War on Drugs and the foreclosure crisis). The communities of West and East Oakland have experienced the most persistent levels of high poverty in Alameda County.

People of color are much more likely to live in neighborhoods plagued by persistent poverty, unjustly decreasing their opportunities for a healthy and prosperous life. In Alameda County, 1 in 15 White residents live in high-poverty neighborhoods compared to 1 in 9 Asians, 1 in 4 Latinos, and 1 in 3 Blacks. In the face of long-standing disinvestment, people living in persistently high poverty neighborhoods often have especially few resources for supporting family and community stability and wealth-building. For instance, the unemployment rate is 2.1 times higher in very high poverty neighborhoods compared to affluent neighborhoods. These figures reflect limited job availability, transportation barriers, and the lack of quality education and training opportunities.

Furthermore, the top five occupations occupied by people in high poverty neighborhoods earn at or below annual income needed to support a single adult (\$27,456), falling way below what is required to support a family. Together,

unemployment and low-wage employment contribute to poverty rates and lack of resources in communities. At the individual level, fewer economic resources means greater likelihood of having to make trade-offs that matter for family stability and well-being, like paying for food vs. housing vs. healthcare. At the community level, lower-income earnings mean a smaller tax base and greater risk of political disinvestment, both of which disrupt community stability.

All of these economic factors at the individual and community level accumulate to contribute to a clear social gradient in health and wellbeing; for each step up in neighborhood poverty, there is a decline in life expectancy. On average, we see a 7 year difference in life expectancy between the most and least affluent neighborhoods in the County. This gap rises to 15 years when comparing West Oakland to the Oakland Hills.

Access to an educated, skilled, and healthy workforce is central to the economic vitality of our local communities, our State, and our country. Persistent inequity puts us at a competitive disadvantage. The lack of opportunity and infrastructure, especially in communities of color given the demographic trends toward racial/ethnic plurality, threatens to hold back the progress and potential of the entire country.

Alameda County supports State and federal policies that minimize the unjustifiably persistent health, economic, and education disparities in our communities. In addition, we want to see strategic investments that bolster community economic development and help create shared prosperity and collective well-being. The Jobs and Economic Development Chapters detail a State and federal policy agenda for advancing economic equity in Alameda County.

## **Flood Control and Water Resources**

Much of Alameda County is in a flood plain. Prior to the 1950s, large portions of the County flooded repeatedly resulting in closed businesses and schools, interrupted transportation and utility services, and even took lives. In 1949, the State Legislature created Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (The District). The District designed and constructed flood control infrastructure assuming full build-out of the county. Cities and unincorporated areas, grouped by "zones" corresponding to area watersheds and community boundaries, joined the Flood Control District to gain protection from devastating floods.

The District's flood control infrastructure — a system of pump stations, erosion control structures, dams, and hundreds of miles of pipeline, channels, levees, and creeks — protects nine zones in western Alameda County stretching from Emeryville to Fremont. Work continues to upgrade or replace aging equipment, keep flood control channels clear of silt and debris, and evaluate impacts of new developments on our creeks and channels.

To ensure continued protection from flooding and protecting its natural resources, Alameda County supports legislative remedies to streamlining the regulatory process, increased funding for restoration projects, and developing adaptive strategies to climate change and sea level rise.

Furthermore, regulatory inefficiencies continue to hamper the effective and timely delivery of transportation projects. Delivery of projects is often bogged down by the multiple and mostly redundant approval processes and long timeframes, including environmental clearance and mitigation, design approval, right of way certification, and project financing. To this end, Alameda County seeks legislative remedies in streamlining regulatory burdens while advocating for funding to support adequate staffing at the local, State, and federal regulatory agencies.

## State Legislative Priorities

## Human Services

### **Public Benefits and Self-Sufficiency (CalWORKs, CalFresh, and Asset Building)**

#### **Workforce and Benefits Administration**

The Alameda County Social Services Agency's Department of Workforce and Benefits Administration's (WBA) mission is to promote self-sufficiency and provide economic assistance through public- and private-sector partnerships while fostering a workforce development system that supports individuals and families. Publicly sponsored health coverage programs such as Medi-Cal are also available. Alameda County supports efforts to leverage the opportunity of health care reform to enroll individuals and families in the range of benefits for which they are eligible.

- **Streamline and integrate public benefit enrollment.** Alameda County supports efforts to make it easier for individuals and families to apply, maintain, and recertify for benefits, including CalWORKs, CalFresh, and Medi-Cal. Specifically, we support policies that promote and utilize technology to streamline benefits enrollment, such as auto-enrollment and data-sharing agreements.
- **Maintain continuity of benefits.** Alameda County supports policies that help individuals and families maintain coverage and benefits. Specifically, we support automatic renewals for families living on a fixed income or households who are highly unlikely to experience changes in income that could terminate eligibility. This process would promote continuous eligibility and expedite renewals. Whenever possible, benefits (CalFresh, Medi-Cal, CalWORKs, etc.) renewal dates should be aligned to make it easier for clients.
- **Support technological advancements that promote access to services and administrative efficiency.** Alameda County supports the intentions around AB 1970, the Social Services Modernization and Efficiency Act of 2012.

#### **CalWORKs**

CalWORKs (California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids) is an employment-based, time-limited, program that requires employable adults to participate in work-related activities to receive aid. CalWORKs encourages people to view aid as temporary assistance in a time of crisis rather than a way of life. Alameda County supports a range of policy changes to ensure this safety net program is addressing poverty and promoting self-sufficiency.

- **Enhance flexibility for clients.** Alameda County believes that it is vital to tailor work and family stabilization activities to families' individual needs. We support maintaining the overall work focus of the program, while recognizing that "work first" does not mean "work only." Research indicates that the most successful welfare-to-work programs combine work with training and supportive services, as appropriate.
- **Increase the maximum CalWORKs Grant.** CalWORKs grants are at historic lows and are too small to cover basic necessities for many families. The small grant increase of 5% included in the 2013-14 budget (and proposed additional increases as funding allows) are a good first step; however, grants are still at a level below 50% of federal poverty. The maximum CalWORKs grant is currently at the same level as it was in 1986 and grant levels have not kept pace with inflation. Children who grow up in poverty are more likely to have poorer education, poorer health, and lower earnings as adults. For these reasons, Alameda County supports additional grant increases.
- **Repeal the CalWORKs Maximum Family Grant Rule.** Alameda County supports AB 271, which would repeal the Maximum Family Grant (MFG) Rule. MFG restricts cash assistance to any child born into a family where any parent was a recipient of CalWORKs ten months before the child's birth. The MFG rule is bad policy that exacerbates poverty and denies basic assistance for children and families.

- **Reduce or eliminate EBT Fees for CalWORKs families.** During the 2012-13 fiscal year, low-income California families that received CalWORKs lost over \$19 million of their cash benefits to out-of-network ATM fees. Alameda County supports actions that will reduce/eliminate EBT fees for CalWORKs recipients. CalWORKs benefits are already too low to cover basic costs and the state and financial institutions are profiting off of families during their time of need.
- **Eliminate the vehicle asset test for CalWORKs.** For the State's low-income working families, having access to a reliable car is critical to finding and maintaining employment and becoming economically self-sufficient. California raised the vehicle asset limit to \$9,500 as part of the 2013-14 budget (the previous limit of \$4,650 had not been increased since 1997); however, eliminating the test altogether would reduce administrative costs, allow staff to spend more time working with clients, and help counties and the State meet the work participation requirements.
- **End lifetime ban on CalWORKs for people with drug felonies.** California maintains an optional lifetime ban on receiving CalWORKs for people with former drug-related felony offenses when the conviction occurred after 1996. Alameda County supports allowing individuals, previously convicted of a drug felony, who meet all other eligibility rules to receive CalWORKs, provided that they are complying with the conditions of probation or parole, or have successfully completed their probation or parole (original intention of SB 283). Restoring access to these benefits will not only improve outcomes for very vulnerable families, but also improve public safety by increasing the chances of employment and financial stability and reducing the risks of reoffending.
- **Eliminate Deprivation for CalWORKs.** The requirement that children be deprived of parental support for families to be eligible for CalWORKs results in unfair treatment, especially of two-parent families. To qualify for unemployed/underemployed deprivation in a two-parent household, the primary wage earner must not have worked more than 100 hours in the past four weeks. This rule creates a disincentive to work and is difficult to administer. Alameda County supports policies that treat all families equally and base eligibility on income and resources. The elimination of the deprivation requirement would reduce administrative costs and align CalWORKs rules with CalFresh and Medi-Cal (which will no longer have deprivation requirements as of January 2014).

### CalFresh

CalFresh is California's food stamp program [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) at the federal level], which provides assistance for households to purchase nutritious food. When the national economy or a regional, state, or local economy is in trouble, the program is among the most effective government responses. Alameda County supports strengthening CalFresh and ensuring this vital program reaches families struggling with hunger. Alameda County supports policies to streamline enrollment and ensure more eligible individuals and families utilize this important nutrition benefit.

- **Support efforts to simplify and streamline benefits enrollment.** Alameda County supports efforts such as the recently enacted AB 191 that use expanded categorical eligibility and rule changes to streamline and simplify applications to enroll more eligible families in benefits.
- **End the lifetime ban on CalFresh program for those individuals with prior drug-related felony conviction.** Support SB 283, which lifts the ban and allows previously convicted drug felons who meet all other eligibility rules to receive basic needs services through the CalFresh program, providing that they are in compliance with probation or parole standards, or who have successfully completed parole or probation. The current policy denies food benefits to individuals that have served their time and as a result negatively impacts children, families, and communities.

### Asset Building

According to the Pew Research Center and the Economic Policy Institute, as of 2009, almost half of Americans had no assets. In addition, the racial wealth gap is staggering; for every \$1 of wealth owned by the typical white family, the typical black family had 5 cents and the typical Latino family had 6 cents. The disparities in assets and ownership between communities of color and whites illustrate a systemic problem. African Americans, Latinos, and other communities of color are denied access to opportunities for wealth building and future prosperity. This lack of access has negative consequences for individuals, families, and communities.

Without assets, families do not have a cushion in case of emergency; nor can they plan for the future by purchasing a home, sending their kids to college, or starting a business. This means that in addition to the millions of families who live below the federal poverty line, California has a large number of families who are one job loss, illness, or crisis away from poverty. In addition to a strong safety net that helps families get back on their feet quickly, policies need to promote savings and ensure individuals and families don't have to spend all of those savings before they can qualify for public assistance. The children of parents who own assets – regardless of income – are more likely to have higher academic achievement and complete more years of education. Alameda County supports policies that promote economic self-sufficiency while also focusing on wealth building.

Asset building policies and programs include a range of opportunities from matched-savings accounts, homeownership assistance, and financial education to access to affordable financial services and credit building products and services. Broadening savings and asset ownership opportunities will help move families and individuals from just breaking even to actually getting ahead.

- **Remove asset limits for public benefits.** California should remove the disincentive to save for low-income families by lifting asset limits in public benefits programs, such as CalWORKs and Medi-Cal.
- **Expand state tax credits for low-income families.**
  - **Establish a state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).** California should establish a state version of the EITC to reduce the regressive tax burden on the working poor, put more money in their pockets, and make saving for the future possible.
  - **Restore the refundable portion of the Tax Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses.** In 2011, California repealed the refundable portion of the Tax Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses (SB 86). This resulted in the loss of a benefit that provided \$70 million to California's lowest-income families with children. Alameda County supports restoring the refundable portion of that tax credit.
  - **Expand refundable tax credits.** More state tax credits (including the Dependent Tax Credit and the Tax Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses) should be fully refundable so that all low-income families, even those without a tax liability, can benefit from the credits.
- **Establish a California Individual Development Account (IDA) program.** IDAs are matched-savings accounts that are most commonly used for postsecondary education, homeownership, or starting or expanding a small business. Research demonstrates that these accounts contribute to the economic stability of families and communities. Alameda County supports State funding for local IDA programs.
- **Restrict payday lending and other predatory financial products and services.** Alameda County supports policies that protect consumers from predatory credit products, specifically by prohibiting or capping rates on payday loans and promoting low-cost, consumer friendly, alternatives.
- **Expand the presence of mainstream financial institutions in underserved communities.** Paths to asset accumulation are often tied to the location of institutions that provide affordable financial products and accounts. Unfortunately, many neighborhoods lack access to mainstream financial institutions and instead rely on predatory lenders, such as check cashers, payday lenders, and pawn shops that drain millions of dollars from communities through high fees and usurious loans. Alameda County supports efforts to modernize and

enforce the Community Reinvestment Act and pass responsible banking ordinances at the local level that will strengthen public accountability and create incentives for fair financial practices that protect income and assets.

- **Expand access to credit and capital.** Difficulty accessing financial services, affordable credit, and investment capital has long been a problem, especially in low-income and underserved communities. Alameda County supports efforts to help low-income individuals and communities gain access to low-cost financial products and services, high-return savings products, and investment capital that meet the unique needs of economically underserved communities.

### **Children and Families (Child Welfare and Foster Care)**

#### **Children and Family Services**

The Alameda County Social Services Agency's Department of Children and Family Services (CFS) is focused on improving the lives of children and families in Alameda County by serving children and youth who have experienced, or are at risk of experiencing, abuse or neglect. For all youth in Alameda County, we are committed to improving their outcomes in the following areas:

- **Safety** —By preventing and responding to the maltreatment of children and youth.
- **Permanency** —By helping children remain with their family and out of foster care whenever possible, by preserving family relationships and connections for foster youth, and by establishing guardianships and adoptions when it is unsafe for youth to return home.
- **Well-Being** —By partnering with families as they improve their capacity for meeting their children's physical, mental health, and educational needs.

#### **Child Welfare and Foster Care**

- **Support the five-year extension of the Title IV-E Waiver.** Alameda County supports the California Department of Social Services' advocacy for the continuation of the original base period for Alameda and Los Angeles Counties (three-year average between FY 2002-03 and 2004-05 and the 2% growth rate) when negotiating for the five-year extension of California's Title IV-E Waiver. The Waiver provides counties with flexible investment of funding to implement alternative services that better meet the needs of children and families. This flexibility supports improved outcomes for children and families, while remaining cost neutral to the federal government.
- **Increase funding and supportive services for child welfare programs.** Alameda County supports a range of improvements that can be made to child welfare funding to improve the well-being of children, including:
  - Reform child welfare financing to include more focus on prevention activities.
  - Provide adequate federal funding for services and income supports needed by parents seeking to reunify with children who are in foster care.
  - Increase financial support for programs that assist foster youth in the transition to self-sufficiency, including post-emancipation assistance such as secondary education, job training, housing, and access to health care.
- **Increase supports for families that contribute to child-wellbeing.** Alameda County supports providing additional resources to families to promote better outcomes for children. This includes items such as culturally relevant mental health, educational supports, employment/linked learning opportunities, matched-savings accounts, developmental child care (including post-permanency), respite services for relative and foster caregivers, and housing subsidies.
- **Allow for continued benefits after age 18 for youth whose relative guardianship was established prior to the youth's 16th birthday.** Alameda County supports the intent of AB 985, which would expand eligibility for extended state Kin-GAP benefits to age 21 for youth who turn 18 while receiving federal or state KinGAP benefits and who entered the program prior to reaching the age of 16. The current restriction on benefits after

age 18 is a disincentive for permanency for these children.

**Adult and Aging (IHSS, APS, SSI/SSP, Public Administrator, Public Guardian-Conservator, and Veterans)**

**Adult, Aging and Medi-Cal Services**

The Alameda County Social Services Agency's Department of Adult, Aging, and Medi-Cal Services (AAMS) offers a coordinated service delivery system that protects, supports, and advocates for an aging population, particularly those with disabilities. Alameda County supports policies that are consumer-focused and ensure residents get the benefits for which they are eligible.

*Please note that the Medi-Cal recommendations are in the Health Chapter.*

**Adult & Aging**

- **Reinstate funding for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS).** IHSS is a federal, State, and locally funded program designed to provide assistance to those eligible aged, blind, and disabled individuals who, without this care, would be unable to remain safely in their own homes. In Alameda County, over 19,000 people receive in-home care that enables them to live safely in the community and avoid serious medical complications. The 2012 and 2013 state budget cuts included additional reductions in hours and services, and Alameda County supports restoring those cuts and ensuring the most vulnerable in our community get access to the care they need.
- **Increased flexibility for Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI) counties.** Building upon many years of stakeholder discussions, the CCI begins the process of integrating delivery of medical, behavioral, and long-term care services and also provides a road map to integrate Medicare and Medi-Cal for people in both programs, called "dual eligible" beneficiaries. The state has an opportunity with the CCI to allow the initial eight counties to experiment and try new approaches to better serve clients and maintain program integrity. Alameda County encourages the state to allow local flexibility for CCI.

**Adult Protective Services**

Adult Protective Services (APS) responds to reports from individuals, concerned citizens, social service and health providers, and law enforcement representatives about developmentally, physically, and mentally disabled adults, and the elderly who may be physically or financially abused, neglected, or exploited. Anyone aged 18 to 64 with a mental or physical disability or anyone aged 65 or older that is suspected of being abused or neglected, is eligible for APS without regard to income.

- **Increased support and statewide coordination of APS.** There are currently inconsistencies between APS in California counties. Alameda County supports efforts to better coordinate and promote uniformity in the protective services adults receive throughout the State. These efforts should also include consistency in data-sharing so that there is comparable data across counties and guidance from the State that sets criteria for best practices in APS.
- **Increase funding for APS training.** Training for APS workers and their partner agencies is severely underfunded and has not increased in the past nine years (despite the fact that cases rose 65% statewide since 2001). APS workers receive a comparatively small fraction (4 cents for every dollar) of the funding provided to child welfare workers who deal with similar situations. It is imperative that APS workers receive comprehensive training so that they may provide elder and dependent adult victims of abuse, neglect, and exploitation with the same types of essential services that our child abuse victims receive. Alameda County supports increased federal and State funding for APS training.

**Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP)**

The SSI Program is a federally funded program which provides income support for individuals who are aged 65 or

older, blind, or disabled. SSI benefits are also available to qualified blind or disabled children. The SSP Program is the California program which augments SSI.

- **Restore cuts to SSI/SSP and reinstate annual state COLAs.** Deep cuts to SSI/SSP over the past few years have compromised the ability of low-income California seniors and people with disabilities to afford necessities, such as housing and groceries. These cuts are exacerbated by the fact that SSI/SSP recipients are not eligible for food assistance through the CalFresh Program. Alameda County supports restoring these benefits and including an annual cost of living adjustment (COLA).

### **Public Administrator's Office**

Public Administrators are county employees who are assigned by the courts to administer the estates of decedents who die without a will or trust and when there are no other relatives or heirs willing to administer the estate. The Public Administrator's primary purpose is to protect the estate from fraud or misuse and convey its assets to those rightfully entitled. Besides identifying the rightful heirs, as prescribed by law, the Public Administrator will pay creditors, including federal, state, and local governments, before turning over any remaining assets to the proper heirs of the state.

- **Increased safeguards and protections for adults with caregivers.** Alameda County supports increased protections for adults who name caregivers as their power of attorney, executor of their wills, or identify the caregiver as an heir. It is important to ensure the adult is making an informed decision and is not being exploited.
- **Oppose allowing a foreign heir to nominate an administrator of a decedent's estate.** Specifically, Alameda County opposes the continuation of AB 1670, which will sunset in 2016. AB 1670 authorizes the court appointment of an administrator nominated by a non-U.S. resident beneficiary to administer a decedent's estate. AB 1670 allows profitable estates to be "cherry picked" by others leaving the insolvent and difficult estates to Public Administrators. Such a scenario will exacerbate a significant fiscal hardship for Public Administrator offices and counties.

### **Public Guardian-Conservator**

The Public Guardian-Conservator manages probate and mental health (Lanterman-Petris-Short, known as LPS) conservatorships for Alameda County residents who have been adjudicated by the Superior Court either to lack capacity to manage finances and/or health care, or to be gravely disabled by mental illness or substance abuse. The Public Guardian-Conservator works in partnership with Adult Protective Services (APS) to protect elders and dependent adults who are victims of financial abuse or exploitation and who are unable to protect themselves.

- **Oppose making LPS hearing records public.** LPS hearings concern the involuntary civil commitment of an individual to a mental health institution in the State of California. Alameda County believes LPS proceedings should continue to be confidential.

### **Veterans Services**

The Alameda County Veterans Service Office provides veterans and their dependents and/or survivors with information regarding veterans benefits, as well as assistance with filing benefit claims, waivers, and appeals, in order for them to obtain and maintain all available benefits and entitlements for which they are eligible. Alameda County supports policies that assist veterans with accessing benefits and stable employment.

- **Increase funding for County Veterans Service Officers (CVSO).** CVSO offices provide assistance to California veterans to navigate the claims process to access all State and federal benefits for which they are eligible.
- **Increase employment opportunities for veterans.** Alameda County supports policies that help veterans access employment in the public and private sectors. Specifically, Alameda County supports funding for prior-learning assessments that allow veterans to earn college credit for their military training and skills learned in service.

- **Reduce veteran homelessness and provide supportive treatment and services.** Alameda County supports a range of policies that address the root causes of veteran homelessness. Specifically, policies that improve employment opportunities, increase substance abuse prevention and treatment programs, establish affordable housing, and improve rehabilitation efforts for homeless veterans.
- **Increase State grants to veterans service organizations to work with CVSOs.** These grants facilitate California veterans filing claims with the US Department of Veteran Affairs.

#### **Early Care and Education Planning Council**

The child care system supports the dual economic goals of supporting parental employment and laying the groundwork for children's lifelong success. Almost 13,000 of about 18,000 eligible Alameda County children receive child care and preschool services through State subsidies for low-income families from 2,400 Early Care and Education providers. This means 5,000 children and families are not receiving services for which they are eligible. A majority of subsidized children attend licensed, center-based programs that meet higher quality standards and are reimbursed directly by the State Department of Education. Some parents receive vouchers, which are used to pay for child care at licensed centers, family child care homes, or with family, friend, or neighbor. Since 2008, statewide early care and education cuts have been significant, totaling more than \$1 billion, and resulting in the loss of 111,095 subsidized spaces, or a 33% drop. 8,200 full- and part-day slots were restored in the last budget cycle. Reduced funding for CalWORKS Stage 3 child care resulted in 171 Alameda County children losing their subsidy in 2012-13.

- Promote efforts to protect, stabilize, and increase State, and funding, and attain new resources for Early Care and Education (ECE).
- Monitor, take positions and make recommendations on State issues, legislation and initiatives that significantly impact ECE quality, access and affordability.
- Advocate for family centered, inclusive, developmentally and culturally appropriate practices for all children in care as well as those in transitional kindergarten.

Specifically, in 2014-2015 The Planning Council will advocate for:

- Reinvestment in ECE.
- Streamlining and efficiencies such as coordinated regulatory, contracting and reimbursement processes within the current federal and State programs.
- Retaining ECE programs under the California Department of Education to maintain child care's dual education and employment support roles if necessary.
- State efforts to improve quality in child care.
- ECE professional development with a possible focus to dedicate paid days of training for staff at Title 5 contracted centers.

#### **Alameda County Interagency Children's Policy Council**

The Alameda County Interagency Children's Policy Council (ICPC) is comprised of County agencies and department directors and leaders. The ICPC mission is to engage in cross system collaboration by improving interagency communication, developing child friendly policies and practices and initiating systems changes that result in safe, healthy and thriving children and families throughout Alameda County. ICPC provides advocacy leadership around the development of legislative policies that improve and enhance service delivery and outcomes for children and youth. ICPC's goal is to work together to advocate on behalf of legislation that improves the lives of children in Alameda County.

- Advocate for State policy to support and sustain a Quality Rating and Improvement System and reimbursement rates that cover the cost of quality child care.
- Advocate for State policy that ensures families living in communities with low educational outcomes have access to affordable and high quality child care.
- Title IV-E Waiver - Urge the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to advocate for the continuation of the existing base period funding and growth formulas for Alameda and Los Angeles Counties when negotiating for the five-year extension of California's Title IV-E Waiver.
- Remove the disincentive for very low-income families to save by lifting asset limits in two public benefit programs: CalWORKS and family Medicaid.
- Increased supports for families that contribute to child well-being, such as culturally relevant mental health, educational supports, employment/linked learning opportunities, IDA accounts, developmental child care -- including post-permanency, respite services for relative and foster caregivers, housing subsidies.
- Increased linkage to employment training and supports for families at risk of or involved in the child welfare system. Develop demonstration programs to test father friendly program designs to solicit/facilitate father engagement. Legislative examples:
  - Protect low-income workers against excessive wage garnishment.
  - Increase the threshold that would qualify a parent paying child support to allow for a cost of living increases.

## Health

### Health Care Access and Affordability

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (referred to as ACA), signed into law March 2010, offers comprehensive health care reform designed to increase the quality and affordability of health insurance, lower medical care costs, ensure prevention services, and ultimately reduce the number of uninsured persons. Generally, ACA requires the expansion of Medicaid, the government health-insurance program for low-income and sick people. ACA benefits already enacted include coverage for children with pre-existing conditions; coverage for young adults under 26; elimination of lifetime caps on insurance coverage; preventive care for women and seniors; and prescription drug discounts. Among the changes in 2014 will be the inauguration of health insurance exchanges (e.g. Covered California); savings on monthly premiums; and insurance companies no longer will be able to deny coverage for pre-existing conditions. Annual insurance coverage caps will be banned, and small business tax credits will be expanded.

For health care reform to succeed, we must maximize eligibility, enrollment, retention, and access to health insurance and appropriate health care. Special attention should be paid to policies that support:

- **Streamlined public/private health insurance enrollment.** Simplify applications and provide them in multiple languages; expand enrollment through community-based providers and organizations; ensure strong and successful Exchanges; develop partnerships that encourage information sharing to support client enrollment.
- **Increased access to care.** Provide lower cost and more accessible treatment alternatives in community settings; promote efficiency; incentivize physicians to go into primary care; incentivize expanded medical staffing, including use of advanced-practice nurses; ensure linguistically and culturally appropriate communication with patients; provide Medicaid expansion for primary and preventive care before, during and after a pregnancy for up to two years to reduce poor pregnancy outcomes.
- **Maintenance and enhancement of safety net system.** Increase provider rates; improve transition of care (e.g. primary care to acute or specialty care); support policies that provide healthcare to all regardless of

documentation of residence.

### **Behavioral Health Services**

Behavioral health problems (mental health and/or substance use disorders) have a tremendous impact on the lives of Alameda County residents, imposing burdens on individuals, families, communities, and governments.

Mental illness is an important public health problem, both in its own right and because the condition is associated with other chronic diseases and their resulting morbidity and mortality. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), mental illnesses account for more disability in developed countries than any other group of illnesses, including cancer and heart disease. Rates for injuries, both intentional (e.g., homicide and suicide) and unintentional (e.g., motor vehicle), are 2-6 times higher among persons with a mental illness than in the overall population. Mental illness is also associated with use of tobacco products and alcohol abuse.

The effects of mental illness range from minor disruptions in daily functioning to incapacitating personal, social, and occupational impairments and premature death. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported that depression is the most common type of mental illness, affecting more than 26% of the U.S. adult population. It has been estimated that by the year 2020, depression will be the second leading cause of disability throughout the world, trailing only ischemic heart disease.

Support for the following items will assist Alameda County in providing a fiscally sound, comprehensive continuum of behavioral health services ranging from prevention/early intervention to treatment and recovery/support that will foster increased access to services, a reduction in stigma and discrimination and improved health outcomes for Alameda County residents with behavioral health conditions:

- **Support expansion of health care workforce including behavioral health providers.** There is a significant shortage of primary and behavioral health care providers nationally and in Alameda County. Within this overall shortage there is a critical dearth among people with specific cultural and language skills. Efforts to expand the number of well-trained, licensed, and credentialed professionals from diverse backgrounds are critical as the overall population ages and more individuals are covered by health insurance.
- **Relax licensure requirements for State reimbursement for peer support services.** Peer support services can play an integral role in an individual's recovery from a mental illness or substance use disorder and is an innovative way to save money. Peer support programs could be expanded within Alameda County and beyond if peer support/peer counseling for individuals with mental health or substance use disorders, who are in the recovery phase of treatment, could be considered a reimbursable service under Medicaid rehabilitation codes.
- **Include supported employment and education services as an eligible Medi-Cal rehabilitation service.** Individuals receiving Social Security disability face a wide range of barriers to return to meaningful work. The exclusion of evidenced-based employment services for disabled individuals on Medicaid presents a barrier for local mental health authorities that would like to expand these resources.
- **Expand permanent supportive housing for homeless and disabled individuals.** A wide range of research studies and policy papers have articulated the benefits of expanding permanent supportive housing (affordable housing coupled with appropriate supportive services) for homeless individuals and individuals with disabilities. California remains behind other states that have developed ongoing statewide commitments to further the creation of permanent supportive housing, e.g., New York, Louisiana. The Department of Health Care Services should allow health plans to develop innovative approaches to meeting the housing needs of their clients and should play a leading role in advocating for an expansion of affordable housing resources at the state and federal level. State legislators should continue to work on a permanent funding stream to support the creation of more affordable housing.

- **End the Medi-Cal lock out of reimbursable mental health and substance use disorder treatment services for incarcerated individuals.** Research shows that 50% or more of state prisoners meet the criteria for a diagnosis of drug abuse or dependence, but only 10% receive medically based drug treatment. Additionally, more than 8 in 10 returning prisoners have chronic physical, mental, or substance abuse conditions that create significant and distinct reentry challenges and service needs. Because of the link between substance abuse and crime, allowing for Medicaid reimbursable treatment services to incarcerated individuals has the potential to yield substantial health and economic benefits.
- **End the same-day visit exclusion for mental health services in Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs).** California should eliminate the restriction on same-day billing for primary care and behavioral health services in FQHCs. This exclusion hampers efforts at integrated care and creates financial disincentives for FQHCs that would like to hire more licensed behavioral health care staff to work in their health centers.

### **Disaster Preparedness and Public Health Infrastructure**

The recent fires in California, ongoing civil unrest, emerging communicable diseases, projections of more frequent & severe extreme weather events, and a potential earthquake on the Hayward fault clearly demonstrate the need to ensure that Alameda County has a coordinated system in place to respond to any disaster. Coordinated planning and response to build the capacity of the public health and health care system is critical. The Public Health Department and EMS continue to work in collaboration with county, State and federal agencies, local health care providers and other institutions to strengthen our collaboration, communications and responsiveness. However, without a stable Public Health infrastructure, an adequate long-term health response to future disasters will become increasingly difficult. This is at a time when funding for disaster preparedness is gradually being reduced. The following will ensure that our State and local disaster response systems are adequately prepared to respond in an emergency:

- **Promote public health workforce development** - A qualified public health workforce is needed to staff our frontline response to natural disasters and to potential biological threats. There is an estimated shortage of 250,000 trained public health professionals in the United States. In California alone, the shortage numbers 25,000 to 30,000, with the problem expected to worsen due to the projected retirement of 50 percent of the current public health workforce within the next five years. (UC Berkeley News Center/May 2012) Legislation to promote the recruitment and retention of new public health professionals to replace our aging workforce should be supported.
- **Improve communication between disparate organizations and levels of government** - Regional planning must take place to create communications systems that will be functional in a mutual aid response situation. Clear leadership provided by the State Department of Public Health should promote improved communication with the public and private sector. Funding is needed to support a robust system.
- **Develop systems to ensure that services can be delivered in a timely and efficient manner to vulnerable populations** - Special consideration needs to be given to serving vulnerable populations, including; children and adults with disabilities requiring functional or access support services, as well as low income populations, seniors, children, and individuals with language barriers, in a manner that will be accessible and inclusive. Pre-planning for disaster response must be focused on those who will be least able to help themselves in the event of a large-scale public health emergency.
- **Support legislation which promotes funding opportunities for pre-disaster mitigation** - Pre-disaster mitigation is important to protect first responders, the safety net, public health infrastructure, support services provided by the County, and county facilities that support the provision of those services, so that the County can respond to all disasters timely and effectively, without exposing vulnerable population served by the County. Mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. Mitigation is taking action now—before the next disaster—to reduce human and financial consequences later (analyzing risk, reducing risk, insuring against risk). Examples include; flood proofing requirements, seismic design standards and the long-term safety and sustainability of local communities.

- **Prioritize no cost or low cost training opportunities that promote skill development** - Promote a system to ensure all government, first responder, first receiver staff and other professionals are adequately trained in preparedness and response systems, communication and targeted skills, as needed.
- **Support legislation which promotes the improvement of Municipal Service Utilities to help ensure service delivery before, during and after an event** - California's aging infrastructure needs to be upgraded. When confronted with major service interruptions due to catastrophic events, either natural or manmade, public health impacts could be immediate and costly.
- **Support Public Education and Awareness to the reality of a disaster or emergency event** - Institute outreach activities and promote resources to educate the general public about disaster preparedness to build community resiliency during an emergency event.
- **Ensure adequate funding for disaster preparedness** - To address all of these needs, a significant infusion of funds and increased collaboration will be needed. However, this infusion of funds would be outweighed by the greater cost of not investing in the public health infrastructure should there actually be a large scale disaster in the Bay Area.
- **Disaster Preparedness and Infrastructure** - Improve the County's preparedness for any form of disaster or event through the allocation of resources, that address and prioritize the systems and thereby enhance skills and capacity in specific functional service areas. These areas include; improving the seismic safety of Alameda County's critical facilities, expanding the infrastructure supporting critical facilities including those designated for county essential functions; eg. Increasing backup power generation, installing uninterruptable power supplies, and increasing backup power generators fuel capacity, etc., and finally, improving the County's infrastructure readiness for the impacts of climate change.

#### **Reducing Inequities in Chronic Diseases**

In Alameda County the 5 leading causes of death are due to chronic diseases and account for 60% of all deaths. Despite increase in life expectancy among all racial/ethnic groups, there has been a growing disparity in life expectancy. For example in 1960 African-Americans in Alameda County had a life expectancy 4.0 years less than Caucasians and in 2010 despite marked increases in both racial/ethnic groups the disparity had increased to 6.6 years.

- **Enforce standards-based physical education in public schools as mandated in the Education Code.** Students must be instructed by a credentialed physical education specialist in grades 1-6, for 200 minutes every 10 days, and in grades 7-12, for 400 minutes every 10 days. Less than 30% of all Alameda County students in grades 5, 7, and 9 can pass 5 out of 6 of the required areas of the California Fitness test.
- **Promote the initiation and prolonged duration of breastfeeding.** Breastfeeding has been proven to provide a broad range of health benefits to both baby and mother including reducing a child's chance of becoming overweight or obese. Encouraging and supporting breastfeeding, and enforcing laws that protect low-wage workers and allow family leave, child bonding, and expressing milk will lay a foundation of good health.
- **Limit the marketing of junk food to children.** The Institute of Medicine recently issued a comprehensive list of recommendations to combat the obesity crisis, including the creation of guidelines to limit the marketing of junk food to children. In recent years this kind of marketing has increased greatly, particularly concentrated in low income communities, leading to an increase in childhood obesity and its associated diseases.
- **Expand the availability of healthful foods and beverages, and decrease the availability of unhealthful foods and beverages.** Healthful and nutritious foods and beverages must be made more easily available in low-income neighborhoods paired with a decrease in access to unhealthful foods and beverages. Greater accessibility to healthful things will facilitate efforts to reduce obesity and related diseases. The State's pilot program to increase access to healthful foods should be expanded and greater financial incentives and/or assistance should be provided to retailers to implement the changes.

- **Decrease the availability of unhealthful beverages through a sugar sweetened beverage/“soda” tax or fee.** Approximately 60% of adolescents and 31% of children consume one or more sodas per day in Alameda County, according to a 2009 study by the California Center for Public Health Advocacy. Greater consumption of sugar sweetened beverages is associated with overweight and obesity among both adults and children. A soda tax or fee would gain broader support when funds raised are reinvested in the communities most disproportionately affected by the obesity epidemic.
- **Improve utilization of food assistance programs.** The complexity of applying for and maintaining eligibility for food assistance programs is frequently a barrier to low-income families. Streamlining the application for nutrition programs - CalFresh (formerly Food Stamps), Women, Infants and Children (WIC), and School Meals Program (Breakfast/Lunch) would greatly impact the numbers of children served.
- **Reduce smoking and limit secondhand smoke exposure and decrease youth access to tobacco products and marketing.** Alameda County supports provisions that 1) protect individuals from secondhand smoke exposure, 2) strengthen laws to reduce youth access to tobacco products, 3) counter pro-tobacco influences including advertising and media images or content, 4) reduce or eliminate the retailing of new tobacco or nicotine products, and 5) promote tobacco cessation.
- **Create “Asthma-Friendly” communities.** Alameda County supports policies that create "Asthma-Friendly" communities, especially those that eliminate the disproportionate burden of asthma for people living in poverty and communities of color. This goal can be achieved through optimizing the diagnosis, treatment and management of asthma by adherence to the current National Heart Lung and Blood Institutes asthma guidelines; expanding the reach of proven case management programs for serving persons with asthma; utilizing community health workers and trained professionals; improving air quality and reducing diesel emissions in our communities.

### **Reducing Inequities in HIV**

There are currently an estimated 4,875 people living with AIDS/HIV in Alameda County. The annual incidence rate of new HIV infections has not fallen in nearly two decades. The impact of this trend on behavior risk groups and minority populations is significant. There is a disproportionate impact of the HIV epidemic on the African American, Latino and Asian residents of the county. HIV also affects marginalized communities such as Intravenous Drug Users, other substance users, especially crack cocaine and sex workers. Recent cuts to prevention and testing programs from the California State Department of Health will have devastating consequences for some of our most vulnerable populations.

- **Needle Exchange Programs:** Injection drug use is the second leading cause of HIV transmission and the leading cause of Hepatitis C infection in California. In Alameda County, injection drug use accounts for 24% of all AIDS cases among African Americans and 35% of all AIDS cases among women. Studies of needle exchange programs (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19949245>) have repeatedly shown that these efforts are successful in reducing the spread of HIV and Hepatitis C while showing no increase in the use of injection drugs. We therefore support policy and legislative efforts to support these needle exchange programs.
- **Condom Distribution and HIV Testing in Jails and Prisons:** At present, the distribution of condoms is prohibited within the county jail and State and federal prisons. Rates of many diseases are higher for the incarcerated than for the total U.S. population. Condom distribution and routine, non-mandatory, HIV testing should be allowed in jails and prisons in order to prevent the spread of these diseases within the inmate population and among their partners in the community.
- **Formerly Incarcerated Individuals:** We support any legislation that facilitates the rapid and effective transition of HIV care services for people going in or coming out of State prisons and county jails. In the effort to assist HIV positive individuals with the transition, we support legislation that will automatically re-enroll released inmates into Medi-Cal and provide linkage to services and medications after release.
- **HIV Testing:** Support routine offering of HIV testing in all medical settings so that HIV testing would be

administered in the same manner as diabetes and tuberculosis screenings. We support the easing of restrictions on who can perform HIV Rapid Testing. Currently, only licensed medical practitioners and State-Trained HIV test counselors are allowed to administer the HIV Rapid Test, specifically under state funded programs. This restriction does not exist in most other states and is severely limiting California's state-wide HIV testing efforts nor is it a requirement by the manufacturer.

- **AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP):** The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) is a part of Ryan White Program funding, paying for prescription drugs for people who have limited or no coverage for HIV medications and can't otherwise afford them. The program is managed by states, and most of them also contribute to the funding. The benefits and eligibility requirements vary widely state by state. The programs have been in a funding crisis across the country and we support efforts to maintain this coverage.
- **Comprehensive Reproductive and Sexual Health Programs for Teens:** The number of some Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) in young women under the age of 20 is almost equivalent to the numbers reported for all other women over the age of 20. This illustrates the high levels of unprotected sexual activity occurring in this population, creating greater opportunities for HIV transmission. Current AIDS data reflects that young people 13 -19 represent .4% of the cases. It is important to fund comprehensive reproductive and sexual health programs which stress abstinence, while also educating young people about contraception, family communication, responsible negotiating and decision making skills.
- **Health Care Reform (Affordable Care Act):** We support any policy and/or legislation that simplify or streamline the enrollment of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS into the appropriate health care coverage. It is anticipated that during this first year of implementation, people will be overwhelmed with information and choices about insurance. We want to support efforts that keep these persons from falling out of care or having disruptions in their HIV treatment that could lead to viral resistance to treatment.

### Alcohol Principles

Current law and regulation provide valuable tools that can be used to develop strategies for changing many high-risk environments in which alcohol and other drugs (AOD) are used. This "environmental" approach to AOD prevention focuses on changes in laws, public policies and social norms to reduce and prevent problems related to the use of alcohol and other drugs. The principles noted below, when applied through actual legislative changes, will enhance the ability of concerned community and neighborhood groups to reduce and prevent alcohol and other drug related problems.

- **Reduce the Social Availability of Alcohol to Youth:** Currently underage youth can easily access alcohol through social sources, including parents, older siblings, or teen parties, must be reduced or eliminated. Social host liability laws can hold adults, who served alcohol to underage youth, accountable for injuries that occur as a result of underage drinking.
- **Stop Targeting of Youth for Alcohol Advertising:** It is currently very difficult for parents and other adults to control a youth's exposure to alcohol advertising, marketing, and promotions, which frequently associate alcohol use with success, attractiveness, and popularity. Strategies for addressing this problem may include: Limiting the sponsorship of community events by the alcohol industry, tightening section 25664, the advertising to minors section of the Alcohol Beverage Control code, and supporting enforcement of existing local advertising regulations that control the placement and display of advertising.
- **Reduce the availability of alcohol products targeted to youth market:** Alcohol products such as flavored malt beverages (alcopops), with their colorful packaging and fruity sweet flavors, are targeted to underage youth, particularly young girls. Marketing the products as "malt" beverages (beer), despite their being primarily distilled spirits, has allowed them to be taxed at a significantly lower rate, advertised on TV, and sold in convenience stores, small markets and other "beer and wine" stores.
- **Renew Efforts to Deter Alcohol-Impaired Driving:** Nationally in 2011, 9,878 people died in drunk driving crashes - one every 53 minutes (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration FARS data, 2012). An

average drunk driver has driven drunk 80 times before first arrest. (Centers for Disease Control. “Vital Signs: Alcohol-Impaired Driving Among Adults — United States, 2010.” Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. October 4, 2011.) Adults drank too much and got behind the wheel about 112 million times in 2010 - that is almost 300,000 incidents of drinking and driving each day. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, October 2011) Policies to deter alcohol-impaired driving include- lowering the legal blood-alcohol levels, prompt suspension of a driver's license for people arrested, expanded sobriety checkpoints, alcohol-ignition interlock programs, and sustained health education that includes efforts to reduce binge drinking.

- **Reduce the overconcentration of alcohol sales establishments in neighborhoods.** A high concentration of retail alcohol licenses in communities is considered a risk factor for youth growing up in that environment. Public health research has consistently linked high crime and violence rates to high concentrations of alcohol licenses. Although most regulation of the siting of new alcohol retailers is at the local level, there are state policies that can impact over-concentration. These policies, include increased resources for sustained enforcement of regulations and limiting the active status of alcohol permits to 10 years.
- **Support alcohol taxes to pay for public health and safety costs, reducing alcohol harms and underage drinking.** Alcohol taxes have not been raised in California since 1992 when the tax was increased by a penny per drink. Since that time, the real value of alcohol taxes in California has decreased 45 percent due to rising inflation. Raising alcohol taxes has been shown to be a highly effective tool in reducing a wide range of harm and consequences among all age groups. Such harms include alcohol dependence, liver cirrhosis, risky sexual behaviors leading to STDs, traffic fatalities, and especially underage drinking.

### **Ensuring the Health and Wellbeing of Women, Children, Youth and Families**

Many more women, children, youth and families now have access to quality medical care, thanks to years of education efforts, provider outreach and advances in medical technology. The Affordable Care Act will also expand access to care and preventive services for many Alameda County residents. Access to medical care is important and has likely contributed to improvement in some maternal and child health outcomes – infant mortality, for example, has been declining steadily over the last two decades – and yet women, children, youth and families in many of our communities still experience less than optimal health. The low birth weight rate, a key maternal and child health indicator, has not budged over the last ten years two and remains above the Healthy People 2020 benchmark. Being born at low birthweight not only contributes to significant newborn and infant health problems, but can also result in long term illness and disability, including chronic disease and developmental delays. And there are deep inequities in maternal and child health by race: infant mortality rates among African-Americans are two times higher than whites and African-American women are three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than white women. Additionally women now face challenges to their reproductive freedom in a way that we have not seen since the initial debates that led to the passage of Roe v Wade in 1973. Ensuring access to comprehensive, low cost reproductive, prenatal and primary care – including case management services where appropriate – will continue to be important, but attention should also be paid to policies that 1) do not limit the range of options available – especially in the arena of family planning services; 2) ensure access to accurate, unbiased information about reproductive and sexual health for youth and adults; and 3) take into account and attempt to remedy the impact of neighborhood and social conditions on the health of women, their children, their partners and their families, thereby securing the health and wellbeing of current and future generations.

- **State Support for Implementation of Title V, Title X and MIECHV programs:** Ensure that the State Maternal and Child Health Branch and State Office of Family Planning have the infrastructure and resources they need to effectively administer these three federal programs and ensure that their funding reaches the local health jurisdictions, where they are critical to ensuring the health of women of reproductive age, their children and their families.
- **Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program (CPSP):** Support continued full implementation of CPSP. CPSP provides low-income Medi-Cal eligible women with comprehensive nutritional, psychosocial and health

education assessments, interventions and support throughout the prenatal and post-partum period, in addition to high quality prenatal care. CPSP is a vital component of the effort to ensure that low-income women get the support and care they need during their pregnancies.

- **Comprehensive Sexuality Education in Schools:** Support policies and legislation that will promote comprehensive sex education and HIV/AIDS prevention instruction in schools that is age appropriate and emphasizes abstinence, in compliance with the California Comprehensive Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Education Act and the No Child Left Behind Act. Ensure that California continues to emphasize abstinence within the context of HIV/AIDS prevention education (EC 51934 (3) of the Comprehensive Sexual Health Act) but reinforce that abstinence-only education is not permitted in California public schools. Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), unplanned pregnancies, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) all pose public health risks and youth have the right to know the different methods of transmission and protection and how they can protect themselves. Partnerships between public health departments and schools have been successful in educating and empowering youth on these subjects and should continue to be emphasized.

### **Emergency Medical Services**

In 1980, the Legislature enacted the EMS Act, which empower counties to establish local EMS agencies (LEMSAs) to develop and implement EMS systems. (Health & Safety Code, § 1797.200.) The formation of LEMSAs was and continues to be needed to oversee the varying special interests of both public and private providers, hospitals, and tertiary resources to ensure a coordinated systems approach to the delivery of emergency medical services for the people of California in their most vulnerable moments. As specified in the EMS Act LEMSAs are empowered to create an EMS system to provide for a “specially organized arrangement” involving “personnel, facilities, and equipment for the effective and coordinated delivery” of EMS in “emergency conditions.” (Id., § 1797.78.)

- **Ensure the continuation of County authority for planning, implementing and evaluating local EMS systems.** Under current law, counties have an obligation to ensure public health and medical care for its citizens including ambulance service. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and ambulance services planned for and provided on a countywide basis ensure system integrity and the delivery of optimal patient care. Our goal is to develop and maintain a consistent EMS system that delivers optimal patient care and efficient system design for the county overall and avoid fragmentation.
- **Secure a sustained source of funding to support emergency medical services and trauma care.** Hospitals throughout the State provide a significant volume of emergency care to patients who do not have third-party insurance coverage, and, the financial impact is often greater on designated trauma centers located in urban areas. Over 50% of hospital emergency rooms operate at a net operating loss due to the significant volume of uncompensated care. During the past several years, there have been multiple legislative efforts to restructure existing indigent care funding programs (such as Proposition 99 and the Emergency Medical Services Maddy funds) to redirect existing funds to reimburse private community physicians for providing uncompensated emergency care, thereby reducing available funding to public hospitals. Legislative efforts, including an initiative to provide new dedicated funding for uncompensated care in emergency rooms should be supported.

### **Systems of Care for People with Disabilities**

People with disabilities (PWD) rely on systems of care that have been chronically underfunded and severely compromised by cuts due to our recent State fiscal crisis. The economic recession and recurring budget cuts have resulted in a loss of over \$10 billion in California services to people with disabilities. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates there are nearly 250,000 people, five years and older, with disabilities living within Alameda County, representing 18.7% of the total population. If people with disabilities were a formally recognized minority group, at nearly 19%, they would be the largest minority group in the U.S. The U.S. Census Bureau also reports that 28% of people with disabilities, more than 1 in 4, live in poverty. Restoration of funding is essential to begin to restore

stability to our compromised systems of care and to ensure a life beyond poverty for people with disabilities.

- **Universal Developmental Screening.** Support standardized practice of universal developmental screening with linkages to appropriate services. Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD's) are a group of developmental disabilities that can cause significant social, communication and behavioral challenges; the CDC estimates 1 in 88 babies are born with ASD and 1 in 6 children, 3 – 17 years of age, have ASD. Developmental screening tools greatly improve the rate of identification and appropriate interventions help children reach their optimal health, development and learning potentials.
- **Early Intervention Services.** Restore Early Start services to its pre-October 2009 state to ensure the provision of therapeutic services to infants and children with developmental delays and at risk infants. Without these services, a population of children will be at risk for developing a range of disabilities, including speech and language delay, cognitive delay and behavioral and social emotional involvement. This group makes large developmental gains when given timely, appropriate services; nearly half of the children who receive early intervention services no longer need special education services by the end of the kindergarten year (NEILS). The benefit of early intervention services includes better health and academic outcomes, providing significant savings of future County costs.
- **California Children's Services (CCS).** Support legislation that will maintain CCS as a system of care separate from Medi-Cal managed care for children with chronic and disabling medical conditions. The CCS program sets standards and certifies physicians, clinical Special Care Centers, neonatal and pediatric intensive care units, and hospitals that provide specialized medical services, including school-based physical therapy and occupational therapy, to our medically fragile children and youth. Managed care plans lack the experience and infrastructure to establish and maintain a system of care for children that includes medical case management and specialized care in order to provide the best possible clinical outcomes.
- **Regional Centers.** Restore the \$1 billion in cuts the Regional Center system has endured since 2008 to address the factors impacting future services which include aging caregivers, increased longevity of people with developmental disabilities and poverty; poverty of Regional Center consumers and the poverty of their direct support staff who receive wages below the poverty level (Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Services in the US: 2013). California rates 48th in the nation on Home and Community Based Services spending per individual with developmental disabilities served in the community (Case For Inclusion, United Cerebral Palsy). The compound impact of these cuts have resulted in reduced eligibility for services for infants and toddlers, loss or suspension of services, increased family costs and increases in caseloads and administrative workloads that has seriously eroded the safety net provided by the developmental services system.
- **In Home Support Services.** Support the restoration of reduced hours and service cuts which have resulted in massive unmet recipient need. In Alameda County over 18,000 people receive the in-home care that enables them to live safely in the community and avoid serious medical complications, including nursing home placement. Effective July 1, 2013, all IHSS recipients had their hours cut by 8%, further reducing their quality of life and their ability to live independently.
- **SSI/SSP.** Support legislation that will increase SSI/SSP payments for individuals with disabilities. In July 2011 the maximum monthly SSI/SSP grant for individuals dropped to the federal minimum of \$830 a month, or \$9,960 a year, which is \$930 below the federal poverty line. In Alameda County, over 53,000 people rely on SSI/SSP to meet their basic needs as their sole source of income.
- **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).** Support policies and legislation to create an infrastructure of programs and services to assist individuals with ASD and their families, and to help local governments and school districts meet concomitant fiscal challenges. ASD, generally recognized as a Public Health crisis, is the fastest growing serious developmental disability with a national economic impact of \$137 billion annually. In California, 24,000 new cases of ASD are reported annually; this reflects a 400% increase in special education classrooms and a 634% increase in Regional Center caseloads. It is estimated that Regional Centers only serve

20% of individuals with ASD, leaving the majority of adults with ASD with little support.

- **Employment.** Support legislation and policies that fully fund supported employment services and alternate hiring processes that result in competitive, integrated job placements for individuals with disabilities and closes the significant gap in employment rates between people with and without disabilities. Labor force statistics for October 2012 estimate that 28.4% of working age adults with adults with disabilities are employed compared with 71% of those without disabilities. For people with developmental disabilities, the disparity in employment participation widens further; only 14.7 % of individuals supported by developmental disability agencies participated in integrated employment (Human Services Research Institute, 2012). The impact of the 2007-2009 recession on workers with disabilities included job losses that far exceeded those of workers without disabilities; workers with disabilities are the first to be laid off, the last to be hired when conditions improve, and many workers with disabilities left the workforce permanently during the recession (Monthly Labor Review, October 2010).

### **Alameda County Social Services Agency - Medi-Cal and Health Care Reform**

#### **Health Care Reform**

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA) allowed states the option to expand Medicaid (Medi-Cal in California). Beginning in January 2014, Medi-Cal will be expanded to include income-eligible childless, non-disabled, adults. The ACA expands coverage and improves affordability in California by allowing the State to increase what services are covered, providing funding for California to expand eligibility for the Medi-Cal program, and establishing a health insurance marketplace that gives California residents greater ability to choose the health care plan that best suits their needs and preferences. To be successful, policies need to support coordination, collaboration, education, and effective administration. The ACA is also a historic opportunity to enroll California residents in the range of benefits for which they are eligible. Policies should make it as simple as possible for individuals and families to enroll and maintain coverage. Specifically:

- **Streamline and integrate public benefits enrollment.** Alameda County supports efforts to make it easier for individuals and clients to apply, maintain, and recertify for benefits, including Medi-Cal, CalWORKs, and CalFresh. Specifically, we support policies that promote and utilize technology to streamline benefits enrollment, such as auto-enrolling clients and data-sharing agreements.
- **Maintain continuity of benefits.** Alameda County supports policies that help individuals and families maintain coverage and benefits. Specifically, we support automatic renewals for families living on a fixed income or households who are highly unlikely to experience changes in income that could terminate eligibility. This process would promote continuous eligibility and expedite renewals. Whenever possible, benefits (CalFresh, Medi-Cal, CalWORKs, etc.) renewal dates should be aligned to make it easier for clients.
- **Support increased outreach and application assistance opportunities.** Alameda County supports efforts to connect the re-entry, homeless, and limited English proficiency populations with community-based organizations that provide direct services and assist with Medi-Cal and health coverage enrollment and retention.
- **Support technological advancements that promote access to services and administrative efficiency.**

#### **Medi-Cal**

Medi-Cal is California's health insurance program for eligible low-income individuals and families. Alameda County supports the following policy recommendations:

- **Eliminate the asset test for ALL Medi-Cal categories.** With the Medi-Cal expansion, the newly eligible population will no longer be subject to an asset test. However, other populations receiving Medi-Cal will still have an asset test (\$2000 for an individual and \$3000 for a couple). Asset limits are not good public policy and Alameda County supports the elimination of these tests for all categories of Medi-Cal, especially the aged and disabled.

- **Fully restore Denti-Cal.** Good dental hygiene is crucial to overall health and can have impacts on job prospects and self-esteem. Alameda County supports the partial restoration of adult dental Medi-Cal benefits (Denti-Cal) that will start in May 2014 but would like to see a full restoration of the cuts from 2009. Untreated oral infections complicate medical conditions and are often a source of increased medical costs.
- **Ensure health care access by increasing the number of medical providers.** Alameda County encourages the state to consider using health care paraprofessionals to provide non-emergent and maintenance services to help defray the cost of higher-skilled physicians and increase access to care for the newly covered. Since reimbursement rates are lower, using paraprofessionals is less expensive for routine services that they can legally provide. Paraprofessionals can also educate clients about how to get the most out of their appointment times with their provider.

## Environmental Health

To ensure environmental quality and food safety in the community, Alameda County supports policies and legislation that would prioritize the following:

- **Product Stewardship/Extended Producer Responsibility:** Product Stewardship/Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a strategy that shifts the responsibility for end of life/residual management to the producer who finances it by internalizing the cost in the price of the product. This includes existing and emerging waste streams such as Pharmaceuticals, Sharps, Household Batteries and Fluorescent lamps. Product Stewardship/EPR Effective products stewardship legislation should apply to all manufacturers across a particular product spectrum, have minimum collection rates, and no local preemption clause. SB727 is the current vehicle for Pharmaceuticals, AB403 for Sharps, and AB488 is the Household Battery EPR bill.
- **Nitrate Impact to Groundwater:** Alameda County supports legislation that amends AB885's interpretation of nitrate impact to groundwater, and the safety of drinking water particularly from nitrate impact. AB885 passed ten years ago and was a seminal bill that affects the use of septic systems statewide. Of particular interest in this program area is the Governor's priority given to nitrate impacted groundwater. Nitrate impact, cumulative impact, and AB885 requirements will affect future development. AB69 Establishes a nitrate risk fund to assist in mitigating nitrate risk to drinking water systems in at risk areas.
- **Medical Waste Management:** Alameda County supports updates to the Medical Waste Management Act (MWMA) to expand the scope of a health care professional to include any person who generates medical waste in a health care setting or in the course of providing health care services. The County also supports preservation of the small quantity medical waste generator status in the MWMA, removal of home generated sharps, pharmaceuticals, and medical waste from regulation by the MWMA and transfer of that regulatory responsibility to CalRecycle.
- **Emerging Environmental Health Issues:** A number of emerging Environmental Health issues will require monitoring of Community Health and expansion of the Department's ability to oversee issues such as; Fracking, Green Chemistry, ensuring the safety of Organized Camps, Bedbug infestations, and Climate Change and the environmental health concerns from vector geographic spread to food safety.
- **Invasive Species Program Funding.** There are a number of significant invasive species being introduced and detected in California that threaten agriculture and the environment. Continued funding of Pest Exclusion, Pest Detection Trapping and Survey activities, Rapid Response, Pest Management and Eradication (if feasible), and Public Education Outreach Programs are critical to protect Alameda County's and California's resources.

## Public Safety

### District Attorney

In partnership with community and law enforcement agencies, the District Attorney's Office is responsible for the prosecution of crimes in the County of Alameda, California.

The Alameda County District Attorney's Office is dedicated to serving the community through the ethical prosecution of criminal offenses and the vigorous protection of victims' rights.

The District Attorney's Office supports policies and legislation on the following:

- **Human Exploitation and Trafficking (H.E.A.T.)** Funding for the Human Exploitation and Trafficking (H.E.A.T.) Watch to enhance services to victims of human trafficking and commercially sexually exploited minors. To combat human trafficking this program needs funds to educate the community, effective community outreach and train law enforcement. It also needs stronger laws to prosecute human traffickers, and we need to expand services for victims.
- **DNA Backlog.** Funding to eliminate the current backlog of untested rape kits with the partnership with other law enforcement agencies and private entities to provide a streamlined model throughout the state to prevent future backlogs. DNA evidence can be used to eliminate or confirm suspects, develop investigative leads to solve a number of unsolved cases.
- **Victims of Crime.** The enhancement of the rights and protections of all victims of crime, and increased funding to expand services to all victims of crime, especially victims of violent crime including: homicide, child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, and commercially exploited minors. Funding to aggressively collect restitution of behalf of all Victims of Crime.
- **Realignment.** Realigning lower level offenders to community corrections programs strengthened through community based punishment, improved supervision strategies and evidenced based practices, and supervision practices demonstrated by research to reduce recidivism. This includes employing proven alternatives to incarceration for low-risk offenders. Systemic reforms to Alameda County court system to establish a centralized process to help individuals file revocation petitions.
- **Reducing Serious/Violent Crimes.** Initiatives to reduce violent crimes by proposing the formation of the regional multi-agency's task force to combat violence. The task force would provide meaningful alternatives to individuals engaged in criminal behavior who are amenable to various treatment strategies.
- **Enhancing Community Based Support For Formerly Incarcerated.** Support funding for community programs that aide incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals through their rehabilitation efforts and process. Funding can provide programs for individuals as an alternative to incarceration or through the expansion of District Attorney driven Diversion Programs wherein charges are dismissed after successful completion of the Program. Funding can provide programs and support for individuals under supervision of the Probation Department following conviction as well as for individuals after they return from jail or prison. Community programs include access to health care, job training and education to provide tools to support themselves and reduce recidivism.
- **Youth Empowerment and Juvenile Delinquency Prevention.** More programs and funding for youth to provide work experience so that youth can gain real-word skills and experience to help them become self-sufficient in a positive way and prevent them from entering the juvenile and/or criminal justice systems. Stronger intervention and prevention programs for commercially exploited minors as well as funding for

resources for minors and transitioning youth who have been victims of human trafficking and / or sexual exploitation.

- **Youth Violence Prevention and Education Programs.** Funding for violence prevention and education programs, for programs that engage youth and/or counseling programs for youth who are at risk for or who have been involved in crime to provide information about the juvenile justice system, teach about healthy relationships and decision making, assistance in achieving their dreams. Also more partnerships with additional groups to provide counseling, mentorship, case management, life skills, employment and training.

### **Public Defender's Office**

The Public Defender's Office provides a wide variety of representation to indigent clients, including criminal defense for felony and misdemeanor charges, defense against delinquency petitions for minors, defense against a wide variety of civil commitment petitions for clients with mental illnesses, and rehabilitations services including early termination of probation, reduction and dismissal of charges, and sealing of records.

In the course of vigorous representation of these clients, the Public Defender's Office utilizes an in-house Investigative Unit, Law and Motions Unit, Immigration Consultant, and Training Unit. Further, the Office often engages the services of outside experts on a variety of subjects for consultations, evidence testing, trial preparation, and testimony.

The Public Defender's Office supports:

- Protecting and expanding the rights to liberty, privacy, and due process.
- Protecting all members of the community from unreasonable search, seizure, arrest, detention, and surveillance.
- Preserving and expanding the right to a fair trial.
- Strengthening Evidence Code requirements concerning the competency and trustworthiness of evidence to be introduced at trial.
- Diversion programs and other programs designed to prevent people from coming into the criminal justice system.
- The decriminalization of non-violent drug possession offenses and a shift of resources from incarceration and criminalization to treatment and harm-reduction practices.
- Sentencing reform aimed at reducing jail and prison populations, eliminating disproportional sentences, and promoting more just outcomes for those convicted of crimes.
- Removing barriers to successful reintegration of people into communities after incarceration, such as unnecessary barriers to education, employment, housing, and health and social services.
- Increasing funding for criminal defense investigation, the retention of experts, and the litigation of complex and/or particularly sensitive cases.
- Programs designed for rehabilitation, the restoration of rights, and the expungement of criminal records.
- Increasing the availability of rehabilitation services both for in-custody defendants and those who have been released from custody.
- Initiatives to promote effective, ethical, and accountable police and law enforcement agencies.
- Increasing the funding to treatment programs for drug and alcohol abuse.
- Increasing the funding for mental health treatment programs.
- Reducing the number of people under supervision by the courts, state, and/or county via agencies including parole and probation.
- Providing effective health care services to all those incarcerated at either the state or county level.

- Providing social services to impoverished communities, particularly those aimed at preventing criminal behavior, including recidivism.
- Policies promoting the health and welfare of indigent clients.
- The principles of Restorative Justice and supports policies designed to implement those principles.
- Initiatives promoting racial justice at all levels of the criminal justice system.

### **Health Care Services Agency**

Alameda County supports legislation that addresses root causes of all forms of violence and improves public safety. Alameda County opposes legislation that focuses solely on suppression strategies that do not ameliorate root causes and risk factors unless they are balanced by primary prevention support. Furthermore, Alameda County prioritizes legislative and funding efforts that benefit communities disproportionately by violence, including low-income communities, communities of color and people with disabilities. Alameda County defines violence as intimate partner violence, family violence, gun violence, gang violence, suicide and homicide, commercial sexual exploitation of minors, youth violence, hate violence, sexual assault, child and elder abuse. Alameda County defines public safety as efforts that promote crime prevention and reduction, positive community-law enforcement relationship and collaboration, non-violent conflict resolution, restorative justice, successful reintegration of people with criminal convictions into communities, and protection of all community members' civil rights.

Violence is an issue that impacts all sectors of our community, but it disproportionately impacts low-income communities, communities of color and people with disabilities, and as a result resources and legislation for preventing violence and protecting public safety should prioritize these communities. Homicide is the fourth leading cause of death – five percent of residents die from homicide – in Alameda County's poorest neighborhoods (30% or more of residents living in poverty), areas where the majority of residents are people of color. Homicide was responsible for 59% of deaths among people ages 5-24 and 25% of people 25-44 in very high poverty neighborhoods (2008-2012). Based on interviews for the National Crime Victimization Survey, significant disparities exist in rates of victimization of persons with disabilities compared to persons without disabilities. The age-adjusted rate of nonfatal violent crimes against persons with disabilities was 1.5 times higher than the rate for those without disabilities. Persons age 12 to 19 and those age 35 to 49 with a disability experienced violence at nearly twice the rate as persons of the same age groups without a disability.

Alameda County supports legislative and budgetary actions that shift resources from incarceration to prevention. In 2005, Alameda County adopted a Violence Prevention Blueprint, which identifies and elevates prevention strategies that address root causes and risk factors for violence as critical for improving public safety in Alameda County. In 2009 the Violence Prevention Initiative (VPI) was established to implement the strategies in the Blueprint strategies. The VPI focuses on building assets/resiliency among youth, families and those reentering the community from incarceration, as well as ensuring capacity building with community partners. While prevention strategies are expensive in the short-term, we expect long-term savings. A preliminary estimate by the County Administrator's Office, provided to the Violence Prevention Initiative in 2009, found that approximately 25% of the county's budget is dedicated to addressing violent crime (\$546.7 million per 2009 VPI report). This estimate takes only public safety programs into consideration and does not include the human services costs, such as removing a child from the home after an incident of domestic violence. Investing State and federal resources in preventing and breaking the cycle of violence will ultimately save Alameda County money.

- **Decrease risk factors and increase resiliency factors for youth and families:** Alameda County seeks legislation and funding that supports the resiliency building strategies outlined in the Blueprint, including expanding child and youth development programs that emphasize strong attachments and relationships and violence prevention skills, as well as provide an alternative to gang involvement. Legislation and programs focused on gang reduction should address the root causes and should not rely solely on suppression.

Additionally, Alameda County supports actions that promote family well-being, including efforts that help families meet basic needs, as well as develop effective parenting and conflict resolution techniques that help prevent child abuse and domestic violence.

- **Foster thriving neighborhoods:** Alameda County seeks legislation and funding that supports improving neighborhood conditions, including policies that decrease density of alcohol outlets and advertising and improve the physical appearance and economic vibrancy. Such policies could include efforts to ensure government subsidized capital investments and infrastructure projects benefit high-crime neighborhoods, and reforming State subsidized economic development programs, such as was recently done with Enterprise Zones, to ensure that they actually benefit poor neighborhoods. Additionally, Alameda County should pursue legislation that ensures public safety money can be used flexibly and can support building community cohesiveness for collective problem solving.
- **Improve community-law enforcement relationships:** Alameda County seeks legislation and funding for strategies that strengthen community-law enforcement relationships, such as community policing, and mandatory trainings that increase police awareness of unconscious bias and how to account for it in the line of duty, and teaches appropriate police response to persons with mental illness or developmental disability, helping to avoid additional violence and/or inappropriate admission into the criminal justice system, such as the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST).
- **Eliminate the disproportionate representation of people of color and people with disabilities in the criminal justice system and as victims of violence:** Alameda County supports administrative, legislative and budgetary actions with the explicit goal of eliminating the over-representation of people of color in the criminal justice system. Efforts include reviewing systems for their contributions toward issues of ‘disproportionate minority contact,’ identifying and addressing issues related to sentencing bias, and acknowledging and mitigating unconscious bias within the criminal justice system overall.
- **Support alternatives to incarceration, sentencing reform, decriminalization of substance use disorders and other criminal justice reforms as a way to reduce recidivism and shrink prison population:** Alameda County supports evidence-based, community-based programs that address the root causes of incarceration and re-incarceration and does not support increasing prison or jail capacity for both youth and adults. For instance, Alameda County supports alternative sentencing laws for non-violent and non-sex-related crimes, such as treatment and therapy in case of addiction and beyond, while protecting public safety. Alameda County supports drug sentencing reform, as supported by Attorney General Eric Holder, and encourages the State Attorney General to reform State laws that are unnecessarily contributing to the growth of the jail and prison populations and contributing to the disproportionate incarceration of people of color. Alameda County supports statewide actions that increase the use of pro-active dispute resolution structures and support at the neighborhood and school level, including restorative justice programs.
- **Remove barriers to successful reintegration of people into communities after incarceration, such as barriers to education, employment, housing, and health and social services:** Alameda County encourages the State Attorney General and the State legislature to direct appropriate agencies and licensing bodies to review existing policies’ impact on previously incarcerated people and to reform policies that prevent successful re-entry and do not serve to protect public safety, with a focus on agencies and programs related to education, employment, housing, and public assistance. Furthermore, Alameda County supports legislation that provides incentives for hiring formerly incarcerated persons.
- **Expand health and social services for the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated population:** Alameda County supports legislation that funds expanded rehabilitation programs and mandates and funds comprehensive re-entry planning in jails so as to support successful re-entry. Alameda County also supports the expansion of funding for physical and mental health services, substance use treatment, housing, education, job training and employment services, including coordination of care both during incarceration and after release. Alameda County supports legislation that ensures that prison conditions do not contribute to

worsening mental health, including the elimination of solitary confinement as a punishment for both youth and adults and making maintaining family connections during incarceration a priority.

- **Reduce the availability and usage of firearms:** Between 2006 and 2008, 83.5% of homicide victims in Alameda County were killed by firearms. Alameda County supports continued statewide efforts to strengthen gun laws and expand gun buy-back programs, as well as encourages California to play a very active role in federal gun reforms, as California residents are at risk as long as high-power weapons with large magazines are sold in other states.
- **Support increased funding for preventing and responding to domestic violence:** Funding to stop domestic violence is decreasing and existing fund streams often come under attack, as seen with opposition to the Violence Against Women Act reauthorization. Alameda County supports efforts to secure and expand domestic violence prevention.

#### **Alameda County Interagency Children's Policy Council**

The Alameda County Interagency Children's Policy Council (ICPC) is comprised of County agencies and department directors and leaders. The ICPC mission is to engage in cross system collaboration by improving interagency communication, developing child friendly policies and practices and initiating systems changes that result in safe, healthy and thriving children and families throughout Alameda County. ICPC provides advocacy leadership around the development of legislative policies that improve and enhance service delivery and outcomes for children and youth. ICPC's goal is to work together to advocate on behalf of legislation that improves the lives of children in Alameda County.

- Maintenance of all Juvenile Justice funding streams, which have greatly contributed to the reduction of juvenile delinquency, incarceration and recidivism.
- Increased system reform and coordination with regard to "cross-over" youth and families involved or at the risk of being involved in both the juvenile justice and foster care systems.
- Advocate for community-based alternatives to detention and incarceration and services for youth involved in the criminal justice system to reduce recidivism.

## **Planning Land Use and Housing and Community Development**

#### **Public Health and the Built Environment**

To prevent unhealthy built environment impacts, Alameda County supports policies and legislation that would prioritize the following:

- **Affordable Housing:** Alameda County supports policies which increase the supply of affordable housing, including policies such as mixed income housing and increased funding for affordable housing development and rental assistance. Housing is considered affordable when monthly housing costs, including utilities, are no more than 30% of total household income. A lack of affordable housing has negative consequences, including poorer health, and results in less disposable income available for things like food, childcare, and medication. Homelessness is inhumane and also increases costs to emergency and safety net systems.
- **Health in General Plans and Land Use Plans.** Alameda County supports requiring a health element, health language or health standards in all General Plans, as well as in guidelines from the State Office of Planning and Research. Alameda County also supports collaborative planning processes that give communities more power to influence land use plans and policies.
- **Safe and Healthy Housing.** Housing quality also has a significant impact on people's health and well-being. Issues such as water leaks, poor ventilation, dirty carpets, pest infestations, and location near toxic sources can result in numerous health problems such as developmental delays in children, skin disease, headaches, asthma

and other respiratory conditions. Alameda County supports “green”, healthy, quality and safe housing, particularly for low-income people of color. Additionally, we support new housing located at a safe distance from polluting sources, such as freeways, ports and businesses with toxic emissions, particularly for low-income communities of color and vulnerable populations, and when not possible, ensuring appropriate indoor and outdoor mitigations are put in place.

- **Limit Access to Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Unhealthy Goods.** Certain neighborhoods and communities in Alameda County are overburdened with a concentration of alcohol and tobacco outlets that are often in low-income communities of color. Alameda County supports policies that fully fund and empower state agencies to enforce laws and regulations against alcohol and tobacco license holders in order to eliminate illegal activities in these communities and reduce the overconcentration of these outlets.
- **Promote Healthy Communities.** Environmental conditions can have a huge impact on the health of an entire community. Alameda County supports policies that prevent, reduce, and mitigate toxic emissions and chemical exposures, as well as other environmental contaminants that harm the public’s and workers’ health, particularly in low-income communities of color. In addition, the County supports policies that help access opportunities for developing sustainable built environments that reduce urban heat island effects, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and other climate impacts on health and prepare communities to adapt to climate change, specifically in low income communities of color.
- **Access to Open Space.** Alameda County supports an increase in funding for and access to parks, trails, green and open space and recreation centers. A person’s neighborhood shapes their opportunities to play, exercise, enjoy nature, and be healthy. Policies should ensure that these opportunities are made available in all communities.
- **Accessible Communities.** Communities that are designed to be accessible to seniors, children, and people who are disabled will be accessible for everyone. This includes street and sidewalk design, as well as wheelchair ramps, lighting, and other safety issues. Alameda County supports policies that promote the use of universal design to ensure accessibility for everyone.
- **Prioritize Reinvestment in Low-income Communities.** With the elimination of redevelopment there are no longer dedicated sources of funding to invest in low-income and blighted communities. Alameda County supports the creation of funding tools, such as tax increment financing and developer incentives, that local jurisdictions can use to increase affordable housing in their communities.
- **Ensure affordable rental housing opportunities are available to all.** There continues to be a critical shortage of affordable rental housing in the Bay Area and the dissolution of Redevelopment funding is further diminishing affordable housing production and supply. The State should take action to ensure that a percentage of the redevelopment dissolution funds (“boomerang funds”) continue to be set aside for affordable housing production.

#### **Affordable Housing, Homelessness, Community Development**

The Community Development Agency is concerned about the long-term resources that Redevelopment Agencies provided to the development and maintenance of affordable housing and addressing community needs. Replacement sources of funding are of utmost concern to maintain the housing opportunities and infrastructure needed in the Unincorporated County, the County as a whole, and statewide.

- **Increase funding for affordable housing for extremely low and low income households.** Affordable housing improves positive community impacts such as housing stability, employment, mental and physical health, school attendance and reduces active substance use, criminal justice recidivism, and other negative community impacts.
- **Support Increased and Coordinated Funding to Prevent and End Homelessness:** Increase coordination between funding for services and housing to create and sustain supportive housing for highest need and disabled homeless individuals and families. Affordable and supportive housing costs are critical to preventing and

ending homelessness and cost the same or less than shelter, incarceration, hospitalization and other crisis response interventions.

- Support funding and policies to protect homeowners from foreclosure and protect the rights of tenants living in foreclosed properties.
- **Support for Regional Planning Efforts.** Over the past several years local jurisdictions throughout the State have been developing a regional sustainable community strategy (SCS) through their local council of governments. In Alameda County the council is the Association of Bay Area Governments, and the SCS was adopted in the summer of 2013. Alameda County supports additional resources to promote the green house gas reduction goals of the SCS, including policies and programs that promote transit, infill development and housing near transit.
- **Incentives for smart growth development.** As a corollary to the regional planning efforts, the loss of Redevelopment funding has made it more difficult to attract development to Priority Development Areas (PDAs) – the community building blocks that make up the SCS. Resources to create a PDA “bank” are required at the regional level to attract development, especially to areas that suffer from economic neglect.

## Sustainability

### Sustainability Legislative Priorities

Support policies and incentives that promote efficiencies in the built environment, including green building design, energy conservation, greenhouse gas reduction, home and commercial energy efficiency retrofits and renewable power generation.

- Enable innovative economic development approaches that result in the expansion of green jobs, provide livable wages, and reduce climate change impacts on low income communities.
- Support funding, encourage legislation, California Public Utilities Commission and CEC initiatives that improve the efficiency of energy and water use at public facilities by providing stable funding sources, reduced transaction costs, and expanded use of flexible, efficient, public contracting methodologies.
- Support funding and encourage legislation that increases the generation of renewable energy at public facilities and other government owned infrastructure, through regional collaborative contracting mechanisms.
- Support efforts to enable use of Proposition 39 revenues for local government energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.
- Support increased funding and legislative authority for local government participation and leadership of Community Choice Aggregation and Regional Energy Networks, such as BayREN.
- Create sustainable communities that support transit oriented development, reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions, reduce urban heat island effects, and other climate impacts on health and the environment.
- Support funding for programs that address the disproportionate environmental and health impact of vehicular traffic through and within low income communities.
- Ensure that state and regional transportation funding is allocated to initiatives that reduce vehicle trips, and increase the availability, accessibility and affordability of public transit options, walking and biking.
- Develop programs and support policies that increase pedestrian and cycling mobility, reduce vehicle trips and result in traffic calming.
- Support the development and expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and other efforts to reduce GHG generated through vehicle trips.

## Transportation

### **Transportation Infrastructure Funding**

With increasing fuel efficiency and the introduction of alternative vehicles, revenues from the excise tax on gas, Alameda County's primary funding source for transportation infrastructure maintenance and project delivery, are declining. The current economic environment is also contributing to declines in various revenue sources, making it difficult to fund critical infrastructure projects. At the same time transportation funding is declining, the demand for infrastructure construction, maintenance, and operations continues to increase. Alameda County continues to support the protection of identified funding sources while seeking increased infrastructure funding for operating, maintaining, rehabilitating, and improving transportation infrastructure including local streets and roads, bridges, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Alameda County recommends the following:

- Support legislation that provides increased funding for operating, maintaining, rehabilitating, and improving transportation infrastructure including local streets and roads, bridges, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities;
- Support legislation that increases the gas tax and/or requires the gas tax to be adjusted regularly to support its "buying power";
- Support legislative efforts to preserve and protect State funding for local improvements including the Highway User Tax Account (HUTA), State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), and the Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds;
- Support legislation that amends Government Code Section 1130 to include both state and local portions of the HUTA to ensure the Controller transfers gas taxes to transportation in any year budget adoption is delayed;
- Opposes any effort by the State to borrow, defer, or redirect of existing revenues and/or the creation of additional unfunded mandates;
- Oppose any regulations or efforts that exceed their statutory authority regarding implementation of Transportation Development Act (TDA) law which may infringe upon statutory authority of local agencies;
- Support legislation that rewards Self-Help Counties and States who provide significant transportation funding into transportation systems; and,
- Support bond initiatives designed to provide necessary funding for backlogged infrastructure capital improvement projects.

### **Sustainable Transportation**

Throughout California, transportation agencies are taking innovative actions to address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions related to transportation. Research is being conducted to help find ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while preparing for extreme weather events from climate change. Some of the research goals include improving the durability of construction materials and improving mobility with new traffic control devices, and supporting the transition towards zero-emission vehicles. Additional efforts are being made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing traffic congestion, expanding active transportation (multi-modal trails, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure), embracing new technology in construction materials, and efficient roadway lighting. Alameda County recommends the following:

- Support climate change legislation that provides funding for innovative infrastructure, operations and programs to relieve congestion, improve air quality, reduce emissions, and support economic development;
- Support new technologies and innovation that helps fight climate change and provide resilient, sustainable transportation systems;

- Support research in the development of technologies, materials, and practices that mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental impacts; and
- Support the collaboration with other local and regional partners to deliver sustainable transportation infrastructure resilient in the face of climate change.

### **Streamline Transportation Regulatory and Project Delivery Process**

Alameda County takes its responsibility to protect our environment seriously. Likewise, the County recognizes its need to balance environmental protection and the need to maintain the transportation infrastructure through design, construction, and delivery of new transportation projects. Unfortunately, regulatory inefficiencies continue to hamper the effective and timely delivery of transportation projects. To this end, Alameda County continues to seek legislative remedies in streamlining regulatory burdens while advocating for any and all funding opportunities at all levels of government. Alameda County recommends the following:

- Support legislation that streamlines the project delivery processes for the delivery, enhancement, or augmentation of transportation infrastructure projects and programs, including requiring specific time frames for state and federal reviews and approvals, to expedite project delivery while ensuring appropriate environmental protection and mitigation;
- Support legislation that categorically exempts road safety projects from CEQA and state and federal permitting requirements (i.e., 404 permits, 1601 permits);
- Support mandating State and federal permitting agencies to meet the prescribed schedule and deadlines specified in the environmental review process, reduce overhead, and eliminate waste and redundant documentation; and,
- Support legislation that exempts the maintenance of existing transportation facilities and infrastructure from permit requirements under the Endangered Species Act.

### **Active Transportation Funding for High Priority Sidewalks**

Existing pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure, such as side-walks, bike lanes and trails, can all be used for active transportation, recreation, and fitness. A well-designed and well-maintained active transportation infrastructure benefits its users as well as the rest of the community. Some of these benefits are economic, such as increased revenues and jobs for local businesses, and some are non-economic benefits such as reduced congestion, better air quality, safer travel routes, and improved health outcomes. The unincorporated areas of Alameda County have over \$400 million in needed sidewalk improvements to address pedestrian safety and accessibility, especially near schools. Funding for the design and construction of the much-needed active transportation sidewalks in unincorporated Alameda County is critical. Alameda County recommends the following:

- Support legislation that enhances safe, efficient, clear bicycle/pedestrian connections and infrastructure;
- Support increased funding for sidewalk infrastructure, bicycle facilities, and other infrastructure improvements which enable pedestrian, bicyclists, and underserved communities to commute safely and effectively; and,
- Support legislation that provides increased funding for bicycle and pedestrian facilities, ensuring that revenues utilized do not compete with current transportation sources.

### **Freight Movement**

Alameda County is home to the Port of Oakland, the nation's 5th busiest container port, serving one of three Pacific Coast gateways with maritime, rail, and aviation freight activities. Its airport, Oakland International, serves as one of three in the region. The Port of Oakland is a key economic asset for Alameda County, the greater San Francisco

Bay Region and neighboring regions. It supports more than 73,000 jobs in the region and its activities are connected to 827,000 jobs across the U.S. An intermodal operation, port activities impact local roadways, regional and inter-regional highway, rail corridors and waterways. Planning and implementation is underway for improvements to the transportation network system and for future expansion of the Port to support its activities. Alameda County supports this activity with funding of transportation infrastructure improvements in its half-cent sales tax authority administered by the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC). Alameda County recommends the following:

- Support efforts at the county (ACTC), regional (Metropolitan Transportation Commission), state (Caltrans), and federal (U.S. Department of Transportation) to study, plan, fund and implement improvements for a multi-modal freight network system.
- Support efforts to establish a multi-modal national freight network system and a program to fund improvements, maintenance and operation of the system.

### **Public Transit**

With the passage of AB 32 and SB 375 that require the reduction of greenhouse gases (GHG) and the integration of transportation, land use and housing planning, California is on the forefront of built environment policies. The implementation of these two bills at the regional and local level can have an impact on planning decisions in local communities to reduce GHG and improve health.

Transportation decisions regarding funding allocation priorities for capital transportation projects (highway expansions) versus “alternate” transit projects (buses, bike routes, and walking paths) will determine the long term effectiveness in reducing GHG, which ultimately improve overall health. As climate change becomes more prevalent, these decisions become more crucial, as they will have consequences for the economy as well as the public’s health.

In addition to reducing the number of vehicle miles driven, public transit also encourages more active transportation like walking and biking as people get to and from their bus or train, which helps to make an impact on the obesity epidemic. When jobs and services are placed away from homes without viable and affordable public transit options, the opportunity for social interaction and access to jobs decreases, and the reliance on air polluting cars increases. Access to affordable and reliable public transit is particularly vital to health for low-income communities, youth, seniors, and people with disabilities that rely on it to get to jobs, school, and medical appointments and to visit family members and other support systems.

Alameda County supports the following policies to increase access to public transit:

- **Increased Funding for Public Transit.** Alameda County supports increasing funding to reduce car trips and increase the availability, accessibility, reliability, and affordability of public transit options, particularly local buses, as well as walking and biking.
- **Target Low-Income Communities.** Low-income people, people of color, and people with disabilities are much more likely to not own a car and be completely public transit dependent. When bus services are cut back to reduce routes, frequency of buses, and the cost of fares, this can significantly impact the ability of transit-dependent people to maintain employment and seek the services they need. It may even completely isolate them. Alameda County supports directing public transit funds to these underserved communities in order to maintain services and operations.
- **Prioritize Transit-Oriented Development over Urban Sprawl.** In order to make public transit economically viable, the growth of housing, jobs, and services need to be concentrated in public transit hubs. This makes it easier and more natural to choose public transit over driving and provides a reliable customer base for public

transit systems. Funding should prioritize increasing housing density in urban areas, rather than suburban and rural areas, increasing housing and transit affordability for low-income communities, and support locating housing and jobs near rail and bus lines.

## Education

To level the playing field and ensure a bright future for all of our children, Alameda County supports state and federal-level policies that achieve the following across the life course:

- **Increase funding for early childhood, primary and secondary education, and prioritize resources for low-income students of color:** After \$1 billion and 30% cut from child care subsidies in recent years, California should reinvest in subsidized programs and equalize the reimbursement rates for state contracted programs and those funded with vouchers. Elementary school investment should include increased funding for arts, music, physical education, college mentoring, parent engagement, academic tutoring and after-school enrichment programs. Secondary school investments should focus on creating and expanding programs and partnerships with higher education, and the public and private employment sectors to increase internships, college and career preparedness, with special emphasis on policies that support adopting and funding Linked Learning. Strengthen the State's afterschool infrastructure and building summer programs to deliver high-quality expanded learning opportunities and to support the preparation of future teachers. Policies that increase education funding could include efforts to address inequitable taxation, such as implementing a Split Roll Property Tax, which would make changes to the property tax system established under California State Proposition 13 and would tax non-residential property differently than residential property thereby requiring businesses to pay a higher share of property taxes.
- **Expand science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education in low-income communities and communities of color:** STEM education is increasingly critical to prepare future job seekers for competition in the job market and communities of color are underrepresented in these fields. Alameda County supports State and federal efforts to increase access to math and science education, starting in primary education environments.
- **Strengthen the community college system:** The demand for higher education in California exceeds the State and community college systems' capacity. Community colleges are particularly critical for low income communities and students of color, as they are a gateway to higher education and economic opportunity. Alameda County supports efforts to strengthen the community college system.
- **Increase availability and affordability of post-secondary education and provide debt management assistance:** Student aid and family incomes have not risen at the same rates as tuition, and as a result the dream of education is becoming more elusive. Policies that remove barriers to educational opportunities should be supported, and include policies that ensure that community colleges and state universities set affordable tuitions and policies that reduce the burden of debt. Additionally, Alameda County supports policies that protect undocumented youth who want to attend higher education from deportation and that secure funding for their education, such as the DREAM Act.
- **Eliminate inequities in access to quality teachers, including early childhood, special education, and Dual Language Learners teachers:** Increase investments in recruitment, retention and teacher support in low-income schools and for special education through competitive salaries, high-quality teacher mentoring, and ongoing professional development. Promote efforts to protect, stabilize, and increase local, State, and federal funding, and attain new resources for Early Care and Education (ECE) and ECE professional development with a possible focus to dedicated paid days of training for staff at Title V contracted centers. Reinstate credentialing requirements for special education teachers, who currently do not need basic teaching credentials to teach in California. Students who are learning English face unique challenges to school success. Alameda County supports policies that mandate and fund best practices for serving this specific population, including credentialing for teaching Dual Language Learners.

- **Eliminate school funding inequities and promote full service community schools:** As Local Control Funding Formula is implemented, ensure that the supplemental funds raised by low-income students, English language learners and foster youth are spent on programs and services that address their needs. Advocacy for funding full service community schools through the adoption of a comprehensive education revenue and reform package that establishes an equitable and adequate finance system, ensures transparency, continues to enable greater local decision-making flexibility, and strengthens human capital and accountability are critical.
- **Provide funding for programs and services that reduce absenteeism and ensure students attend school ready to learn, particularly in schools with low academic performance:** Alameda County supports policies that address the need for support services, such as coordinated medical care, behavioral and mental health support services, early childhood and youth development programs, and parent, family and community engagement programs. Efforts to reduce absenteeism should include funded mandates for schools to use attendance information to create an absenteeism and truancy early warning system that identifies frequently absent children and connects them and their families with comprehensive, wraparound interventions. Alameda County supports efforts that will increase access to violence prevention programs and services, including programs that promote healthy relationships. Finally, Alameda County promotes a focus on boys of color, as they experience the poorest educational outcomes and highest dropout rates, including increased funding for male involvement programs and mentoring.
- **Ensure students with disabilities have equal access to educational opportunities.** California ranks 48th among all states based on students with disabilities' 2011 math and reading assessments. In addition to reinstating teaching credential requirements for special education teachers, Alameda County supports efforts to improve the identification rate of students with disabilities so that they can have equal access to education. According to a 2012 report from the American Institutes for Research, California has one of the lowest identification rates of students with disabilities in the nation.
- **Eliminate the disproportionate impact of suspension and expulsion rates on students of color and with disabilities:** Alameda County supports policies that eliminate practices that contribute to high suspension and expulsion rates among boys and young men of color and students with disabilities, such as the use of punitive, zero tolerance policies. Alameda County supports policies that promote the use of restorative justice and early interventions, and prioritizes the use of in school suspension over out of school suspension. Alameda County supports legislation, such as AB 2242, that amends the Education Code to address the overuse of "willful defiance" as a basis for expelling children from a school district, and SB 1235, which calls for training in school discipline alternatives to expulsion and suspension.
- **Reduce chronic and communicable disease rates among students:** Alameda County supports policies that reduce childhood obesity and other physical activity and diet related diseases, as well as sexually transmitted infections. Specifically, Alameda County supports policies that improve access to nutritious food in and around schools, including fresh, healthy school lunches, prohibit unhealthy food vendors at or near schools, and ensure access to clean drinking water in schools. Additionally, Alameda County supports policies that promote physical activity and prevent unnecessary exposure to environmental toxins. Interventions should include continued funding for programs such as Safe Routes to Schools, policies that ensure students will spend at least 50% of physical education class time engaged in moderate to vigorous physical activity, prohibiting siting schools near point sources of pollution and near freeways, and health promotion practices that reduce asthma triggers, such as the use of non-toxic cleaning supplies and integrated pest-management. Finally, Alameda County supports programs that decrease teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), particularly among youth of color who experience disproportionate rates of STIs.

## Immigration

Alameda County supports state-level policies that achieve the following:

- **Eliminate harmful local impacts of federal immigration policy:** Alameda County supports policies in the spirit of AB 4 (TRUST Act – signed into law on Oct. 5, 2013), which addresses the public safety, civil liberty, and local resource burden issues related to the federal Secure Communities (S-Comm) deportation program and other deportation programs.
- **Increase access to education, particularly higher education:** Alameda County supports legislation that increases primary and secondary school resources for students with Limited English Proficiency. Alameda County also supports policies that increase access to post-secondary education through access to subsidized loans, such a statewide version of the DREAM Act.
- **Protect against racial profiling based on “perceived” immigration status, ethnicity, or religion:** Alameda County supports legislation that identifies and eliminates racial profiling in the public and private sectors, such as AB 524, signed into law on Oct. 5, 2013. Such actions could include ensuring that the new license for immigrants without authorization (created through AB 60, signed Oct. 4, 2013) is honored by local government, including libraries, as well as banks.
- **Protect the health and welfare of children whose parents are being detained or deported by Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Border Patrol:** Alameda County supports efforts, such as those of First Focus, Children NOW and other advocacy organizations, that establish Principles for Children in Immigration Reform. These principles include: prioritizing keeping families together, resources for unaccompanied minor immigrants, appropriate and accountable training policies and protocols for interacting with and screening children that reflects a humanitarian approach.
- **Increase access to health care, including among undocumented immigrants:** Alameda County supports legislation that increases access to quality, affordable health care coverage and services, including among undocumented immigrants not covered by ACA, and that promotes culturally and linguistically appropriate care.
- **Promote public safety by ensuring that reporting crimes, including reporting domestic violence, to local authorities, does not lead to deportation proceedings:** Such actions could include funding for an evaluation of the new license program established through AB 60 to ensure that it is not used by local law enforcement for racial profiling of people with the license.
- **Protect and promote the well-being of immigrant workers, including undocumented workers:** Alameda County supports legislation that protects immigrant workers, especially the vulnerable undocumented population, from wage theft, and extends important labor standards to jobs predominantly occupied by immigrants, such as migrant workers.
- **Ensure nondiscriminatory, equal treatment under the law, and protect the confidentiality and privacy of individuals:** Alameda County supports actions that affirmatively extend access to public services and benefits to all residents, regardless of immigration status, and prohibits social services providers from reporting allegedly unauthorized immigrants to authorities.

## Jobs and Economic Development

### Alameda County Workforce Investment Board (ACWIB)

The Alameda County Workforce Investment Board (ACWIB) is charged with developing a new Workforce Development System, mandated by the Federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA), signed into law in 1998. ACWIB

offers employment and training, education, and economic development services to job seekers and employers in Alameda County. ACWIB supports creating an integrated workforce system that is flexible, seamless, and responsive to the needs of both job seekers and employers. Alameda County supports policies that promote stronger linkage at the local level between workforce development, education, and economic development efforts.

- **Invest in education that prepares individuals for the 21st century workforce.** Alameda County supports the alignment of the education and workforce investment systems to the needs of the 21st century workforce and the promotion and development of a well-educated and highly skilled 21st century economy and workforce. A special effort should be made to support education in the Science, Technology, Education and Math (STEM) areas and pathways to careers in growth sectors.
- **Expand workforce programs for underrepresented workers.** Target efforts on hard-to-serve populations, i.e. CalWORKS clients, formerly incarcerated individuals, youth transitioning out of foster care, limited English speakers, and residents of neighborhoods with concentrated poverty.
- **Support workforce development efforts that address racial, cultural, and economic disparities in employment and achievement.** Alameda County advocates for programs and policies that help prepare and integrate immigrants, aging workers, ex-offenders, the homeless, veterans, and people with disabilities into the workforce.
- **Remove the criminal background check requirement from initial job application requirements.** Economic opportunity is greatly diminished for formerly incarcerated individuals (who are disproportionately people of color) because of employment discrimination against people with criminal records. Recent “Ban the Box” legislation (AB 218) that passed in California requires State and local agencies to determine a job applicant’s minimum qualifications before obtaining and considering information regarding the applicant’s conviction history. Alameda County would like to see this policy expanded to include employers throughout the State.
- **Support local hire policies.** Alameda County supports expanding and promoting local hire policies, including precluding State agencies or departments from authorizing call-center contracts for public assistance or health benefit programs if they hire employees outside California to perform the work.
- **Support the Alameda County Workforce Investment Board Platform.** Alameda County supports and reaffirms the Legislative Platform of the ACWIB.

### **Place-Based Initiatives**

Individual-level factors such as income, education, and health play a role in a person’s economic well-being. For these reasons, many social service programs and public policies focus on individual supports, such as CalWORKs or Food Stamps/CalFresh. However, we also know that people are impacted by the places in which they live and work. Too many children in our communities are growing up in neighborhoods with no grocery stores, closed parks, and struggling schools. If we want to improve educational outcomes at the individual level, we need to have better schools in our neighborhoods. The potential to earn a sustainable income requires access to viable economic opportunities in the communities where people live. Recognizing that people and place are inextricably linked, community development initiatives need to be designed to bridge the two often separate policy worlds. This is the goal of place-based investing. Place-based initiatives take a comprehensive approach to community development and aim to revitalize multiple aspects of an entire neighborhood to create lasting change for its residents.

- **Promote and expand place-based strategies that concentrate resources and investment in communities with the highest levels of need.** Alameda County supports place-based economic investments that increase economic opportunity in low-income communities and communities of color. A place-based approach should include strategies to bring public benefits and services out into the community and to provide wealth building, wage subsidies, and job supports to clients. In addition, it would facilitate the flow of capital into high

need/disinvested communities by having government serve as an intermediary, leveraging government-owned land, employment, and procurement, as well as relationships government may have with financial institutions, businesses, and foundations.

### **Alameda County Public Health Department**

Socioeconomic status (SES, usually measured by income, education, or occupation) is one of the most powerful predictors of health. Research shows that each step up the SES ladder correlates with increasingly favorable health. Those with higher SES tend to live longer and experience fewer health problems across the life course, including adverse birth outcomes, disease risk factors, chronic and infectious diseases, and mental illnesses. Socioeconomic status is a “fundamental cause” of health outcomes because it provides access to a wide range of resources such as “money, knowledge, power, prestige, and beneficial social connections”—all of which can be leveraged to avoid risks and protect health. With each step down the SES ladder, resources and opportunities for health diminish.

Alameda County supports the following policies in order to improve the economic and health outcomes of all its residents:

- **Improve access to quality jobs with benefits and sustainable wages:** Policies that could be enacted to ensure that workers have access to good jobs, fair wages, and benefits include: (1) Enact a Living Wage that goes beyond the recently adopted minimum wage increase, requiring employers to pay sustainable wages and benefits, and indexes the sustainable wage to inflation; (2) Protect worker health and safety by strengthening existing laws and enforcement, as well as mandating Paid Sick Days for all workers, so that all workers, especially those in the fast growing service sector, have the ability to accumulate paid time off to recover, treat illness, and access preventive care so that no one is faced with choosing their health or their income; (3) Respond to national attacks on union power by protecting and restoring the right to organize through state and federal legislation that protects and strengthens the worker right to organize, such as labor peace agreements and card-check and neutrality agreements, such as the Employee Free Choice Act, as proposed by Senator Ted Kennedy in 2009; (4) Restore civil rights protections for formerly incarcerated people in the workplace through state and federal “Ban the Box” legislation that prohibits employers from asking about criminal convictions until the final phase of the hiring process, require all licensing boards to review their rules for unnecessary barriers to licensing for people with convictions, and create incentives for hiring people with convictions.
- **Create jobs, especially for the long-term unemployed and those facing barriers to work:** Efforts to do so should include: (1) Adopting policies such as the American Jobs Act as a complete package or adopt/extend aspects of the proposal, either at the state or federal level, including tax credits for hiring vets, people with disabilities and long-term unemployed workers, tax cuts for businesses that expand their payroll by hiring new workers, extension of unemployment insurance and reform to the unemployment insurance program, a new “Bridge to Work” program expanding job opportunities for low-income youth and adults, and direct job creation thorough infrastructure improvements and construction with local hire requirements; (2) Creating alternate hiring processes, like the STEP Up program in Alameda County, to extend employment opportunities to people with the most severe disabilities.
- **Increase access to entrepreneurship opportunities:** Policies that help expand access to business opportunities include: (1) Support microenterprise through policies that support community-based non-profit microenterprise and financial organizations that support entrepreneurs, expand access to private markets and sources of capital, and establish supportive tax environments; (2) Support co-operatives and create incentives for employee ownership through state policies that promote sound business conversion to cooperative business models, including but not limited to Employee Stock Option Plans (ESOPs), through tax incentives and mandated assistance, as well as those policies that remove barriers to starting co-operative businesses; and (3)

Support policies that expand access to capital among entrepreneurs of color, such as working with the State to move beyond the Community Reinvestment Act and use its contracts with financial institutions to increase lending and extension of credit in low income communities and communities of color.

- **End discrimination in employment, education, and job training and enforce labor laws:** Since the deregulation of the air traffic controllers in the 1980s, employers have turned to ways to make the employment relationship more “flexible” and avoid labor laws, increasingly relying on the roles of “independent contracts,” as well as arranging part-time, temporary, and seasonal work. One major issue is the intentional misclassification of workers which relieves employers of having to make contributions to Social Security, unemployment insurance, workers’ compensation, health insurance, and even avoidance of minimum wage and overtime laws. Alameda County supports California joining the Labor Department’s effort related to worker misclassification or initiating its own investigation and improved regulation.
- **Invest in workforce development, especially among workers of color and people with disabilities:** Prepare people to take advantage of new opportunities by supporting workforce development policies expand job training for underrepresented workers by refunding workforce development programs with a focus on programs in high-growth industries and on programs that combine basic skill development and occupational instruction and apprenticeships.
- **Remove disincentives to working and asset accumulation for people receiving public benefits:** Increase state and federally mandated income and asset limits for public benefit programs to a level that allows recipients to achieve a greater degree of financial stability before becoming ineligible for the benefits. This includes raising Social Security Administration’s Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) program above the current \$1040 per month in wages and allowing people with disabilities receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to increase the allowable amount of personal assets from its current level of only \$2,000. This issue is particularly critical for people with disabilities, as they represent almost half of all people in poverty.
- **Support policies that expand asset-building opportunities:** Financial security depends on more than job security and the increasing dependence on one’s ability to accumulate financial and personal assets. Alameda County supports expanding programs and policies that help low-income people accumulate assets through increased savings and investments, such as: (1) State and federal policies that expand individual development accounts (IDAs), children’s savings accounts (CSAs), and tax-time education savings programs, such as increased funding for the Department of Health and Human Services’ Assets for Independence (AFI), a competitive grant program administered by the Office of Community Services (OCS), and funding for programs based on Maine’s and Oklahoma’s progressive CSAs designed to maximize savings for low-income children; (2) Policies that expand the presence of mainstream financial institutions in underserved communities, such as modernizing and enforcing the Community Reinvestment Act, through both state and federal actions, and encouraging responsible banking ordinances at the local level to strengthen public accountability and incentives for fair financial practices that protect income and assets; (3) Policies that ensure retirement saving accounts for all workers by establishing universal access to Retirement Savings Plans; (4) Policies that expand access to financial education, including financial planning in the workplace, integration of financial literacy into high school curriculum, and a Financial Services Corp., made up of financial experts, planners, and advisers, that would deliver financial advice and resources to lower-income individuals and families; and (5) Policies that restrict payday lending, including banning or capping predatory loans to 36% Annual Percentage Rate (APR) or less, regulating online payday lenders with nationwide standards, regardless of where the business is located (domestically or internationally), and creating safer small-dollar loan products as an alternative to payday lending.

## **Flood Control and Water Resources**

### **Streamline the Regulatory and Project Delivery Process**

Regulatory inefficiencies continue to hamper the effective and timely delivery of flood control projects. Delivery of flood control projects is bogged down by the multiple redundant and overlapping regulatory agency's approval processes, long timeframes, and required reports and mitigation that do not add significantly to improving the environment yet results in costly project delivery costs. To this end, Alameda County seeks legislative remedies in streamlining regulatory burdens while advocating for funding support to adequate staffing at the local, State, and federal regulatory agencies.

Alameda County recommends the following:

- Support legislation that improves streamlining the State environmental review and regulatory approval processes to include specific time frames for State reviews and approvals of permits to expedite project delivery while ensuring appropriate environmental protection and mitigation;
- Support the approval of CEQA-NEPA reciprocity pilot program which would build on California's successful implementation of the Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program and allow for even greater project streamlining to enhance efficiency;
- Support legislation that provides expedited review for projects that are consistent with an adopted Sustainability Communities Strategy;
- Support legislation that exempts the maintenance of existing flood control facilities and infrastructure from permit requirements under the Endangered Species Act; and,
- Support legislation that facilitates and establishes local, State and federal agency partnerships in habitat restoration/resource protection including developing adaptive strategies to climate change and sea level rise.

### **Increased Funding for Flood Protection**

Continued protection from flooding and protecting its natural resources in Alameda County requires legislative remedies including increased funding for flood protection, levee repair and wetland restoration projects, and developing adaptive strategies to climate change and sea level rise. To address new requirements by the State agencies, funding is needed for both planning and construction of capital improvement projects.

Alameda County recommends the following:

- Support legislative changes to the State Water Resources Control Board's proposed Wetland and Riparian Protection Policy to ensure consistency between federal and State definitions of wetlands and result in a reasonable requirement that will have the least impact on the development, operation, and maintenance of essential public works projects and facilities;
- Support additional funding opportunities for funding levee maintenance, including repair and reconstruction after a flood event;
- Support legislative changes which allow for the inclusion of local flood control projects in Alameda County to be funded from voter-approved bonds; and,
- Support State and federal funding to study and design coastal flood protection solutions to protect Alameda County from effects of sea level rise, extreme tide and climate change. Alameda County, in partnership with other local bay area agencies, requires State and federal funding to study and design coastal flood protection solutions.

## Local Government Revenue

### Local Jurisdiction and Tax System

- Support the guarantee of dependable, predictable, and equitable revenue streams to support County Programs.
- Support new opportunities for State funding and increase of County's ability to generate local revenues.
- Support efforts to ensure local discretionary control over governance issues and delivery of services.
- Support increased funding of the County's infrastructure needs.
- Support the extension of Design-Build and Public Private Partnership authority for local governments and expand the existing public contract code definition of "project" to allow more flexible use of these project delivery methodologies.
- Support legislation that maintains or increases levels of state funding for mandated programs and services.
- Support legislation to require the State to provide ongoing, guaranteed funding to counties and other local governments for the cost of providing services that were shifted in the 2011 Realignment from the State to local government.
- Support Market Place Equity and Consumer Protection. Weights and Measure Programs are important to businesses and consumers in Alameda County and throughout California. These Programs ensure that there is a "level playing field" for business and industries. Likewise, these Programs are critical in providing protection for consumers and a method for making value comparisons by safeguarding equity in the marketplace.
- Support requiring State agencies to create "Economic Inclusion Plans," that mandate agencies to create spending plans that generate jobs for low-income communities and communities of color; Support contracting processes that favor companies that pay sustainable wages and benefits, that hire from low-income communities and communities of color, and that are small, minority and women-owned.
- Support economic opportunity through the Affordable Care Act by ensuring that new health care worker jobs are accessible to and filled by low-income people of color.
- Support equitable taxation: a tax system that benefits all residents equally and that can serve to reduce poverty by: (1) Enacting a State Earned Income Tax Credit (2) Reforming Proposition 13 by creating a Split Roll Property Tax that would require businesses to pay a higher share of property taxes.
- Oppose the imposition of State mandates for which funding is not fully provided.
- Oppose State budget actions that result in a negative impact to Alameda County.
- Oppose the shift of any further property taxes; support measure that would enhance counties efforts to administer the property tax system, and oppose those that increase counties' unfunded responsibility for the system.
- Oppose the transfer of programs from the State to counties unless program control and flexibility is also shifted and adequate State funding is guaranteed.

# Federal Legislative Priorities

## Human Services

### **Public Benefits and Self-Sufficiency (TANF, SNAP, and Asset Building)**

#### **Workforce and Benefits Administration**

The Alameda County Social Services Agency's Department of Workforce and Benefits Administration's (WBA) mission is to promote self-sufficiency and provide economic assistance through public- and private-sector partnerships while fostering a workforce development system which supports individuals and families. Publicly sponsored health coverage programs are also available to assist with individual health needs. Alameda County supports efforts to leverage the opportunity of health care reform to enroll individuals and families in the range of benefits for which they are eligible.

- **Streamline and integrate public benefit enrollment.** Alameda County supports efforts to make it easier for clients to apply, maintain, and recertify for benefits, such as Medicaid, TANF, and SNAP.
- **Maintain continuity of benefits.** Alameda County supports policies that help individuals and families maintain coverage and benefits.
- **Support increased outreach and application assistance opportunities.**
- **Support technological advancements that promote access to services and administrative efficiency.**

#### **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)**

Congress created the TANF block grant through the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, as part of a federal effort to "end welfare as we know it." The TANF block grant provides funding to states that supports cash assistance programs and a wide range of other benefits and services for low-income families.

- **Reauthorize TANF with a focus on alleviating poverty and preventing material hardship among children and families.** Alameda County supports maintaining the overall work focus of the program, while recognizing that "work first" does not mean "work only." Research indicates that the most successful welfare-to-work programs combine work with training and supportive services, as appropriate. Specifically, Alameda County supports:
  - **Subsidized Employment.** Permanent authorization and appropriation of funding for subsidized employment as enacted originally in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.
  - **Employment and Training Services.** Create effective pathways to economic opportunity, including access to mainstream education and training and individualized services for those with barriers to employment.
  - **Maintain TANF Waivers.** These waivers are a valuable means of testing new approaches to improving the work programs under TANF.
  - **Restore and enhance flexibility.** State and county flexibility is vital to tailor work and family stabilization activities to families' individual needs. TANF reauthorization should measure states' performances in a fair and comprehensive manner that recognizes multiple potential positive outcomes for families.
  - **Eliminate asset limits for TANF.** The current asset limits create a disincentive for families to save and are contrary to the goals of TANF. Eliminating asset tests reduces administrative costs and promotes savings and self-sufficiency.
  - **Remove lifetime ban for anyone convicted of a drug-related felony.** Restoring access to these benefits will not only improve outcomes for very vulnerable families, but also improve public safety by increasing chances of employment and financial stability and reducing the risks of reoffending.
  - **Restore benefits to documented immigrants.** 1996 TANF legislation imposed a 5-year ban on federal means-tested benefits for legal immigrants. Alameda County supports restoring those benefits and ensuring

documented immigrants have access to basic assistance, including health care and nutrition supports.

### **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**

The SNAP/Food Stamp program is the largest nutrition assistance program administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The program provides monthly benefits to eligible low-income individuals and families to purchase food. When the national economy or a regional, state, or local economy is in trouble, the program is among the most effective government responses. Alameda County supports strengthening SNAP and ensuring this vital program reaches families struggling with hunger. We want to work with the federal government and national partners to increase outreach and enrollment for SNAP/CalFresh.

- **Pass a Farm Bill that increases or maintains SNAP benefits and ensures access to critical nutrition support.** Alameda County opposes any cuts to SNAP and instead would like to see a Farm Bill that includes the following:
  - **Restore American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) SNAP benefit boosts.** This benefit increase was ended prematurely by Congress and beginning in November 2013 resulted in a reduction in benefits for all SNAP recipients. A family of four lost \$36/month that they had been relying on to purchase food.
  - **Increase the minimum benefit.** Without the ARRA boost, the minimum benefit will be \$15/month. The minimum benefit is especially important for elderly households and should be increased.
  - **Remove existing bans for certain individuals.** Extend the program to needy people now excluded from benefits by arbitrary eligibility rules. Specifically, Alameda County supports restoring eligibility to all documented immigrants, dropping the lifetime ban on benefits for individuals with drug felonies, and removing the time limits on receipt of SNAP for jobless adults.
  - **Increase outreach and nutrition education funding.** Provide adequate resources to states and community partners for administration of SNAP outreach and nutrition education. Support continued funding for the SNAP-Education program that funds nutrition education, systems change, and public health approaches to helping SNAP-eligible households access and understand how to use and grow healthy foods on a limited income.
  - **Promote increased access to nutritious and affordable food in neighborhoods.** Specifically by fostering development of supermarkets and outlets in “food deserts,” and by equipping all farmers’ markets with EBT capability.
- **Maintain and provide additional flexibility.** Allow states to align SNAP eligibility and processes with state TANF programs (and Medicaid). Alameda County opposes efforts to roll back program rules that allow for state flexibility and streamlining, such as the expanded categorical eligibility rules that California has implemented.

### **Asset Building**

According to the Pew Research Center and the Economic Policy Institute, as of 2009, almost half of Americans had no assets. In addition, the racial wealth gap is staggering; for every \$1 of wealth owned by the typical white family, the typical black family had 5 cents and the typical Latino family had 6 cents. The disparities in assets and ownership between communities of color and whites illustrate a systemic problem. African-Americans, Latinos, and other communities of color are denied access to opportunities for wealth building and future prosperity. This lack of access has negative consequences for individuals, families, and communities.

Without assets, families do not have a cushion in case of emergency; nor can they plan for the future by purchasing a home, sending their kids to college, or starting a business. This means that in addition to the millions of families that live below the federal poverty line, America has a large number of families who are one job loss, illness, or crisis away from poverty. In addition to a strong safety net that helps families get back on their feet quickly, policies need to promote savings and ensure individuals and families don’t have to spend all of those savings before

they can qualify for public assistance. The children of parents who own assets – regardless of income – are more likely to have higher academic achievement and complete more years of education. Alameda County supports policies that promote economic self-sufficiency while also focusing on wealth building.

Alameda County supports a range of asset building policies and programs from matched-saving accounts, homeownership assistance, and financial education to access to affordable financial services and credit building products and services. Broadening savings and asset ownership opportunities will help move families and individuals from just breaking even to actually getting ahead.

- **Remove asset limits for public benefits.** Alameda County supports removing the disincentive to save for low-income families by lifting asset limits in public benefits programs, such as TANF, SNAP, SSI, and Medicaid.
- **Expand the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).** The country's most successful anti-poverty program, the EITC encourages low-income people to work and is credited with lifting millions of people out of poverty across the nation. Alameda County supports expanding this vital credit and ensuring low-income working families are able to keep more of their hard-earned money.
- **Restrict payday lending and other predatory financial products and services.** Alameda County supports policies that protect consumers from predatory credit products, specifically by prohibiting or capping rates on payday loans and promoting low-cost, consumer friendly, alternatives.
- **Expand the presence of mainstream financial institutions in underserved communities.** Paths to asset accumulation are often tied to the location of institutions that provide affordable financial products and accounts. Unfortunately, many neighborhoods lack access to mainstream financial institutions and instead rely on predatory lenders, such as check cashers, payday lenders, and pawn shops that drain millions of dollars from communities through high fees and usurious loans. Alameda County supports efforts to modernize and enforce the Community Reinvestment Act and pass responsible banking ordinances at the local level that will strengthen public accountability and create incentives for fair financial practices that protect income and assets.
- **Expand access to credit and capital.** Difficulty accessing financial services, affordable credit, and investment capital has long been a problem, especially in low-income and underserved communities. Alameda County supports efforts to help low-income individuals and communities gain access to low-cost financial products and services, high-return savings products, and investment capital that meet the unique needs of economically underserved communities.
- **Maintain and expand savings programs.** Policies should help low-income individuals and families accumulate assets through increased savings and investments. Alameda County supports a variety of savings accounts and incentive programs that are designed to help build assets and opportunities among low-income people (such as Individual Development Accounts (IDAs), Children's Savings Accounts, and retirement accounts).

### **Children and Families (Child Welfare and Foster Care)**

#### **Children and Family Services**

The Alameda County Social Services Agency's Department of Children and Family Services (CFS) is focused on improving the lives of children and families in Alameda County by serving children and youth who have experienced, or are at risk of experiencing, abuse or neglect. For all youth in Alameda County, we are committed to improving their outcomes in the following areas:

- **Safety** —By preventing and responding to the maltreatment of children and youth.
- **Permanency** —By helping children remain with their family and out of foster care whenever possible, by preserving family relationships and connections for foster youth, and by establishing guardianships and adoptions when it is unsafe for youth to return home.

- **Well-Being** —By partnering with families as they improve their capacity for meeting their children's physical, mental health, and educational needs.

#### **Child Welfare and Foster Care**

- **Support the five-year extension of the Title IV-E Waiver.** Alameda County supports the continuation of the original base period for Alameda and Los Angeles Counties (three-year average between FY 2002-03 and 2004-05 and the 2% growth rate) for the five-year extension of California's Title IV-E Waiver. The Waiver provides counties with flexible investment of funding to implement alternative services that better meet the needs of children and families. This flexibility supports improved outcomes for children and families, while remaining cost neutral to the Federal Government.
- **Increase funding and supportive services for child welfare programs.** Alameda County supports a range of improvements that can be made to child welfare funding to improve the well-being of children, including:
  - Reform child welfare financing to include more focus on prevention activities.
  - Provide adequate federal funding for services and income supports needed by parents seeking to reunify with children who are in foster care.
  - Increase financial support for programs that assist foster youth in the transition to self-sufficiency, including post-emancipation assistance such as secondary education, job training, housing, and access to health care.
- **Change federal law to allow for a successor guardian.** Alameda County supports allowing successor guardians in the same manner as a successor adoptive parent is allowed under current law. This policy change will minimize disruption for children whose guardians die or become incapacitated. This is arguably an even more important provision for relative guardian placements given that Kin-GAP guardians are often the grandparents of the child and, due to their age, may be more likely to fall ill or die. Alameda County supports H.R. 2979, the "Guardians for Children Act," which addresses this issue and makes a very important statutory fix to the original Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act.
- **Allow for continued benefits after age 18 for youth whose relative guardianship was established or adoption was finalized prior to the youth's 16th birthday.** Alameda County supports changing the federal law that limits extended Kin-GAP and AAP benefits past age 18 under the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 only for youth whose adoption or relative guardianship was established at age 16 or older. This rule is a disincentive for permanency for these children.
- **Update Title IV-E eligibility requirements.** Specifically, update the eligibility requirements associated with the so-called 1996 "look-back" provision of Title IV-E, so that more children are federally eligible for federal foster care assistance. Currently, children are only eligible for federal assistance if the family from which they are being removed would have been eligible for AFDC under the program rules in 1996. This is especially impactful for youth who are in placements that are unable to receive full benefits for taking care of a foster youth. Alameda County supports policy changes that update the requirements (perhaps through using an income limit that is based on the Federal Poverty Level, for example).
- **Allow a foster youth's Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits to remain in suspense for the duration of their stay in foster care.** Currently, as enacted with AB 1331, counties with youth who are over age 16.5 in high cost placements are able to suspend SSI benefits without losing eligibility, if the county suspends any IV-E or federal payments and lose all benefits for one month per year. If there are any errors by the Social Security Administration, County Administration, or any SSI application contract staff to calculate the timing and implementation procedures to properly suspend federal payments, the youth loses SSI eligibility. In those cases, the county must submit another SSI application, which can be costly and delay SSI benefits for the youth due to the length of time it takes to process a new application. Alameda County supports policy changes that ensure youth maintain their SSI eligibility throughout their involvement in foster care regardless of whether they receive benefits or have high federal payments.
- **Increase supports for families that contribute to child-wellbeing.** Alameda County supports providing

additional resources to families to promote better outcomes for children. This includes items such as culturally relevant mental health, educational supports, employment/linked learning opportunities, matched-savings accounts, developmental child care (including post-permanency), respite services for relative and foster caregivers, and housing subsidies.

### **Adult and Aging (OAA, APS, SSI, and Veterans)**

#### **Adult, Aging and Medi-Cal Services**

The Alameda County Social Services Agency's Department of Adult, Aging, and Medi-Cal Services (AAMS) offers a coordinated service delivery system that protects, supports, and advocates for an aging population, particularly those with disabilities. Alameda County supports policies that are consumer-focused and ensure residents get the benefits for which they are eligible.

*Please note that the Medicaid recommendations are in the Health Chapter.*

#### **Adult & Aging**

- **Support Older American's Act (OAA) Reauthorization.** OAA provides the federal mandate to fund Area Agencies on Aging. Alameda County would like to see an increased appropriation to the OAA Titles and additional local flexibility in Title VI funding. The National Association for Area Agencies on Aging has developed policy recommendations for reauthorization, including strengthening the Aging Network's role and capacity in the coordination and provision of long-term services and supports; expanding local evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention activities; improving community preparedness for an aging population; and setting adequate authorized funding levels.

#### **Adult Protective Services**

Adult Protective Services (APS) responds to reports from individuals, concerned citizens, social service and health providers, and law enforcement representatives about developmentally disabled adults, physically, and mentally disabled adults, and the elderly who may be physically or financially abused, neglected, or exploited. Anyone aged 18 to 64 with a mental or physical disability or anyone aged 65 or older that is suspected of being abused or neglected, is eligible for APS without regard to income.

- **Federal mandate for APS that includes increased funding.** Currently there is only a state mandate for Adult Protective Services. Alameda County supports a federal mandate for these services and increased funding to protect and serve our vulnerable adult population.
- **Increase funding for APS training.** Training for APS workers and their partner agencies is severely underfunded and has not increased in the past nine years (despite the fact that cases rose 65% statewide since 2001). APS workers receive a comparatively small fraction (4 cents for every dollar) of the funding provided to child welfare workers who deal with similar situations. It is imperative that APS workers receive comprehensive training so that they may provide elder and dependent adult victims of abuse, neglect, and exploitation with the same types of essential services that our child abuse victims receive. Alameda County supports increased federal and state funding for APS training.
- **Appropriate \$100 million authorized under the Elder Justice Act.** This funding would help provide vital adult protective services in states and counties.
- **Maintain funding for the Social Services Block Grant.** In California this funding is used primarily to augment county and state funded services for elderly and disabled persons, Foster Care/Child Welfare services, and CalWORKs Child Care.

#### **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)**

The SSI Program is a federally funded program which provides income support for individuals who are aged 65 or

older, blind, or disabled. SSI benefits are also available to qualified blind or disabled children.

- **Reform Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Asset Limits.** Alameda County supports eliminating or raising the limit of the federal SSI program asset test (\$2,000 for an individual and \$3,000 for a couple). The asset limit is a disincentive to save and does not promote financial stability.

### **Veterans Services**

The Alameda County Veterans Service Office (CVSO) provides veterans and their dependents and/or survivors with information regarding veterans benefits, as well as assistance with filing benefit claims, waivers, and appeals, in order for them to obtain and maintain all available benefits and entitlements for which they are eligible. Alameda County supports policies that assist veterans with accessing benefits and stable employment.

- **Protect veterans funding.** Specifically, Alameda County supports H.R. 813, the “Putting Veterans Funding First Act of 2013.” This legislation would require Congress to fully fund the Department of Veterans Affairs’ (VA) discretionary budget a year ahead of schedule, ensuring that all VA services will have timely, predictable funding in an era where continuing resolutions and threats of government shutdowns are all too frequent.
- **Ensure veterans access the benefits for which they are eligible.** Alameda County supports legislation that supports the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide outreach services that educate veterans on the benefits for which they are eligible. In addition, we support increased funding and support for County Veteran Service Offices (CVSOs) that assist veterans in need of compensation, medical, rehabilitative, educational, and employment services.
- **Increase employment opportunities for veterans.** Alameda County supports policies that help veterans access employment in the public and private sectors. Specifically, Alameda County supports funding for prior-learning assessments that allow veterans to earn college credit for their military training and skills learned in service.
- **Reduce veteran homelessness and provide supportive treatment and services.** Alameda County supports a range of policies that address the root causes of veteran homelessness. Specifically, policies that improve employment opportunities, increase substance abuse prevention and treatment programs, establish affordable housing, and improve rehabilitation efforts for homeless veterans.

### **Early Care and Education Planning Council**

The child care system is meant to fulfill the dual economic goals of supporting parental employment and laying the groundwork for children’s lifelong success. The child care field has struggled to maintain capacity in the past year in light of the federal sequester impact on Head Start which cut the County’s \$40 million in Head Start contracts by 5.3%. It strongly supports President Obama’s early care and education proposal which would include funding for subsidies and home visiting.

**Stabilize and increase federal funding, and attain new resources for Early Care and Education (ECE):** The ECE Planning Council supports an array of federal funding streams that augment Alameda County ece programs, including Child and Adult Care Food Program, Early Head Start and Head Start, and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families. This year in particular we support President Obama’s ece proposal which included \$75 billion over 10 years in a Preschool for All initiative, \$15 billion over 10 years for voluntary home visiting and \$7 billion for child care subsidies.

**Take positions on federal initiatives that significantly impact ECE quality, access and affordability:** President Obama’s ECE proposal would significantly impact all three of these categories.

**Advocate for family centered, inclusive, developmentally and culturally appropriate practices for all children in care as well as those in transitional kindergarten.**

Specifically in 2014-2015 Advocate for:

**Streamlining and efficiencies such as coordinated regulatory, contracting and reimbursement processes within the current federal and state programs:** The Administration for Children and Families has recently proposed regulatory changes for the first time in decades that need to be monitored and for which the Early Care and Education Planning Council has prepared comments.

**ECE reinvestment:** Adjusted for inflation federal ece expenditures are much lower than the preceding decade.

**ECE professional development and wage supports.**

#### **Alameda County Interagency Children's Policy Council (ICPC) Federal Human Services**

The Alameda County Interagency Children's Policy Council (ICPC) is comprised of County agencies and department directors and leaders. The ICPC mission is to engage in cross system collaboration by improving interagency communication, developing child friendly policies and practices and initiating systems changes that result in safe, healthy and thriving children and families throughout Alameda County. ICPC provides advocacy leadership around the development of legislative policies that improve and enhance service delivery and outcomes for children and youth. ICPC's goal is to work together to advocate on behalf of legislation that improves the lives of children in Alameda County.

- **Support President Obama's Early Childcare proposal, which forges a state-federal partnership to guarantee quality Pre-Kindergarten programs to all 4-year-olds in families at or below 200 percent of the poverty line; expanded Early Head Start programs; and replicating and expanding programs such as the Nurse Family Partnerships which provides regular home visits from nurses to families from pregnancy through the child's second birthday.**
- **Provide funding for programs and services that reduce absenteeism and ensure students attend school ready to learn, particularly in schools with low academic performance:** Alameda County supports policies that address the need for support services, such as coordinated medical care, behavioral and mental health support services, youth development programs, and parent, family and community engagement programs.
- **Reduce chronic and communicable disease rates among students:** Alameda County supports policies that reduce childhood obesity and other physical activity and diet related diseases, as well as sexually transmitted infections. Specifically, Alameda County supports policies that improve access to nutritious food in and around schools, including fresh, healthy school lunches, prohibit unhealthy food vendors at or near schools, and ensure access to clean drinking water in schools. Additionally, Alameda County supports policies that promote physical activity and prevent unnecessary exposure to environmental toxins. Interventions should include continued funding for programs such as Safe Routes to Schools, policies that ensure students will spend at least 50% of physical education class time engaged in moderate to vigorous physical activity, prohibiting siting schools near point sources of pollution and near freeways, and health promotion practices that reduce asthma triggers, such as the use of non-toxic cleaning supplies and integrated pest-management.

## **Health**

#### **Health Care Access and Affordability**

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (referred to as ACA), signed into law March 2010, offers comprehensive healthcare reform designed to increase the quality and affordability of health insurance, lower medical care costs, ensure prevention services, and ultimately reduce the number of uninsured persons. Generally, ACA requires the expansion of Medicaid, the government health-insurance program for low-income and sick

people. ACA benefits already enacted include coverage for children with pre-existing conditions; coverage for young adults under 26; elimination of lifetime caps on insurance coverage; preventive care for women and seniors; and prescription drug discounts. Among the changes in 2014 will be the inauguration of health insurance exchanges (e.g. Covered California); savings on monthly premiums; and insurance companies no longer will be able to deny coverage for pre-existing conditions. Annual insurance coverage caps will be banned, and small business tax credits will be expanded.

For health care reform to succeed, we must maximize eligibility, enrollment, retention, and access to health insurance and appropriate health care. Special attention should be paid to policies that support:

- **Streamlined public/private health insurance enrollment.** Simplify applications and provide them in multiple languages; expand enrollment through community-based providers and organizations; ensure strong and successful Exchanges; develop partnerships that encourage information sharing to support client enrollment.
- **Increased access to care.** Provide lower cost and more accessible treatment alternatives in community settings; promote efficiency; incentivize physicians to go into primary care; incentivize expanded medical staffing, including use of advanced-practice nurses; ensure linguistically and culturally appropriate communication with patients; provide Medicaid expansion for primary and preventive care before, during and after a pregnancy for up to two years to reduce poor pregnancy outcomes.
- **Maintenance and enhancement of safety net system.** Increase provider rates; improve transition of care (e.g. primary care to acute or specialty care); support policies that provide health care to all regardless of documentation of residence.

### **Behavioral Health Services**

Behavioral health problems (mental health and/or substance use disorders) have a tremendous impact on the lives of Alameda County residents, imposing burdens on individuals, families, communities, and governments.

Mental illness is an important public health problem, both in its own right and because the condition is associated with other chronic diseases and their resulting morbidity and mortality. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), mental illnesses account for more disability in developed countries than any other group of illnesses, including cancer and heart disease. Rates for injuries, both intentional (e.g., homicide and suicide) and unintentional (e.g., motor vehicle), are 2-6 times higher among persons with a mental illness than in the overall population. Mental illness is also associated with use of tobacco products and alcohol abuse.

The effects of mental illness range from minor disruptions in daily functioning to incapacitating personal, social, and occupational impairments and premature death. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported that depression is the most common type of mental illness, affecting more than 26% of the U.S. adult population. It has been estimated that by the year 2020, depression will be the second leading cause of disability throughout the world, trailing only ischemic heart disease.

Support for the following items will assist Alameda County in providing a fiscally sound, comprehensive continuum of behavioral health services ranging from prevention/early intervention to treatment and recovery/support that will foster increased access to services, a reduction in stigma and discrimination and improved health outcomes for Alameda County residents with behavioral health conditions:

- **Develop a consolidated billing structure for Medicaid and Medicare.** Currently, there exists separate reimbursement criteria and methodology for Medicaid and Medicare. This is becoming increasingly problematic and costly as the number of individuals covered under both Medicaid and Medicare (dual eligible) rises. Having two separate and distinct systems, with different reimbursement criteria, contribute to confusing,

cumbersome, and time intensive billing processes and drive up the cost of care. Having one consolidated billing system would decrease costs as well as increase billing ease and efficiency.

- **Simplify Social Security work incentives.** The Social Security Administration should continue to simplify and streamline its programs to promote returns to work among people receiving Social Security benefits for a disability. Such incentives should account for changes in the health insurance policy and include more robust outreach and educational campaigns.
- **End the Medicaid Institutions for Mental Disease (IMD) exclusion for individuals 21-64 years of age who are being served in institutions for mental diseases with 17 beds or more.** Under this exclusion, federal Medicaid law prohibits federal contribution to the cost of medically necessary care to enrolled program beneficiaries ages 21-64 who receive care in certain institutions that are defined as an “institution for mental disease” (IMD). An IMD is defined as “a hospital, nursing facility, or other institution of more than 16 beds, that is primarily engaged in providing diagnosis, treatment, or care of persons with mental diseases, including medical attention, nursing care and related services.” As a consequence of this exclusion it has become increasingly difficult for the most severely mentally ill to get inpatient treatment services. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the United States has effectively lost 93% of its state psychiatric hospital beds since deinstitutionalization began in 1955 resulting in increased rates of incarceration, homelessness, victimization and violence.

### **Reducing Inequities in HIV**

There are currently an estimated 4,875 people living with AIDS/HIV in Alameda County. The annual incidence rate of new HIV infections has not fallen in nearly two decades. The impact of this trend on behavior risk groups and minority populations is significant. There is a disproportionate impact of the HIV epidemic on the African American, Latino and Asian residents of the county. HIV also affects marginalized communities such as Intravenous Drug Users, other substance users, especially crack cocaine and sex workers. Recent cuts to prevention and testing programs from the California State Department of Health will have devastating consequences for some of our most vulnerable populations.

- **Needle Exchange Programs:** Injection drug use is the second leading cause of HIV transmission and the leading cause of Hepatitis C infection in California. In Alameda County, injection drug use accounts for 24% of all AIDS cases among African Americans and 35% of all AIDS cases among women. Studies of needle exchange programs (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19949245>) have repeatedly shown that these efforts are successful in reducing the spread of HIV and Hepatitis C while showing no increase in the use of injection drugs. Alameda County therefore supports policy and legislative efforts to support these needle exchange programs.
- **Condom Distribution and HIV Testing in Jails and Prisons:** At present, the distribution of condoms is prohibited within the County jail and State and federal prisons. Rates of many diseases are higher for the incarcerated than for the total U.S. population. Condom distribution and routine, non-mandatory, HIV testing should be allowed in jails and prisons in order to prevent the spread of these diseases within the inmate population and among their partners in the community.
- **Formerly Incarcerated Individuals:** Alameda County supports any legislation that facilitates the rapid and effective transition of HIV care services for people going in or coming out of State prisons and County jails. In the effort to assist HIV positive individuals with the transition, we support legislation that will automatically re-enroll released inmates into Medi-Cal and provide linkage to services and medications after release.
- **HIV Testing:** Support routine offering of HIV testing in all medical settings so that HIV testing would be administered in the same manner as diabetes and tuberculosis screenings. We support the easing of restrictions on who can perform HIV Rapid Testing. Currently, only licensed medical practitioners and State-Trained HIV test counselors are allowed to administer the HIV Rapid Test, specifically under state funded programs. This restriction does not exist in most other states and is severely limiting California’s state-wide HIV testing

efforts nor is it a requirement by the manufacturer.

- **AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP):** The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) is a part of Ryan White Program funding, paying for prescription drugs for people who have limited or no coverage for HIV medications and can't otherwise afford them. The program is managed by states, and most of them also contribute to the funding. The benefits and eligibility requirements vary widely state by state. The programs have been in a funding crisis across the country and we support efforts to maintain this coverage.
- **Comprehensive Reproductive and Sexual Health Programs for Teens:** The number of some Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) in young women under the age of 20 is almost equivalent to the numbers reported for all other women over the age of 20. This illustrates the high levels of unprotected sexual activity occurring in this population, creating greater opportunities for HIV transmission. Current AIDS data reflects that young people 13 -19 represent .4% of the cases. It is important to fund comprehensive reproductive and sexual health programs which stress abstinence, while also educating young people about contraception, family communication, responsible negotiating and decision making skills.
- **Health Care Reform (Affordable Care Act):** We support any policy and/or legislation that simplify or streamline the enrollment of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS into the appropriate health care coverage. It is anticipated that during this first year of implementation, people will be overwhelmed with information and choices about insurance. We want to support efforts that keep these persons from falling out of care or having disruptions in their HIV treatment that could lead to viral resistance to treatment.
- **HIV Care Funding:** With the advent of Health Care Reform (HCR), we support efforts to maintain federal funding for HIV supportive care services such as case management, food, housing and legal services that are not covered by HCR. These services assist and enable people to maintain their connection to medical treatment for HIV. We also support legislation and policies that provide care funding for HIV positive individuals not covered by the Affordable Care Act, such as undocumented people.

### **Ensuring the Health and Wellbeing of Women, Children, Youth and Families**

Many more women, children, youth and families now have access to quality medical care, thanks to years of education efforts, provider outreach and advances in medical technology. The Affordable Care Act will also expand access to care and preventive services for many Alameda County residents. Access to medical care is important and has likely contributed to improvement in some maternal and child health outcomes – infant mortality, for example, has been declining steadily over the last two decades – and yet women, children, youth and families in many of our communities still experience less than optimal health. The low birth weight rate, a key maternal and child health indicator, has not budged over the last ten years and remains above the Healthy People 2020 benchmark. Being born at low birthweight not only contributes to significant newborn and infant health problems, but can also result in long term illness and disability, including chronic disease and developmental delays. And there are deep inequities in maternal and child health by race: infant mortality rates among African-Americans are two times higher than whites and African-American women are three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than white women. Additionally women now face challenges to their reproductive freedom in a way that we have not seen since the initial debates that led to the passage of Roe v Wade in 1973. Ensuring access to comprehensive, low cost reproductive, prenatal and primary care – including case management services where appropriate – will continue to be important, but attention should also be paid to policies that 1) do not limit the range of options available – especially in the arena of family planning services; 2) ensure access to accurate, unbiased information about reproductive and sexual health for youth and adults; and 3) take into account and attempt to remedy the impact of neighborhood and social conditions on the health of women, their children, their partners and their families, thereby securing the health and wellbeing of current and future generations.

- **Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant:** Support level or increased funding for the Title V block grant. For the last eighty years, Title V has provided a foundation for ensuring the health of the Nation's mothers, women, children and youth, including children and youth with special health care needs. It

is the only federal source of funds for population-based maternal and child health improvement efforts. In Alameda County, Title V supports the Black Infant Health program, the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review program, and other health education and promotion efforts.

- **Title X Family Planning programs:** Support full funding of the Title X Family Planning Program. For more than 40 years, Title X family planning clinics have played a critical role in ensuring access to a broad range of family planning and related preventive health services for millions of low-income or uninsured individuals and others. Title X clinics are often the main source of primary care for low-income women between pregnancies who do not qualify for Medi-Cal, and have been a critical partner in ensuring the health of reproductive-aged women.
- **Healthy Start:** Support the reauthorization of the Federal Healthy Start Act and continued implementation of the Healthy Start program. The Healthy Start program is an initiative mandated to reduce the rate of infant mortality and improve perinatal outcomes through grants to project areas with high annual rates of infant mortality. In Alameda County, the Healthy Start program has been in place since 1991. Its main focus now is on providing case management, support services and health education and empowerment groups for low income, multi-stressed African-American families in the zip codes with the highest infant mortality rates.
- **Reproductive Rights:** Support legislation to ensure access to comprehensive contraceptive services and accurate information about reproductive health for both men and women. Oppose any efforts to restrict access to abortion and family planning services based on age, stage of pregnancy or any other criteria. When women have control over their reproductive health and rates of unplanned pregnancies are lower, their health and wellbeing is ensured, the health and life trajectory of their children is optimized and the social and economic conditions in which they are living are improved.
- **Perinatal and Early Childhood Home Visiting:** Support continued funding for the Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program made available through the Affordable Care Act. The MIECHV monies support the Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) program in Alameda County. NFP is an evidence-based home visitation model, which has been shown to lead to better pregnancy outcomes, improved child health and development, and increased economic self-sufficiency – outcomes that contribute to preventing child abuse, reducing juvenile crime, and increasing school readiness. NFP is an integral part of Alameda County's home visiting system of care.

### **Alameda County Social Services Agency - Medicaid and Health Care Reform**

#### **Health Care Reform**

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA) expands coverage and improves affordability in California by allowing the State to increase what services are covered, providing funding for California to expand eligibility for the Medi-Cal program, and establishing a health insurance marketplace that gives California residents greater ability to choose the health care plan that best suits their needs and preferences. To be successful, policies need to support coordination, collaboration, education, and effective administration. The ACA is also a historic opportunity to enroll individuals and families in the range of benefits for which they are eligible. Policies should make it as simple as possible for individuals and families to enroll and maintain coverage. Specifically:

- **Streamline and integrate public benefits enrollment.** Alameda County supports efforts to make it easier for clients to apply, maintain, and recertify for benefits, including Medicaid, TANF, and SNAP.
- **Maintain continuity of benefits.** Alameda County supports policies that help individuals and families maintain coverage and benefits.
- **Support increased outreach and application assistance opportunities.**
- **Support technological advancements that promote access to services and administrative efficiency.**

**Medicaid**

Medicaid provides free or low-cost health insurance for eligible low-income individuals and families. Alameda County supports the following policy recommendations:

- **Support and improve ACA.** Alameda County supports rules and requirements for Medicaid enrollment and Exchange enrollment under ACA that reduce program complexity, recognize the County role in eligibility and enrollment, and support Statewide Automated Welfare System (SAWS) consortia modernization efforts.
- **Protect Medicaid Funding.** Alameda County opposes efforts to block grant the Medicaid program or other initiatives that would reduce funding for program administration or benefits.

**Public Safety****District Attorney**

In partnership with community and law enforcement agencies, the District Attorney's Office is responsible for the prosecution of crimes in the County of Alameda, California.

The Alameda County District Attorney's Office is dedicated to serving the community through the ethical prosecution of criminal offenses and the vigorous protection of victims' rights.

The District Attorney's Office supports policies and legislation on the following:

- **Human Exploitation and Trafficking (H.E.A.T.)** Funding for the Human Exploitation and Trafficking (H.E.A.T.) Watch to enhance services to victims of human trafficking and commercially sexually exploited minors. To combat human trafficking this program needs funds to educate the community, effective community outreach and train law enforcement. It also needs stronger laws to prosecute human traffickers, and we need to expand services for victims.
- **DNA Backlog.** Funding to eliminate the current backlog of untested rape kits with the partnership with other law enforcement agencies and private entities to provide a streamlined model throughout the State to prevent future backlogs. DNA evidence can be used to eliminate or confirm suspects, develop investigative leads to solve a number of unsolved cases.
- **Victims of Crime.** The enhancement of the rights and protections of all victims of crime, and increased funding to expand services to all victims of crime, especially victims of violent crime including: homicide, child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, and commercially exploited minors. Funding to aggressively collect restitution of behalf of all Victims of Crime.
- **Realignment.** Realigning lower level offenders to community corrections programs strengthened through community based punishment, improved supervision strategies and evidenced based practices, and supervision practices demonstrated by research to reduce recidivism. This includes employing proven alternatives to incarceration for low-risk offenders. Systemic reforms to Alameda County court system to establish a centralized process to help individuals file revocation petitions.
- **Reducing Serious/Violent Crimes.** Initiatives to reduce violent crimes by proposing the formation of the regional multi-agency's task force to combat violence. The task force would provide meaningful alternatives to individuals engaged in criminal behavior who are amenable to various treatment strategies.
- **Enhancing Community Based Support For Formerly Incarcerated.** Support funding for community programs that aide incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals through their rehabilitation efforts and process. Funding can provide programs for individuals as an alternative to incarceration or through the expansion of District Attorney driven Diversion Programs wherein charges are dismissed after successful completion of the Program. Funding can provide programs and support for individuals under supervision of the Probation Department following conviction as well as for individuals after they return from jail or prison.

Community programs include access to health care, job training and education to provide tools to support themselves and reduce recidivism.

- **Youth Empowerment and Juvenile Delinquency Prevention.** More programs and funding for youth to provide work experience so that youth can gain real-world skills and experience to help them become self-sufficient in a positive way and prevent them from entering the juvenile and/or criminal justice systems. Stronger intervention and prevention programs for commercially exploited minors as well as funding for resources for minors and transitioning youth who have been victims of human trafficking and/or sexual exploitation.
- **Youth Violence Prevention and Education Programs.** Funding for violence prevention and education programs, for programs that engage youth and/or counseling programs for youth who are at risk for or who have been involved in crime to provide information about the juvenile justice system, teach about healthy relationships and decision making, assistance in achieving their dreams. Also more partnerships with additional groups to provide counseling, mentorship, case management, life skills, employment and training.

### **Public Defender's Office**

The Public Defender's Office provides a wide variety of representation to indigent clients, including criminal defense for felony and misdemeanor charges, defense against delinquency petitions for minors, defense against a wide variety of civil commitment petitions for clients with mental illnesses, and rehabilitations services including early termination of probation, reduction and dismissal of charges, and sealing of records.

In the course of vigorous representation of these clients, the Public Defender's Office utilizes an in-house Investigative Unit, Law and Motions Unit, Immigration Consultant, and Training Unit. Further, the Office often engages the services of outside experts on a variety of subjects for consultations, evidence testing, trial preparation, and testimony.

The Public Defender's Office supports:

- Protecting and expanding the rights to liberty, privacy, and due process.
- Protecting all members of the community from unreasonable search, seizure, arrest, detention, and surveillance.
- Preserving and expanding the right to a fair trial.
- Strengthening Evidence Code requirements concerning the competency and trustworthiness of evidence to be introduced at trial.
- Diversion programs and other programs designed to prevent people from coming into the criminal justice system.
- The decriminalization of non-violent drug possession offenses and a shift of resources from incarceration and criminalization to treatment and harm-reduction practices.
- Sentencing reform aimed at reducing jail and prison populations, eliminating disproportional sentences, and promoting more just outcomes for those convicted of crimes.
- Removing barriers to successful reintegration of people into communities after incarceration, such as unnecessary barriers to education, employment, housing, and health and social services.
- Increasing funding for criminal defense investigation, the retention of experts, and the litigation of complex and/or particularly sensitive cases.
- Programs designed for rehabilitation, the restoration of rights, and the expungement of criminal records.
- Increasing the availability of rehabilitation services both for in-custody defendants and those who have been released from custody.
- Initiatives to promote effective, ethical, and accountable police and law enforcement agencies.

- Increasing the funding to treatment programs for drug and alcohol abuse.
- Increasing the funding for mental health treatment programs.
- Reducing the number of people under supervision by the courts, state, and/or county via agencies including parole and probation.
- Providing effective health care services to all those incarcerated at either the state or county level.
- Providing social services to impoverished communities, particularly those aimed at preventing criminal behavior, including recidivism.
- Policies promoting the health and welfare of indigent clients.
- The principles of Restorative Justice and supports policies designed to implement those principles.
- Initiatives promoting racial justice at all levels of the criminal justice system.

#### **Alameda County Interagency Children's Policy Council**

The Alameda County Interagency Children's Policy Council (ICPC) is comprised of County agencies and department directors and leaders. The ICPC mission is to engage in cross system collaboration by improving interagency communication, developing child friendly policies and practices and initiating systems changes that result in safe, healthy and thriving children and families throughout Alameda County. ICPC provides advocacy leadership around the development of legislative policies that improve and enhance service delivery and outcomes for children and youth. ICPC's goal is to work together to advocate on behalf of legislation that improves the lives of children in Alameda County.

In the area of Federal Public Safety policy, President Barack Obama lifted a 17-year ban on federal funding for research on gun violence in January of 2013 and called on Congress to allocate \$10 million for new research. ICPC supports funding to study the issue of gun violence.

## **Planning Land Use and Housing and Community Development**

#### **Homelessness, Affordable Housing, and Community Development**

Alameda County is experiencing a severe housing crisis and high levels of homelessness.

- **Support increased federal funding to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Veterans Administration and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) for programs supporting stable and affordable housing for low-income and homeless populations.** U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs that fund the development and rehabilitation of affordable housing have been severely reduced in the last two budget years. Further decreases to HUD programs will impact local government's ability to respond to the current housing crisis, further degradation of the existing housing stock, and an increase in homelessness is the likely result. Stable housing for the lowest-income population has a proven track record of benefits to the community, including: improves housing stability, employment, mental and physical health, school attendance and reduces active substance use, and helps build strong, healthy communities by improving the safety of neighborhoods, beautifying city blocks with new or rehabilitated properties, and increasing or stabilizing property values over time.
- **Increase funding for the Community Development Block Grant Program and oppose any efforts to decrease the cap on administrative costs for the program.** The Community Development Block Grant program provides essential and flexible funding to support the improvement of lower income communities and provide services and benefits to lower income households. It has a long track record of success and is a flexible funding source which allows localities to target funds to the most needy communities and households

and to address highest types of needs.

- **Extension of the Federal Production Tax Credit:** Support the extension of the Federal Production Tax Credit (PTC) for the expansion of repowering efforts for wind energy.

## Sustainability

### **Support funding through the Department of Energy**

Support funding through the Department of Energy that enable innovative regional initiatives that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, encourage local government development of renewable energy, energy and water efficiency programs for government facilities.

## Transportation

### **Reauthorization of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21)**

The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) is the funding mechanism for the country's surface transportation programs. MAP-21 is a streamlined, performance-based, and multimodal program to address the many challenges facing the U.S. transportation system. These challenges include improving safety, maintaining infrastructure in a state of good repair, reducing traffic congestion, improving efficiency of the system and freight movement, protecting the environment, and reducing delays in project delivery. While MAP-21 created an improved surface transportation program, additional changes in the reauthorization bill will build upon those improvements.

Alameda County recommends the following:

- Support a MAP-21 reauthorization or multi-year federal surface transportation bill to succeed MAP-21 which identifies a reliable funding source for at least the next five (5) years;
- Support provisions of any MAP-21 reauthorization or new surface transportation bill which protect local receipt of federal transportation and infrastructure funds;
- Support initiatives seeking to increase funding for movement of goods;
- Support provisions which provide regulatory streamlining and expedite project delivery of federally funded projects;
- Support legislation that provides increased funding to provide for adequate maintenance and preservation of the existing transportation infrastructure;
- Support prioritization of funding for rural road safety improvements;
- Support increased funding for the Highway Trust Fund to ensure solvency, including support for an increase and/or index of the federal gas tax;
- Support increased funding for safety infrastructure projects on the existing transportation system, with emphasis on programs/projects aimed at reducing the greatest numbers of fatalities; and,
- Support legislation which maximizes the use and flexibility of federal funds by not requiring minimum federal matches.

### **ADA Accommodations, Guidelines, and Regulations Impacts to the Public Right of Way**

The Americans with Disability Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design require access for people with disabilities. New and expanded ADA Standards for Accessible Design regulations and guidelines are being issued

without going through the federal public rule-making process. Compliance with these new regulations and guidelines being disseminated by various agencies creates design, engineering and construction burdens for local agencies. Additionally, the Federal Highway Administration recently expanded its “Buy America” federal aid program to include utility furnished materials, although federal funds are not used to purchase these materials. Utilities are now required to provide documentation that all materials used on a federally-funded project meet “Buy America” requirements. Without providing additional federal funding for these often more expensive materials, this expanded requirement creates an unfunded mandate on routine projects. Alameda County recommends the following:

- Support changes to ADA guidelines and regulations to reduce restrictions on local projects with no Federal funding;
- Support language allowing local or state agencies to apply the guidelines and regulations in the most efficient manner to ensure ADA compliance and cost-efficiency;
- Support exemptions when routine maintenance projects, i.e. slurry seal and chip seal, are combined for efficiency;
- Support legislation at both the state and federal level to reduce restrictions on projects and allow local agencies flexibility to implement accessibility accommodations; and
- Support telecommunications and electrical restructuring policies to ensure that local governments are adequately compensated for use of public rights of way and control access to such rights of way.

#### **Support for Regional Partnerships and Projects**

With 20% percent of the population, Alameda County experiences 40% of the traffic congestion within the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area region. Intersected by numerous inter-regional highway corridors which serve as gateways into the region, Alameda County has a robust transportation infrastructure including local streets and roads, freight corridors, express lane implementation and transit systems. Through regional coordination and funding partnerships at all levels of government, a significant investment to improve transportation infrastructure occurred county-wide in recent years. Alameda County supports and encourages continued cross-jurisdictional partnerships to deliver transportation projects and programs to its constituents. Since 1986 Alameda County and its 14 cities, have been recipients of a county-wide voter-approved sales tax measure dedicated to transportation investments throughout Alameda County. Alameda County recommends the following:

- Support legislation that would encourage and facilitate the establishment of public-private partnerships and low-cost financing strategies;
- Support efforts that encourage and promote regional cooperation and coordination to develop, promote, and fund solutions to transportation infrastructure improvements. This is essential to complete planning and development of important regional transportation projects that benefit the State and local road system including Vasco Road, Tesla Road, and Patterson Pass Road in unincorporated Alameda County.
- Support legislation that promotes efficiency and cost-savings in transportation infrastructure; and,
- Support Express/HOV Lane expansion in Alameda County and the Bay Area.

#### **Transportation Project Funding Requests**

A significant benefit of Alameda County’s capital improvement projects is its contribution towards the area economy; specifically, its contribution to employment opportunities. During the significant downturn in the economy, the Public Works Agency implemented over \$64 million of infrastructure improvements over the past two fiscal years. According to a publication titled “Highway Infrastructure Investment and Job Creation,” every \$1 billion of investment in public infrastructure would supports approximately 42,100 full-time jobs. Therefore, the \$64 million of improvements implemented by Alameda County’s Public Works Agency translates to approximately

2,694 private sector jobs created or saved in the area economy.

To continue supporting regional economic and jobs development, Alameda County will continue to apply for available funding opportunities with the Department of Transportation, the Army Corps of Engineers, and others for the high-priority projects listed below.

- **Crow Canyon Road Safety Project:** Implementation of this project will save lives, prevent injuries and improve the livability along this major rural arterial roadway. Design and construction work will also contribute to improving the economic vitality of the Bay Area by providing employment in construction jobs, and improving access and encouraging businesses to expand in the Bay Area.
- **East Lewelling Boulevard Streetscape and Safety Improvement Project, Phase II:** Implementation of this phase of the project will continue the community transformation benefits achieved in the Phase I project. The improved sidewalks and bicycle lanes will connect the complete streets elements to other regional multi-modal facilities. Design and construction work will also contribute to improving the economic vitality of the Bay Area by providing employment in construction jobs, improving access for goods movement. The revitalized roadway and aesthetics encourage businesses to expand into the Lewelling Boulevard area.
- **Castro Valley Boulevard Pedestrian Enhancement Project:** The Castro Valley Downtown Area Strategic Plan identifies roadway, sidewalk, and streetscape improvements are necessary to transform the Castro Valley downtown area into a safe pedestrian oriented retail area. This project is part of the Castro Valley Downtown Streetscape Master Plan and is a high priority for the Castro Valley community to revitalize the downtown commercial business district. Funding and implementation of this project will contribute to improving the economic vitality of Castro Valley by providing a variety of employment opportunities and encouraging businesses to expand in the area.
- **Fruitvale Bridge Lifeline Seismic Retrofit Project:** As an island, the City of Alameda depends upon four estuary bridges (owned, operated and maintained by Alameda County) and two tubes (owned, operated and maintained by CalTrans) for access. In the event of a catastrophic seismic event, one Alameda County estuary bridge needs to be upgraded to a “lifeline status” so that supplies and services can be provided to the City of Alameda in case all other access to/from the city is significantly damaged. A feasibility study has been completed, and the Fruitvale Avenue Bridge was determined to be the most feasible bridge for lifeline seismic retrofitting. Alameda County seeks funding to proceed with the Design and Environmental clearance (estimate: \$3M) so that this project is construction-ready when funds become available. Funding and implementation of this project will generate positive economic actions and growth including the creation of over 1,500 job opportunities from the design and environmental phases through project completion.

#### **Ongoing Funding for I-580 Corridor Improvement Projects**

The I-580 corridor in the Tri-Valley is one of the most traffic congested in the Bay Area region. It serves as a key inter-regional gateway between the Bay Area and the Central Valley for goods movement and workforce commute travel. This chronic condition has resulted in I-580’s designation in the top five most congested Bay Area corridors identified in the annual report jointly published by Caltrans and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). This congestion will worsen as traffic volumes in this corridor are projected to increase 90 percent by 2030.

To respond to the existing and projected congestion, Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) has identified a series of planned improvements for this corridor. Over the years, a number of these improvements have been implemented that include - Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS); an eastbound HOV lane; a new interchange at Isabel/SR 84 in Livermore; and auxiliary lanes. I-580 corridor improvements currently underway include – a westbound HOV lane; completion of the auxiliary lane system; conversion of the HOV lanes to express/HOT lanes; an eastbound truck climbing lane. Projects in the planning stage include - reconstruction of the existing I-580/I-680 interchange; and a BART extension to Livermore with a Phase 1 extension at I-580 and Isabel

Avenue/SR 84.

Alameda County continues its support of the ongoing funding for the I-580 Corridor improvement projects.

### **Freight Movement**

Alameda County is home to the Port of Oakland, the nation's 5th busiest container port, serving one of three Pacific Coast gateways with maritime, rail, and aviation freight activities. Its airport, Oakland International, serves as one of three in the region. The Port of Oakland is a key economic asset for Alameda County, the greater San Francisco Bay Region and neighboring regions. It supports more than 73,000 jobs in the region and its activities are connected to 827,000 jobs across the U.S. An intermodal operation, port activities impact local roadways, regional and inter-regional highway, rail corridors and waterways. Planning and implementation is underway for improvements to the transportation network system and for future expansion of the Port to support its activities. Alameda County supports this activity with funding of transportation infrastructure improvements in its half-cent sales tax authority administered by the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC). Alameda County recommends the following:

- Support efforts at the county (ACTC), regional (Metropolitan Transportation Commission), state (Caltrans), and federal (U.S. Department of Transportation) to study, plan, fund and implement improvements for a multi-modal freight network system.
- Support efforts to establish a multi-modal national freight network system and a program to fund improvements, maintenance and operation of the system.

### **Public Transit**

With the passage of AB 32 and SB 375 that require the reduction of greenhouse gases (GHG) and the integration of transportation, land use and housing planning, California is on the forefront of built environment policies. The implementation of these two bills at the regional and local level can have an impact on planning decisions in local communities to reduce GHG and improve health.

Transportation decisions regarding funding allocation priorities for capital transportation projects (highway expansions) versus "alternate" transit projects (buses, bike routes, and walking paths) will determine the long term effectiveness in reducing GHG, which ultimately improve overall health. As climate change becomes more prevalent, these decisions become more crucial, as they will have consequences for the economy as well as the public's health.

In addition to reducing the number of vehicle miles driven, public transit also encourages more active transportation like walking and biking as people get to and from their bus or train, which helps to make an impact on the obesity epidemic. When jobs and services are placed away from homes without viable and affordable public transit options, the opportunity for social interaction and access to jobs decreases, and the reliance on air polluting cars increases. Access to affordable and reliable public transit is particularly vital to health for low-income communities, youth, seniors, and people with disabilities that rely on it to get to jobs, school, and medical appointments and to visit family members and other support systems.

Alameda County supports the following policies to increase access to public transit:

- **Increased Funding for Public Transit.** Alameda County supports increasing funding to reduce car trips and increase the availability, accessibility, reliability, and affordability of public transit options, particularly local buses, as well as walking and biking.
- **Target Low-Income Communities.** Low-income people, people of color, and people with disabilities are much more likely to not own a car and be completely public transit dependent. When bus services are cut back

to reduce routes, frequency of buses, and the cost of fares, this can significantly impact the ability of transit-dependent people to maintain employment and seek the services they need. It may even completely isolate them. Alameda County supports directing public transit funds to these underserved communities in order to maintain services and operations.

- **Prioritize Transit-Oriented Development over Urban Sprawl.** In order to make public transit economically viable, the growth of housing, jobs, and services need to be concentrated in public transit hubs. This makes it easier and more natural to choose public transit over driving and provides a reliable customer base for public transit systems. Funding should prioritize increasing housing density in urban areas, rather than suburban and rural areas, increasing housing and transit affordability for low-income communities, and support locating housing and jobs near rail and bus lines.

## Education

To level the playing field and ensure a bright future for all of our children, Alameda County supports state and federal-level policies that achieve the following across the life course:

- **Increase funding for early childhood, primary and secondary education, and prioritize resources for low-income students of color:** Alameda County supports President Obama's Early Childcare proposal, which forges a state-federal partnership to guarantee quality Pre-Kindergarten programs to all 4-year-olds in families at or below 200 percent of the poverty line; expanded Early Head Start programs; and replication and expansion of programs such as the Nurse Family Partnership, which provides regular home visits from Public Health Nurses to families from pregnancy through the child's second birthday. Elementary school investment should include increased funding for arts, music, physical education, college mentoring, parent engagement, academic tutoring and after-school enrichment programs. Secondary school investments should focus on creating and expanding programs and partnerships with higher education, and the public and private employment sectors to increase internships, college and career preparedness, with special emphasis on policies that support adopting and funding Linked Learning.
- **Expand STEM education in low-income communities and communities of color:** Science and technology education is increasingly critical to prepare future job seekers for competition in the job market and communities of color are underrepresented in these fields. Alameda County supports state and federal efforts to increase access to math and science education, starting in primary education environments. One model for such policy is the Project Ready STEM Act.
- **Strengthen the community college system:** The demand for higher education in California exceeds the State and community college systems' capacity. Community colleges are particularly critical for low income communities and students of color, as they are a gateway to higher education and economic opportunity. Alameda County supports efforts to strengthen the community college system, including the Community College to Career Fund proposed in the President's 2013 budget.
- **Increase availability and affordability of post-secondary education and provide debt management assistance:** Student aid and family incomes have not risen at the same rates as tuition, and as a result the dream of education is becoming more elusive. Policies that remove barriers to educational opportunities should be supported, and include policies that ensure that community colleges and state universities set affordable tuitions and policies that reduce the burden of debt. Some policy solutions include permanent instatement of the American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC), expansion of the Pell Grant program, increased access to Income-Based Repayment for federal student loans, incentives for community colleges to participate in the federal loan program, expansion of loan forgiveness programs, and stronger consumer protections for private student loan borrowers. Additionally, Alameda County supports policies that protect undocumented youth who want to attend higher education from deportation and that secure funding for their education, such as the DREAM Act.

- **Eliminate inequities in access to quality teachers, including early childhood, special education, and Dual Language Learners teachers:** Increase investments in recruitment, retention and teacher support in low-income schools and for special education through competitive salaries, high-quality teacher mentoring, and ongoing professional development. Promote efforts to protect, stabilize, and increase local, state, and federal funding, and attain new resources for Early Care and Education (ECE) and ECE professional development with a possible focus to dedicated paid days of training for staff at Title V contracted centers. Students who are learning English face unique challenges to school success. Alameda County supports policies that mandate and fund best practices for serving this specific population, including credentialing for teaching Dual Language Learners.
- **Provide funding for programs and services that reduce absenteeism and ensure students attend school ready to learn, particularly in schools with low academic performance:** Alameda County supports policies that address the need for support services, such as coordinated medical care, behavioral and mental health support services, youth development programs, and parent, family and community engagement programs. Efforts to reduce absenteeism should include funded mandates for schools to use attendance information to create an absenteeism and truancy early warning system that identifies frequently absent children and connects them and their families with comprehensive, wraparound interventions. Alameda County supports efforts that will increase access to violence prevention programs and services, including programs that promote healthy relationships. Finally, Alameda County promotes a focus on boys of color, as they experience the poorest educational outcomes and highest dropout rates, including increased funding for male involvement programs and mentoring.
- **Ensure students with disabilities have equal access to educational opportunities.** California ranks 48th among all states based on students with disabilities' 2011 math and reading assessments. In addition to reinstating teaching credential requirements for special education teachers, Alameda County supports efforts to improve the identification rate of students with disabilities so that they can have equal access to education. According to a 2012 report from the American Institutes for Research, California has one of the lowest identification rates of students with disabilities in the nation. Finally, Alameda County supports strengthening the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1974 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
- **Eliminate the disproportionate impact of suspension and expulsion rates on students of color and with disabilities:** Alameda County supports policies that eliminate practices that contribute to high suspension and expulsion rates among boys and young men of color and students with disabilities, such as the use of punitive, zero tolerance policies. Alameda County supports policies that promote the use of restorative justice and early interventions, and prioritizes the use of in school suspension over out of school suspension.
- **Reduce chronic and communicable disease rates among students:** Alameda County supports policies that reduce childhood obesity and other physical activity and diet related diseases, as well as sexually transmitted infections. Specifically, Alameda County supports policies that improve access to nutritious food in and around schools, including fresh, healthy school lunches, prohibit unhealthy food vendors at or near schools, and ensure access to clean drinking water in schools. Additionally, Alameda County supports policies that promote physical activity and prevent unnecessary exposure to environmental toxins. Interventions should include continued funding for programs such as Safe Routes to Schools, policies that ensure students will spend at least 50% of physical education class time engaged in moderate to vigorous physical activity, prohibiting siting schools near point sources of pollution and near freeways, and health promotion practices that reduce asthma triggers, such as the use of non-toxic cleaning supplies and integrated pest-management. Finally, Alameda County supports programs that decrease teen pregnancy and STI's, particularly among youth of color who experience disproportionate rates of STIs.

## Immigration

Alameda County supports federal-level policies that achieve the following:

- **Pass comprehensive immigration reform with a clear path to citizenship:** Alameda County supports immigration reform that provides an expedited, common-sense route to citizenship for new Americans who aspire to be citizens, recognizes the contribution of immigrants, and keeps families together here in this country. Alameda County is supportive of the spirit Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013, passed by the Senate (SB 744), but is supportive of future legislation that address our concerns related to the affordability of the Registered Immigrant Status program for unauthorized immigrants, as well as some of the other barriers in the current proposal that will narrow the number of people actually able to take advantage of the program. Alameda County should support efforts, such as those of First Focus, Children NOW and other advocacy organizations, that establish Principles for Children in Immigration Reform. These principles include: prioritizing keeping families together, resources for unaccompanied minor immigrants, appropriate and accountable training policies and protocols for interacting with and screening children that reflects a humanitarian approach.
- **Protect the health and welfare of children whose parents are being detained or deported by Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Border Patrol:** Alameda County supports efforts that protect children of parents detained or deported within the current system. Additionally, Alameda County supports efforts, such as those of First Focus, Children NOW and other advocacy organizations, that establish Principles for Children in Immigration Reform. These principles include: prioritizing keeping families together, resources for unaccompanied minor immigrants, appropriate and accountable training policies and protocols for interacting with and screening children that reflects a humanitarian approach.
- **Reform Secure Communities and all detention and deportation programs:** Alameda County supports reforms that will reduce the negative impacts for detention and deportation programs on public safety, civil liberties, public health, and the conditions of detainees.
- **Increase access to education, particularly higher education:** Alameda County supports legislation that increases primary and secondary school resources for students with Limited English Proficiency. Alameda County supports policies that increase access to post-secondary education through legislation such as the DREAM Act. Alameda County also supports legislation that extends the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals to more people.
- **Protect against racial profiling based on “perceived” immigration status, ethnicity, or religion:** Alameda County supports legislation that identifies and eliminates racial profiling in the public and private sectors.
- **Increase access to health care, including among undocumented immigrants:** Alameda County supports legislation that increases access to quality, affordable health care coverage and services, including among undocumented immigrants not covered by ACA, and that promotes culturally and linguistically appropriate care.
- **Promote public safety by ensuring that reporting crimes, including reporting domestic violence, to local authorities, does not lead to deportation proceedings:** Such actions could include funding for an evaluation of the new license program established through AB 60 to ensure that it is not used by local law enforcement for racial profiling of people with the license.
- **Protect and promote the well-being of immigrant workers, including undocumented workers:** Alameda County supports legislation that protects immigrant workers, especially the vulnerable undocumented population, from wage theft, and extends important labor standards to jobs predominantly occupied immigrants, such as migrant workers.

- **Ensure nondiscriminatory, equal treatment under the law, and protect the confidentiality and privacy of individuals:** Alameda County supports actions that affirmatively extend access to public services and benefits to all residents, regardless of immigration status, and prohibits social services providers from reporting allegedly unauthorized immigrants to authorities.
- **Restore benefits to legal immigrants:** 1996 legislation imposed a 5-year ban on federal means-tested benefits for documented immigrants. Alameda County supports restoring those benefits and ensuring legal immigrants have access to basic assistance, including health care and nutrition supports.

## Jobs and Economic Development

### Alameda County Workforce Investment Board (ACWIB)

The Alameda County Workforce Investment Board (ACWIB) is charged with developing a new Workforce Development System, mandated by the Federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA), signed into law in 1998. ACWIB offers employment and training, education, and economic development services to job seekers and employers in Alameda County. ACWIB supports creating an integrated workforce system that is flexible, seamless, and responsive to the needs of both job seekers and employers. Alameda County supports policies that promote stronger linkage at the local level between workforce development, education, and economic development efforts.

- **Reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).** Alameda County supports building on the lessons learned over the past 10+ years of implementation, expanding best practices, making improvements, and pushing the system toward innovation. Reauthorization should focus on fixing problems with the statute that stand in the way of successful implementation; encourage the building of a comprehensive, high quality workforce investment system; encourage innovation in serving workers and in providing enhanced services to businesses; facilitate a continuum of services between education, workforce services and training; and expand the resources that are available for further education and training.
- **Support policies that create work and educational opportunities for long-term unemployed workers and low-income adults and youth.** Four years after the official end of the Great Recession, the economy is improving, but the nation is struggling with slow job growth and high unemployment. The national unemployment rate is expected to remain above 7.5 percent through 2014, according to the Congressional Budget Office's Budget. Long-term unemployment, in particular, remains at record levels: nearly two out of five of the unemployed, or about 4 million workers, have been out of work for more than six months and large numbers have been jobless for more than a year. Numerous studies confirm that it is very difficult for long-term unemployed workers to re-enter the workforce.
- **Support the Pathways Back to Work Act.** The bill, which is modeled on provisions in the President's FY 2014 budget request, includes a variety of strategies, including subsidized employment, supportive services for adults, summer and year-round employment opportunities for youth, and competitive grants to help low-income adults and youth obtain education and training leading to jobs and credentials. These provisions build off the lessons learned through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and this short-term federal investment would expand the number and range of programs that prepare adults and youth who are struggling to find work in a slow-growth economy.
- **Invest in education that prepares individuals for the 21st century workforce.** Alameda County supports the alignment of the education and workforce investment systems to the needs of the 21st century workforce and the promotion and development of a well-educated and highly skilled 21st century economy and workforce. A special effort should be made to support education in the Science, Technology, Education and Math (STEM) areas and pathways to careers in growth sectors.
- **Support workforce development efforts that address racial, cultural, and economic disparities in**

**employment and achievement.** Alameda County advocates for programs and policies that help prepare and integrate immigrants, aging workers, ex-offenders, the homeless, veterans, and people with disabilities into the workforce.

- **Expand workforce programs for underrepresented workers.** Target efforts on hard-to-serve populations, i.e. TANF clients, formerly incarcerated individuals, youth transitioning out of foster care, limited English speakers, and residents of neighborhoods with concentrated poverty.
- **Remove the criminal background check requirement from initial job application requirements.** Economic opportunity is greatly diminished for formerly incarcerated individuals (who are disproportionately people of color) because of employment discrimination against people with criminal records. The federal government should pass “Ban the Box” legislation that requires an employer to determine a job applicant’s minimum qualifications before obtaining and considering information regarding the applicant’s conviction history.
- **Support the Alameda County Workforce Investment Board Platform.** Alameda County supports and reaffirms the Legislative Platform of the ACWIB.

### **Place-Based Initiatives**

Individual-level factors such as income, education, and health play a role in a person’s economic well-being. For these reasons, many social service programs and public policies focus on individual supports, such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/Food Stamps). However, we also know that people are impacted by the places in which they live and work. Too many children in our communities are growing up in neighborhoods with no grocery stores, closed parks, and struggling schools. If we want to improve educational outcomes at the individual level, we need to have better schools in our neighborhoods. The potential to earn a sustainable income requires access to viable economic opportunities in the communities where people live. Recognizing that people and place are inextricably linked, community development initiatives need to be designed to bridge the two often separate policy worlds. This is the goal of place-based investing. Place-based initiatives take a comprehensive approach to community development and aim to revitalize multiple aspects of an entire neighborhood to create lasting change for its residents.

- **Promote and expand place-based strategies that concentrate resources and investment in communities with the highest levels of need.** Alameda County supports place-based economic investments that increase economic opportunity in low-income communities and communities of color. A place-based approach should include strategies to bring public benefits and services out into the community and to provide wealth building, wage subsidies, and job supports to clients. In addition, it would facilitate the flow of capital into high need/disinvested communities by having government serve as an intermediary, leveraging government-owned land, employment, and procurement, as well as relationships government may have with financial institutions, businesses, and foundations.
- **Support the place-based initiatives in the President’s FY 2014 budget.** Alameda County supports increased place-based funding, specifically the Integrated Planning and Investment Grants (formerly Sustainable Communities Initiative); Promise Neighborhoods; Choice Neighborhoods; Healthy Food Financing Initiative; and the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Grants.
- **Expand place-based economic investments that increase economic opportunity in low income communities and communities of color.** To address historical and present-day divestment in low-income communities and communities of color, proactive efforts to increase investment in these communities include: (1) ensuring place-based programs such as Sustainable Communities, Health Food Financing Initiative, Promise Neighborhoods target communities of color, both in terms of the geographic target of the programs and the businesses and workers supported through the programs; (2) modernizing the Community Reinvestment Act in ways that will address policy loopholes, address the changing dynamics of the banking industry, and decrease unfair and predatory banking practices targeted at low income communities and

communities of color.

- **Support federal neighborhood revitalization efforts under the Promise Zones initiative.** Promise Zones will become places for transformative co-investments of federal programs and provide tax incentives to promote investment and economic growth. These investments focus on community-based approaches to solving economic challenges and can help deliver a brighter future for children and families, particularly those in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color. Promise Zones coordinates place-based efforts under the Departments of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Education (ED), and Justice (DOJ), among others. The expanded Promise Zones initiative aims to revitalize high poverty communities across the country by attracting private investment, improving affordable housing, improving educational opportunities, providing tax incentives for hiring workers and investing in the Promise Zones, reducing violent crime, and assisting local leaders in navigating federal programs and cutting through red tape. Alameda County specifically supports measures that:
  - Increase appropriations for Choice Neighborhoods (HUD), Promise Neighborhoods (ED), and the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program (DOJ). For FY 2014, President Obama has requested \$300 million for Promise Neighborhoods, \$400 million for Choice Neighborhoods and \$35 million for Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation program.
  - Support tax incentives supporting Promise Zones.
  - Ensure that Promise Neighborhoods is a part of the re-authorization of the Early and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

#### **Alameda County Public Health Department**

Socioeconomic status (SES, usually measured by income, education, or occupation) is one of the most powerful predictors of health. Research shows that each step up the SES ladder correlates with increasingly favorable health. Those with higher SES tend to live longer and experience fewer health problems across the life course, including adverse birth outcomes, disease risk factors, chronic and infectious diseases, and mental illnesses. Socioeconomic status is a “fundamental cause” of health outcomes because it provides access to a wide range of resources such as “money, knowledge, power, prestige, and beneficial social connections”—all of which can be leveraged to avoid risks and protect health. With each step down the SES ladder, resources and opportunities for health diminish.

Alameda County supports the following policies in order to improve the economic and health outcomes of all its residents:

- **Improve access to quality jobs with benefits and sustainable wages:** Policies that could be enacted to ensure that workers have access to good jobs, fair wages, and benefits include: (1) Enact a Living Wage that goes beyond the recently adopted minimum wage increase, requiring employers to pay sustainable wages and benefits, and indexes the sustainable wage to inflation; (2) Protect worker health and safety by strengthening existing laws and enforcement, as well as mandating Paid Sick Days for all workers, so that all workers, especially those in the fast growing service sector, have the ability to accumulate paid time off to recover, treat illness, and access preventive care so that no one is faced with choosing their health or their income; (3) Respond to national attacks on union power by protecting and restoring the right to organize through state and federal legislation that protects and strengthens the worker right to organize, such as labor peace agreements and card-check and neutrality agreements, such as the Employee Free Choice Act, as proposed by Senator Ted Kennedy in 2009; (4) Restore civil rights protections for formerly incarcerated people in the workplace through state and federal “Ban the Box” legislation that prohibits employers from asking about criminal convictions until the final phase of the hiring process, require all licensing boards to review their rules for unnecessary barriers to licensing for people with convictions, and create incentives for hiring people with convictions

- **Create jobs, especially for the long-term unemployed and those facing barriers to work:** Efforts to do so should include: (1) Adopting policies such as the American Jobs Act as a complete package or adopt/extend aspects of the proposal, either at the state or federal level, including tax credits for hiring vets, people with disabilities and long-term unemployed workers, tax cuts for businesses that expand their payroll by hiring new workers, extension of unemployment insurance and reform to the unemployment insurance program, a new “Bridge to Work” program expanding job opportunities for low-income youth and adults, and direct job creation through infrastructure improvements and construction with local hire requirements; (2) Replicating Executive Order 13548, Increasing Federal Employment of Individuals With Disabilities, both in the private and public sector, to set measurable goals for an increase in the recruitment, hiring and retention of employees with disabilities; (3) Creating alternate hiring processes, like the STEP Up program in Alameda County, to extend employment opportunities to people with the most severe disabilities.
- **Increase access to entrepreneurship opportunities:** Policies that help expand access to business opportunities include: (1) Support microenterprise through policies that support community-based non-profit microenterprise and financial organizations that support entrepreneurs, expand access to private markets and sources of capital, establish supportive tax environments, and allow microenterprise to serve as an eligible activity for recipients for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Social Security Disability Insurance; (2) Support co-operatives and create incentives for employee ownership through state policies that promote sound business conversion to cooperative business models, including but not limited to Employee Stock Option Plans (ESOPs), through tax incentives and mandated assistance, as well as those policies that remove barriers to starting co-operative businesses; and (3) Support policies that expand access to capital among entrepreneurs of color, such as adapting the New Markets Tax Credit and the Small Business Administration loans program to target people of color owned businesses.
- **End discrimination in employment, education, and job training and enforce labor laws:** Since the deregulation of the air traffic controllers in the 1980s, employers have turned to ways to make the employment relationship more “flexible” and avoid labor laws, increasingly relying on the roles of “independent contracts,” as well as arranging part-time, temporary, and seasonal work. One major issue is the intentional misclassification of workers which relieves employers of having to make contributions to Social Security, unemployment insurance, workers’ compensation, health insurance, and even avoidance of minimum wage and overtime laws. Alameda County supports the proper staffing of the Equal Opportunity Commission in order to enforce existing law, especially Title IX, the expansion of the Fair Labor Standards Act to include domestic workers, day laborers, and farm workers, and the Labor Department’s effort to work with law enforcement, the IRS, and leaders from seven states to address the misclassification of workers.
- **Invest in workforce development, especially among workers of color and people with disabilities:** Prepare people to take advantage of new opportunities by supporting workforce development policies expand job training for underrepresented workers by refunding workforce development programs with a focus on programs in high-growth industries and on programs that combine basic skill development and occupational instruction and apprenticeships. A federal policy to this effect includes the SECTORS Act of 2011, which provide grants for sector-based partnerships that target workforce development to underserved communities.
- **Remove disincentives to working and asset accumulation for people receiving public benefits:** Increase state and federally mandated income and asset limits for public benefit programs to a level that allows recipients to achieve a greater degree of financial stability before becoming ineligible for the benefits. This includes raising Social Security Administration’s Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) program above the current \$1040 per month in wages and allowing people with disabilities receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to increase the allowable amount of personal assets from its current level of only \$2,000. This issue is particularly critical for people with disabilities, as they represent almost half of all people in poverty.
- **Support policies that expand asset-building opportunities:** Financial security depends on more than job security and the increasing dependence on one’s ability to accumulate financial and personal assets. Alameda

County supports expanding programs and policies that help low-income people accumulate assets through increased savings and investments, such as: (1) State and federal policies that expand individual development accounts (IDAs), children's savings accounts (CSAs), and tax-time education savings programs, such as increased funding for the Department of Health and Human Services' Assets for Independence (AFI), a competitive grant program administered by the Office of Community Services (OCS), and funding for programs based on Maine's and Oklahoma's progressive CSAs designed to maximize savings for low-income children; (2) Policies that expand the presence of mainstream financial institutions in underserved communities, such as modernizing and enforcing the Community Reinvestment Act, through both state and federal actions, and encouraging responsible banking ordinances at the local level to strengthen public accountability and incentives for fair financial practices that protect income and assets; (3) Policies that ensure retirement saving accounts for all workers by establishing universal access to Retirement Savings Plans; (4) Policies that expand access to financial education, including financial planning in the workplace, integration of financial literacy into high school curriculum, and a Financial Services Corp., made up of financial experts, planners, and advisers, that would deliver financial advice and resources to lower-income individuals and families; and (5) Policies that restrict payday lending, including banning or capping predatory loans to 36% Annual Percentage Rate (APR) or less, regulating online payday lenders with nationwide standards, regardless of where the business is located (domestically or internationally), and creating safer small-dollar loan products as an alternative to payday lending.

## **Flood Control and Water Resources**

### **Funding for Flood Protection**

Continued protection from flooding and protecting its natural resources in Alameda County requires legislative remedies including increased funding for flood protection, levee repair and wetland restoration projects, and developing adaptive strategies to climate change and sea level rise. To address new requirements being imposed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), funding is needed for both planning and construction of capital improvement projects. Alameda County, in partnership with other local bay area agencies, also requires designated funding to study and design coastal flood protection solutions.

Alameda County recommends the following:

- Support additional funding opportunities for funding levee maintenance, including repair and reconstruction after a flood event; and,
- Support legislation designating federal funding to study and design coastal flood protection solutions to protect Alameda County's flood control facilities from effects of sea level rise, extreme tide and climate change.

### **Vegetation Management**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) constructed thousands of miles of levees throughout the United States to help reduce the threat of flooding. In many communities, the local sponsors of these levees are flood control districts. The USACE began reassessing its levee maintenance policies after the levee failures in New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, resulting in new Vegetation Variance policy guidelines for vegetation on levees. These new variance guidelines, if adopted, would eliminate storm damage recovery funding for flood control districts without an approved Vegetation Variance. If the Alameda County Flood Control District is deemed to be out of compliance due to vegetation, FEMA will likely map the adjacent communities into flood plain requiring residents to obtain flood insurance for mortgages and flood plain permits for construction.

The Vegetation Variance guidelines, as proposed, do not take into account regional differences in hydrology and

unique California climate. Furthermore, the variance policy conflicts with federal and state Endangered Species Acts that protects habitats and federally listed species and would be prohibitively costly to mitigate the associated impacts to federal and state listed species. Centralizing the variance approvals in Washington DC rather than in local Corps of Engineers district offices, which are more familiar with the unique characteristics of Alameda County's creeks and watersheds, will result in conflicting and lengthy approval process of variance requests. Finally, the cost of developing and gathering information to support the variance request application is prohibitive with no guarantee of approval.

Alameda County support modifications to the Army Corps of Engineers policy on vegetation management of Corp-built flood control levees to be consistent with congressional direction in the Water Resources Development Act 1996 (WRDA) of 1996.

#### **Flood Control Project Funding Request - San Lorenzo Creek Flood**

Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) is seeking Army Corps of Engineers funding in the amount of \$500,000 to begin preliminary engineering for San Lorenzo Creek improvements to provide flood protection. This funding will begin preliminary engineering for a project to implement improvements which will provide increased flood protection to contain the updated 100-year design flow within San Lorenzo Creek, reduce potential for future flooding, enable the District to apply to FEMA with a Letter of Map Revision to remove the 100-year floodplain designation, and eliminate the mandatory requirement to purchase flood insurance for affected residents.

### **Local Government Revenue**

#### **Local Revenue and Economic Incentives**

- Support requiring federal agencies to create "Economic Inclusion Plans," that mandate agencies to create spending plans that generate jobs for low-income communities and communities of color.
- Support equitable taxation: a tax system that benefits all residents equally, and that can serve to reduce poverty by: (1) Expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), the country's most successful anti-poverty program, to increase access, and to create more work incentives and benefits for single fathers and childless adults, so as to build upon the successes of the program; (2) Reducing tax burden on lowest income earners by address by reforming tax codes rather than cutting services, specifically through measures such as those laid out as part of President Obama's proposed American Jobs Act of 2011: permanently raise taxes on high-income individuals, limit deductions for wealthier filers, target tax loopholes, end some corporate tax breaks and subsidies used by large corporations, and spare retirees from any changes in Social Security while directing most of the cuts in MediCare spending to health care providers instead of beneficiaries.
- Oppose the imposition of federal mandates for which funding is not fully provided and budget actions that result in a negative impact to Alameda County.

## **ASSESSOR**

Ron Thomsen

*Assessor*

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

To provide timely and accurate assessment services in a manner resulting in fair and equitable treatment for all Alameda County taxpayers.

### **MANDATED SERVICES**

The Assessor's mandated services are performed in accordance with the California Constitution, Revenue and Taxation Code, Government Code, and State Board of Equalization guidelines and directives. The primary mandated services of the Assessor's Office include: locating and identifying the ownership of all taxable property in Alameda County, determining the taxability of all property, determining the reappraisability of property changing ownership or having new construction added, annually assessing all real estate in accordance with the provisions of Article XIII A of the State Constitution (Proposition 13), annually assessing all taxable personal property at its fair market value, determining and applying all legal exemptions against these assessments, and surrendering an accurate assessment roll to the Auditor-Controller's Office prior to July 1 each year.

Other major functions of the Assessor's Office include: performing local and out-of-state business personal property audits of taxpayers who own business personal property located in Alameda County; re-mapping all real estate parcels when lot-line adjustments, splits, or combinations of parcels are initiated; timely processing of assessment appeal and calamity applications to determine if assessment reductions are warranted; and appraising real estate to issue supplemental assessments when property changes ownership or has new construction added. Support services and assessment information are provided to the Auditor-Controller, Treasurer-Tax Collector, Public Works Agency, Clerk of the Board, Registrar of Voters, School Districts, Special Assessment Districts, and other governmental agencies as required by law.

### **DISCRETIONARY SERVICES**

The Assessor maintains a knowledgeable public information staff to respond accurately to all inquiries regarding property assessments in a timely and courteous manner. The department's website explains the Assessor's functions and has links to provide property assessments and many assessment related forms over the Internet.

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## **AUDITOR-CONTROLLER AGENCY**

Patrick O'Connell

*Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder*

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Auditor-Controller Agency, through the efforts of its employees, shall provide the highest degree of accountability and service when administering public funds and in the protection of official public records.

### **MANDATED SERVICES**

The mandate of the Auditor-Controller Agency is to develop and maintain the County's accounting, payroll, audit, tax analysis, budget and grants, contract compliance and cost plan systems and procedures. The level of these services is determined by federal and State laws, the County Charter, Administrative Code, ordinances and resolutions, and departmental policy set by the Auditor-Controller, an elected official.

The Auditor-Controller's mandated services include the collection of court-related fines and restitutions, Social Services Agency over-payments, and other receivables mandated by State and federal laws and regulations. County resolutions, ordinances, and policies govern the mandate to collect other receivables, such as Medical Center, Public Defender, and environmental fees.

The Office of the Clerk-Recorder provides mandated services established by statute. These include the recording of all recordable documents and maps, collection and distribution of fees and taxes from recording documents, and maintenance of the vital statistics register, which includes birth, death and marriage records.

### **DISCRETIONARY SERVICES**

The Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder does not provide any discretionary services.

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## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

*President, Keith Carson, Supervisor, District 5*

*Vice President, Scott Haggerty, Supervisor, District 1*

*Richard Valle, Supervisor, District 2*

*Wilma Chan, Supervisor, District 3*

*Nate Miley, Supervisor, District 4*

## MISSION STATEMENT

To enrich the lives of Alameda County residents through visionary policies and accessible, responsive and effective services.

## VISION

Alameda County is recognized as one of the best counties in which to live, work and do business.

## VALUES

- Integrity, honesty and respect fostering mutual trust.
- Transparency and accountability achieved through open communications and involvement of diverse community voices.
- Fiscal stewardship reflecting the responsible management of resources.
- Customer service built on commitment, accessibility and responsiveness.
- Excellence in performance based on strong leadership, teamwork and a willingness to take risks.
- Diversity recognizing the unique qualities of every individual and his or her perspective.
- Environmental stewardship to preserve, protect and restore our natural resources.
- Social responsibility promoting self-sufficiency, economic independence and an interdependent system of care and support.
- Compassion, ensuring all people are treated with respect, dignity and fairness.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Board of Supervisors is the governing body of Alameda County and also serves as the governing board of the Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Alameda County Fire Department, and a number of other public entities. In addition, Board members serve on policy boards of regional and district organizations.

### Roles and Responsibilities

The Board of Supervisors sets policy for County government, subject to a variety of changing demands and expectations. Each Board member shares a responsibility to represent the county as a whole, while representing a specific district from which he or she is elected.

### Fiscal Responsibilities

The Board of Supervisors is responsible for helping to develop, adopt and oversee the County budget, balancing expenses against revenues and reflecting mandated obligations as well as locally-identified priorities. As a primary management tool, the budget serves as a reflection of values and is subject to adjustment as conditions warrant and collective policy decisions dictate.

### Management Responsibilities

A fundamental responsibility of each Supervisor is participation in the development and, from time to time, modification of policy. While a myriad of factors and forces influence the legislative process, key resources for advice and counsel are available from the County agency/department heads who possess professional knowledge and procedural skill in evaluating policy options. An extension of this key function is the oversight of County operations to assure that policy, once adopted, is fully and appropriately carried out by the department heads, in collaboration with the County Administrator. By working with department heads, both elected and appointed, the Supervisors can assure themselves and their constituents that policy intent is fulfilled.

### Community

The needs and interests of constituents represent a significant area of responsibility for a Board member. Being available and responsive to their constituents is a high priority for all Supervisors and consistent with the tradition of good government in Alameda County.

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## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

Chris Bazar

*Director*

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

To enhance the quality of life of County residents and plan for the future well-being of the County's diverse communities; to balance the physical, economic, and social needs of County residents through land use planning, environmental management, neighborhood improvement, affordable housing, and community development; and to promote and protect agriculture, the environment, economic vitality and human health.

### **MANDATED SERVICES**

Provide staff support to the Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, Boards of Zoning Adjustment, Airport Land Use Commission, Lead Abatement District Joint Powers Authority, Redevelopment Successor Agency Oversight Board.

Administer Surplus Property Authority and Redevelopment Successor Agency.

Prepare, update, and implement County's General Plan; administer/update applicable County ordinances.

Conduct environmental, design, and policy review of proposed development projects.

Issue and enforce required land use permits and monitor required environmental mitigation measures.

Enforce Food and Agriculture Codes and Business and Professions Codes.

Verify accuracy of commercial weighing and measuring devices.

Provide financing, project administration, and construction management for housing, community development, and rehabilitation programs.

Support EveryOne Home Plan implementation; administer supportive services, shelter, housing operating and rental assistance programs for homeless and at-risk individuals and families.

Provide case management of and environmental investigation for lead-exposed children.

Provide education, training, and lead hazard reduction strategies to prevent lead exposure of pre-1978 residential properties in the four County Service Areas.

Manage County's demographic and census programs.

Process applications and permit amendments. Conduct annual and periodic inspections and reviews for compliance, protection, and development of mineral resources through the land-use planning process as mandated by the State's Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) and the County's Surface Mining Ordinance.

## **DISCRETIONARY SERVICES**

Manage/staff Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Committee; Sunol Citizens' Advisory Committee; Agricultural Advisory Committee; Parks, Recreation, and Historical Commission Alcohol Policy Committee; Ordinance Review Advisory Committee; District 4 Advisory Committee; and Altamont Open Space Committee. Provide technical expertise at Board of Supervisors' community and sub-committee meetings.

Enforce Zoning, Neighborhood Preservation, Junk Vehicle, Mobile Home Park Space Rent Stabilization, and other ordinances; protect County interests in regional transportation and land-use/planning efforts.

Support County commissions: Local Agency Formation Commission; Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee; Transportation Commission (formerly Congestion Management Agency); Climate Action Plan Team; BART to Livermore, Bayfair BART Transit Oriented Development and Bayfair BART Safety Study Technical Advisory Committees; Tri-Valley Regional Rail Policy Working Group; Technical Advisory Working Group; Regional Advisory Working Group; and, Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Authority.

Participate in regular community and regional meetings: District 1 Rural Roads; District 4 Agriculture/Canyonlands; East Alameda County Conservation Strategy (EACCS) Implementation Committee; Fire Commission Committee; Cherryland Community Association; San Lorenzo Homes Association; and, Unincorporated Areas Technical Advisory Committee.

Participate on state, regional, countywide, and local boards, committees, and task forces in areas related to the agency's responsibilities and staff expertise.

Provide the East Bay Economic Development Alliance, other County departments, and the public with affordable housing development expertise and economic/demographic data.

Promote sustainable property development and job creation opportunities.

Support strategic vision priorities and carry out Environmental/Sustainability goals that maximize the value of county resources, thriving communities, transportation services, and affordable housing stock.

Remediate environmental and safety hazards in homes of children diagnosed with asthma or respiratory distress, while increasing awareness of the importance of proper ventilation, moisture control, allergen reduction, integrated pest management, and home safety on occupant health.

Develop affordable clean energy programs for the unincorporated areas; expand these programs countywide.

Carry out local economic and civic development activities consistent with the Board's policy on reinvestment of former redevelopment funds in the unincorporated communities of Alameda County.

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## **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Susan S. Muranishi

*County Administrator*

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

To provide professional, innovative, and proactive leadership to the Board of Supervisors, agency/department heads, and the public through responsible fiscal and administrative policy development and program oversight.

## **MANDATED SERVICES**

The County Administrator's Office provides a number of mandated services including developing and managing the annual countywide budget, administering Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) programs, and developing Affirmative Action Plans. The level of mandated services provided by the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is determined by specific statutes, ordinances, policies, and the Board of Supervisors and includes, but is not limited to, attending all Board of Supervisors, Assessment Appeals Board, and Legal Hearing Officer meetings; codifying the Ordinance Code, County Charter, and Administrative Code; receiving and filing claims, lawsuits, and various petitions; processing property tax administration matters; setting for hearing and processing of planning and other types of appeals; and providing access to information for Board members, County departments, news media, and the general public regarding the actions and hearings of the Board of Supervisors, Assessment Appeals Board, and the Legal Hearing Officer.

**DISCRETIONARY SERVICES**

Discretionary services include providing policy recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, monitoring and reviewing all budgetary expenditures and revenues, initiating studies to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of County programs, and administering the County's Risk Management, Capital Projects, Debt Financing, Economic Development, Legislation, Public Information, Diversity Programs, and Cable Television Franchise Authority for the unincorporated areas. Formerly a mandated County function, Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) services are now contracted with the County.

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**COUNTY COUNSEL**

Donna Ziegler

*County Counsel*

**MISSION STATEMENT**

To provide effective, efficient, and cost-effective legal representation, advocacy, and advice to County agencies and departments, thereby advancing the objectives and protecting the financial resources of the County of Alameda.

**MANDATED SERVICES**

The Office of the County Counsel is required by law to provide legal representation to County Agencies, Departments, and Officers in civil matters. The Office of the County Counsel provides cost-effective services that reduce the County's exposure and financial liability. The Office has demonstrated that its familiarity with the County processes and procedures as well as its knowledge of governmental issues enables us to provide greater service. Agencies seek our services across a broad spectrum of matters in recognition of the value-added.

**DISCRETIONARY SERVICES**

County Agencies and Departments request a variety of legal services from the Office of the County Counsel. Services include legal advice in governmental, corporate and other areas of specialized law, litigation and pre-litigation representation, loss prevention, personnel advice and counseling, and ongoing training. These services resulted in reduced liability exposure and litigation expenses. The Office strives to remain fully informed about the goals and activities of the County, to provide services that are relevant, and to assist in solving problems proactively.

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**DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES**

Matthew Brega

*Director***MISSION STATEMENT**

To establish paternity, medical, and child support orders and to collect support payments in an efficient and cost effective manner while maintaining the respect and dignity of the public we serve.

**MANDATED SERVICES**

California Family Code §17000 et seq. mandates a separate County Department of Child Support Services to provide a variety of child support services free of charge including location of non-custodial parents; establishment of paternity and medical support orders; and enforcement, collection, and distribution of child support orders.

**DISCRETIONARY SERVICES**

The Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) provides no discretionary services.

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**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Nancy O'Malley

*District Attorney***MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Alameda County District Attorney's Office is to ensure, protect and promote public safety in Alameda County. The District Attorney's Office shall review and prosecute criminal cases in both the adult and juvenile justice systems; shall protect consumers and the environment, including enforcement through civil and criminal actions; shall preserve and protect public integrity; shall uphold the rights of victims of crime; and shall support and protect victims of and witnesses to crime.

**MANDATED SERVICES**

The Alameda County District Attorney's Office reviews, charges and prosecutes criminal violations of the laws of California. In addition, the District Attorney's Office:

Prosecutes actions in the Juvenile Justice system;

Brings civil and criminal actions to protect consumers from fraud, including real estate fraud, insurance fraud, mortgage fraud, medical and financial fraud, public assistance fraud and financial crimes against elders and dependent adults;

Brings legal actions to protect the environment;

Notifies every crime victim of their rights under the California Constitution and ensures that those rights are upheld and enforced; and

Advocates for the court to order legally appropriate restitution on behalf of crime victims and the State of California Victims of Crime Fund.

### **DISCRETIONARY SERVICES**

The District Attorney's Office engages in a number of discretionary services to better serve the citizens of Alameda County. Among them:

- The Victim Witness Division provides victim support services and processes claims to the State Victims of Crime (VOC) Program on behalf of crime victims;
  - The Family Justice Center is a one stop shop where victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking have access to a host of services and service providers from our community;
  - The Truancy Unit helps identify chronically truant students and works with school districts and parents/guardians to improve student attendance;
  - The DA Speakers Bureau, working in connection with our Diversity Outreach Coordinators, addresses numerous and diverse citizens groups to inform and educate them about criminal justice and the actions of the District Attorney's Office;
  - The District Attorney's Office educates, mentors and employs local teens through the District Attorney's Justice Academy; the County's Youth Leadership Academy; the New Beginnings program and the Summer Youth Employment Program;
  - Human Exploitation and Trafficking (H.E.A.T) Watch, the District Attorney's innovative collaboration to combat human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of minors, is the premier law-enforcement resource in the United States for these types of crimes. H.E.A.T. Watch has expanded to include local, statewide and national trainings, and is currently producing podcasts and a radio program to promote its message. To date, H.E.A.T. Watch has produced 39 episodes of H.E.A.T. Watch Radio to inform the public about human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children;
  - The District Attorney's Office creates and distributes numerous training programs annually, and conducts both live and web-based presentations, that inform and educate thousands of district attorneys, defense attorneys and peace officers throughout California about recent developments in the law and best practices for law enforcement.
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## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

F c x k f ' T q e j c

*K p v g t k o*

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

To provide the highest level of service to the community by valuing our members, promoting positive leadership, and dedicating ourselves to excellence.

### **MANDATED SERVICES**

As set forth in the State Health and Safety Code and the Uniform Fire Code, the County has a responsibility to provide fire protection, fire prevention, and arson investigation services to all the unincorporated areas. The Alameda County Fire Department (ACFD), a dependent special district under the governance of the Alameda County Board of Directors, has been designated to carry out these mandated functions and, in addition, to act as the sworn agent for the State Fire Marshal. The Uniform Fire Code and local ordinances, as adopted by the County, provide unincorporated area residents and businesses with the same degree of fire and life safety services as those found in surrounding cities.

### **DISCRETIONARY SERVICES**

While the existence of the ACFD is mandated, its specific functions, operations, and service levels are discretionary, thereby providing the Department with the flexibility to address essential safety and health service demands within the communities it serves. The ACFD provides first-responder paramedic services 24-hours a day, 365 days per year throughout the unincorporated areas of the County as well as to its contract partners of Dublin, San Leandro, Newark, Union City, Emeryville, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Through automatic aid, mutual aid, and contractual agreements, the ACFD and surrounding jurisdictions ensure the highest level of emergency fire and medical response in the event of local or regional disasters. The ACFD is also responsible for the administration and operation of the Alameda County Regional Emergency Communications Center (ACRECC).

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## **GENERAL SERVICES AGENCY**

Aki K. Nakao

*Director*

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

To provide high quality services that are on time, fiscally responsible, environmentally sustainable, and convenient for our customers.

**MANDATED SERVICES**

Mandated services under State and federal laws include: building maintenance of 130 facilities, including North County and Santa Rita Jails and County Veterans' Memorial Buildings; hazardous materials abatement and compliance; provision of facilities and services to the courts; Real Property (real property leasing, acquisition, sale, property management); Property and Salvage (surplus of County property); environmental protection/sustainability per Assembly Bills 32 and 939; and activities mandated through County ordinances, including countywide purchasing activities, preference for local businesses, Green Building, and waste reduction and recycling.

The General Services Agency also provides the following services to other County departments to facilitate their provision of mandated services: Technical Services (architectural/engineering services, construction management, energy and environmental management and sustainable programs management); Communications (electronics, 800 MHz radio system and telephones); and Portfolio Management (capital planning and asset management).

**DISCRETIONARY SERVICES**

Discretionary Services include Motor Vehicle, Parking, Child Care, Office of Acquisition Policy, Messenger Services and Administration.

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**HEALTH CARE SERVICES AGENCY**

Alex Briscoe

*Agency Director*

**MISSION STATEMENT**

- To provide integrated health care services to the residents of Alameda County within the context of Managed Care and a private/public partnership structure.
- To provide direct oversight and administrative and fiscal support for the County's Medically Indigent Services Plan and its provider network and all cross-departmental and cross-jurisdictional services, with an emphasis on children's services.
- To provide general oversight and administrative and fiscal support for the Public Health, Environmental Health, and Behavioral Health Care Services Departments.
- To provide leadership for implementation of countywide and agency-wide health care initiatives.
- To provide leadership and assistance to privately and publicly-operated health care delivery systems including implementation of programs that expand access to needed medical services in the most appropriate and cost-effective setting, development of insurance alternatives for previously uninsured County residents, and implementation of programs that expand access to medical services for children.

**MANDATED SERVICES**

Mandated services include administration and monitoring of County Indigent Health Care Services, guidelines for the County's Section 17000 population and all indigent health care provider agreements funded through State health realignment, Measure A, and the County General Fund. In order to receive State realignment funds, Alameda County must match realignment revenues with County General Funds at a predetermined State-mandated maintenance of effort level. Additionally, the County must comply with the Medically Indigent Care Reporting Systems (MICRS) requirements and provide demographic, expenditure, and utilization data to produce an unduplicated count of all indigent users.

Mandated services also include the provision of medical and health care services to youth in custody at Alameda County's 24-hour Juvenile Justice Center. These services must comply with Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations, Division 1, Section 10; Board of Corrections, Chapter 1; Board of Corrections, Subchapter 5, Minimum Standards for Juvenile Facilities, Article 8, and Health Services, Sections 1400 - 1454.

**DISCRETIONARY SERVICES**

Discretionary services are designed to provide leadership and advocacy in the expansion of services to Alameda County's indigent and underserved populations. These expansion programs and services include: the implementation of One-e-App, a web-based system that streamlines enrollment in a range of publicly funded health insurance programs; the First 5 Alameda County early childhood development initiative (Special Start); Center for Healthy Schools and Communities (CHSC); Interagency Children's Policy Council (ICPC); Youth UpRising; Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA); Healthy Families/Medi-Cal policy, outreach and enrollment activities; lead governmental agency for the SB 910 Medi-Cal Administrative Activities/ Targeted Case Management (MAA/TCM) claiming program; Safe Passages/Our KIDS; Healthy Smiles Dental Program; administration of the Tobacco Master Settlement Fund and the County Measure A fund and implementation of the federal Medicaid Section 1115 waiver, California's bridge to health care reform.

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## **HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES**

Mary Welch

*Interim Director*

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

To deliver high quality and timely human resource services in partnership with County agencies, departments, and special districts to enable our customers to reach their organizational goals.

### **MANDATED SERVICES**

Human Resource Services (HRS) provides State and locally mandated services to County agencies, departments, and special districts. Under the Civil Service Commission, HRS administers merit-based examinations, classifies positions, certifies eligible candidates, and conducts disciplinary appeals. Under the Board of Supervisors, HRS provides support services including: labor negotiations, employee relations, unemployment insurance, countywide administration and negotiation of medical, dental and life insurance and all employee benefits, Temporary Assignment Pool (TAP) Program, and the Step-Up Program to recruit and employ individuals with disabilities.

### **DISCRETIONARY SERVICES**

HRS provides discretionary technical support services, advising operating departments in all areas of human resources management, work and family programs, and training and development, including management of the Alameda County Training and Education Center. HRS also provides ongoing end-user support of Human Resource Information Systems.

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## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

Tim Dupuis

*Director*

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

To provide information technology consulting, system development, Internet and Intranet connectivity, strategic planning, data center services, application support, and network services to County departments and agencies.

### **MANDATED SERVICES**

The Information Technology Department provides support services to departments in carrying out their mandated services.

**DISCRETIONARY SERVICES**

All services are discretionary.

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**COUNTY LIBRARY**

Jean Hofacket

*County Librarian*

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of Alameda County Library is to offer opportunities and resources for lifelong learning that support individual and community growth and enrichment. We remain responsive by providing welcoming spaces, outreach, materials, personal expertise, technology, partnership, and innovation.

**MANDATED SERVICES**

The Education Code allows the Board of Supervisors to establish and maintain a free County Library that provides library services to unincorporated areas and cities wishing to participate.

**DISCRETIONARY SERVICES**

There are three program areas within the County Library system that provide library services to five participating cities, the unincorporated areas, and County institutions. Services are provided in the cities of Albany, Dublin, Fremont, Newark, and Union City. Branch libraries in San Lorenzo and Castro Valley serve the Unincorporated Area. Additional community-based services are provided through the Bookmobile, Literacy, and Senior Outreach Programs and at Juvenile Hall, Camp Wilmont Sweeney, and the County jails.

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**PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

LaDonna Harris

*Chief Probation Officer*

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The Probation Department promotes public safety by providing supervision, services, supports and opportunities to clients on behalf of the people of Alameda County.

**MANDATED SERVICES**

The Probation Department responds to statutory and judicial mandates. Service mandates include detention of youth determined by the Juvenile Court to be a risk to themselves or others; provision of detention intake review and recommendations to the Juvenile Court, including a social study of the youth and his or her family; investigations of adult offenders and recommendations to the court for sentencing; and community supervision of juvenile and adult offenders.

**DISCRETIONARY SERVICES**

The Community Probation Program is funded by the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) and provides a collaborative opportunity for the Probation Department, in concert with other law enforcement agencies and community-based organizations (CBOs), to provide services throughout the County and directly to the communities where clients live.

Camp Wilmont Sweeney is a minimum security residential treatment facility serving male youth ages 15-18. Camp Sweeney is a local alternative to Group Home placement or the California Division of Juvenile Justice. The Camp Sweeney program is six to nine months in duration, and is designed after the Missouri Model. The youth participating in this program are offered a wide variety of services intended to address their individual criminogenic risk factors and prepare them for a successful transition back into the community.

Prevention Services are funded by the Juvenile Probation and Camps Funding Program (JPCF), enabling the Probation Department to provide services to at-risk youth. The Probation Department contracts with CBOs that serve at-risk youth described as pre-delinquent offenders, in addition to a limited number of youth on probation. Serving in an advisory capacity to the Chief Probation Officer, the County's Local Planning Council reviews and plans for the development of contracts with CBOs to provide services.

Mentor Diversion is a non-statutory pre-plea diversion program for non-violent first-time drug offenders 18-24 years of age who are charged with various drug-related violations of the California Health and Safety Code.

The Special Services/Training Unit is a staff development program that coordinates training for staff and ensures compliance with the Corrections Standards Authority's Standards and Training for Corrections.

The Volunteers in Probation Program recruits volunteers from our diverse community to assist probation officers in serving adult and juvenile probationers, as well as to provide services and programs at the juvenile facilities.

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## **PUBLIC DEFENDER**

Brendon Woods

*Public Defender*

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

To zealously protect and defend the rights of our clients through compassionate and inspired legal representation of the highest quality, in pursuit of a fair and unbiased system of justice for all.

### **MANDATED SERVICES**

The Public Defender is the primary defense attorney for indigent individuals accused of crimes or otherwise facing potential loss of liberty. For these individuals, legal representation at public expense is mandated by the United States and California Constitutions, as well as by statute and County Charter. All core services are statutorily mandated.

Cases in which the Public Defender has a legal conflict of interest are referred to the Court Appointed Attorneys Program (CAAP), which operates pursuant to a contract administered by the County Administrator. The Indigent Defense budget also includes court-ordered defense expenses for indigent defendants represented by CAAP, and the Alternative Dispute Resolution services contracts.

### **DISCRETIONARY SERVICES**

The Public Defender provides discretionary representation in the Clean Slate Program, Parolee Reentry Court and Homeless and Caring Court, important portals to community reentry for many individuals and their families.

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## **PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY**

Daniel Woldesenbet

*Director*

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

To enhance the quality of life for the people of Alameda County by providing a safe, well-maintained and lasting public works infrastructure through accessible, responsive and effective services.

### **MANDATED SERVICES**

Mandated services include building inspection, processing of land development and subdivision requests, County Surveyor functions, flood control, control of storm water pollution, road services, street lighting,

and transportation planning. The level of services provided by the Public Works Agency (PWA) is determined by specific statutes, ordinances, or the Board of Supervisors.

### **DISCRETIONARY SERVICES**

Discretionary services and programs carried out by the PWA include the School Crossing Guard Program and the annual radar speed survey.

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## **REGISTRAR OF VOTERS**

Tim Dupuis

*Registrar*

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

To encourage all eligible residents to exercise their right to vote; conduct elections in a fair, accurate, and efficient manner that inspires public confidence in the County elections process; maintain a continuous professional level of service to the public; and develop new techniques to improve outreach services that acknowledge the diversity of Alameda County.

### **MANDATED SERVICES**

All services provided by the Registrar of Voters Department (ROV) are mandated by the California Elections Code, the California Government Code, and the California Constitution. These mandated services include voter registration, voter outreach, candidate services, elections services and vote by mail, and petition checking for all federal, State, County, special, and local elections conducted in the County. Additional information on these mandated services is in the Major Service Areas section later in this chapter.

### **DISCRETIONARY SERVICES**

None.

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**SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Gregory Ahern

*Sheriff***MISSION STATEMENT**

Since 1853, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office has protected life and property while providing humane treatment to those in custody. Each day the mission of the Sheriff's Office is to demonstrate ability to enforce the law fairly, commitment to professionalism, service to the community with integrity and trust, and obligation to duty with honor and pride.

**MANDATED SERVICES**

California Government Code, Section 24000, identifies the Sheriff as an elected officer of the County and defines the qualifications required to hold office. California Government Code, Section 26600, outlines the duties of the Sheriff and states that the Sheriff shall preserve peace, arrest all persons who attempt to commit public offenses, exercise the authority to keep the County jail and the prisoners in it, and serve all process and notices in the manner prescribed by law. In addition to being a Constitutional Officer of the County, the Sheriff also acts as the Coroner, Director of Emergency Services, and an officer of the courts. The level of services is determined by specific statute or judicial mandate.

**DISCRETIONARY SERVICES**

Discretionary services include emergency dispatch, contract police services, crime laboratory services, and programs designed as alternatives to incarceration, such as the Weekender program. The services provided by the Crime Prevention Unit, such as School Resource Officers, the Youth and Family Services Bureau, and the Deputy Sheriff's Activities League, are also discretionary.

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**SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY**

Lori A. Cox

*Agency Director***MISSION STATEMENT**

To promote the economic and social well-being of individuals, families, neighborhoods, and communities.

**MAJOR SERVICE AREAS AND MANDATED SERVICES**

The Social Services Agency consists of the following four departments whose mandated services include the following:

- Administration and Finance provides Agency administrative direction, oversight, coordination, and outreach as well as management for the distribution of assistance payments to clients, and prepares claims for reimbursement.
  - Adult, Aging and Medi-Cal Services provides Adult Protective, Public Guardian/Conservator/Administrator, and Older American/Californian Acts services. AAMS also administers In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) and Medi-Cal programs and operates the Area Agency on Aging.
  - Children and Family Services provides emergency response and shelter services as well as investigative, maintenance, reunification, and permanent placement services and administers the Foster Care Program.
  - Workforce and Benefits Administration administers the eligibility for and disbursement of mandated assistance programs and provides the required employment and support services for public assistance recipients.
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**TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR**

Donald R. White

*Treasurer-Tax Collector*

**MISSION STATEMENT**

To provide County departments and all other depositing agencies with countywide central banking facility and countywide treasury administration services, including the investment of monies on deposit in the Treasurer's Investment Pool; to provide real estate and personal property tax billing and collection services; to provide business licensing services in the unincorporated areas of the County; and to provide in-house administration of the County's deferred compensation plan programs for eligible employees.

**MANDATED SERVICES**

The California Revenue and Taxation Code (Section 2602) and the County Charter require the Treasurer-Tax Collector to collect and process all property taxes and to receive and secure County revenues from all other sources. County Ordinance #0-91-3 requires that the Tax Collector issue annual business licenses in the County's unincorporated areas and collect and process business license taxes.

**DISCRETIONARY SERVICES**

The investment of monies in the Treasurer's safekeeping until required to fund operations is a discretionary activity that the County undertakes to earn interest revenues. The Treasurer's investment function/activities are governed by Section 53601 of the California Government Code.

The administration of the County's deferred compensation plan, a voluntary employee-contributory tax-deferred savings plan, is a discretionary activity that the County sponsors in order to provide County employees with another means to supplement their retirement income. The County's deferred compensation plan is authorized and governed by Section 457 of the Internal Revenue Code. The Treasurer also administers the County's 401(a) supplemental retirement plan for certain qualified employee groups.

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## **ZONE 7 FLOOD CONTROL WATER AGENCY**

Jill Duerig

*General Manager*

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

To provide a reliable supply of high-quality water and an effective flood control system to the Livermore-Amador Valley Area, and to develop and manage the water resources in a fiscally responsible, innovative, proactive, and environmentally-sensitive way.

### **MANDATED SERVICES**

Zone 7 provides treated and untreated water for municipal, industrial, and agricultural uses, and develops and maintains adequate facilities to prevent property loss and damage from floods in the Livermore-Amador Valley Area.

### **DISCRETIONARY SERVICES**

Zone 7 provides no discretionary services or programs.