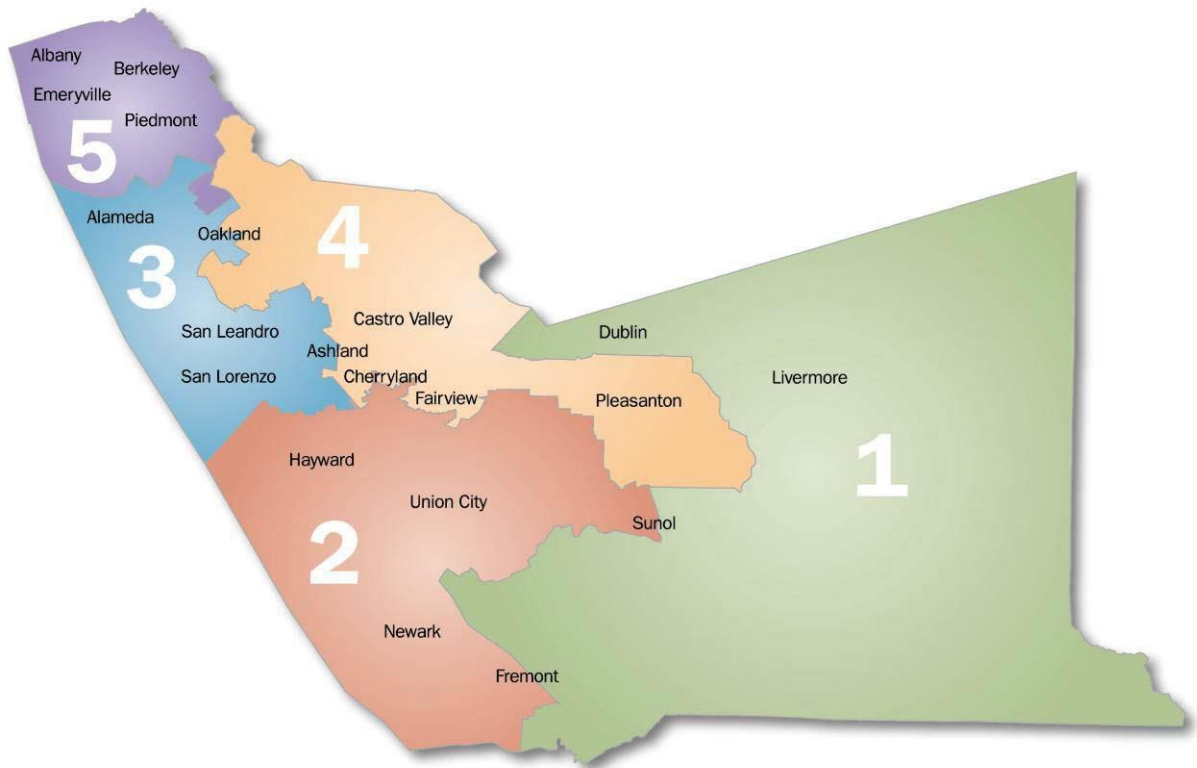




2018

Alameda County Legislative Platform



Board of Supervisors

Wilma Chan, President	District 3
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Susan S. Muranishi
County Administrator

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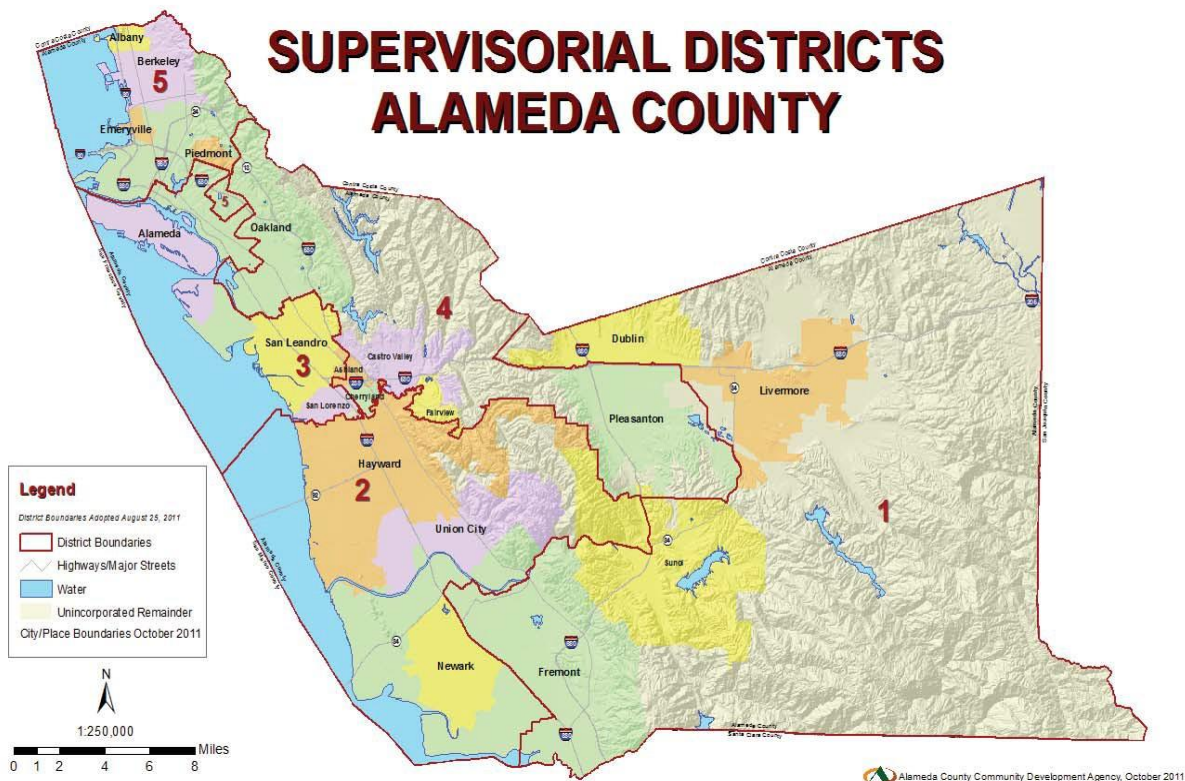
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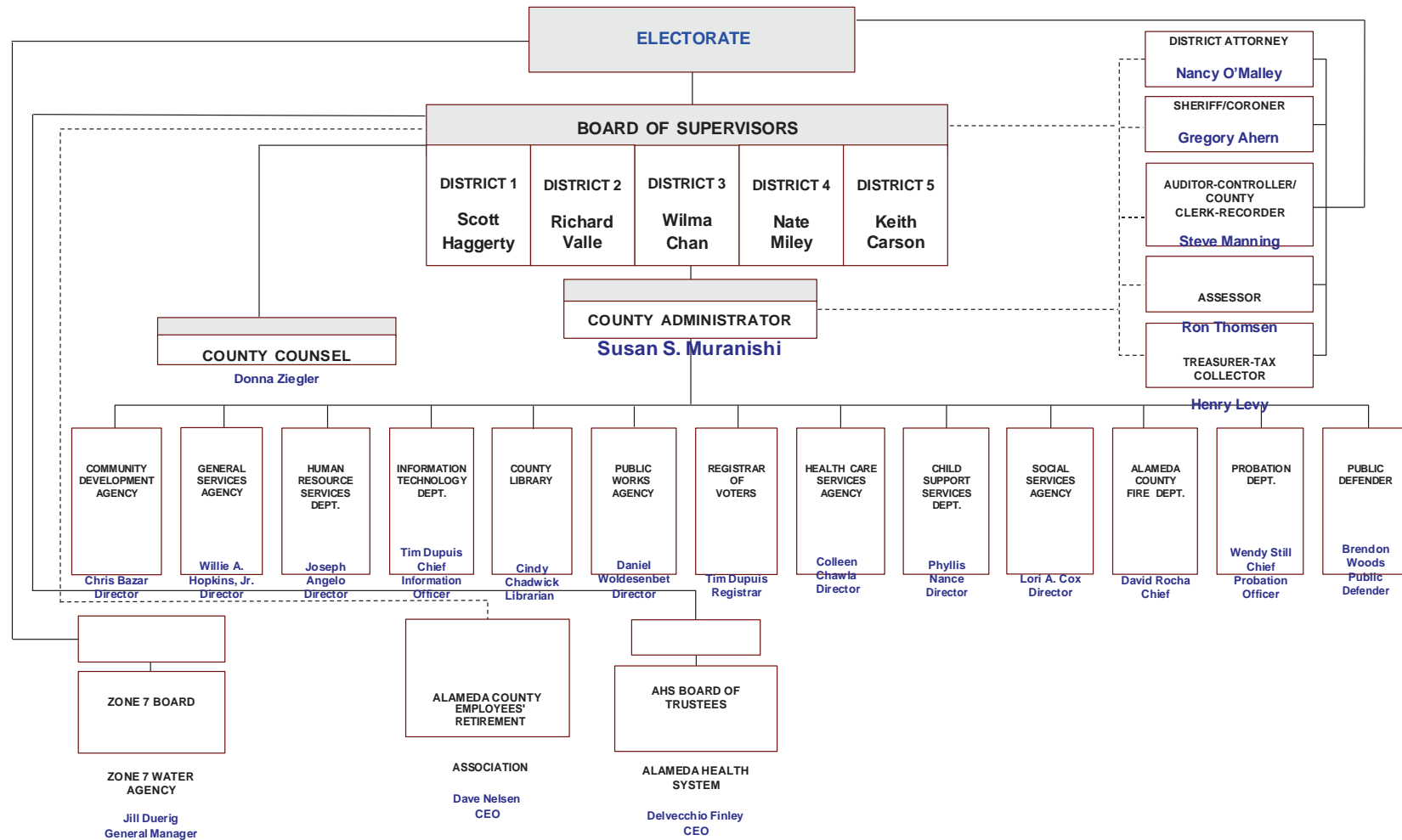
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Alameda County was established in 1853. The County's almost 821 square miles encompass a varied geography ranging from bay wetlands to rolling open spaces to hillside lakes and streams. Alameda is the seventh most populous county in California, and has 14 incorporated cities and several unincorporated communities. The total population is estimated to be 1,645,359 as of January 2017, a 1 percent increase from a year ago. Oakland is the seat of County government and the largest city.

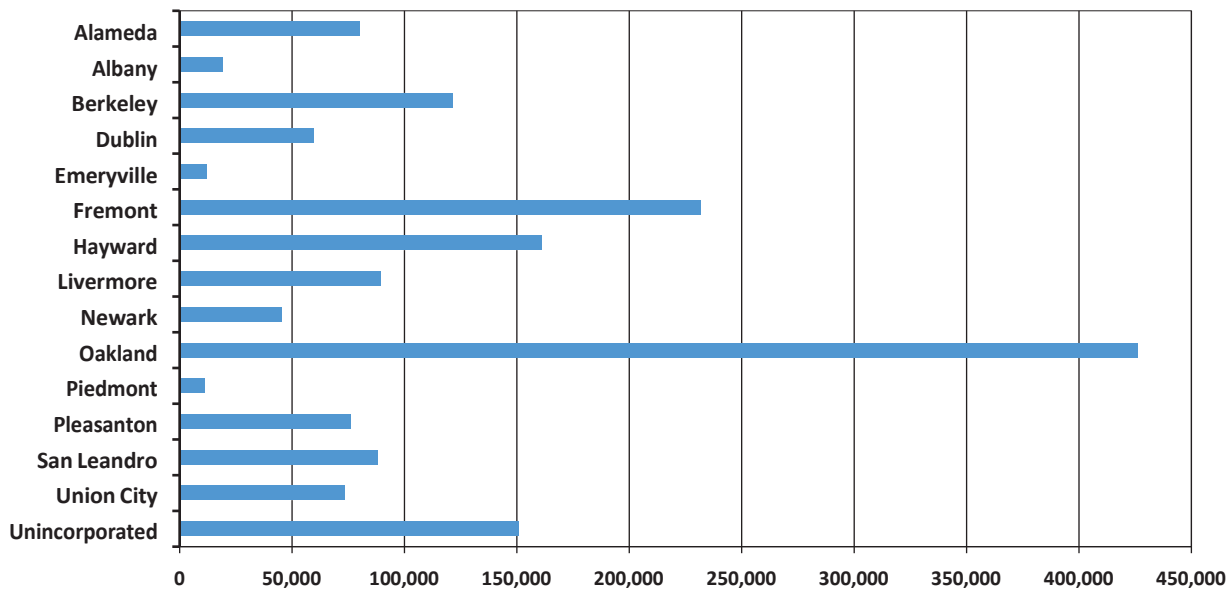
Alameda County is governed by a five-member Board of Supervisors elected by popular vote. Countywide elected officials include the Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder, Assessor, Treasurer-Tax Collector, District Attorney, and Sheriff/Coroner. The Board of Supervisors is responsible for providing policy direction, approving the County budget, and representing the County in a number of areas including its dependent special districts. The County Administrator advises, assists, and acts as an agent for the Board of Supervisors in all matters under the Board's jurisdiction.



ALAMEDA COUNTY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



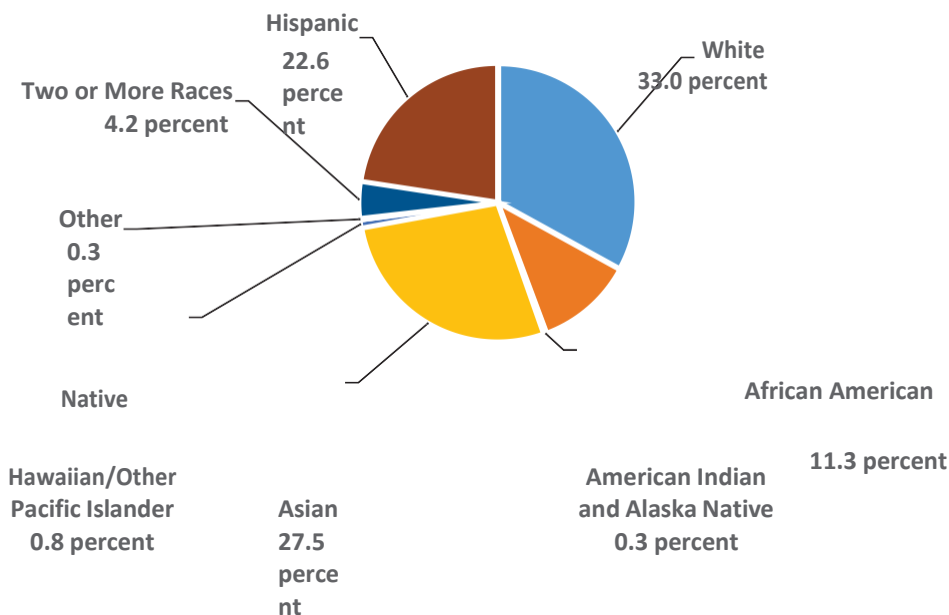
POPULATION OF ALAMEDA COUNTY CITIES AND UNINCORPORATED AREA



Source: California Department of Finance, January 2017

Alameda County is characterized by rich diversity and culture. Population growth has occurred with the natural net increase of births over deaths, but also from substantial immigration. Alameda County is now one of the most ethnically diverse regions in the Bay Area and the nation. Based on the 2010 Census, 31 percent of the population is foreign born. There is no majority racial or ethnic group in Alameda County. According to the California Department of Education, 67 languages were spoken by English language learners in the K-12 public school systems in Alameda County in 2015-2016.

Alameda County Race/Ethnicity

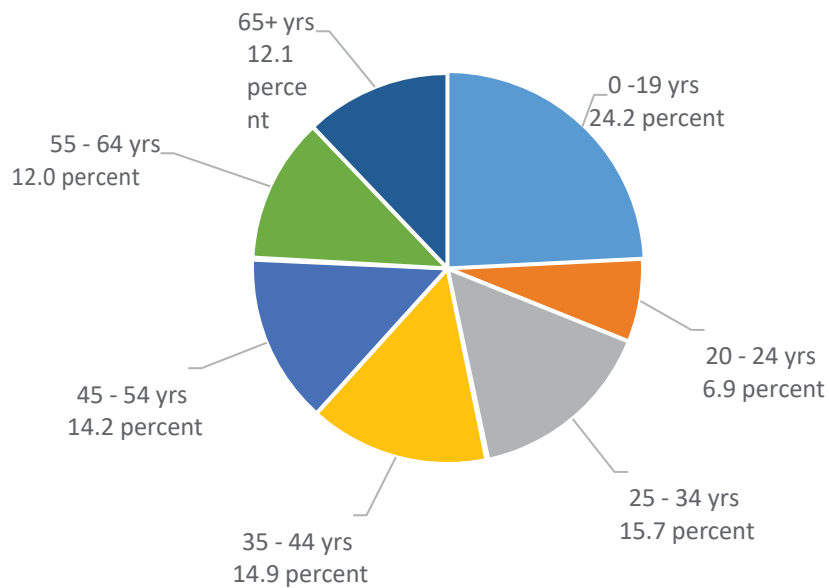


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey

As illustrated in the chart below almost 25 percent of the county's population is under 19 years of age and

another 24 percent is 55 years of age or above. The remaining approximately 50 percent is of working-age. Based on data from the California Department of Finance, the Alameda County adult population aged 65 and above is projected to increase over 40 percent in the next 10 years.

Alameda County Population by Age Group

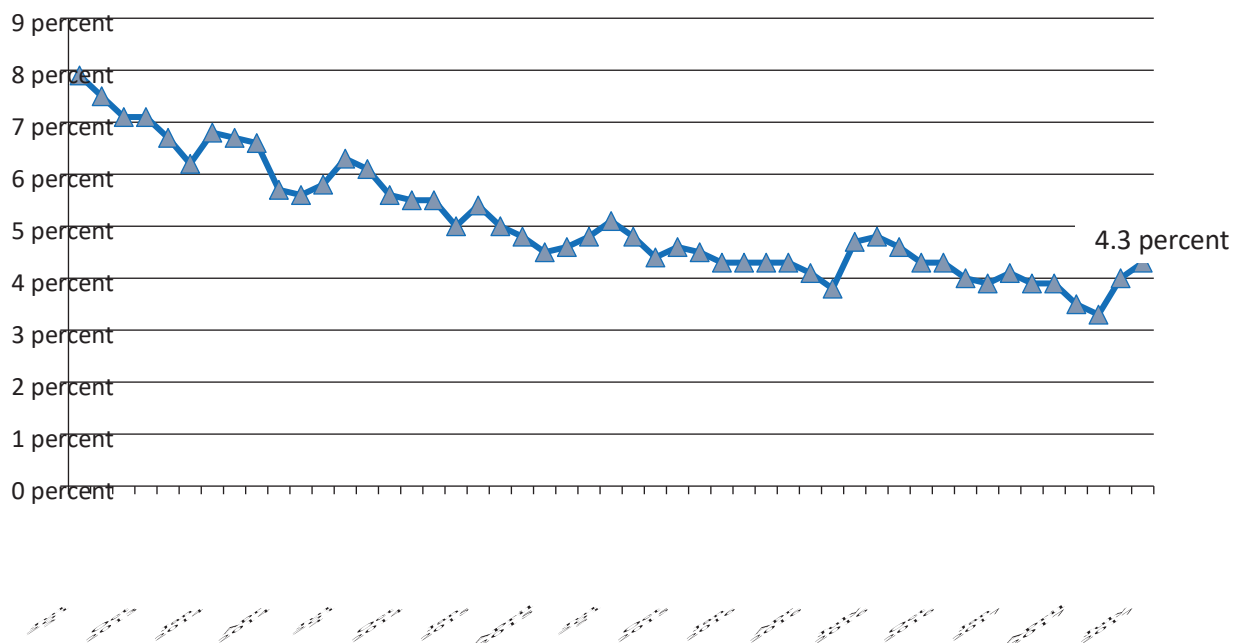


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey

ECONOMICS

The United States economy is currently in its eighth consecutive year of growth, as measured by the increase in gross domestic product. The unemployment rate was 4.3 percent in Alameda County as of July 2017, which is about half of what it was four years ago, and better than California's 5.4 percent rate and the 4.6 percent rate for the nation.

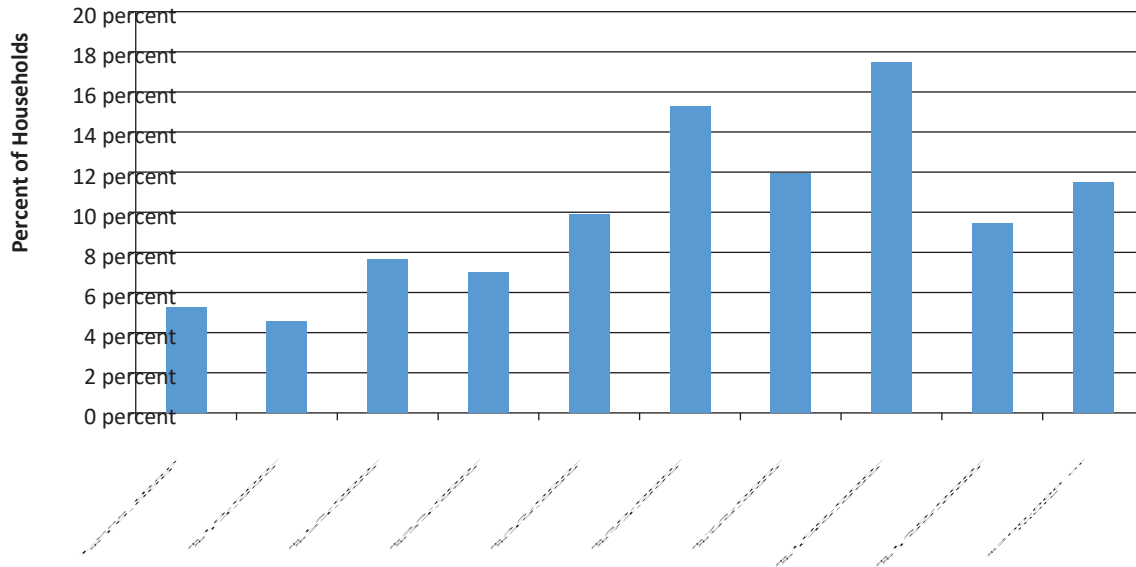
ALAMEDA COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



Source: California Employment Development Department

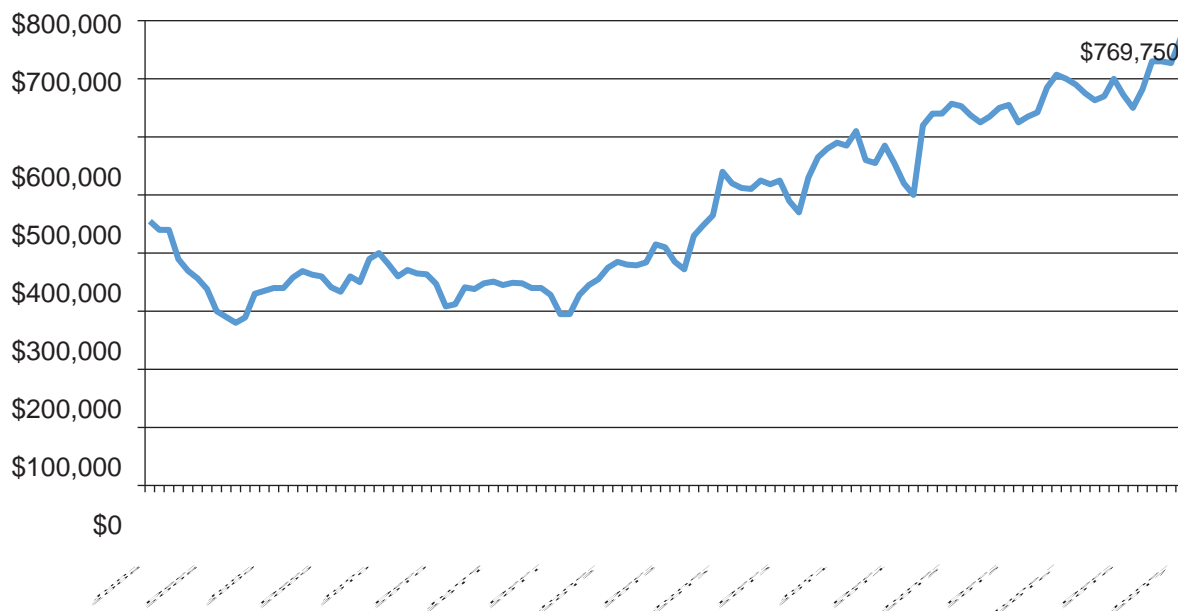
According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Alameda County's median annual household income in 2011-2015 was \$75,619 with an average household size of 2.7 persons. Income for 12.5 percent of the County's population, however, was at or below the federal poverty level of about \$20,090 for a three-person household.

ALAMEDA COUNTY HOUSEHOLD INCOME DISTRIBUTION, 2011-15



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey

ALAMEDA COUNTY MEDIAN HOME VALUES

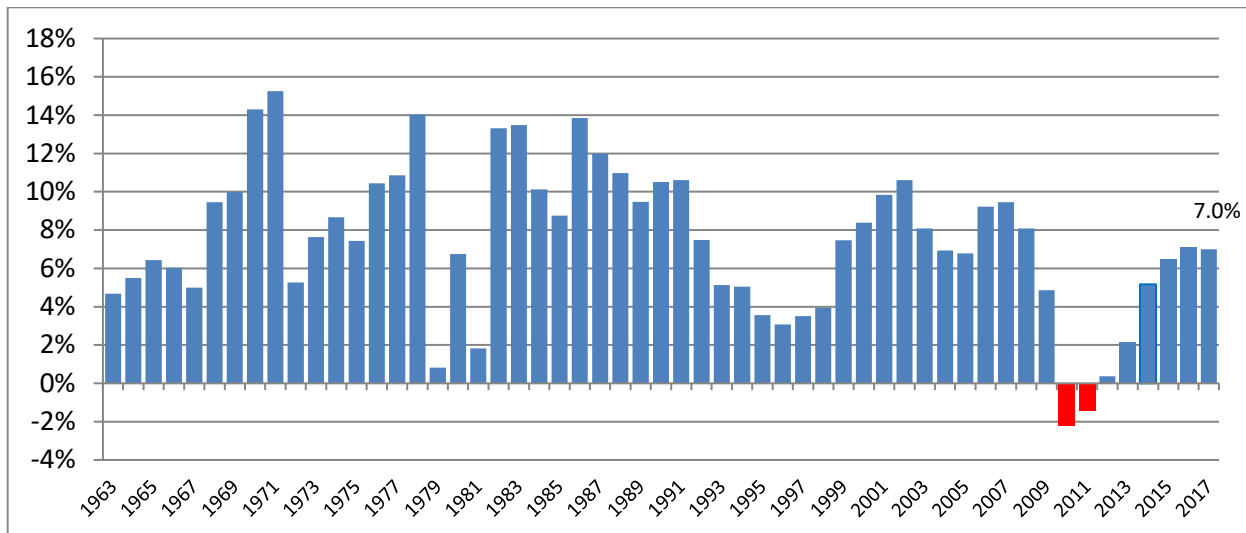


Source: CoreLogic

Alameda County's median home value was \$769,750 as of June 2017, up 10 percent from a year ago. The assessed value of property determines how much property taxes the County receives. Until seven years

ago, the assessment roll had grown each year since the 1950s. Following two years of declines, the assessment roll has grown for six consecutive years, posting an increase of 7.0 percent in Fiscal Year (FY) 2016-17. In many years the assessment roll grows by 8 percent or even 10 percent or more, providing much-needed revenues to support programs. About 90 percent of Alameda County's discretionary revenue comes from property taxes, although the County receives only about 15 percent of the property tax collected.

ASSESSMENT ROLL GROWTH, ALAMEDA COUNTY



Source: Alameda County Assessor's Office

The Board of Supervisors adopts a balanced budget by June 30th of each year and begins the new fiscal year on July 1st. As shown below the County's budget now exceeds \$3 billion. More than 50 percent of the County's operating revenue comes from federal or State funding sources. Congress and the State Legislature create authorizing legislation for the mandated services we provide. These mandated services exist for the protection of the residents of the County and provision of safety net services of which many were established to fight poverty and provide food, clothing, shelter and health care. Furthermore, the County provides an array of essential municipal services such as police and road repair among others in its unincorporated areas.

ALAMEDA COUNTY 2017-18 FINAL BUDGET SUMMARY

	2016-17 Final	2017-18 Final	Change
All Funds			
Budget	\$2,971,069,514	\$3,172,777,920	\$201,708,406
Full-Time Equivalent Positions	9,641.25	9,708.22	66.97
General Fund*			
Budget	\$2,574,567,902	\$2,750,203,955	\$175,636,053
Full-Time Equivalent Positions	7,696.62	7,752.57	55.95

* General Fund includes Grants and Measure A

Note: With the exception of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) counts, the budget figures in the table above exclude Internal Service Funds, Fire Department and districts, Flood Control districts, and County Service Areas.

Vision, Mission, Values and Legislative Principles

The Board of Supervisors is guided by the Vision, Mission, and Values statement adopted on March 13, 2007, and by the County of Alameda Strategic Vision Initiative, adopted on November 3, 2008.

VISION

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

MISSION

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

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.

STRATEGIC VISION

The Alameda County Strategic Vision provides a multi-year, comprehensive and far-reaching roadmap for establishing Alameda County as one of the best counties in which to live, work and do business. The Strategic Vision consists of five areas, corresponding to the County's core services and community priorities: Environment and Sustainability, Safe and Livable Communities, Healthy and Thriving Populations, Housing, and Transportation.

The Vision, Mission, Values and Strategic Vision are the foundation for the County as the local arm of government that provides municipal services and other basic needs for the most vulnerable populations. The Board of Supervisors adopts the County's annual budget and legislative platform based on the aforementioned values that protect these populations which include infants, children, families, the elderly and disabled.

The Board of Supervisors is always working to create a promising future for all. The County provides leadership through robust local initiatives such as the affordable housing bond approved by the voters in November of 2016. In its advocacy, the County illustrates the importance of the safety net services through the Human Impacts Budget and its personal success stories of the people who directly benefit from these services.

In the last year, the Presidential Administration proposed severe cuts to services that provide basic needs for vulnerable persons in Alameda County. More than 1.6 million people live in Alameda County, and approximately 12.5 percent of the population lives below the poverty threshold. One in seven children live below the poverty line. Two in three families living in poverty are working. The President's proposed budget would mean increased hunger, homelessness, and threatens access to health care for struggling communities. Furthermore, other federal legislative and administrative proposals advance a policy agenda that would decimate some county programs and the individual lives we serve. This legislative platform aims to create, support, and sustain the programs and services needed for our communities to thrive.

Federal and State policy measures that undermine the County's ability to execute our mission and achieve our strategic vision for healthy, thriving communities, social responsibility, environmental stewardship, protection of due process, civil rights and strength in diversity are strikes against the fundamental guiding principles of our work.

We stand steadfast by our responsibilities and values. Therefore, we advocate to advance the County's legislative Platform adopted by the Board of Supervisors guided by the legislative principles herein.

LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors' legislative efforts are guided by these principles:

1. County Governance and Revenues

- Support the guarantee of dependable, predictable, sustainable, 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.
- Support increased funding of the County's infrastructure needs.
- Support actions such as administrative relief from federal penalties, restoration and program funding enhancements for programs such as Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospitals, Medicare and State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, and implementation of equitable funding formulas such as that for Homeland Security funding.
- Oppose any legislative or budget actions that would result in a negative fiscal impact to Alameda County, including tax reform measures.
- Oppose any legislation to block grant Medicaid and support any legislation to increase current Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for California and enable counties to access Medicaid funds.
- Oppose the imposition of State and federal mandates for which funding is not fully provided.
- 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 and preemption of local control.
- Oppose legislative and budgetary actions that reduce local control and adversely impact the County's ability to execute its mission and vision.

2. Economic Inclusion

- Support workforce and economic development programs that promote an equitable economy, where economic prosperity is shared with the community at large.
- Support programs, initiatives, and policies that remove barriers to employment and encourage economic inclusion, especially for Alameda County's most vulnerable residents.
- Support investments in the local economy that create economic advancement opportunities for individuals, families, and communities and overall enhancement of quality of life for Alameda County residents.
- Support legislation and initiatives that provide living and sustainable wages for individuals and families in Alameda County.
- Support legislation and initiatives that encourage asset building for low and moderate income individuals and families.

3. Families and Children

- Support simplification of the application process, 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 adequate funding for preventative and family preservation services for families with at-risk children.
- Assist parents in keeping their family intact without the need for foster care whenever possible, through prevention services and enhancing family support networks.
- Support incentives and services for guardianship, adoption, and kinship care that help establish and preserve permanency for children.
- Support streamlining the process and incentives for family placement of foster children.
- Support implementation of the Continuum of Care Reform.
- Support the preservation of and benefit increases for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and oppose any cuts to SNAP.
- Support legislation for programs that provide healthy and nutritious food to elderly, homeless, and students, including college students.
- Prioritize children in the budget process and protect children and the poor from budget cuts.
- Support early education child care programs and increase subsidized slots for preschool and child care.
- Support legislative and budgetary actions that help ensure children are born healthy by giving parents and families the support they need to care for infants and young children through access to quality prenatal and postnatal care and home visiting programs.
- Support funding and services that strengthen families by fostering constructive engagement of fathers in the care and upbringing of their children.
- Support initiatives and policies that promote and create father-friendly practices that encourage increased male involvement in the intellectual, emotional, and financial well-being of their children and families.
- Support legislative efforts to improve academic success in schools with a special focus on boosting third grade reading and math proficiency and ensure all students graduate from high school or equivalent.
- Support families living at or near poverty level by protecting safety net programs such as Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) which are critical. Alameda County opposes any efforts to cut these programs.

4. Flood Control, Natural Resources, and Environment

- Support legislation that improves streamlining of State and federal environmental review and regulatory approval processes for the delivery, enhancement, or augmentation of flood control projects, wetland restoration projects, and environmental impact mitigation projects.

5. 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).
- Support expansion of health and behavioral health programs for immigrants, including undocumented immigrants.

6. Health and Retirement Benefits

- Support legislation that continues to 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.

7. Housing, Land Use and Transportation

- Support the federal government's actions to ensure financial integrity of the Highway Trust Fund for the future.
- Support State and federal sustainable funding measures to maintain and enhance county streets and roads, transportation, infrastructure, hospitals, flood control, and seismic safety, including seismic repair and maintenance of estuary bridges.
- Support rewarding states that provide significant funding for transportation systems.
- Support efforts to increase funding for and flexibility of transit investments and for non-motorized transportation and multimodal community designs.
- Support policies that preserve and strengthen an integrated and connected multimodal goods movement system that supports freight mobility and access and is coordinated with passenger transportation systems and local land use decisions.
- Support efforts to protect homeowners from predatory foreclosures, maintain and expand tenant rights, enact protections from landlord discrimination of housing subsidies, prevent displacement, rehabilitate and preserve existing housing stock, and increase the stock of housing affordable for low and moderate income households.
- Support funding for increased affordable and healthy housing and ending homelessness.
- Support efforts to close the regional jobs/housing imbalance.
- Support funding for economic development, capital and downtown/neighborhood improvements.

8. 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 in this country.
- Support reforms that will reduce the negative impact of detention and deportation programs on public safety, civil liberties, public health, and the conditions of detainees.
- Support efforts that protect children, including undocumented children, of parents detained or deported within the current system including the continuation of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and the DREAM Act.
- Support expansion of benefits and services to immigrants, including undocumented immigrant, refugees, and asylees such as continued funding for the Office of Refugee Resettlement and supports and services to Unaccompanied Immigrant Youth (UIY).
- Support legislation and initiatives that defend and advance the rights of all immigrants, including undocumented immigrants.
- Oppose any restrictions of services to immigrants.
- Oppose any discriminatory or unequal treatment based upon immigration status.

9. Older Adults

- Support preservation of existing programs and funding sources, investments in services, and expansion of supports and funding to meet the needs of the rapidly growing older adult population.
- Support a coordinated service delivery system that protects, supports, and advocates for an aging population. Ensure policies and programs are consumer-focused and accessible when needed.
- Support a continuum of services that form a safety net for vulnerable adults.
- Support policies and funding to protect vulnerable individuals who are at risk of exploitation.

10. Program Flexibility and Integration of Services

- Support legislative actions that provide program and funding flexibility in safety net services including job training, integrated children's services, and other social service and health program areas that lead to overall health and self-sufficiency outcomes.

- Support full implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.
- 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.

11. Public Safety and Justice

- Support efforts to maintain or enhance local government funding for public safety services and retain local authority to enhance efforts for integrated re-entry programs for post release community supervision, mandatory supervision, probationers, parolees and rehabilitative programs. Support funding for substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, and related services.
- Support Realignment efforts which continue to focus on reducing recidivism through reinvestment in community-based corrections programs, use of alternatives to incarceration, and utilization of evidence-based strategies that increase public safety while holding crime-involved citizens accountable.
- 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 the Violence Against Women Act.

12. Race and Equity

- Support public policies and practices that eliminate racial disparities and ensure equitable conditions for optimal well-being in our communities, including equitable treatment of people from all racial, ethnic, immigration status, and cultural backgrounds so they thrive physically, emotionally, socially, economically, politically, academically, and spiritually.

13. Sustainability

- Advocate for local control, the removal of barriers and disincentives, fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people in the development and implementation of laws and regulations for the purpose of creating more sustainable, resilient communities while building robust local economies.
- Support climate change legislation, regulation and enforcement at the State and federal levels to ensure that the interests of local governments are addressed, public health concerns are taken into account, natural resources are protected and restored, and that the County receives necessary resources for implementation.
- Support local control of community-based energy programs such as Community Choice Aggregation and oppose legislation that undermines these local efforts.
- Support legislation 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.
- Support climate change legislation and policies that commit to and implement both national and international agreements on reducing greenhouse gas pollution, support deep de-carbonization of our energy supply, and ensure the preservation of global carbon sinks.
- Support funding efforts to enhance the disaster preparedness, maintenance and improvements of critical County facilities and infrastructure.
- Support legislation that shifts responsibility for the end-of-life management of products and packaging to manufacturers and places the burden on the producer to prove that their products are safe for the environment and human health.

14. Veteran's Services

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

Legislative Proposals

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

Alameda County's 2018 legislative proposals, as outlined in the succeeding pages, are in keeping with the County's legislative principles. Alameda County advances legislation that will allow it to better serve its residents.

HEALTH

Proposal: Cannabis Reclassification to Facilitate Research

Alameda County proposes to reclassify cannabis which is currently listed on the federal Schedule 1 as a narcotic under the Controlled Substances Act. Cannabis should be reclassified in order to facilitate research. Removal of cannabis from Schedule 1 will allow for researchers to easily conduct research on its potential medical application without being hindered by stringent United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) security demands.

Discussion/Key Components

Researchers face challenging obstacles to studying drugs on Schedule 1. Cannabis can only be used under special government license for research. There are additional stringent criteria in the approval process by the DEA and the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for trials.

Researchers who want to conduct cannabis research must submit to lengthy application processes that can last years, pass numerous review processes, and purchase the cannabis from the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) to conduct the research. The research is limited by the THC potency level in NIDA cannabis which is lower than cannabis products used by patients. Furthermore, as a Schedule 1 drug, it is more difficult to obtain federal research grants compared to substances on Schedules 2 and 3.

Benefits

Removal of cannabis from Schedule 1 will allow researchers to easily conduct research on its potential medical application without being hindered by stringent DEA security demands. The ultimate outcome for expanding research of cannabis is to analyze its medicinal properties so we further understand its health benefits and effects.

HUMAN SERVICES

Proposal: Breaking Barriers to Employment

Amend the defined list of individuals with employment barriers, California Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, CA WIOA section 8(j) (1-14), by adding two more groups: marginally attached workers (including discouraged workers, and involuntary part-time workers—numbers 14 and 15 on the list.)

Discussion/Key Components

Marginally attached workers are not in the labor force but want to work, are available for work, and have looked for a job sometime in the prior 12 months but are not counted as unemployed because they had not searched for

work in the four weeks preceding the Current Population Survey. Discouraged workers are a subset of the marginally attached worker group and are similar, but they've stopped looking for work altogether because they believe there are no jobs available or there are none for which they would qualify. Involuntary part-time workers work less than 35 hours a week, often work several part-time jobs to make ends meet, and desire full time work, but cannot find full-time work. Overall, these workers are categorized within the labor under-utilization rates captured by the Current Population Survey (CPS).

In California, approximately 11.7 million people were not in the labor force in August 2017, an increase of 44,000 individuals from August 2016. Of those individuals in August 2017, 64,000 were discouraged workers. Additionally, involuntary part-time workers represented about 4.5 percent of the employed as of August 2017. A significant amount of people.

Marginally attached workers, especially the discouraged worker and involuntary part-time workers, are at risk to slip under the workforce system radar without proper employment and educational interventions/opportunities.

Benefits

Resources can be better supplied to marginally attached and involuntary part-time workers, if they are recognized in the law, equipping them with training opportunities and other interventions to enable full labor participation.

Proposal: Relative Placements: Protecting the Future Care of Foster Youth

Amend Welfare and Institution Code (WIC) Section 387 to change the "more restrictive care" categories and California Rules of Court (CRC) 5.560 to remove the step between a relative home and foster home. This would eliminate the need for a WIC Section 387 petition to move a child from a relative placement to a foster care placement, allowing counties to provide foster care funds to the relative if the child is later placed back in the relative's home once the child's behaviors have stabilized.

Discussion/Key Components

Relatives are unfairly penalized by a denial of foster care funds for future placements in their care after a child has been removed from their home and placed in a higher level of care even when the removal was solely due to the child's behavior and the relative caregiver's inability to maintain the child in their home. This limits the resources available to the relative for a child later placed in their care, thereby hindering county efforts to place children in family-based settings. This proposal doesn't concern any removal of a child from a relative when abuse or neglect by the relative caregiver has occurred.

Despite the best efforts of a county welfare agency, service providers, and a relative caregiver, sometimes it is necessary to move a child from a relative's home when a child's behavioral needs have become more than what can be met by the relative caregiver. In these situations, a child may need to move, at least temporarily, to another placement. If there is another relative home that is better equipped to handle the child's behavioral needs, a county agency can move the child without the need to file a petition under (WIC) Section 387. However, when another relative home is not available and a move to a higher level of care is needed, current law requires the filing of a petition under WIC Section 387. This results in the relative's home being considered as the "home of removal," which is problematic because the relative is then ineligible for foster care payments for a future placement. This means that once a youth who was moved from a relative has been stabilized in another placement with services and is ready to return to the relative's care, this is often not possible because the relative will no longer have the financial support necessary to care for the youth.

Benefits

There are many benefits to foster youth when they are placed with a relative in comparison to other placement settings. Relative placements have been found to lead to greater placement and educational stability, fewer reentries to foster care for children who exit to reunification, reduced attempts by youth at leaving or running away from placement, a greater likelihood that the youth report that they "always felt loved", and reduced behavioral problems in the youth. Relative placements in general are more stable and can help alleviate the loss that children often feel when placed with caregivers whom they do not already know. Additionally, child welfare agencies have learned from experience that relative placements are helpful to youth when they transition through developmental stages, especially during the adolescent years.

Amending WIC Section 387 to change the "more restrictive care" categories and California Rules of Court (CRC) 5.560 would strengthen existing law that already supports the placement of children with relatives; prevent children from losing the opportunity to live again with their relatives and relatives from being punished by a loss of foster care funding, thereby decreasing the number of congregate care placements; ensure resources are provided to relative caregivers to support the placement of foster youth in their care; and, provide fairer treatment to relative caregivers under the Resource Family Approval (RFA) process.

Proposal: Indigent Deeming Exceptions in CalFresh and CalWORKs

Align CalWORKs sponsor deeming provisions with those used for CalFresh, such that determinations of indigence for sponsored noncitizens may be renewed for additional 12-month periods beyond the first indigence exception by adding a sub-section (c) to the California Welfare and Institutions (W & I) Code §11008.135 to permit the annual renewal of indigence determinations for sponsored noncitizens receiving public benefits, given the consent of the sponsored noncitizen in question.

Discussion/Key Components:

The California W & I Code §11008.135 serves as the State statute governing exceptions to the standard eligibility and benefit determinations made by county welfare agencies when sponsored noncitizens apply for public benefits. The statute requires that these determinations are subject to any exceptions as provided by federal law. It offers no further guidance or restrictions regarding eligibility and benefit determination exceptions made for these individuals.

Sponsor deeming involves a complex and lengthy income verification process to determine a sponsored noncitizen's eligibility for, and amount of, an award for public benefits. When indigence determinations are made, they are valid for 12 months. In CalFresh, these determinations are renewable annually without restriction. However, in CalWORKs, there is no such provision for renewal. The indigence exception to sponsor deeming in CalWORKs may only be granted once in a noncitizen's lifetime.

The misalignment of the State regulations for the administration of CalFresh and CalWORKs to the same vulnerable population, under the same conditions of financial strain, is a costly barrier to the efficient administration of benefit programs, and to clients' consistent, reliable access to public assistance.

Benefits:

This legislative change would provide necessary and timely assistance to California's impoverished Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) families at a time of anti-immigration policies at the federal level; it would also simplify the administration of public benefits through the realignment of CalWORKs sponsor deeming requirements to match those used by CalFresh.

Policy Overview

HUMAN SERVICES

According to the 2016 U.S. Census Supplemental Poverty Measure, California continues to have the highest poverty rate in the country (20.4 percent or nearly eight million people). The Supplemental Poverty Measure differs from the official poverty measure in that it accounts for differences in the cost of living across the country. The high cost of housing in California contributes to the high poverty rate. Fair Market Rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Alameda County increased over \$7,000 per year between 2015 and 2017. Wages have not kept pace with growing costs and families continue to struggle to make ends meet.

Most safety-net programs are currently under legislative and administrative review, with an intent to limit access to provide federal budgetary relief. Alameda County holds the perspective that this approach could lead to larger community costs in public health, economic resilience, and social wellbeing. A shift of cost burden from the federal government to the states or localities would likely result in a reduction of available services. It could also lead to worsening outcomes for vulnerable populations and communities in need. Localities would bear this burden. The federal government should preserve existing safety-net programs and funding streams, and enhance those that provide service to communities or populations in need.

Safety-net programs are often woven through decades of design; though some provide for similar populations or in similar ways, they rarely duplicate one another. Funding streams and programs that have been targeted for elimination are generally not duplicative, but instead function through leveraging to enhance service availability. Federal funding levels are frequently inadequate to meet need, necessitating the layering of programs to provide a minimal level of sustenance and support. Alameda County encourages the review of safety-net programs in an effort to enhance community wellbeing, but opposes efforts to restrict access or reduce funding for necessary supportive services.

During the recession, the State slashed funding for core health and human services programs (cutting over \$15 billion between 2008 and 2013). There have been some restorations over the past few years but too many core public services are underfunded following years of deep cuts. The State and federal government should restore previously made cuts to safety-net programs, and make strategic enhancements to better serve individuals and families.

Alameda County Poverty and Hunger

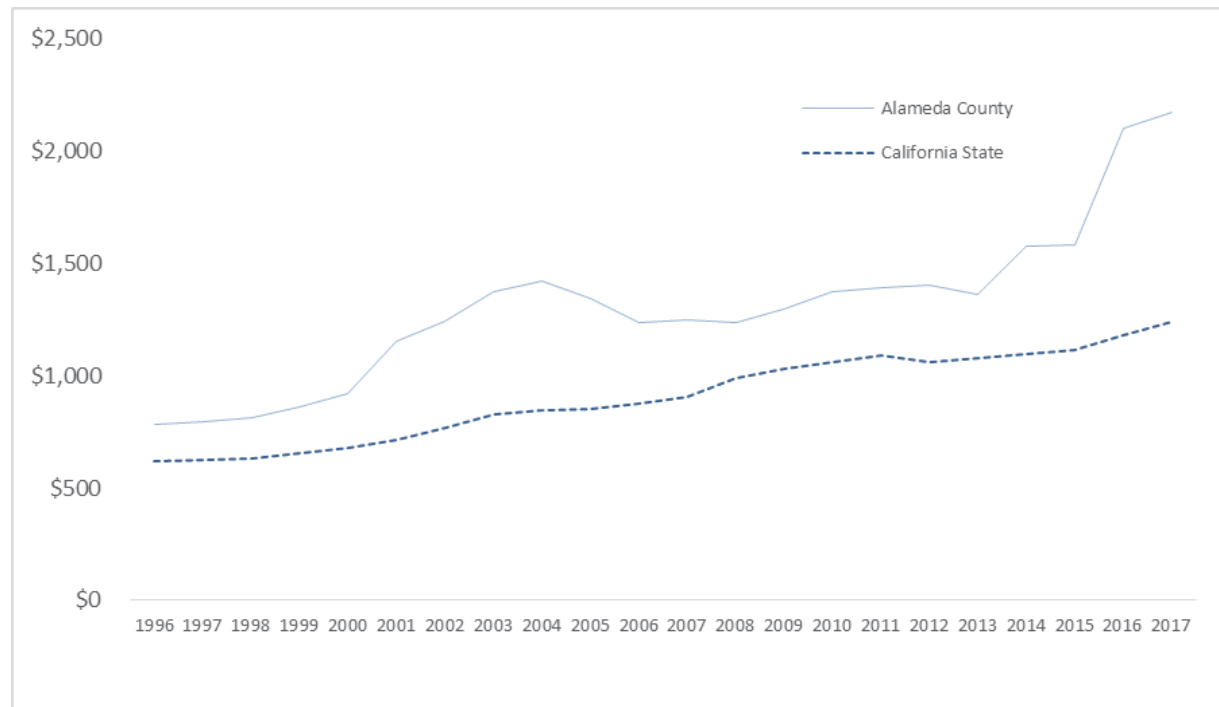
In 2016, 11.5 percent of Alameda County residents (approx. 189,500 individuals) lived below the official poverty line. The Alameda County Community Food Bank estimates that one in three children in Alameda County face the threat of hunger every day, and one in five Alameda County residents turn to the Food Bank for assistance.

Safety-Net Programs

A recent California Poverty Measure report found that social safety net programs helped keep almost three million California residents out of deep poverty and moderated the impact of poverty, especially for children. Safety net benefits such as CalFresh (SNAP), CalWORKs (TANF), and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) are critical resources to help meet basic needs.

Cost of Living

According to the Self-Sufficiency Standard, an adult with two children in Alameda County would need to work 40 hours per week at \$31.86 per hour (\$66,450 annually) 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. For comparison, the federal poverty level for a family of three was \$20,420 in 2017.

Monthly Fair Market Rents 1996-2017 (2 Bedrooms)

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Fair Market Rent
https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr/fmrs/FY2017_code/2017state_summary.odn

Early Care and Education

High-quality, affordable child care is out of reach for many California families. Research from the California Budget and Policy Center finds that on average, a single mother in Alameda County would have to spend over 60 percent of her income to afford center-based child care for two children. Access to quality early care and education is critical for children, especially those living in poverty. Research shows that a child's exposure to high-quality preschool and early learning opportunities contributes to higher academic achievement, increased high school graduation rates, and greater readiness for college and careers.

Aging Adults and Individuals with Disabilities

Based on data from the California Department of Finance, the Alameda County adult population aged 65 and above is projected to increase over 40 percent in the next 10 years. According to the California Elder Economic Security Index (a county-specific measure of the minimum income necessary to cover basic needs for retired older adults), about a half of seniors lack adequate resources to meet their basic needs. In addition, according to 2015 Census data, 19.5 percent of individuals with disabilities in Alameda County live below the federal poverty line. During the recession, State funding for aging adults and individuals with disabilities was severely cut.

Racial Wealth Gap

The racial wealth gap in the U.S. is staggering. A 2016 study by CFED (Corporation for Enterprise Development) and the Institute for Policy Studies found that if average Black family wealth continues to grow at the same pace it has over the past three decades, it would take Black families 228 years to amass the same amount of wealth White families have today. For the average Latino family, it would take 84 years. 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. In addition to the millions of families who live below the federal poverty line, Alameda County has a large number of families who are one illness, job loss, or other crisis away from poverty. Policies should promote savings and wealth building.

Need to Restore and Invest

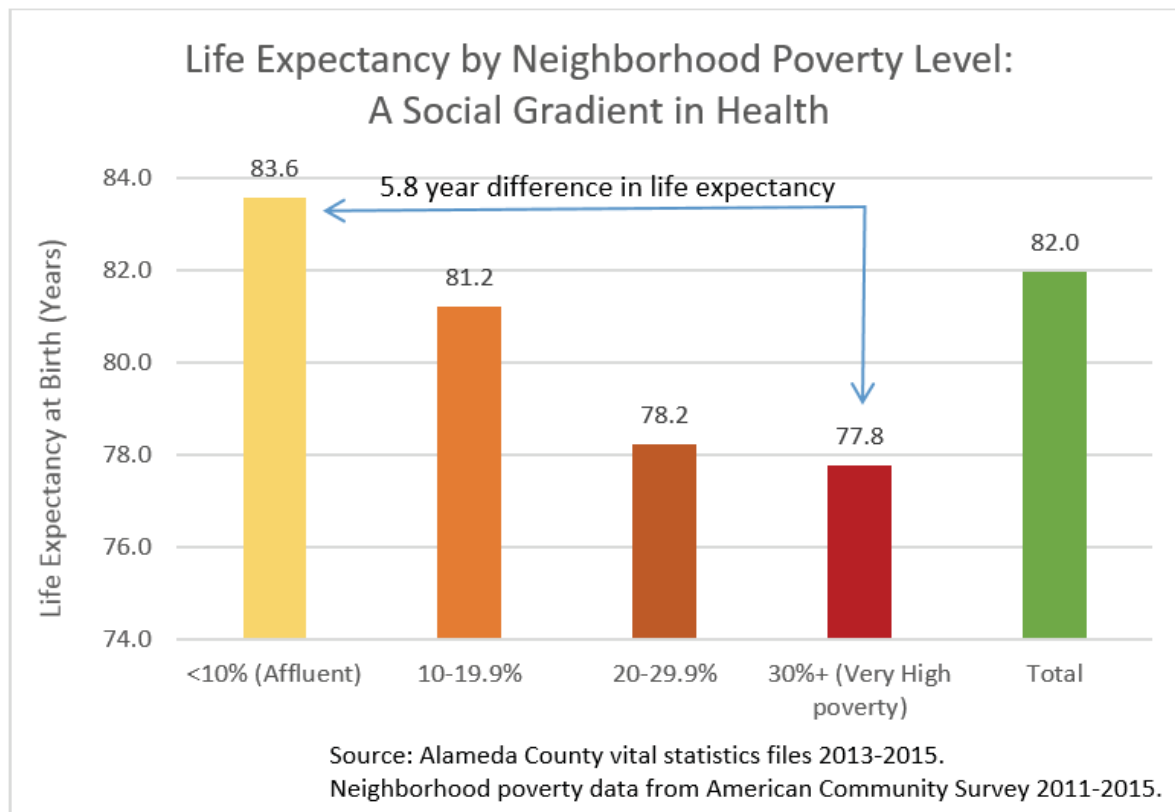
Alameda County supports public policies that strengthen the social safety net for the most vulnerable while also investing in our future. Specifically, the County supports policies that provide high-quality early care and learning experiences for children; help aging adults and those living with disabilities live healthier, more independent, and more engaged lives; 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 individuals, children, and families have the opportunity to succeed.

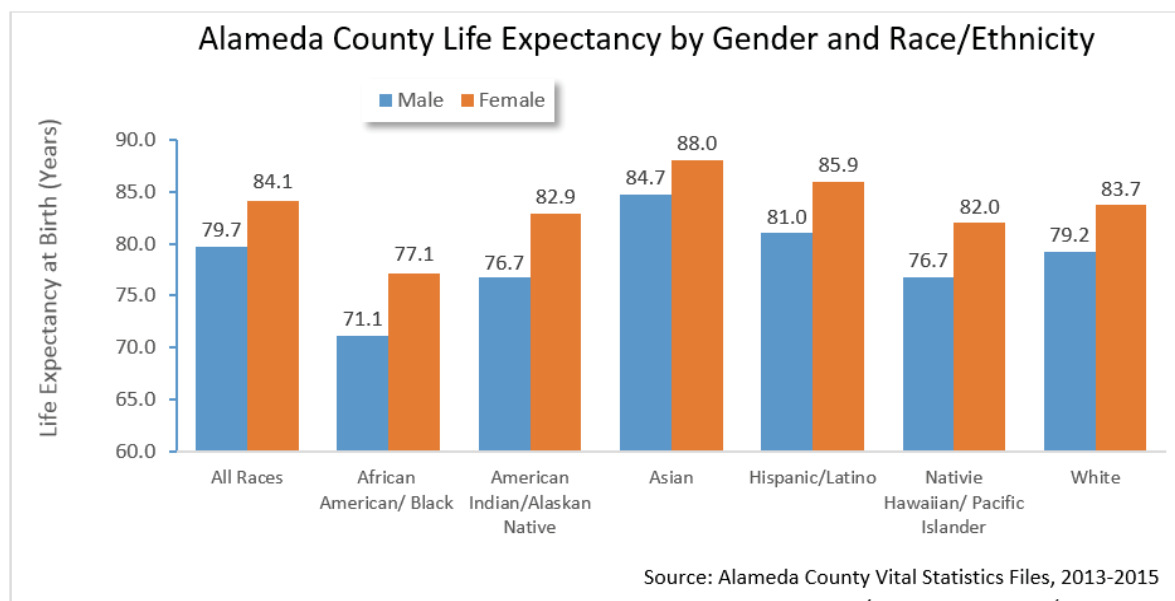
HEALTH

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.

Despite increasing life expectancy for all racial groups, the gap in life expectancy between Blacks and Whites in Alameda County persists. From 2013 to 2015, life expectancy at birth for African Americans/Blacks was 7 years less than for Whites. Compared to Asian Americans, the group with the highest life expectancy, African American/Black life expectancy at birth was 12 years less. 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 discrimination and segregation, as well as present day policies and practices that systemically 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.



Females of all racial/ethnic groups live longer than their male counterparts, over four years on average. It has been demonstrated throughout this report that the average African American life expectancy is foreshortened. However, when both gender and race/ethnicity are taken into account, the gap widens to 17 years, with the average African American male living 71.1 years compared to the average Asian female who lives 88.0 years.



The ten leading causes of death in Alameda County account for 74 percent of all deaths. Of these ten leading causes of death in Alameda County, over 90 percent were caused by chronic diseases including cancer, heart

disease, stroke, chronic lower respiratory disease, Alzheimer's, diabetes, hypertension, and liver disease. The table below outlines these ten leading causes of death.

Leading Causes of Death, Alameda County 2013-2015		
	Count	Percent
Total	28652	100.0%
Malignant Neoplasms (Cancer)	6820	23.8%
Diseases of Heart	5759	20.1%
Stroke (Cerebrovascular Disease)	1760	6.1%
Alzheimer Disease	1471	5.1%
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	1319	4.6%
Unintentional Injuries	1273	4.4%
Diabetes Mellitus	1015	3.5%
Influenza & Pneumonia	669	2.3%
Essential Hypertension & Hypertensive Renal Disease	626	2.2%
Chronic Liver Disease & Cirrhosis	480	1.7%
All other causes	7460	26.0%

Source: CAPE, Alameda County, with data from Alameda County Vital Statistics Files, 2013-2015

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's also important to factor in the issues of mental illness. People with chronic medical conditions have a higher risk of depression and those with depressive disorders can lead to chronic illness. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) reports that the comorbidity of serious mental illness and chronic medical conditions is particularly significant. People with serious mental illness and chronic illness die decades 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 experienced a 55 percent increase in the age 60+ populations between 1980 and 2010. Current projections from the California Department of Finance predict that Alameda County will have a senior population of 581,756 by the year 2040. If this projection is accurate, Alameda County will have a 134 percent increase in the senior population between 2010 and 2040, compared with the 55 percent increase experienced over the previous 30 years. Disability increases with age as one-third of adults 65 years of age and above in Alameda County live with at least one disability.

In Alameda County persons with disabilities are economically at risk: one in five individuals with disabilities live in poverty, and one in two individuals with disabilities cannot make ends meet. Multiple factors exist that contribute to this economic disparity: only one in four individuals with disabilities graduate from high school; three in five adults with disabilities are not in the labor force, and nearly a quarter of adults with disabilities spend more than half their income on housing. In 2015, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates there were 161,363 persons with a disability representing nearly 10 percent of the Alameda County population. African Americans have the highest percentage of persons with a disability in Alameda County (17.6 percent) followed by American Indian/Alaskan Natives (17.3 percent) and Whites (10.6 percent). There are statistically significant differences in health care utilization and chronic health conditions between individuals with and without disabilities. Individuals with disabilities in Alameda County received medical care in emergency departments and delayed seeing a physician and obtaining prescription medication at twice the rate of those without disabilities. In addition, in Alameda County, individuals with disabilities are diagnosed with high blood pressure at nearly three times the rate of individuals without disabilities; the prevalence of heart disease is six times greater in individuals with disabilities than those without disabilities, and the rate of diabetes is over twice as high in individuals with disabilities compared to those without disabilities. Finally, individuals with disabilities experience serious mental health issues at over three times the rate of those without disabilities. Improved access to prevention and healthcare services, increased data for decision making, and explicit inclusion in public health programs are paramount to addressing these health care disparities.

Implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) 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. As a result, Alameda County's uninsured rate dropped from 13.3 percent in 2010 to 4.2 percent in 2016. However, many challenges still lie ahead to ensure that all those who can benefit from the new law are able to do so. This includes a need to expand the number of primary care providers and to increase the Medi-Cal reimbursement rate to ensure access to care for all Medi-Cal beneficiaries. Additionally, certain Alameda County residents, such as undocumented immigrants, do not benefit from the new law. Continued legislative action will be needed to ensure that no one falls through the cracks of our healthcare 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 people with disabilities, seniors, and low-income children and adults. Some efforts have been made to reinstate these cuts, but additional funding and reinvestment 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, their ability, or the color of their skin, to have access to the same opportunities to lead a healthy, fulfilling and productive life.

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 (LUFT) 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/LUFT program and risk management program in the cities of Alameda, Albany, Castro Valley, Dublin, Emeryville, Oakland, 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 & Body Art Programs: The Department's Solid Waste Program is the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) for the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) and is responsible for enforcing state minimum standards, permits, and related state solid waste laws and regulations at transfer stations, compostable material handling facilities and operations, construction and demolition facilities, solid waste vehicles and landfills. The Department is also the LEA for the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), responsible for the enforcement of the Medical Waste Management Act (MWMA) under the Medical Waste Program. This program regulates generators of medical waste facilities such as hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and doctor, dentist and veterinarian offices. The Department is also responsible in enforcing health and safety standards for body art establishments and body art practitioners under the Body Art Program.

Land Use (Septic): The Land Use Program administers a local wastewater management program for onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS) or septic systems in both unincorporated and incorporated areas of the County under the authority of Chapter 15.18 of the Alameda County General Ordinance Code. OWTS are useful and necessary structures that allow habitation at locations that are removed from centralized wastewater treatment systems.

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 Joint Powers Authority (JPA) charged with proper handling for home generated hazardous and medical waste. The program has 4 facilities that accept hazardous waste from the public and small businesses pursuant to state and federal regulations.

EDUCATION

The guarantee of high quality accessible educational opportunities for all County residents across the life course are essential to our shared health and prosperity and advances the County's vision to be recognized as one of the best counties in which to live, work and do business. Educational performance and attainment gaps stem from a differential access to high-quality educational opportunities which are rooted in historical national patterns of underfunding early childhood programs and schools serving low-income youth and youth of color.

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. Early childhood education and programs are vital building blocks for students from birth to eight years and are important to educational attainment, achievement and health outcomes for all children, particularly boys of color. Research shows that positive education results are strongly correlated with access to early childhood programs; Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) education, especially for low-income children of color, effectively decreases future special education placement, improves grade retention, and increases high school graduation and college attendance. However, nationally, publicly funded Pre-K or Head Start programs are underfunded and do not meet enrollment needs. In the County, thousands of children who qualify for financial assistance remain on waiting lists due to lack of federal, state or other funding to support subsidies.

In California, African American and Latino students are significantly more likely than Whites and Asians to attend schools facing critical resource challenges, which include lack of ability to offer competitive salaries to attract experienced teachers and discourage teacher turnover; shortages of educational materials; rundown facilities; fewer resources for English language learners, students with disabilities and undocumented students, and a lack of parent engagement programs.

From a very early age, many low-income youth and youth of color in the County are exposed to trauma and violence at home and in their communities. This exposure to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) contributes significantly to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, anxiety and depressive disorders, chronic health conditions, and in barriers to learning. A safe and healthy environment that protects the community from stress, violence and poverty from the prenatal period and onward is essential for academic success. This is particularly true for boys of color, who from early childhood, experience some of the most significant disparities in health and education outcomes.

Additionally, policies and programs that support student health outcomes can positively impact educational attainment. There is a strong need to improve the identification of students with disabilities and to provide supports for these students who, in California, continue to rank among the lowest in the nation in math and reading assessments. It is equally as important to provide meaningful, appropriate training and educational opportunities for students with disabilities, who are reaching the age of maturity without developing the skills needed for academic success or future economic sustainability. High poverty neighborhoods have higher rates of students chronically absent from school (missing 10 percent or more school days) compared to affluent neighborhoods, negatively influencing outcomes in academic performance and graduation. Student absenteeism also impacts school district income from the State which is based on attendance, and further erodes the school's ability to meet the educational and social needs of students.

IMMIGRATION

Alameda is the most diverse county in the Bay Area and the fourth most diverse county in the United States, and is home to over half a million immigrants who live, work, attend school, vote, and engage in everyday activities in our communities. Nearly 1 in 3 Alameda County residents (32 percent) is an immigrant. This represents at least 526,148 naturalized U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, temporary migrants, humanitarian migrants, and other foreign-born residents who were not U.S. citizens at birth.

Immigrants are a vital and integral part of the social fabric of Alameda County and throughout our state and nation. More than 60 percent of immigrants in Alameda County have been living in the U.S. for 17 or more years. As longtime residents, immigrants (and many of their U.S. born children) have developed extensive ties within schools and workplaces and made positive contributions to the larger community. Immigrants make up almost half of people living in Union City (46 percent of the population) and Fremont (45 percent) and more than one-third of people living in Hayward (39 percent), San Leandro (35 percent), Ashland (35 percent), Cherryland (35 percent), Newark (34 percent), and San Lorenzo (33 percent).

Driven by a complex array of factors including globalization, global economic inequality, foreign policies, and conditions in home countries such as poverty and oppression, immigrants come to Alameda County from all over the world (largely Asia followed by Latin America). Most seek a better life for themselves and/or families, including increased safety, freedom, and opportunity. In recent years, increased violence and other pressures in Central America has led to an unprecedented increase in the number of unaccompanied immigrant youth (UIY) coming to the U.S. without a parent or guardian. Alameda County is home to the second highest number of UIY released to sponsors in California (after Los Angeles County).

Immigrants contribute substantially to the local, state, and national economy as workers, job creators, tax payers, homeowners, and consumers. In California, immigrants comprise 35 percent of the state workforce, over 33 percent of business owners, and pay over \$3 billion in annual state and local taxes. In Alameda County, close to 2 out of 5 workers (38 percent) in the civilian labor force are immigrants. In addition, more than 1 in 3 homeowners (35 percent) is an immigrant.

Immigration has an overall positive impact on long-term economic growth in this country. Immigrants typically contribute more through income, payroll, and other taxes to support public programs like Medicare and Social Security than they receive in government benefits, even though many of the immigrants who contribute to these programs will never have an opportunity to benefit from them.

While immigrants have relatively high employment rates, they are more likely to work in low-wage jobs, less likely to have health insurance from employers, and more likely to face barriers to accessing health and human service programs. Immigrants also often face extreme social vulnerability resulting from linguistic isolation, challenging processes of acculturation in the face of discrimination, and the inability to access basic needs such as housing and medical care. Together, these factors present multiple and cumulative risks to the physical and mental health of immigrants and their often mixed-status families, which, in turn, have far-reaching implications for the broader community.

According to the United Nation's International Organization for Migration, there has been a 17 percent increase in migrant deaths at the US-Mexico border in 2017 even though fewer people have been migrating to the U.S. from Mexico overall. Since U.S. policies around immigration do not mitigate factors that drive people to leave their home countries, such as the threat of gang violence, crime and lack of economic opportunity, more strict immigration policies often force people to take more dangerous routes to cross the U.S.-Mexico border. There has also been a reported increase in U.S. immigration officials illegally turning away asylum seekers at the border, which could lead women and children in particular to attempt dangerous border crossings instead of seeking asylum.

California and the nation are weakened by policies that are restrictive towards and isolate or exclude immigrants from the broader community. Anti-immigrant policies and practices also jeopardize the health of immigrants and the broader community by contributing to fear and stress, family separation, and reluctance to report crimes. Fear of immigration enforcement also increases immigrants' vulnerability to crime and violence and decreases public safety overall. Additionally, barriers to health care access for immigrant populations leads to decreased health care utilization and results in sicker people, as well as serious strains on emergency care systems.

JOB AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Alameda County has emerged from the recession with a steady recovery; the unemployment rate in August 2017 was down to 4.4 percent. However, the positive effects of the economic recovery are not being felt by all workers. Unemployment rates remain higher for African Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and Latinos (16.5 percent, 13.9 percent, 12.3 percent and 8.9 percent, respectively countywide according to the American Community Survey).

Many of the new jobs created during the recovery are low-wage jobs that offer little or no opportunity for advancement. Additionally, women, and especially women of color, are more likely to have low-paying jobs. A large share of a low-income worker's earnings goes to paying rent, which makes it difficult to get ahead. The living wage in Alameda County for one adult and one child in 2017 is \$31.68 per hour, according to the Living Wage Calculator developed by Dr. Amy Glasmeier at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). As of January 2017, California's minimum wage is \$10.50 per hour for employers with more than 26 employees and \$10.00 per hour for employers with 25 or less employees, translating into approximately three times less the amount required to make it in Alameda County as a single parent with one child. A worker in Alameda County would need the equivalent of four full-time jobs at minimum wage to afford a two-bedroom apartment. Stagnant wages combined with rising local rents are contributing to the mass displacement of communities that once were firmly rooted in Alameda County.

Poverty and unemployment continue to disproportionately impact people of color across our County. According to a 2014 data report by Alameda County Public Health Department, in Alameda County, 1 in 15 White residents live in high-poverty neighborhoods compared to one in nine Asians, one in four Latinos, and one in three Black residents. Deeply concentrated and persistent poverty has been exacerbated by State and federal policies that destabilized entire families and neighborhoods.

In the face of long-standing disinvestment, residents in high poverty neighborhoods face limited job availability, transportation barriers, few child care options, and a lack of quality education and training opportunities. There is a lack of resources and opportunities for stable employment that offers a living wage and benefits.

Fewer economic resources often mean tradeoffs between paying for food, housing, or healthcare. All of these economic factors at the individual and community level contribute to a clear social gradient in health and well-being. On average, there is a seven year difference in life expectancy between the most and least affluent neighborhoods in the County. This gap is even starker in some cities; it rises to 15 years when comparing the historically disinvested neighborhood of West Oakland to the affluent Oakland Hills.

Access to an educated, skilled, and healthy workforce is critical to the economic vitality of our local communities, State, and country. Persistent inequity puts us at a competitive disadvantage. Investment is needed in education, job creation, economic development, workforce programs, youth employment opportunities, and programs that help alleviate barriers to work.

Alameda County supports State and federal policies that make strategic investments to 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.

PLANNING LAND USE AND HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The County proposes policies that foster the health and well-being of all individuals and communities by supporting and developing a built environment that promotes economic and other opportunities for residents, contributes to health, and encourages modes of transportation that reduce greenhouse gases (GHG). The "built environment" refers to the human made surroundings that provide the setting for human activity, such as roads, buildings, sidewalks, farms, or parks. 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 and bikeable, and increase access to parks, green space, grocery stores, community/school gardens and farmers' markets. These efforts improve housing conditions, supply, and affordability, which add to the economic vitality of households and make communities safer and more vibrant, and strengthen community interaction.

Affordable housing has a positive community impact enhancing housing stability, employment, mental and physical health, and school attendance. Affordable housing also reduces active substance use, criminal justice recidivism, and other negative community impacts. Many communities in California are exploring and developing community choice energy programs, termed Community Choice Aggregation, community-based energy programs or public utility. As an alternative to Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs), community choice programs can be more effective in creating green/renewable energy with more local economic development impact. Legislation should not be supported that limits the ability of local governments to create energy procurement programs. Roadblocks should not be put in place to benefit the status quo, and new laws should promote the creation of more renewable energy, limit use of fossil fuels, and allow for more energy efficiency programs.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The State of California is decreasing the number of individuals in state prison, thereby increasing pressure on County Public Safety Departments and stretching thin our available resources. Historically, Alameda County has retained individuals locally who have been convicted of low level felonies such as nonsexual, nonviolent, and non-serious crimes. The County supports efforts in the area of rehabilitation and programs providing options for incarcerated and/or formerly incarcerated individuals to make safer, healthier and crime free-choices. The County also supports collaborative efforts among government entities, community-based organizations, non-profit entities, and private entities to provide services to reduce the rate of recidivism.

Alameda County including the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, the Sheriff's Office and the Probation Department, have a long standing commitment to rehabilitation of residents who have had criminal offenses. State-wide efforts, such as Proposition 47 and AB 109, both of which recognizes the full humanity and potential of individuals, and provides an opportunity for second chances.

Immigration

Immigrants are valuable and essential members of the California community. Almost one in three Californians are foreign born and one in two children in California has at least one immigrant parent. A relationship of trust between California's immigrant community and state and local agencies is central to the public safety of people in Alameda County. This trust is threatened when state and local agencies are entangled with federal immigration enforcement, with the result that immigrant community members fear approaching police when they are victims of, and witnesses to, crimes, seeking basic health and social services, or attending school, to the detriment of public safety and the well-being of Alameda County residents.

The District Attorney's Office assists victims, irrespective of their legal status in the United States, in obtaining U-Visas and T-Visas. This enables victims, of domestic violence and human trafficking, to stay in the country and receive benefits.

Health Care and Other Services Improve Outcomes

In keeping with the progressive nature of Alameda County, public safety agencies have formed stronger working relationships with Social Services, Health Care, and the Community Development Agency (particularly in the area of housing) with the aim of helping to reduce poverty and recidivism. Alameda County supports legislation that expands health insurance coverage for individuals who are at risk for incarceration and those who have been incarcerated. As part of Medi-Cal expansion through the Affordable Care Act, over one million Californians became newly eligible for Medi-Cal in 2014 and this expansion means that more previously incarcerated individuals are now eligible for Medi-Cal. This is 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 mental health problems, according to a study published by the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics. The Medi-Cal expansion makes prevention and early intervention for treatment of mental health problems and substance use

more accessible. By being able to access medical treatment for these issues, it directly addresses a major factor that leads to incarceration thereby helping to reduce recidivism. By extension, it is anticipated that this could help Alameda County reduce the number of people cycling through the criminal justice system and also contribute to reducing racial disparities in incarceration frequently correlated with disparate access to treatment.

Alameda County supports legislation to assist more people in accessing health coverage and the other public benefits for which they are eligible. The County supports and applauds the repeal of the lifetime drug felony ban for CalWORKs and CalFresh. Beginning in April 2015, individuals with a prior drug felony will now be able to access these critical public benefits to help them stabilize. In addition to cash and nutrition assistance, CalWORKs and CalFresh both offer employment and training support. Restoring access to these benefits will improve outcomes for very vulnerable families and, in turn, could reduce the risks for reoffending.

Mental Health

Despite never being designed for the treatment or housing of those with mental health needs, jails have become the de facto mental health facilities in many communities across the country. Untreated mental health conditions frequently result in chronic homelessness and an inability to find stable employment or housing, increasing the likelihood that those suffering from mental illness come into contact with law enforcement. Courts and law enforcement, are sometimes the first points of contact with the mentally ill, and can serve a useful function in identifying people with mental disorders and connecting them to existing services, thereby reducing recidivism.

Alameda County believes in helping those with mental illness receive treatment. Specifically, Alameda County supports the further expansion of Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Program and further expanding its Behavioral Health Court to receive wrap around treatment.

Realignment

Alameda County supports legislation that provides more funds for realignment. Realignment is a State initiative that protects the public from being victimized by crime by providing strong opportunities for individuals who have committed crimes to access resources such as education, employment training and placement, substance abuse counseling and mental health services. This aims to reduce criminal behavior and recidivism by channeling lower level offenders to community corrections programs strengthened through community-based punishment, improved supervision strategies, and evidence-based practices and supervision practices demonstrated by research to reduce recidivism. It also includes employing proven alternatives to incarceration for low-risk offenders.

Alameda County's realignment plan is managed by the Community Corrections Partnership Executive Committee (CCPEC). The committee is chaired by the Probation Chief, and includes the Sheriff, District Attorney, Public Defender, a local Police Chief, Social Services Agency Director, and a representative from the Superior Court. The committee provides planning, oversight, implementation, and assessment of realignment in the County. Realignment objectives and goals are accomplished through the expanded use of evidence-based practices and programming that will promote positive behavioral change and outcomes.

Individuals in Alameda County convicted of crimes eligible under realignment may receive a term of felony probation, though crimes more serious in nature may see defendants sentenced to local prison. Individuals on probation are supervised by the Alameda County Probation Department, and those sentenced to local prison will continue to serve their prison sentence in Santa Rita county jail under the jurisdiction of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, and not in state prison under the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Most inmates released from state prison are supervised by Alameda County Probation under Post Release Community Supervision.

District Attorney

The District Attorney is the only entity that has the constitutional and statutory authority to file criminal charges against an individual. The filing decision is at the discretion of the District Attorney and each case is evaluated at all stages. The District Attorney continues to work with the defense bar, including the Public Defender, to implement

programs that provide alternatives to incarceration. The District Attorney has created the Early Intervention Court (EIC) for realignment-eligible individuals charged with low-level felony crimes. The EIC refers individuals to programs after they are out of custody. The District Attorney also collaborates with pre-trial release organizations to divert eligible individuals charged with misdemeanors from being formally charged and/or having their cases dismissed after successful completion of a program. 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 an average recidivism rate of 27 percent. The District Attorney and Public Defender continue to meet and navigate processes and protocols to provide early termination of formal probation and Clean Slate programs that will allow convictions to be set aside under appropriate circumstances.

When an individual on felony probation, Post Release Community Supervision, or Parole is alleged to have committed a new offense, the District Attorney has the option of filing new charges and a violation, or solely filing a revocation petition. The District Attorney has similar power to revoke Post Release Community Supervision and Mandatory Supervision. The District Attorney's Office staffs the courts that handle these revocation proceedings.

Alameda County Family Justice Center (ACFJC)

For over 12 years, the Alameda County Family Justice Center has served victims of crime in Alameda County. Created by the District Attorney's Office, the ACFJC serves victims of domestic violence and their children, victims of sexual assault, elder abuse, and human trafficking. Since the inception of the ACFJC, more than 115,000 people have been served. The ACFJC, under the leadership of the District Attorney's Office, has introduced several initiatives including:

- **STEP-UP (Survivor Training Empowerment Program - Utilizing your Potential):** A women's empowerment and independence program for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. STEP-UP also serves as a diversion program for women charged with public assistance fraud.
- **Natalie's Nook:** A 1-2-3 Read program for children who have witnessed interpersonal violence. The program also provides counseling and child-youth engagement services.

Youth

The District Attorney's Office is committed to utilizing alternative methods to serve youth in the Juvenile Justice System. As an alternative to pursuing criminal charges, the District Attorney's Office partners with the non-profit Community Works in comprehensive restorative justice programs. The District Attorney's Office has a robust Truancy Mediation Program that includes the Truancy Family Court Program. Additionally, the Office participates in Girls Court and the Mental Health Court for Youth. We recognize the need for gender-specific restorative justice programs to best serve the needs of the participating youth. Two of these programs are 'My Life, My Choice' (providing alternatives to detention that specifically link young men to mentors and career paths) and the Young Women's Saturday Program (an educational and counseling program for young women who have been commercially sexually exploited, or are at risk for being exploited).

Alameda County supports more programs and opportunities for youth. Law enforcement entities within the county have already created opportunities for youth to help foster a positive view of law enforcement and provide them with valuable work experience. For example, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office has a program for youth called the District Attorney's Justice Academy (DAJA). This program provides youth (aged 16 to 18) with the opportunity to learn about the justice system by participating in educational seminars and paid internships. DAJA Students are placed in a paid internship in a legal or government office to gain work experience and different skills required in the professional workforce.

Violence Prevention

Alameda County supports budgetary and legislative actions that address the root causes of all forms of violence, improve public safety, shift resources from incarceration to prevention, and benefit communities disproportionately affected by violence (including low-income communities, communities of color, and people with disabilities).

Alameda County is committed to pursuing solutions that recognize the impact of mental health, drug use, and poverty on those involved in, or at risk of involvement in, the criminal justice system. Alameda County opposes legislation that focuses on suppression strategies that do not ameliorate root causes and risk factors, unless they are balanced by primary prevention support.

Alameda County defines violence as intimate partner violence, family violence, gun violence, gang violence, suicide, homicide, commercial sexual exploitation of minors, youth violence, hate violence, sexual assault, as well as child and elder abuse. Alameda County defines public safety as efforts that promote crime prevention and reduction, collaborative and positive community-law enforcement relationships, non-violent conflict resolution, restorative justice, successful reintegration of people with criminal convictions into communities, living wage jobs, educational opportunities, affordable housing, and the protection of all community members' civil rights.

In 2005, Alameda County adopted a *Violence Prevention Blueprint* that identifies and elevates prevention strategies that address the root causes and risk factors for violence, critical for improving public safety. In 2009 the Violence Prevention Initiative (VPI), established to implement the *Blueprint* strategies, focused 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 from the investment in our community. Ultimately, investing state and federal resources in preventing and breaking the cycle of violence will save our county and community money.

Violence is an issue that impacts all parts of our community, but it disproportionately affects low-income communities, communities of color and people with disabilities. As a result, resources and legislation for preventing violence and protecting public safety should prioritize these specific communities.

SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND ENERGY

Alameda County has been at the forefront of the environmental protection movement for decades, consistently supporting legislation to preserve our nation's natural resources and protect public health. We know that legislative actions that prioritize the preservation and restoration of our environment help ensure the long-term health, social well-being, and economic vitality of the communities we serve while improving the quality of life for all.

In 2018, our federal legislative efforts will focus on protecting the legislation, regulatory structures, and implementing authority of the agencies that have advanced environmental and community health for the last 40 years. At the State level, we will support legislation that advances aggressive actions to both fight and plan for climate change while building resilient communities. Our legislative efforts at all levels will work towards securing adequate resources to fulfill our Board's commitment to creating a sustainable Alameda County.

To this end, we will advocate for improved energy, water, and resource efficiency; clean energy; pollution control and toxics reduction; and climate protection. We will support housing, transportation, land-use, and community development policies and projects that create diverse neighborhoods, promote healthy and greener lifestyles, and protect local and global ecosystems. We will support policies that bring environmental justice to all, keep our citizens safe from the physical, economic, and the health effects of environmental degradation, while creating pathways to economic prosperity and strong local economies.

TRANSPORTATION

Alameda County is responsible for the planning, implementation, and maintenance of transportation infrastructure in unincorporated areas, including the design, construction and ongoing maintenance of local streets and roads, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, 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.

Adequate funding is critical to both the ongoing maintenance of and improvements to the transportation infrastructure to provide safe and convenient travel along and across streets for all users, including motorists, emergency vehicles, pedestrians, bicyclists, public transit, freight and commercial goods movement.

In April 2017, the legislature and Governor enacted the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017 (SB 1) -- a long-sought robust, multi-modal and comprehensive transportation funding package. Once fully implemented, California counties will share approximately \$750 million annually for local streets and roads maintenance, rehabilitation. SB 1 also provides opportunities to compete for grants in the active transportation, planning, and congestion relief programs. While this is good news for the immediate future, with the shift from fossil fuel vehicles to clean energy, it will be necessary to identify an ongoing, sustainable revenue source that isn't reliant on fossil fuel consumption.

Ensuring the long-term financial integrity of the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) remains a high priority for Alameda County. While recent laws authorizing the federal surface transportation programs have greatly improved the effectiveness and efficiency of these programs, Congress has relied on general fund transfers and other offsets from federal resources unrelated to the surface transportation programs since 2008. It is imperative that Congress pass a surface transportation program bill which addresses issues with the HTF prior to the expiration of the FAST Act in 2020.

Alameda County also supports legislative priorities set forth by the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), County Engineer's Association of California (CEAC), the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC), National Association of Counties and the American Public Works Association.

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 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 to protect its natural resources, Alameda County supports legislative remedies aimed at increasing 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 flood control 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 to streamline regulatory burdens while advocating for funding support to adequately staff at the local, State, and federal regulatory agencies.

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State Legislative Priorities

HUMAN SERVICES

CREATE A HUMAN SERVICES SYSTEM THAT IS RESPONSIVE TO COMMUNITY NEEDS

Low-income individuals and families need restoration of critical benefits, increased flexibility, expansion of programs that work, services that are linguistically and culturally accessible, and the simplification/streamlining of processes and systems to ensure they are able to access all the benefits for which they are eligible. Alameda County supports public policies that preserve and strengthen the social safety net for the most vulnerable while also advancing economic prosperity and equity so that all individuals, children, and families have the opportunity to succeed.

Better Facilitate Access to Benefits

- **Streamline and integrate public assistance benefits enrollment.** Support policies and systems that make it easier for individuals and families to have access to, apply for, utilize, retain, and recertify for benefits, including CalWORKs, CalFresh, General Assistance, Medi-Cal, and supportive services, including housing and childcare.
- **Maintain continuity of benefits.** Enact policies that help individuals and families maintain coverage and benefits. Specifically, 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. Whenever possible, benefit renewal dates should be aligned across different programs to make it easier for clients.
- **Support services that are linguistically and culturally accessible.** Individuals and families who speak a language other than English have the right to receive services in their preferred language. Support funding and resources that allow hiring of additional bilingual staff to provide assistance to those in greatest need in their preferred language.
- **Support technological advancements that promote access to services and administrative efficiencies.** Promote and utilize technology to streamline benefits enrollment, such as auto-enrolling clients and encouraging the use of self-service tools.
- **Expand and leverage data-sharing agreements.** Improve policies and systems to make it easier for agencies to share data to better serve clients.

Focus on Effective Implementation and Staff Training

- **Reasonable timelines and funding for implementation of new policies/procedures.** The State should work with stakeholders, including counties, when determining timelines and funding for rolling out new policies and procedures.
- **Ensure there is a training region for computer systems.** Staff trainers need the ability to create test cases to avoid breaching confidentiality when teaching workers. The State should make sure there is a dedicated training region for each of the systems used for human services programs.
- **Include training funding as part of new laws/changes.** Standardize all new laws or changes that impact the practice of human services programs to include training funding. Resources to train staff are vital to successful implementation of program changes.
- **Create a statewide workgroup for trainers/staff development managers.** This forum would allow for sharing across the State on best practices and facilitate better collaboration.

Increase Access to Safe, Affordable Housing Options

- **Protect and increase supports for affordable housing and homelessness prevention.** Support a range of policies and programs that prevent and resolve homelessness and housing instability. Support evidence-based programs, including housing first, rapid re-housing, long-term housing subsidies, and models that include wrap-around transitional housing and housing support services designed to promote housing stability. Additionally,

support policies to end housing discrimination based on race, ethnicity, sovereignty, national origin, immigration status, gender, sexual orientation/gender identity, age, disability status, and socioeconomic status.

- **Protect and enhance supports and services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.** Support funding and policies that ensure adequate emergency shelter and transitional housing. Investments in supportive housing result in the decreased use of homeless shelters, hospitals, emergency rooms, jails, and prisons.

- **Increase income guidelines for housing assistance.** Support funding and policies that raise the income percentage restrictions for housing assistance. In Alameda County, the Fair Market annual rent for a two-bedroom apartment is approximately \$26,000. For individuals and families living below the Federal Poverty level housing is out of reach without housing support programs. Research shows that stable, safe housing is critical to one's well-being, health, and long-term success.

For additional homelessness and housing priorities, please see the Planning, Land Use, and Housing and Community Development Chapter.

Early Care and Education

- **Protect and increase access to quality early care and education for eligible families.** Support funding, policies, and systems which create and expand equal access to stable, high quality early care and education programs for vulnerable families including children and youth in foster care, families that are undocumented, or experiencing homelessness, and children with special needs.

- **Streamline systems, where possible, to ease navigation and endure a continuum of quality childcare that is culturally and developmentally appropriate.** Enact and support policies which ease navigation of resources available for childcare and support family engagement.

- **Reduce barriers to public and private collaboration to strengthen childcare systems to more effectively and efficiently meet the needs of vulnerable children and families.** Support policies and programs that help parents make informed choices and access information to support child development.

Better Serve Boys and Men of Color and Fathers

- **Create and expand ladders of opportunity for boys and men of color.** Support policies and partnerships that focus on addressing critical challenges faced by boys and men of color, risk factors, and opportunities at key life stages to improve long-term outcomes and create ladders of opportunity for all young people, to ensure they can reach their full potential.

- **Promote fatherhood and father-friendly practices.** Better serving fathers and men as partners in their families and communities results in significant benefits in terms of child development/well-being, public health, community cohesion, and economic development/prosperity. Support policies to develop demonstration programs to test father-friendly program designs that solicit and facilitate father engagement.

Achieve Racial Equity and Advance Opportunities for All

- **Protect and support public policies and practices that eliminate racial disparities and ensure equitable opportunities and better futures for all Alameda County residents.** Policies and practices should promote equity and reduce disparities based on race, ethnicity, sovereignty, national origin, immigration status, gender, sexual orientation/gender identity, age, disability status, and socioeconomic status. Policies should address all forms of racism, particularly institutional and structural racism, which have played a central role historically and currently in creating and perpetuating persistent social and health inequities.

Promote Economic Stability and Wealth Building

Asset building policies and programs include a range of opportunities including matched-savings accounts, homeownership assistance, financial education, free tax preparation, 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 assistance benefits.** Asset limits create disincentives for low-income families to save money for emergencies. Policies should promote savings and ensure individuals and families do not have to spend down any cushion they have before qualifying for public assistance.
- **Maintain and expand savings programs.** Policies should help low-income individuals and families accumulate assets through increased savings and investments. Support a variety of savings accounts and incentive programs that are designed to help low-income individuals build assets and opportunities (such as Individual Development Accounts (IDAs), Children's Savings Accounts, Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Accounts, and retirement accounts).
- **Restrict payday lending and other predatory financial products and services.** Support 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.** 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. Support efforts to encourage safe, affordable financial products 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 historically disinvested communities. Support 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 specific needs of economically underserved communities.
- **Protect assets and savings.** Support policies that preserve assets and protect individuals and families from predatory practices. Specifically, protections for student loan borrowers and policies that promote access to education, lessen student debt burdens, and make loan repayment more manageable. Defaulting on a student loan can ruin a borrower's credit and impact future opportunities. Additionally, support protecting the continuation of Pell Grant and Cal Grant loans that provide financial aid in meeting the increasing cost of a college education.
- **Promote retirement savings.** Less than half of California's private sector workers have access to an employer-sponsored retirement plan. Support State and federal policies that promote retirement savings that make it easier to save.
- **Expand State tax credits for low-income and foster families.**
 - **Expand the State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to align with the federal EITC earned income definition and eligibility income ceilings.** The California EITC earned income eligibility ceiling is lower than the federal EITC and excludes self-employment earnings as earned income; therefore, it only reaches a portion of the workers who are eligible for the federal EITC. California should expand the 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. Support 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.

- **Implement a refundable tax credit for foster parents.** This tax credit would be in line with the Continuum of Care Reform goal of increasing the availability of home-based care for youth.
- **Reduce or eliminate Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) fees.** Low-income California families that receive CalWORKs spend approximately \$19 million of their cash benefits each year in out-of-network ATM fees to access the benefits on their EBT cards. Support actions that will reduce or eliminate EBT fees.
- **Fund asset building in county social service agencies.** Alameda County Social Services Agency has piloted asset building programs for current and former public benefits recipients. These programs provided credit building, financial education, and one-on-one coaching to help individuals and families save money and achieve self-sufficiency. California should consider funding similar efforts and piloting innovations that build off the lessons learned in the asset building field.

Invest in Place-Based Initiatives

Too many children in our communities are growing up in neighborhoods with no grocery stores, closed parks, and struggling schools. Recognizing that people and place are inextricably linked, place-based initiatives take a comprehensive approach to community development and aim to revitalize multiple aspects of 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.** 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 residents.

PRESERVE, RESTORE AND ENHANCE SAFETY NET PROGRAMS

Strengthen CalWORKs

CalWORKs (California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids) provides monthly income assistance and employment-related services aimed at moving children out of poverty and helping families meet basic needs. Alameda County supports a range of policy changes to ensure this safety net program is addressing poverty and promoting financial stability.

- **Increase the CalWORKs Maximum Aid Payment (MAP) and reinstate a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA).** Suspension of the annual COLA and CalWORKs grant reductions during the recession resulted in grants that are now below 50 percent of the federal poverty level and too small to cover basic necessities. Including recent increases, the current maximum grant is \$714/month for a family of three and remains below pre-recession levels.
- **Eliminate asset limits for CalWORKs.** Eliminating the asset limits altogether would reduce administrative costs and allow staff to spend more time working with clients. Support policies that eliminate asset limits for CalWORKs eligibility. Specifically, liquid assets, which include cash on hand, personal checking and savings accounts, money market accounts, and shared accounts; and, the vehicle asset test. The State should eliminate the vehicle asset test for CalWORKs. For low-income working families, having access to a reliable car is critical to finding and maintaining employment and becoming financially stable.
- **Increase CalWORKs earned income disregard.** A CalWORKs family's grant decreases as the family earns more income. However, a portion of earned income, known as the "earned income disregard," is excluded from the grant calculation. Support policies that increase or modify the earned income disregard to encourage work and allow CalWORKs families to keep more of their earnings, and grant levels to be higher.
- **Increase housing and homelessness assistance for CalWORKs families.** Lack of access to safe, affordable housing is a barrier for many CalWORKs families, including families experiencing domestic violence and crime history. Support policies and programs that increase income limits, expand access, provide case

management, including additional funding for the CalWORKs Housing Support Program and policy changes that allow additional program flexibility to meet temporary and permanent housing needs.

- **Increase the Welfare-to-Work (WTW) time clock.** California currently has a 24-month WTW time clock; however, CalWORKs families often face multiple barriers to achieving steady work that allows for financial stability. Support policies that increase flexibility and the time individuals can access education, training, and additional supportive services, including but not limited to childcare, to pursue sustainably gainful employment.
- **Support funding and services aimed for non-custodial parents of CalWORKs eligible children.** Non-custodial parents of children in poverty often fall behind in their child support payments because they, too, are struggling to get by. Support policies, funding, and services for non-custodial parents to receive employment services that promote self-sufficiency and ability to care for their child(ren).
- **Ensure CalWORKs is focused on alleviating poverty and preventing material hardship among children and families.** Support policies that help integrate disparate CalWORKs programmatic components into a comprehensive program that is customized to meet the evolving needs of each family, keep children out of poverty, and support parents in reaching economic stability.
- **Increase the CalWORKs 48-month lifetime limit.** California is among the more restrictive states with a 48-month lifetime time limit, a full year lower than the federal limit of 60 months. Vulnerable families may need to return to aid due to economic downturns or new family hardships. Support policies that ensure benefits are in place when families need support.
- **Support program flexibility for domestic violence survivor and families.** CalWORKs provides essential supports for low-income families, including many survivors of domestic violence and their children. The ability to receive CalWORKs and waive certain program requirements that may jeopardize the survivor's safety can often be the difference between building a life free from violence or faced with the impossible choice of returning to their abuser in order to meet the most basic economic needs for them and their children. Every eligible domestic violence survivor and families should receive the waivers they need to participate safely in this critical safety net program. Support programs and policies that help survivors and families experiencing domestic violence maintain CalWORKs eligibility, including necessary supportive services.
- **Revise the budgeting methodology for the CalWORKs Single Allocation.** The current methodology ties funding heavily on caseload, which can expand and contract quickly with economic changes. This results in large variation of funding levels, and inability to respond to changing economic conditions.

Support Adults Without Dependents

Low-income childless adults are not eligible for most state or federal cash aid programs. A comprehensive approach is needed to strengthen the social safety net for all individuals, including those who are not caring for children.

- **Increase State and federal supports for low-income adults without dependents.** Support policies that provide increased cash aid, employment assistance, and other supportive services for low-income adults without dependents. Programs should recognize and address barriers to employment while also encouraging participation in the labor market to improve economic well-being and not be designed to discourage participation in supportive programs for people in need.

Improve Access to Food

Alameda County supports policies and programs that help children, individuals, and families access healthy, nutritious food. Specifically, we support streamlining and strengthening enrollment into CalFresh and ensuring this vital program reaches individuals and families experiencing food insecurity. CalFresh is California's food stamp program [known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) at the federal level], which provides assistance for households to purchase nutritious food.

- **Support efforts to simplify and streamline benefits enrollment.** Support State efforts and rule changes to streamline and simplify applications and recertifications to enroll more eligible individuals and families in CalFresh which helps lift individuals, families, and children out of poverty.
- **Support programs and policies that improve access to healthy and nutritious food.** Support programs and policies that improve access to healthy and nutritious food for physically or medically homebound individuals, including individuals and families living in remote areas.
- **Increase CalFresh outreach and enrollment for older adults and people with disabilities.** According to the Alameda County Community Food Bank, residents over 50 years old now make up more than one-third of their clients. This need is only expected to increase as older adults are the fastest growing segment of the population in Alameda County. Support increased CalFresh outreach and enrollment efforts for seniors and people with disabilities along with efforts to increase the minimum benefit allotment (currently \$16/month). Support expanding "food as medicine" efforts to get meals and groceries to homebound and physically or cognitively impaired individuals.
- **Promote CalFresh access to foster youth.** Many eligible current and former foster youth are not accessing CalFresh. Barriers exist for current and former foster youth trying to access CalFresh benefits. It is important that vulnerable populations have access to the maximum benefit for which they are eligible. Support policies and efforts that promote cross-coordination, increased outreach, and enrollment in the CalFresh program for foster youth.
- **Support efforts to maintain benefits enrollments and reduce churn in CalFresh.** Churn occurs when a client exits and then reenters the program within four months; this process results in a loss of benefits for the individual or family and is costly to both clients and the agencies that administer the program. Support policies that help individuals and families maintain benefits. Specifically, support policies that increase the number of months an individual or family receives in Transitional CalFresh benefits.
- **Increase student food security.** The Alameda County Community Food Bank estimates that one in three children face the threat of hunger every day. Support policies that increase enrollment in school meal programs, maximize universal meal provisions to all students in high poverty schools, and reduce college student hunger.
- **Expand access to meals during school breaks.** When school is not in session, many low-income children lose access to free and reduced-price school breakfasts, lunches, and afterschool snacks they rely on during the regular school year. Support policies to coordinate and expand access to free meals when school is not in session, including the summer months, and connect kids and their families to healthy nutrition assistance.
- **Support food banks.** The Alameda County Community Food Bank estimates that one in five Alameda County residents turn to the Food Bank for assistance. Support efforts to help local food banks secure nutritious food and assist individuals and families in applying for CalFresh. Specifically, funding the State Emergency Food Assistance Program and expanding tax credits for food donations.

Better Assist Immigrants, Refugees, and Asylees

Currently a third of Alameda County residents are foreign-born. The existing system of services and providers who work with immigrants, including undocumented immigrants, refugees, and asylees is complicated and can be difficult to navigate and access. As one of eight Refugee-Impacted counties in California, Alameda County recognizes the unique needs of immigrant populations to access services, gain employment, and integrate into their new communities.

- **Protect and increase access to services for immigrants, including undocumented immigrants, refugees, and asylees.** In particular, immigrants, including undocumented immigrants, need access to basic assistance, including health care, nutrition supports, housing, early care and education, and culturally competent and quality legal services to keep families together and secure; and, communities whole. Alameda County opposes

policies and initiatives that place restrictions on services and benefits to immigrants, including undocumented immigrants.

- **Additional supports and services for refugees and asylees.** Support additional State and federal funding to expand services available to refugees and asylees. Specifically, support increasing Refugee Cash Assistance payment levels, providing homelessness and housing supports, expanding employment and vocational training programs, and increasing other supportive services.

For more information, please see the Immigration Chapter.

ADVANCE FOSTER YOUTH WELL-BEING AND STRENGTHEN CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

The Alameda County Social Services Agency's Department of Children and Family Services serves children and youth who have experienced, or are at-risk of experiencing, abuse, or neglect.

Preserve and Enhance Services and Programs

Alameda County supports a range of increases in child welfare funding and supportive services to improve the well-being of children, including undocumented children.

- **Successfully implement Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) and Resource Family Approval (RFA).** As the State moves forward with efforts to move children out of congregate care and into more family-based settings, support continued conversations with stakeholders ensuring there are adequate county resources to support the transition. Funding is needed to recruit/retain additional care providers, ensure adequate behavioral health services, provide supportive services and resources to families and children, and successfully implement RFA.
 - **Ensure that placements are available, fully funded, and supported with services.** Specifically, placements need to meet the needs of youth to support their transition to a family-like setting but who currently need a more intensive placement and supportive services. As part of the CCR, California Department of Social Services (CDSS) should pay special attention to youth with special needs, such as those who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation and/or youth struggling with alcohol or other drug addiction.
 - **Protect foster youth to make certain that placements intended to meet their specific needs for care and services are available and willing to accept the youth for placement.** Protections and oversight are needed to require Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) and Short-Term Residential Treatment Centers (STRTC) to accept youth who are available for foster care placement when the FFA or STRTC has an available bed and can provide the care and services needed by the youth.
 - **Strengthen CCR implementation by developing standards for FFA and STRTC service delivery.** These requirements will establish a minimum level of services for foster youth and address inconsistent service provision among providers to meet the needs of foster youth and improve their well-being. Part of a potential solution is to provide Community Care Licensing with additional oversight authority of FFA service provision.
 - **Assist with the placement of children in family based care by improving RFA program requirements.** For example:
 - Allowing for an extension of time past 90 days, under certain conditions, for the completion of the psychosocial assessment or pre-approval training when a placement is made in a relative's home for an emergency or compelling reason.
 - Align RFA requirements with existing requirements in the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC). Amendments are needed to clarify that ICPC expedited placements can be processed as an emergency placement under the rules of RFA. Such a change will help counties continue to comply with the ICPC timeframes and place children according to RFA rules.
 - Provide flexibility in the approval process to facilitate placement in a relative's home through ICPC despite jurisdictional delays.

- **Promote local agreements between counties and placement providers that deliver safe and caring homes to foster youth.** An example is allowing for flexibility that upholds a county's placement agreement with an FFA or STRTC for a youth with high service and care needs that is funded by an amount above statewide rates for FFAs or group homes when no other local placement structured to meet the youth's needs is available.
- **Ensure that all youth are placed with relatives whenever possible.** A change to State law is needed to provide a Child Welfare Agency with statutory authority to support changing a foster youth's placement to a relative despite the child having a "stable" placement in foster care with a non-relative, at any stage of dependency. This means that a placement with a relative would not be denied based on the ordinary bonding or attachment that results from the child's time in a non-relative placement. Such a change recognizes that permanency with a relative over a non-relative is in the long-term best interests of the child. Additionally, a change is needed to ensure that relatives are not unfairly penalized by a denial of foster care funds for future placements in their care, after a child has been removed from their home and placed in a higher level of care even when the removal was solely due to the child's behavior and the relative caregiver's inability to maintain the child in their home.
- **Funding for services and income supports needed by parents seeking to reunify with their children who are in foster care.** This could include:
 - Funding for childcare, housing, immigration legal services, and other necessary supportive services.
 - Additional funding and policies to support the availability and quality of substance abuse programs for parents. Specifically, support of substance abuse family residential programs that allow for 1) an entire family, including both parents, to reside together, and 2) single fathers to reside in the program with their child(ren). Typically, residential programs do not allow the family to remain together, which causes additional trauma to children who must separate from one or both parents.
- **Additional resources and policies that promote better outcomes for children.** Examples include culturally relevant mental health services, educational supports, employment/linked learning opportunities, matched-savings accounts, developmental child care (including post-permanency), respite services for relative and foster caregivers, services and resources promoting father engagement, housing subsidies, one-stop community centers serving families (e.g. with employment, housing, and healthcare), and improved mental health service delivery to foster youth through the increased availability of licensed clinicians trained in empirically-based treatments for youth who have experienced trauma.
- **Elimination of resource limits on income supports and benefits given directly to the youth such as matched savings accounts, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and CalFresh.** Providing additional resources to foster youth will increase the chances of their successful transition to adulthood.
- **The continued provision of flexible funding through the Title IV-E Waiver.** The waivers have enabled counties to increase the use of community services to prevent child abuse and neglect, divert families away from formal child welfare services, and increase permanence for children.
- **Strengthen policies, services, and other resources to address the disproportionate presence of African American, Latino, and Native American children in foster care.** Support leadership and funding to improve conditions in low-income communities of color that contain high levels of unemployment, crime, homelessness, substance abuse, and disproportionate experiences with the child welfare system. Services and resources are needed to assist children and families early on to prevent any need for child welfare services in the future.
- **Increase funding to support counties in monitoring and providing services to foster youth who are authorized by the court to receive psychotropic medications.** The children served by the foster care system have experienced severe trauma; for some, medication is appropriate when thoughtfully prescribed as part of an overall treatment plan that includes non-pharmacological interventions as well. Support additional funding for behavioral health services for youth and to support counties in providing oversight and monitoring of psychotropic medications prescribed to foster youth.

- **Expand child welfare funding and resources to populations with unique needs:**

- *Youth in foster care who are also parents.* Parenting foster youth are in particular need of services that promote their educational attainment, parenting skills, and resources that support their transition to independence.
- *Children of foster youth.* Provide resources and supports for children of foster youth. In particular, support continuing to provide resources, including but not limited to an Infant Supplement, while the parent is temporarily away from placement but still caring for their child (for instance when they are living in a shelter). This change will help ensure food and other basic necessities to the infant until they both return to an eligible foster setting.
- *Undocumented children of undocumented parents who are under child welfare supervision.* Additional resources are needed to ensure that these families receive the necessary services to prevent the child from entering into or remaining in foster care. Support increased funding to address reunification barriers faced by many immigrant families in the child welfare system. Specifically, support increased funding for the Reuniting Immigrant Families Act (SB 1064).
- *Families who speak a language other than English.* Resources are needed to support counties hiring additional bilingual staff to provide assistance to children and families in their preferred language.
- *Support for children of incarcerated parents.* Additional funding and programs that promote the health, safety, and well-being of the children of incarcerated parents and the efforts of parents to reunify with their children are needed.
- *Parents and children with disabilities.* Foster children with disabilities, their parents, and their caregivers need additional support to navigate systems and services that may meet their developmental, educational, and medical needs. Disabled parents also may need additional resources and support to access needed services.
- *Commercially Sexually Exploited Children* (see section below).
- **Establish Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for all eligible foster youth and allow those benefits to remain in suspense for the duration of their stay in foster care.** Current law leads to situations where foster youth who are both disabled and from impoverished backgrounds risk being dropped from, or not able to access, SSI even though they meet other eligibility criteria. Support policy changes that ensure all foster youth who are eligible can apply for SSI benefits and maintain their SSI eligibility throughout their involvement in foster care, without the need for an annual temporary suspension of the Title IV-E or federal payment.
- **Support agreements with consulates and foreign governments for the protection of foster youth.** Statewide agreements with foreign consulates and governments are needed to enhance the services provided to minors and their parents when the parent or child is a foreign national. These agreements should clarify the responsibilities between parties to protect the safety of minors during custody and dependency proceedings involving minors who have experienced abuse or neglect.

Support Caregivers and Provide Permanency for Foster Youth

- **Increase funding for foster and adoptive parent recruitment, training, and retention.** Alameda County encourages additional support, funding, and other resources designed to increase the number of qualified caregivers available to provide stable and loving foster and adoptive homes. Examples of supports and resources deemed critical by caregivers:
 - Increased funding for and access to subsidized childcare and respite care.
 - Funding for one-time expenses, such as a bed.
 - Specialized training and targeted support services, including those that offer in-home based services, for caregivers of foster youth with acute mental health needs or commercially sexually exploited children, or disabled children.
 - A statewide public education campaign to promote interest in foster parenting.
 - A refundable tax credit for foster parents.

- **Expand funding and eligibility time for post-placement services to support permanence for children who have left foster care through reunification, adoption, or guardianship.** Policies should help maintain the child in their home and prevent reentry to foster care. For example, housing and child care assistance to help parents provide a safe and stable environment as well as supervision for their child(ren) while they are at work or school. There are limited housing and child care slots available through existing resources, and additional resources should be targeted specifically to these families. Other examples include substance abuse treatment and mental health services that are culturally responsive to the child and the adoptive parent or guardian.
- **Provide Kin-GAP benefits to children whose relative guardianship was established in Probate Court.** Although Probate Court guardianships with a non-relative can be eligible for Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) Foster Care payments, relative guardianships established in Probate Court do not qualify for Kin-GAP, even though many of these children have needs similar to youth who have a guardianship established in Juvenile Court. Providing Kin-GAP benefits to these probate guardianship youth will improve their transition to adulthood and may reduce their need for social services as an adult.
- **Remove barriers to legal guardianship for youth.** Current law doesn't allow for guardianships by Non-Relative Extended Family Members (NREFMs) and non-related foster parents for youth under age six. Support providing statutory authorization for courts to establish guardianships when a NREFM is the caregiver to a child under age six or to a child within a sibling group with at least one sibling under age six, whenever the child is unable to return to their parent's or guardian's care. The intent of this change is not to divert children away from adoption but instead provide as many options available as possible to provide legal permanence for foster children.
- **Continued support for policies and resources that meet the needs of LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning) foster youth and recognize a youth's gender identity.** Alameda County encourages additional laws and policies, such as SB 731 (Statutes of 2015), that promote the protections of rights of foster youth who are LGBTQ and are supportive of a foster youth's gender identity. Computer data systems and forms should allow for recognition of gender identity in addition to the youth's gender assigned at birth. Additional resources are also needed to further the recruitment and retention of resource families that will provide effective care for LGBTQ youth.
- **Support the enhancement and strengthening of connections between foster youth and persons in their support network.** Additional resources and improved policies are needed that help maintain networks of service providers, family, and friends that serve the best interests of foster youth, even though they are not the parent or resource parent to the youth. These support networks are vital to the health and well-being of foster youth.
- **Allow for continued benefits after age 18 for all former foster youth who exited from foster care to a guardianship prior to their 18th birthday.** Current law limits eligibility for these benefits based on the youth's age at the time the guardianship was established. These limits have created a disincentive for permanency for these children. Alameda County supports policies that extend Federal and State Kin-GAP (to relative guardians) and State AFDC-FC (to non-related guardians) benefits to age 21 for youth who otherwise meet eligibility criteria except for the age at which the guardianship was established.

Improve Assistance and Services for Transition-Age Youth

- **Additional supports and programs for transition-age foster youth (ages 14 – 21).** In October 2010, California passed AB 12, also known as the California Fostering Connections to Success Act, in response to the federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (Public Law 110-351). AB 12 changed foster care significantly by optionally extending foster care until age 21. Although some transition-age foster youth now have the benefit of extended foster care, these youth often remain in need of additional funding, policies, and programs that support their transition out of foster care and into independent adulthood. Specifically, Alameda County supports:
 - **Increased financial support for programs that assist foster youth in the transition to financial stability.** Examples include post-emancipation assistance such as secondary education, job training, housing, access to health care, and tax credits to employers for the employment of a current or former foster youth.

- **Additional funding for safe and stable housing and supportive services such as substance abuse or mental health treatment.** There is a specific need for financial support of a continuum of care of substance abuse programs for minors to ensure that all youth in need are able to receive services.
- **Flexibility with placement requirements for non-minor dependents (NMDs) in Extended Foster Care who are in need of in-patient substance abuse treatment.** If a NMD's temporary stay in an in-patient facility could be considered a Supervised Independent Living Placement, for example, this would allow the otherwise eligible youth to remain in Extended Foster Care and receive related services that support their transition to independence, rather than forcing their exit from care.
- **Expand Independent Living Program (ILP) eligibility to include older youth in Family Maintenance.** Youth who are nearing adulthood (age 16 – 18) and receiving in-home child welfare services, such as Family Maintenance, are in need of services supporting their transition to independence as healthy and responsible adults. An expansion of eligibility requirements for ILP funds could allow for the provision of services to these youth and better prepare them for adulthood.
- **Provide counties funding to fulfill credit report monitoring and assistance activities to foster youth.** Identity theft is a major concern for youth in foster care and can destroy their credit. For foster children who "age out" of the system as young adults, the consequences of identity theft are particularly devastating and can make it difficult to rent an apartment or obtain educational loans. Support additional funding for counties to assist with monitoring credit reports on behalf of foster youth and ensuring that youth receive assistance in interpreting their reports and clearing any inaccuracies, as required by State and federal law.
- **Provide funding to support reproductive health training.** Although some funding is currently available for reproductive health education of foster youth through grants, a dedicated funding stream is needed statewide to ensure that these trainings are available to all foster youth, as well as child welfare staff and foster parents who are working with or caring for foster youth. Foster youth are a vulnerable population in particular need of education that promotes their health and provides the knowledge needed to prevent sexually transmitted infections and teen pregnancy.

Ensure the Safety and Well-Being of Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC)

- **Additional funding and supports for Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC).** Responding to CSEC requires a multi-pronged response that does not criminalize the youth for their actions and includes prevention, intervention, and after care. Support additional funding and resources, beyond what is currently provided to counties, to expand training, tailor services, and support collaborative work with other systems. More funding is needed to address the immediate needs of victims, including clothing and safe shelter, and to provide long-term services to assist CSEC victims in achieving positive outcomes of permanency and well-being.
- **Protect and enhance funding for homeless youth.** The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) authorizes community-based runaway and homeless youth projects to provide temporary shelter and care to run-aways or otherwise homeless youth who are in need of temporary shelter, counseling, and aftercare services. Approximately 1 out of every 5 homeless youth are victims of trafficking, with higher rates of victimization occurring for LGBTQ youth and youth with previous involvement in the child welfare system. RHYA provides necessary funding to provide for these vulnerable young people. Support enhanced funding for RHYA, or similar introduced legislation for runaway and homeless youth, recognizing the increasing need to provide for CSEC and vulnerable youth who experience trafficking and exploitation.

Align Child Welfare Requirements with Local Best Practice Efforts

- **Flexibility allowing for exemptions in existing requirements concerning social worker contacts with foster youth that unfairly penalize counties.** Policy changes are needed to remove penalties when social workers are

unable to make monthly face to face contact with a foster youth who has run away from placement and his or her current whereabouts are unknown. The existing requirements do not consider and give credit for the social worker's efforts to locate and make contact with the youth.

SUPPORT ADULTS, SENIORS, AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The growing demographics of aging require a fundamental shift in how we view and incorporate aging in our system of services and in our communities. It is projected that the Alameda County senior population will increase by over 40 percent in the next ten years and approximately 50 percent of all seniors in Alameda County do not have adequate financial resources to address their daily needs. In addition, approximately one in five people with disabilities in Alameda County live below the federal poverty line.

Protect and Enhance Systems and Programs

- **Protect and increase funding available to develop and support affordable, accessible, and integrated housing options for seniors and persons with disabilities.** Older adults and persons with disabilities often live on fixed incomes and appropriate housing options are scarce and incomes are not increasing at the same rate as housing prices. Local affordable housing resources are severely limited, which is adversely impacting the health, care, and quality of life of seniors and people with disabilities. Fifty-four percent of adults over age 65 live below 200 percent of federal poverty, and people with disabilities are twice as likely as others to live in poverty. Inability to find or sustain stable housing results in health system costs when people cannot transition from institutional care. Support housing strategies that allow people to modify their home, access assisted living, health and supportive services, leverage Medicaid to access housing dollars and find housing after a health crisis for older adults and people with disabilities.
- **Restore 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. IHSS providers and clients have experienced a series of cuts in recent years. Support a permanent restoration of these cuts.
- **Oppose IHSS cost shifts to counties.** The 2017-18 State Budget discontinued the Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI), requiring a new IHSS Maintenance of Effort (MOE). The new IHSS MOE and some state mitigation measures provide short-term relief from a significant cost shift from the State to counties; however, without additional resources, Alameda County could face cuts to other vital social services in the coming years. Support efforts to better align IHSS funding responsibility with programmatic oversight and responsibility, and opposes policies and efforts to shift IHSS program costs to counties.
- **Ensure IHSS recipients are able to find care that meets their needs.** New IHSS overtime rules could potentially place an undue burden on recipients and make it more difficult to find and manage providers. Alameda County supports policies that streamline administration and make it easy for recipients to access and manage their care.
- **Protect vulnerable populations in community care facilities.** Licensed community care facilities, including residential care facilities for the elderly and day programs for adults and seniors are inspected by California Community Care Licensing. Support annual unannounced inspection visits.
- **Restore cuts to the Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) and reinstate an annual State cost-of-living adjustment (COLA).** SSI is federally funded and provides income support for individuals who are aged 65 or older, blind, or have a disability; the SSP is the California program that augments SSI. 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. Support restoring these benefits and including an annual COLA. Additionally, support policies that allow SSI recipients to access CalFresh benefits. Alameda County opposes any cuts to these benefits.
- **Preserve, support and expand programs for equitable access to advance care planning (ACP) and end-of-life services at any age.** Advance care planning gives people a way to think about death and dying allowing

them to confront dying directly instead of being a “vague, unmanageable concept” or leaving the end of life decisions up to others once the patient is unable to meaningfully participate in the process. Supporting programs that provide culturally relevant outreach and understanding of palliative care and hospice to our diverse populations will increase equitable access and utilization of end-of-life services.

- **Fully support the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).** The ADA prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in employment, transportation, public accommodation, communications, and governmental activities. Alameda County opposes all efforts to erode the legislative mandate of the ADA. Specifically, we oppose ADA notification bills that seek to create barriers to filing a complaint, resulting in loss of access and civil rights.
- **Increase employment opportunities for older adults and individuals with disabilities.** Support policies that help older adults and individuals with disabilities access training and employment opportunities that lead to competitive and integrated employment. Specifically, support policies such as subsidized employment or tax incentives that encourage employers to hire older adults and individuals with disabilities.
- **Support Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act implementation and improvements.** Created in 2014, ABLE accounts are tax-advantaged savings accounts for individuals with disabilities and their families. Savings in ABLE accounts do not affect eligibility for SSI, Medicaid and other public benefits. Support the ABLE Act, the California enactment, and policies that enhance and improve the current laws.
- **Support fair access to resources and services.** Older adults and people with disabilities have the right to live free from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and discriminatory practices. Older adults and people with disabilities have the right to services that promote independence and autonomy. Support policies that promote parity of resources and services among older adults and people with disabilities, including those with cognitive impairments, regardless of their social, economic, and immigration status.
- **Support services that are linguistically and culturally accessible.** Individuals and families who speak a language other than English have the right to receive services in their preferred language. Support funding and resources that allow hiring of additional bilingual staff to provide assistance to older adults and people with disabilities in their preferred language.

Coordinate the System of Care for Older Adults

Systematic inefficiencies are extremely costly while keeping people from getting the essential care and services they need. To accommodate the growing numbers of older adults who need services and serve them cost-effectively, Alameda County supports a coordinated service delivery system that protects, supports, and advocates for an aging population. Specifically, we support the integration and simplification of the complex system of senior services to ensure policies and programs are consumer-focused and that residents have access to and receive the services they need.

- **Preserve, support and expand programs and policies that promote Healthy Aging/Aging in Place.** Older adults often lack access to information and resources about social service and health issues, or are unaware of preventative measures they can take to remain healthier for longer. Support policies that promote healthy aging, independence, and well-being of seniors who wish to age in place, or who wish to remain in their homes as they age.
- **Protect and increase funding for Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Programs.** The services that the AAA provides to residents age 60 and older are often underfunded or restricted. Support increased State and federal funding and flexibility. Improve access, coordination, and integration of services for older adults. Systematic inefficiencies are extremely costly while keeping people from getting the essential care and services they need. To accommodate the growing numbers who need services and serve them cost-effectively, support policies and programs that improve access, coordination, and integration of care, including further developing and improving the Cal Medi-Connect program.
- **Reduce nutrition insecurity for seniors.** According to the Alameda County Community Food Bank, residents over 50 years old now make up more than one-third of their clients. This need is only expected to increase as older adults are the fastest growing segment of the population in Alameda County; however, State and federal

funding for senior nutrition is limited and restrictive. Support protecting and increasing funding and greater funding flexibility for senior nutrition programs and services.

- **Support and increase funding for Elder Courts.** Many seniors find the legal system complicated and difficult to navigate, which creates a barrier to remediation of legal issues such as elder abuse, housing disputes, and more. Elder Courts facilitate legal issues for seniors, including coordinating, scheduling, and making referrals to providers.
- **Preserve and expand programs that support caregivers.** Families are the major provider of long-term care for older adults, but research has shown that caregiving exacts a heavy emotional and financial toll. Almost half of all caregivers are over age 50, making them more vulnerable to a decline in their own health, and one-third describe their own health as fair to poor. Support increased efforts to support caregivers through creation of a Blue-Ribbon Caregiver Council and restoration of funding to Caregiver Resource Centers.
- **Support adequate and stable funding for the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP).** LTCOP is mandated, through State and federal law, to protect residents' rights and ensure that residents are treated with respect and dignity. Complaints identified and investigated by Ombudsmen are often the precursors to more severe cases of abuse and neglect. Increased ongoing funding would enable the program to conduct vital unannounced monitoring visits to all long-term care facilities in Alameda County; recruit, supervise and train volunteer Ombudsmen; investigate more complaints per year; and, advocate for residents' rights and safety.
- **Protect and increase funding, capacity, and access to critical senior services and programs.** Support restorations and expansions of programs that help older adults age with independence and dignity in their homes and communities. This includes the Adult Day Health Care, Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP), PACE (Program of All-Include Care for the Elderly), and other Medi-Cal funded services.
- **Promote retirement savings.** Less than half of California's private sector workers have access to an employer-sponsored retirement plan. Support State and federal policies that promote retirement savings and make it easier to save.
- **Increase funding for programs that support the integration of health care and social services focused on aging and advance care planning.** Funding a whole person approach to care and reducing barriers to the integration of health and social service systems will increase the coordination of services and allow sharing of vital health information. The integration of advance care planning into a health and social services regimen allows time to put social supports in place before self-care and mobility are limited by the downward trajectory of a terminal illness. The ability to stay at home with integrated health care and social services may reduce hospital readmissions, futile treatments, and suffering from symptom burdens, while also improving the quality of care at the end of life.
- **Preserve, restore and increase funding for community-based programs for seniors and people with disabilities.** Over the past few years, senior safety net funding for multiple programs under the Older Californians Act and Older Americans Act has been eliminated or severely reduced. Support preserving, reinstating and increasing funding for these and other programs that support seniors and people with disabilities.
- **Advance collaborations and policies that establish partnerships with community-based services to leverage existing and new resources for better outcomes.** Support policies and regulations that embrace community-service collaborations and person-centered programs to improve health outcomes for older adults and people with disabilities.
- **Increase funding to expand services specifically for older adults with mental health and co-occurring substance abuse issues.** Behavioral health concerns are not a normal part of the aging process. Mental illness and substance use disorders are major impediments to living well in old age; they cause considerable personal suffering and make it difficult for older people to achieve their potential. Older adults who become disabled by mental illness deserve the same guarantee of care already extended to those who face other kinds of disabilities.

For more information on these issues, please see the Behavioral Health section in the Health Chapter.

Protect Vulnerable Adults

Alameda County Division of Adult Protection consists of Adult Protective Services (APS), Office of the Public Guardian-Conservator (PG/PC), and the Public Administrator's Office (PA). Together these programs provide a continuum of services that form a safety net for vulnerable adults.

- **Support adequate and stable funding for APS training.** Training for APS workers and their partner agencies is severely underfunded and has not kept pace with rising cases. 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 child abuse victims receive. APS programs require ongoing State and federal funding and support to be able to maintain and expand a highly-trained workforce and successfully serve this vulnerable elders and dependent adults. Additionally, resources are necessary to address the needs of underserved groups, including rural older adults, elders of color, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) elders. Support increased State funding for APS training.
- **Protect and enhance supports to preserve housing and prevent eviction for seniors and dependents adults who are victims of abuse or neglect.** Senior and dependent adults who are the victims of abuse or neglect are among the most vulnerable to becoming homeless. Support State and federal funding for services, case-management, and resources to help preserve stable housing for vulnerable elders and dependent adults.
- **Protect and increase services and supports for elderly or dependent adults who are victims of financial abuse.** Financial abuse is estimated to account for 40 percent of all forms of reported abuse against seniors. Dependent adults also face similar challenges. Additional services and supports are needed for education, prevention, and investigation of financial abuse and exploitation of these populations.
- **Raise awareness of elder and dependent adult abuse.** Specifically, support State and federal efforts to better define elder and dependent abuse and ensure consistency in data tracking and reporting. Efforts should be made to lift up the issue and raise public awareness of this silent epidemic.
- **Enhance coordination to respond to crimes against elders and dependent adults.** Support State and federal efforts to make it easier for agencies (including law enforcement, District Attorneys, Public Guardians, Victim/Witness Programs, and the Victims Compensation Board, etc.) that respond to crimes against elder and dependent adults to coordinate services. This should include support to identify, prevent, and remedy elder and dependent adult abuse.
- **Improve data collection on elder and dependent adult abuse.** There is a lack of good data on elder and dependent abuse. The most recent national numbers (from 2009) estimate that 11 percent of older Americans experience abuse, neglect, or exploitation in the community (this survey excluded individuals in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities). The actual prevalence is likely even higher. The National Council on Aging also estimates that only one in 14 cases of abuse come to the attention of officials. Additional State and federal support is needed to improve local data collection on the incidence of elder and dependent adult abuse.
- **Protect and increase services and supports for elderly or dependent adults who are victims of crimes.** Individuals with disabilities and seniors have a disproportionately high victimization rate. According to the most recent Bureau of Justice Statistics report, the rate of serious violent crimes is three times higher for those with disabilities than those without. Additional services and supports are needed for education, prevention, and investigation of abuse and exploitation of seniors and individuals with disabilities.
- **Protect funding that State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP, known as HICAP in California).** Each year SHIP supports over 15,000 counselors who provide free, state-specific assistance to over six million people. In Alameda County, HICAP is provided by Legal Assistance for Seniors, and helps thousands of people navigate the complexities of Medicare, many of them referred to HICAP by the Medicare help line. Support policies that protect State and federal funding for SHIP/HICAP.
- **Increase support and statewide coordination of APS.** There are currently inconsistencies among APS programs in California counties. Support efforts to better coordinate and promote uniformity in the development and adoption of best practices in protective services casework throughout the State. These

efforts should also include consistency in data collection so that there is comparable data across counties and updating of the APS State Regulations.

- **Increased safeguards and protections for adults with caregivers.** Support 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.
- **Require California Department of Developmental Services (CDDS) to act as limited probate conservator.** Require CDDS, which oversees the Regional Centers, to act as probate conservator when one of their consumers is in need of a limited conservatorship and there is no appropriate family member or friend able to act. CDDS currently has this capability and does petition in some cases, but prefers not to act. This leaves the burden on individual counties, a model which does not best serve people with developmentally disabilities.
- **Oppose making Lanterman-Petris-Short (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.
- **Increase funding for the Public Guardian-Conservator (PG/PC).** Counties currently augment funding for PG/PC with no dedicated State funding source to meet the increasing demand for services. Support a budget allocation from the State to provide counties with additional funding for this vital and critical service.
- **Protect the rights of individuals with mental illness.** Current law provides that individuals cannot be indiscriminately placed in involuntary settings without due process, which includes LPS conservatorship and a finding of grave disability. Alameda County opposes efforts that could circumvent due process and the protections that are currently in place to protect the rights of residents who have a mental illness.

Better Serve Veterans

Alameda County supports policies that assist veterans with accessing benefits, housing, and stable employment.

- **Increase employment opportunities for veterans.** Support policies that help veterans access employment in the public and private sectors. Specifically, support 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.** Support 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 funding for County Veterans Service Offices (CVSOs).** CVSOs assist California veterans in navigating the claims process and accessing all State and federal benefits for which they are eligible.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PLANNING COUNCIL

The Planning Council will initiate and promote efforts to protect and increase local, state, federal and private funding for Early Care and Education (ECE) and monitor, take positions and make recommendations on State issues, legislation and initiatives that significantly impact ECE quality, access, affordability and racial disparity. It will support increasing the spectrum of family engagement and family leadership opportunities in ECE, and advocate for family centered, inclusive, developmentally and culturally appropriate practices for all children in all Early Care and Education Programs. **Specifically, in 2018 the Planning Council will advocate to:**

- Support legislative efforts to support successful implementation of the AB 833 pilot, scaling policies covered in the pilot to the bay area region and across the State.

- Significantly expand ECE funding, access and services for all income eligible children and families with special focus on: equity; meeting the needs of infants and toddlers; and vulnerable children and families, including: immigrants, those experiencing homelessness, children with special needs, or families connected to the Child Welfare system; eradicating racial disparities and structural, policy and institutional barriers and eliminating child care deserts.
- **Access**
 - Protect and increase child care access for immigrant, homeless and foster care families and children in poverty.
 - Promote utilization of CalWORKs child care including through simplified eligibility, increased service navigation, and coordination.
 - Continue to increase Standard Reimbursement and Regional Market Rates.
 - Streamline and create efficiencies such as coordinated regulatory, contracting and reimbursement processes within the current federal, state and local programs.
 - Integrate child care in County place based strategies that concentrate resources and investments in communities with the highest level of need.
 - Retain and protect 21st Century Learning Center funding.
 - Restore the Centralized Eligibility List (CEL).
 - Restore the Alternative Payment agency support services rate.
 - Advocate for 24 month eligibility redetermination for all child care subsidies.
- **Quality/Health, Safety and Environmental Health**
 - Continue to improve quality in early care and education, including addressing facilities, health, safety and environmental health, workforce wages and professional development and Quality Rating and Improvement System funding.
 - Increase timely inspections and frequency of Community Care Licensing visits to annual visits (aligns with County Social Services Agency).
- **Quality/Workforce**
 - Increase ECE professional development including, but not limited to: dedicated paid days for training; increased workforce compensation and benefits to reflect the professional work of the field; education, succession planning, and career pathways.
- **Quality/Support Services**
 - Increase mental health resources and connections with ECE programs.
 - Increase funding for navigators (including at Resource and Referral agencies) for vulnerable families.
 - Increase funding for Local Planning Councils and preserve local flexibility.

ALAMEDA COUNTY INTERAGENCY CHILDREN'S POLICY COUNCIL

The Alameda County Interagency Children's Policy Council (ICPC) engages in cross-system collaboration by improving interagency communication, developing child-friendly policies and practices, and initiating systems changes that result in healthy, safe, and thriving children and youth throughout Alameda County. Comprised of County department directors and leaders, ICPC provides advocacy and leadership to improve and enhance service delivery and outcomes for children and youth. Our priorities for legislative advocacy are guided by a set of overarching principles that emphasize equity, upstream investment, and interagency collaboration. ICPC supports legislative actions that:

- Prioritize the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families, regardless of immigration or housing status

- Recognize and mitigate systemic inequities in public systems;
- Support evidence-based policies and programs to ensure healthy, educated children, stable families, and safe and supportive communities.
- Bolster, enhance, and innovate safety net programs that serve our most vulnerable populations;
- Recognize wealth inequality and provide equitable access to economic opportunity and self-sufficiency for all Alameda County residents;
- Remove barriers to public and private interagency collaboration; and
- Preserve and increase funding streams dedicated to upstream and preventative investments in children and youth.

Our vision for healthy, safe, and thriving children, youth, and families includes ensuring the following priorities are addressed. ICPC advocates for policy change and legislative action that increases equitable outcomes across the following domains:

Healthy

- Ensure all children are born healthy;
- Give parents adequate support they need to care for young children;
- Support consistent access to quality medical, dental, and behavioral health care;
- Support prevention of childhood obesity and increase overall family health;
- Ensure access to safe spaces for physical activity within their own communities; and
- Ensure access to quality nutritious foods and guarantee access to safe drinking water in schools and communities.

Safe

- Strengthen all families to ensure all children and youth live in safe and stable environments;
- Ensure safe, affordable housing for all families with children and youth, and unaccompanied transitional age youth;
- Prioritize prevention, diversion, and restorative justice practices that impede youth involvement in juvenile justice systems;
- Guarantee freedom from mistreatment, abuse, neglect, and violence; and
- Address and mitigate the impacts of trauma on children, youth, and families.

Thriving

- Ensure all families have the ability to meet basic needs— nutritious food, shelter, clothing, health care, and accessible transportation;
- Guarantee that all children have equitable access to a quality education and opportunities that promote success in life and future careers;
- Ensure children have the right to a voice and representation in matters that affect them; and
- Support and sustain programs promoting healthy development and care coordination for families and children.

HEALTH

HEALTH CARE ACCESS, QUALITY, AND AFFORDABILITY

All key provisions of the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) were in place as of January 2014, and the legislation has been successful in reducing the rates of uninsured in the nation. According to the US Census Bureau, the rate of U.S. residents who were uninsured fell from 13.3 percent in 2013 to 10.4 percent in 2014; in California, the rate of uninsured fell from 17.2 percent in 2013 to 12.4 percent in 2014, a decline of almost 5 percentage points. In the County, the rate of uninsured fell from 12.6 percent in 2013 to 8.2 percent

in 2014. In 2016, the uninsured rate in Alameda County fell to 4.2 percent. Despite this dramatic drop in the uninsured rate, 68,648 residents still lack access to health care coverage.

The County embraces the “Triple Aim:” improving patient experience, satisfaction and quality, the health of populations, and cost-effectiveness. For health care reform to further succeed, we must maximize eligibility, enrollment and retention in health insurance and access to appropriate and high quality health care. Special attention should be paid to policies that:

- **Increase access to health insurance.** Simplify the health insurance application process for all, especially hard-to-reach and underserved populations. Support legislation that would streamline enrollment and retention for Medi-Cal.
- **Increase access to health care.** The County supports legislation that provides lower cost and more accessible treatment alternatives in community settings; promotes efficiency; incentivizes physicians to go into primary care; incentivizes expanded medical staffing, including use of advanced-practice nurses where there are physician shortages and the use of a wider range of healthcare team members, such as community health workers. The County supports legislation that preserves and increases funding for community health centers in order to meet the increased demand for health center services among the ACA’s Medicaid Coverage Expansion population.
- **Expand dental care access and preventive services for low-income Californians.** Dental health is a preventive disease, an integral part of overall health and can have impacts on children’s growth, development, self-esteem, and learning. The County supports policies that would increase prevention services and new more efficient models of care, such as the virtual dental home and expanded dental teams.
- **Ensure linguistically and culturally appropriate communication with patients.** The County supports legislation that encourages use of appropriate written materials from insurance companies, providers and pharmacy companies, and promotes standards and adequate training for in-person communication at the point of care.
- **Support state-wide comprehensive health care for undocumented persons.** Expand health care access and coverage for undocumented individuals and families and the expansion of Medi-Cal and Covered California to cover the remaining uninsured.
- **Promote payment reform that increases the ability to provide preventive services and establishes risk-sharing between hospitals and primary care.** Support payment reform that incentivizes positive health outcomes, not just the ability to bill for more tests or visits. It should promote health education and allow same-day visits for better integrated care, and enable doctors to spend more time with patients at the initial visit to improve the quality of overall care.
- **Ensure maintenance and enhancement of the safety net system.** Increase provider rates; improve transitions of care (e.g. from acute or specialty care to primary care medical homes); and support policies that provide coverage to those with part-time or temporary employment. Use the opportunities provided by the 1115 Medi-Cal 2020 Waiver to enhance integration and effectiveness of the safety net healthcare system. Support adequate Per Member Per Month (PMPM) payments for health home services and the new Health Home Program under Affordable Care Act Section 2703.
- **Support Whole Person Care Pilot and other similar efforts:** Enhance integration of mental health and substance use treatment, primary care, and social services to create seamless care and support of social determinants of health for patients. This may include supporting capacity to appropriately share data across systems in order to improve coordination and efficiency of care; and payment reforms, e.g. ability to bill for behavioral health visits that occur on the same day as primary care visits.
- **Support policies that enable systems and providers to reduce health inequities.** As an example, the County supports infrastructure for the collection, analysis, and utilization of race, language, and ethnicity and disability data in monitoring and planning to reduce or eliminate disparities. As our systems shift to population health, the County supports efforts to develop metrics and collect data on the social determinants of health.

- **Support improved treatment of chronic pain while reducing inappropriate prescription of opioids and their unsafe storage and disposal.** For example, support coverage for and access to acupuncture, physical therapy, and other non-pharmaceutical interventions to treat chronic pain and opioid addiction, and reduce barriers to opioid medication collection sites.

MEDI-CAL AND HEALTH CARE REFORM

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA) allowed states to expand Medicaid (Medi-Cal in California). Medi-Cal is California's health insurance program for eligible low-income individuals and families. Beginning in January 2014, Medi-Cal was expanded to include income-eligible childless, non-disabled, adults. Enrollment locally and across the State exceeded all predictions and one-third of California residents are currently receiving Medi-Cal. Alameda County supports efforts to leverage health care reform to enroll children, individuals, and families in the full range of benefits for which they are eligible. *For more information on public benefits (CalFresh and CalWORKs), please see the Human Services Chapter.*

- **Sustain and strengthen Medi-Cal funding.** Medi-Cal insures working families, as well as the most vulnerable individuals. Without necessary funding many families and individuals could lose access to health care, jeopardizing their well-being, and the health of the larger community. Alameda County opposes any policies and efforts to cut funding, reduce current program benefits, or restrict eligibility to the Medi-Cal program.
- **Eliminate the asset test for ALL Medi-Cal categories.** With the Medi-Cal expansion, the newly eligible population does not have an asset test. However, other populations receiving (Non-Modified Adjusted Gross Income) Medi-Cal still have resource limits. Asset limits are a disincentive to save and Alameda County supports the elimination of these tests for all categories of Medi-Cal.
- **Support the protection of and expansion of Medi-Cal.** Support the protection of and expansion of Medi-Cal for individuals who do not have access to insurance, especially families, children, and individuals with pre-existing health conditions.
- **Preserve and fully restore funding for Denti-Cal.** Good dental hygiene is crucial to overall health and can have impacts on job prospects and self-esteem. Support the partial restoration of adult dental Medi-Cal benefits (Denti-Cal) that began in May 2014 and a full restoration of 2009 funding levels. Untreated oral infections complicate medical conditions and are often a source of increased medical costs.
- **Restore Medi-Cal optional benefits.** Optional benefits (including Audiology, Chiropractic, Incontinence Cream and Washes, Optician/Optical Lab, Podiatry, and Speech Therapy) were cut in 2009 in response to the State fiscal crisis. The acupuncture benefit was restored starting in July 2016. Restoring the other benefits would increase services for Medi-Cal recipients and broaden the care they can receive under the program, increasing their overall health and well-being.
- **Protect and strengthen Long-Term Home and Community Based Services.** Support Medi-Cal funding which provides services to individuals with disabilities such as long-term home and community-based services, physical and speech therapy to children with disabilities, and services to individuals with chronic illness and disabilities.
- **Increase Medi-Cal provider reimbursement rates.** California has some of the lowest provider reimbursement rates in the country and recent rate cuts raise concerns about consumer access at a time when millions of new individuals are enrolled in Medi-Cal. Support increases in Medi-Cal reimbursement rates and policies that make it easier to claim reimbursements.
- **Provide adequate funding for Medi-Cal Administration.** Medi-Cal caseloads have increased significantly since health care reform (a nearly 90 percent increase in Alameda County since 2014). Medi-Cal administration funding for counties needs to be sufficient to handle increased workloads and meet case management standards.
- **Increase the Medi-Cal Aged and Disabled (A&D) income disregards.** The income disregards for the Medi-Cal A&D program (which provides free, comprehensive coverage to persons over the age of 65 and those with disabilities) have not increased since the program began in 2001. This has resulted in eligibility decreasing from

13 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) to 123 percent. Support increasing the Medi-Cal A&D income limit to 138 percent FPL to align the A&D program with income limits under the Medi-Cal expansion and reduce the number of seniors paying a large share of cost before Medi-Cal will cover services.

CALIFORNIA CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Started in 1927, CCS is the oldest public health program in California. CCS provides case management and care coordination to 180,000 (6,500 in Alameda County) clients, birth to 21, who have serious injuries or chronic, disabling and/or life threatening medical conditions such as cancer, spina bifida, cerebral palsy and sickle cell disease. The CCS program also sets standards for pediatric specialty care in the State of California, panels physicians, certifies clinical Special Care Centers, neonatal and pediatric intensive care units, and hospitals that provide specialized pediatric medical and surgical services.

Effective July 2018, medical case management and responsibility to issue payment for clinical services for CCS program clients will become the responsibility of Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans in 21 counties (not Alameda). This change is called 'Whole Child Model'. There are significant concerns about the potential negative impact of this change on clients and their families, because of the lack of relevant experience and clinical staffing in Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans.

- **Support continued funding for California Children's Services as a system of care in the remaining counties.** Support legislation that will maintain and strengthen CCS as pediatric system of care for children/youth with serious injuries and medically complex conditions. CCS provides a robust regionalized architecture for pediatric specialty care anchored by centers of excellence consisting of CCS-certified regional hospitals and multi-disciplinary Special Care Centers. CCS also establishes and enforces statewide standards for provider participation that underlie the statewide system of quality pediatric care for all children in California.
- **Support legislation that maintains CCS program standards and quality case management in whole child model counties and in the remaining counties.** Key components include: maintenance of a statewide network of approved physicians and other health care providers, hospitals, and Special Care Centers that can be accessed by any CCS-enrolled child regardless of the child's place of residence and that set the pediatric standard of care for all children in the state; referral to the appropriate pediatric sub-specialists, hospitals and Special Care Centers with the expertise to care for each individual child's specific conditions; and provision of case management, service authorizations and care coordination by professionals with specific expertise in the care of children with special health care needs.
- **Support legislation that will ensure all changes to CCS proceed slowly, carefully and with great deliberation, ensuring rigorous independent evaluation of all elements of CCS redesign.** Any evaluation of CCS redesign should assess access to services, family/provider satisfaction, clinical and process outcomes, and cost savings. Surveys conducted by the Department of Health Care Services demonstrate that CCS families are overwhelmingly satisfied with the services they currently receive from CCS, with satisfaction higher than what is typically found for managed care plans (89 percent of parents reported being very satisfied or satisfied with case management services). Making changes to CCS too quickly or without adequate, independent data evaluating proposed changes could adversely affect CCS children/youth.
- **Support full funding of all medically necessary medications, including non-formulary and compounded medications and dietary supplements.** Pharmacies need to be paid to provide all medically necessary pharmaceuticals to CCS children. Support legislation to improve the ability of all Medi-Cal pharmacies (children's hospital pharmacies, small neighborhood pharmacies, and big chain pharmacies) to provide medically necessary non-formulary medications, dietary supplements, and compounded medications to CCS children.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Behavioral health problems (mental health and/or substance use disorders) are significant public health problems impacting millions, and are associated with other chronic diseases that often result in morbidity and mortality. The effects of mental illness can range from minor disruptions in daily functioning to incapacitating personal, social, and occupational impairments and premature death.

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

- **Protect and Increase funding to expand services specifically for older adults with mental health and co-occurring substance abuse issues.** Mental health problems are not a normal part of the aging process. Mental illness and substance use disorders are major impediments to living well in old age, cause considerable personal suffering and make it difficult for older people to achieve their potential. Older adults who become disabled by mental illness deserve the same guarantee of care already extended to those who face other kinds of disabilities.
- **Protect and Increase funding to build a competent geriatric behavioral health workforce to meet the demands of the rapidly aging population.** The unique characteristics of geriatric mental health and substance use treatment create important requirements for workforce competencies, and includes the ability to detect possible mental health and substance use conditions in older adults who may have coexisting physical health conditions as well as other cognitive and functional impairments.
- **Protect and Expand the 1915(i) State Plan Amendment to include the evidence-based Individual Placement and Support (IPS) employment services as a billable rehabilitation service under Medi-Cal.** Research shows that 60-70 percent of adults with psychiatric disabilities would like to be employed. This evidenced based practice should be a standard of care to support clients in becoming employed; which can assist with breaking the cycle of poverty. Expansion of the 1915(i) State Plan Amendment by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to include IPS as a billable service will allow Alameda County to participate in federal cost sharing and will support system clients to access a better quality of life, to enjoy increased independence and to experience fewer hospitalizations.
- **Protect and Expand permanent supportive housing for individuals who are homeless and/or disabled.** Multiple research studies and policy papers articulate the benefits of expanding permanent supportive housing (affordable housing coupled with appropriate supportive services) for homeless individuals and individuals with disabilities. California lags behind other states that have developed ongoing statewide commitments to further the creation of permanent supportive housing. The Department of Health Care Services should allow health plans to develop innovative approaches to meet the housing needs of their clients and should play a leading role in advocating for the expansion of affordable housing resources at the state and federal level.
- **End the Medi-Cal lock out of reimbursable mental health and substance use disorder treatment services for youth and adults who are incarcerated.** 50 percent or more of state prisoners meet the criteria for a diagnosis of drug abuse or dependence, but only 10 percent receive medically-based drug treatment. Among youth, as many as four out of five teens in the juvenile justice system have drug or alcohol problems, yet fewer than 20 percent have access to substance abuse treatment programs. Additionally, more than 8 in 10 formally incarcerated individuals have chronic physical, mental, or substance abuse disorders that create significant, distinct reentry challenges and service needs. Medi-Cal reimbursable treatment services to incarcerated individuals in both juvenile and adult prison systems have the potential to yield substantial health and economic benefits.
- **Advocate for the reduction of individuals with mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders incarcerated in county jails.** More than 2 million adults with serious mental illnesses are admitted to county jails nationally each year. Once incarcerated, people with mental illnesses tend to stay longer in jail and are at a higher risk of re-incarceration than individuals without these illnesses. Reducing the number of mentally ill in the criminal justice system by providing responsible alternatives can save money, reduce recidivism, improve public safety and provide better outcomes for the offenders.

- **Promote increased education and enforcement of the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (MHPAEA or “parity”).** MHPAEA is a federal law requiring that if certain health plans provide coverage for mental health or substance use disorder services, they must provide services in a manner comparable to coverage provided for medical and surgical care. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has identified five primary components that are critical for successful implementation and monitoring of parity: (1) open channels of communication, (2) standardization of materials, (3) creation of templates, workbooks and other tools, (4) implementation of market conduct exams and network adequacy assessments, and (5) collaboration with multiple agencies and stakeholder groups. These five approaches, when implemented in a coordinated manner, can help ensure parity for all Californians.
- **Support the development and implementation of a statewide peer and family support specialist certification program as a part of the state’s comprehensive mental health delivery system.** Peer specialist services include but are not limited to: wellness, resilience and recovery coaching; navigating systems and community services; assisting in the development of individual wellness plans; and outreach to potential beneficiaries. Peer specialists have been shown to be more effective than traditional providers in reaching populations that are historically underserved by the health care system. Peer services also assist to expand and diversify the health care workforce, mainly the non-physician workforce, which is an area of particular focus for the California State Department of Health Care Services.

REDUCING INEQUITIES IN HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV)

In 1998, Alameda County instituted a State of Emergency due to the disproportionate impact of HIV among African Americans. Approximately 40 percent of all HIV infections in the County occur in this group, yet African Americans comprise only 11.6 percent of the population. HIV also disproportionately impacts Latinos and men who have sex with men in the County. Although overall rates of HIV in women are lower, they are even more concentrated in African American women than in other women. It is the goal of the County to stop the transmission of HIV, improve HIV treatment outcomes and combat HIV-related health disparities. Biomedical interventions to prevent and treat HIV are now well-established and should be implemented in coordination with harm reduction efforts, wrap-around services, and traditional prevention (especially education and condom distribution) in order to meet the County goal. This can best be accomplished by supporting legislation and policy that facilitates access to testing, treatment, PrEP/PEP, and related services for all impacted populations while at the same time reducing stigma.

- **Support Funding for HIV Prevention and Care:** Increase funding for HIV prevention and care. Powerful tools exist for preventing, diagnosing and treating HIV. Increased funding will lead to increased access to and more effective use of these tools in impacted communities.
- **Support funding for housing and other supportive services:** Alameda County residents infected with or at risk of contracting HIV cannot consistently access HIV-related services without also addressing basic needs such as food and shelter. Supporting funding to meet these needs for populations affected by HIV is essential to reduce the impact of HIV in the County.
- **Decriminalize HIV infection.** Modify or remove existing laws that create and enhance criminal penalties for people living with HIV. These laws are based on irrational fears and they undermine public health by perpetuating stigma and dis-incentivizing HIV testing and care. HIV criminalization laws also disproportionately impact women and people of color.
- **Support Harm Reduction Services:** Syringe exchanges were among the first biomedical tools that effectively prevented the transmission of HIV and Hepatitis C among injection drug users. Successful implementation of syringe exchanges has helped keep HIV rates due to injection drug use low in Alameda County and helped injection drug users access testing, overdose prevention and treatment as well as disposal of used syringes and other associated hazardous waste. The County supports harm reduction programs including syringe exchange and supervised consumption sites that reduce the chance for HIV transmission, prevent overdose deaths, and increase access to HIV and substance use treatment.

- **Facilitate HIV Testing:** 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 HIV rapid point-of-care tests in California. California is one of the only states with this restriction, severely limiting state-wide HIV testing efforts

ALCOHOL PREVENTION

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 are used. This "environmental" approach to Alcohol and other drug 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, which 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:** In 2014, there were 9,967 fatalities in motor vehicle traffic crashes involving a driver with a BAC of .08 g/dL or higher; this was 31 percent of total traffic fatalities for the year. An average of 1 alcohol-impaired- driving fatality occurred every 53 minutes in 2014. ([2014 Data: Alcohol-Impaired Driving - CrashStats - NHTSA](#).) 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 during 2012, an estimated 4.2 million U.S. adults reported driving while impaired by alcohol at least once in the preceding 30 days, resulting in an estimated 121 million alcohol-impaired driving episodes annually, and a national rate of 505 episodes per 1,000 population. (Morbidity and Mortality Weekly, August 7, 2015) Strategies 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.

REDUCING INEQUITIES IN CHRONIC DISEASES

In Alameda County the four leading causes of death: cancer, heart disease, stroke, and chronic lower Respiratory Disease, are due to chronic diseases and account for 57 percent of all deaths. Diabetes and Hypertension account for another 5.7 percent of 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 6.5 years.

- **Support chronic disease screening, detection, education and care management system** - Chronic diseases disproportionately affect people of color. Poor screening, access to care, and the lack of understanding of how to manage these diseases leads to complications and premature death. The County supports expanding and enforcing a chronic disease system of care that includes the payment and provision of making self-management education accessible to people with chronic disease to manage their disease.
- **Enforce standards-based physical education in public schools as mandated in the Ed 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 percent of all 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, allow family leave, foster child bonding, and create breastfeeding-friendly work places 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 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. 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.** In the County, approximately 60 percent of adolescents and 31 percent of children consume one or more sodas per day. Greater consumption of sugar sweetened beverages is associated with dental caries, diabetes, 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 increase the numbers of children served.
- **Reduce smoking, limit secondhand smoke exposure, decrease youth access to tobacco products and marketing, and promote health equity among California's diverse populations:** The 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 especially to youth, 4) reduce or eliminate the retailing of new tobacco or nicotine products, 5) promote tobacco cessation, 6) Incorporate health equity, language access, and cultural competency standards

in all tobacco control agencies, programs, processes, and practices, 7) Increase support to priority populations' advocacy and leadership alliances in tobacco control, 8) Strengthen the capacity of agency and institution personnel to achieve tobacco-related health equity, and 9) Conduct monitoring, surveillance, evaluation, and research; disseminate findings to reduce tobacco-related health disparities and measure progress toward achieving health equity and social justice.

- **Create “Asthma-Friendly” communities:** The 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 Institute's 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 reducing diesel emissions in our communities, and improving housing conditions to meet the standards of a healthy home while holding those responsible for the conditions to a legal standard.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 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, advances in medical technology, and the Affordable Care Act. It is critical that these gains not be reversed. 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. However, 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. There are deep inequities in maternal and child health by race: infant mortality rates among African-Americans are two to four times higher than whites and African-American women are three to four 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 family planning and abortion services, and case management where appropriate – will continue to be important as will program and policy efforts that 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.

- **Support access to comprehensive, low cost and readily accessible reproductive health services, including family planning, emergency contraception and abortion services.** Special attention should be paid to policies that 1) do not limit the range of options available and 2) ensure access to accurate, unbiased information about reproductive and sexual health for youth and adults. Policy changes that have expanded access to health care for women and men of reproductive age must be maintained.

- **Support efforts to explore innovative state-level financing mechanisms for home visiting.** Other states, such as Minnesota, have MOUs between Public Health Departments and Medicaid managed care organizations (MMCO) stipulating that home visiting services be directly billed to the MMCO. In other states, partnerships between Public Health, Health Care Services and Social Services agencies at the state level have resulted in braided funding mechanisms that sustain local home visiting programs not supported by MIECHV, Healthy Start or other federal funds. California should explore similar funding ideas that could result in evidence-based home visiting programs becoming a permanent part of the early childhood landscape of services for low income women, children, fathers and families.

- **Support continued full implementation of the Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program (CPSP) for -all Medi-Cal eligible women,** regardless of whether they are fee-for-service clients or are enrolled in Medi-Cal managed care, as well as for women who are newly eligible for coverage under the ACA. CPSP provides low-income Medi-Cal eligible women with comprehensive nutrition, 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.

- **Support policies and legislation that 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 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.
- **Support efforts to ensure safe, stable and affordable housing for pregnant women and families with young children.** Pregnancy, infancy and early childhood are critical periods where adverse social conditions can have a disproportionate effect on health and development. Living in substandard housing, experiencing neighborhood violence or being homeless for even short periods of time during the early stages of life can expose young children and their families to dangerous levels of toxic stress, resulting in potential damage to their long-term health, well-being and overall life trajectory.
- **Support funding for the equitable inclusion of services for men in local family support systems of care.** For decades publicly funded family support systems of care have provided services to ensure the health and well-being of women and children. Federal and State funding is needed to address the health and wellbeing of men and assure their inclusion in family support programming so that they can successfully engage with their families and children. This funding should be directed towards programs, agencies, and organizations that are open to and inclusive of the needs of men and that provide father-specific services and activities that further the goal of increasing fathers' involvement in their children's lives. Additionally, the County supports legislation to ensure full access to physical and mental health services for men, particularly for men re-entering the community from the local criminal justice systems.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

In 1980, the Legislature enacted the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Act, which empowers 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 funding for emergency medical services continuity.** Ensure the continuation of LEMSA authority for planning, implementing and evaluating local EMS systems. Under current law, counties have an obligation to ensure public health, and access to emergency medical care, including ambulance services. EMS and ambulance services planned for and provided on a county-wide basis ensure system integrity and the delivery of optimal patient care. Our goal is to maintain and improve the EMS system that delivers optimal patient care and efficient system design for the County overall and avoid fragmentation.
- **Secure funding to support emergency medical services in hospitals.** Over 50 percent of hospital emergency rooms operate at a net operating loss due to the significant volume of uncompensated care. Legislative efforts, including an initiative to provide new dedicated funding for uncompensated care in emergency rooms and specialty centers, are needed. Funding is necessary to support emergency medical services, specialty centers, trauma care, pediatric care, stroke centers and cardiac care centers. 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 hospitals located in urban areas.
- **Increase revenue for ambulance transportation.** Ambulance transportation reimbursements in Alameda County have significant gaps, particularly in relation to payments by Medi-Cal and Medicare. Medi-Cal

reimbursement payments in particular fall drastically short, covering just over 1/5 of the actual cost of service delivery. Legislative efforts are needed for new dedicated funding or for increases in reimbursement from Medi-Cal and other insurers.

- **Support legislation which promotes funding for the propagation of emergency medical community preparedness, response, and resiliency training programs which may include mental health initiatives.** Programs needed are cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), basic first aid including hemorrhage control and those promoting enhanced mental health.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Natural and human-made disasters including the recent fires in California, earthquakes, acts of terrorism, projections of more frequent and severe extreme weather events and emerging communicable diseases demonstrate the need to ensure that Alameda County has a coordinated system in place to respond to any hazard. Building the response capacity of public health, emergency medical services and health care systems includes planning for a “surge” of patients. The Public Health Department and Emergency Medical Services (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. The following will ensure that our State and local disaster response systems are adequately prepared to respond in an emergency, prepared to respond to long-term health issues from disaster, and prepared to maintain continuity of operations:

- **Support funding for regional communications.** Regional planning must take place to develop communication systems that are functional in a mutual aid response situation. Clear leadership provided by the State Department of Public Health and EMS Authority should promote improved communication with the public and private sector. Funding is needed to support robust and redundant systems and enhance existing communications and information management systems.
- **Develop systems for vulnerable populations.** Develop and fund systems to ensure that services are delivered in a timely and efficient manner to vulnerable populations with special consideration for children and adults with disabilities requiring functional or access support services, as well as low income populations, seniors, children, individuals with language barriers and other specific needs. Pre-planning for disaster response must be focused on those who are dependent on others such as caretakers in the event of a large-scale public health emergency.
- **Secure funding for disaster preparedness, response and mitigation.** Support legislation that promotes funding for medical and health disaster planning, coordination, response and mitigation including infrastructure and emergency response personnel.

SYSTEMS OF CARE FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

Children and adults with disabilities in California rely on systems of care that have been chronically underfunded. The California economy is in its seventh year of recovery from the Great Recession, but the disability community has not shared in these economic gains. The need for full restoration of essential safety net services should remain a priority. Disability status is almost a guarantee of significant disparity in Alameda County: one in five people with a disability live in poverty versus one in ten people without a disability; the percentage of adults with less than a high school education is over twice as high among people with disabilities than those without disabilities; only 22 percent of people with disabilities are employed compared to 67 percent of those without disabilities, and people with disabilities are more likely to experience a high housing cost burden compared to those without disabilities based on low and extremely low income status. An “affordable rent” for a single adult receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is less than \$300/month, but a typical studio apartment in Alameda County costs at least \$1300/month.

Alameda County supports policies that result in better outcomes for children and adults with disabilities, and the development of services designed for all our residents. Restoration of funding, reinvestment in new services, and reform strategies are necessities to the stabilization of our compromised systems of care in order to provide a quality of life beyond institutionalized poverty for children and adults with disabilities.

- **Mandate Universal Developmental Screening with Incentives.** Require the use of a high quality developmental screening tool in well-child exams at 9, 18 and 24-30 months, and mandate a greater incentive, and higher relative value unit, in publicly funded insurance and service programs. Fewer than one in three young children in California receive timely developmental screenings. When pediatricians use developmental surveillance instead of a high quality screening tool, less than 30 percent of developmental delays are identified. This group of infants and toddlers can make significant developmental gains; 69 percent of at risk children who receive early intervention services require no special education services by the time they start kindergarten. Universal developmental screening greatly improves the rate of identification of developmental delays, boosts child success and reduces health and educational system costs.
- **Increase Funding and Reform Regional Center Funding Structure.** Regional Centers provide outreach, community education, intake and assessment, eligibility determination, resource development, and on-going case management services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Support legislation that stabilizes community service providers and Regional Center operations in order to reform provider service rates and Regional Center operations to ensure funding levels are adequate and sustainable, and provide annual increases while further reform strategies are developed and implemented. Significant impending systemic changes, including the federal ruling to prohibit federal reimbursement for services provided in segregated settings, the closure of the Sonoma Developmental Center, and the need for the development of new programs and services for the rising population of individuals with autism will place additional pressure on a system characterized in the 2015 Association of Regional Center Agencies report as “On the Brink of Collapse.”
- **Create affordable and accessible housing.** Support legislation and budget priorities that create affordable, accessible and integrated housing options and rental subsidy programs for people at the lowest income levels. The need for housing that accommodates a wide range of disabilities is increasing due to community living options replacing costly and unjust institutionalization, many veterans returning with disabilities, the high rate of homelessness among people with disabilities, and an aging population. The average rent for a studio apartment in Alameda County is \$1,380, while the maximum Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Payment (SSI/SSP) is below \$900 a month. Support State wide housing plans that lead to an increase in affordable and accessible housing options, especially for those with the lowest incomes and people with disabilities.
- **Support policies and legislation that create an infrastructure of programs and services that assist individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families.** Increase funding to local governments and school districts to meet the fiscal challenges of providing for a large population of individuals with ASD. ASD is the fastest growing serious developmental disability and has a national annual economic impact of \$137 billion. In the County, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Autism cases have increased 1,573 percent since 1990 (representing just a portion of the overall clinically-defined population). The report, “Autism Rising”, notes that based on current averages for cost of services for adults with autism, Regional Center annual costs will nearly triple over the next ten years, and do not include non-regional center costs such as parental expenses, In-Home Support Services, SSI or housing assistance, and do not address significant future factors such as aging parents, cost-of-living increases or the need for higher level of support as the ASD population ages.
- **Increase employment opportunities for youth and adults with disabilities.** Support legislation and policies that fully fund supported employment services and alternate hiring processes that promote competitive, integrated job placements for individuals with disabilities and close significant gaps in employment rates among those with and without disabilities. Engage in State and Federal funding opportunities designed to increase training and employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
- **Reform Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Payment (SSI/SSP) Payment Structure.** SSI/SSP payments are a critical source of income for people with disabilities, but current rates are tied to 1972 legislation and provide income below the poverty line. The SSI payment is below \$900 a month. Support legislation that increases Supplemental Security Income payments, raises asset limits and updates the earned and general income disregard for individuals with disabilities. Financial constraints contained in the program

discourage savings, work and financial security through restrictions on income and asset limits. Create policies that encourage wealth building and lead to financial security, and include cost of living increases.

- **Reform Medi-Cal/Denti-Cal Program.** Medi-Cal and Denti-Cal remain the primary source of medical and dental care for those who meet the low income eligibility for Medicaid services. Poor reimbursement rates, lack of coordination between the State and the provider community, and outdated administrative processes result in lack of access and quality care. Support legislation that increases reimbursement rates to a competitive level with commercial providers and creates policies that build a comprehensive, coordinated system of preventative care.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Communicable diseases are among the top 10 leading causes of death in the United States and the fourth leading cause of death worldwide. Control of communicable disease is a core and mandated public safety function of government at the local, state, and federal levels. The three key activities of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention are epidemiology and surveillance, communicable disease response, and vaccine-preventable disease programs. In addition, local health departments are responsible for planning, preparedness and consequence management of natural and human-made disasters such as communicable disease epidemics, pandemics, emerging infectious diseases and other natural disasters. Support for these critical areas will help to protect public health infrastructure and capacity to control and prevent communicable diseases in the County. The cumulative effects of budget cuts and personnel losses experienced during and after the recession have not been reversed, making it difficult to effectively maintain day-to-day essential functions, much less counter the spread of large outbreaks and novel and/or emerging infectious disease threats. Advocacy is needed for supplemental funding for specific public health emergencies (e.g. Ebola and Zika), and, more importantly, also for longer term re-investment in local public health infrastructure which can support improved baseline communicable disease control and prevention, including more integrated systems and training to respond to larger scale events. Re-investment in public health communicable disease control is more effective than allocation of intermittent short term grants for each new arising public health threat since often by the time specific funding is made available, it is well beyond the time period when it was urgently needed.

- **Assure adequate resources are available to maintain staffing levels and provide for staff development activities.** Adequate staff with training and expertise provides the foundation of communicable disease prevention and control. Prevention and control programs need staff with expertise in laboratory, (including bioinformaticists and bioinformatics training for public health laboratory and epidemiology staff to use and apply genomic sequencing data to detect and investigate outbreaks and drug resistance), epidemiology, data management and analysis, outbreak response, communications, health education, and case and contact investigation including public health investigators, public health nurses trained in communicable diseases, information systems specialists, and public health veterinarians dedicated to the surveillance and investigation of emerging infectious diseases and diseases causing outbreaks. This must include the rapid detection, monitoring, investigation, and control of outbreaks due to diseases not supported by categorical funding. Capacity must also be maintained to allow for a surge in activities associated with recognized outbreaks or other communicable disease emergencies, such as pandemic influenza, or other novel emerging or re-emerging infectious threats that necessitate substantial increases in surveillance, post-exposure prophylaxis, and other public health interventions for weeks to months.
- **Assure adequate resources for public health laboratory services.** Public health laboratory services are vital for communicable disease diagnosis, assessment of potential environmental threats, follow-up of cases and carriers of disease, and monitoring the effectiveness of vaccines and other control measures. Recent budget cuts have crippled both local and state public health laboratory services and a major concern is the lack of availability of services previously available through the State public health laboratory system, which often takes as long as several weeks to produce bacterial identifications and important subtyping results needed to conduct timely and appropriate public health follow-up. Within the clinical health care sector there is concern that the trend toward decreasing numbers of laboratory diagnoses confirmation of a number of important

communicable diseases is occurring to some extent due to the disincentives built into capitated or otherwise “managed” care payment systems which places the burden on public health laboratories to perform testing to compensate for decreased testing by the clinical providers. Additionally, public health laboratories face a significant crisis in the development of laboratory directors due to Federal and State regulations which specify the requirements for public health laboratory directors such that, few qualified candidates currently exist, which means that several local California public health laboratories will be without appropriate leadership in the coming years since previous programs to foster the development of laboratory directors were cut due to budgetary consideration.

- **Support secure electronic data exchange between health care systems, laboratories, health care providers and public health.** Sustain funding at the state and local levels to fully implement and maintain electronic laboratory reporting and confidential morbidity reporting from laboratories and providers. Increase funding to develop and implement direct electronic reporting of reportable communicable disease data from electronic health records (EHR) to public health surveillance systems. Support the development of internet-based immunization registries linked to electronic health records and **support** measures to increase registry usage by all providers of immunizations, including pharmacists and school-based clinics.

- **Support Partner Services programs to prevent and control Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs).** Partner Services play a proven and effective role in the prevention and control of STDs. All persons with newly diagnosed or reported early syphilis should receive partner services that include active health department involvement. Partner services programs should use surveillance and disease reporting systems to assist in the identification of persons with newly diagnosed or reported syphilis, gonorrhea, or high-priority chlamydia cases who are potential candidates for partner services. Full funding for partner services and restored funding for other prevention activities must be a high priority.

- **Preserve and support efforts to eliminate tuberculosis (TB) by identifying and treating persons with latent TB Infection, including the use of short-course regimens and technologies to facilitate remote observation.** The increase in active TB cases in California and Alameda County in 2015 and 2016 compared with 2014 reverses what had been a downward trend in case rates, and underscores the importance of testing and treating persons at high risk for latent TB infection to prevent their infection from progressing to active, infectious TB disease. Current funding of public health programs is focused on assuring that active TB patients complete their treatment and that their close contacts are tested and treated for TB infection. However, additional resources are needed to find and treat the much larger pool of persons who were infected in their countries of origin and who can develop active, infectious TB disease many years later when their immune systems weaken due to aging or chronic disease. Additionally, universal access to TB testing and treatment services without patient share of cost are critical priorities needed to reduce health disparities, prevent TB transmission in our communities, and achieve TB elimination in California.

- **Support policies that assure access to vaccines for the population.** Policies must address the appropriate development, production, and distribution of vaccines necessary to protect the public’s health and assure adequate funding for vaccine purchase, delivery, outreach and education, especially for high-risk populations. Optimal immunization levels for all vaccine-preventable diseases must be aggressively pursued through immunization programs that are assured of continued adequate funding. Strategies should include universal infant immunization, required school entrance and advancement immunizations, innovative programs and mechanisms to improve vaccine delivery and uptake (such as school-based vaccine clinics), and a continued focus on immunization of high-risk groups, including within specific settings or occupations with high risk of exposure and/or complications from vaccine-preventable diseases. Recommended immunizations for control of diseases in adults should be provided in all comprehensive immunization programs, and increased funding for overall outreach and education about the importance and safety of vaccines is critical.

- **Maintain and support ongoing funding for pandemic influenza, and administration of local preparedness programs.** Ongoing financial support is needed to maintain critical services such as Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Health Care Preparedness, Cities Readiness Initiative, Pandemic Influenza, Urban Area Security Initiative, State Homeland Security Grant Program, and other crucial funding for emerging infectious diseases, natural disasters, and terrorism planning and response at the local, state, regional, and federal level.

- **Support policies and funding that provide resources to adapt and develop locally relevant and culturally competent public education and outreach regarding communicable diseases, immunizations, and public health emergency preparedness and response.** The broad diversity of local communities requires the capability to communicate in culturally relevant modes to ensure the education and safety of all residents. Additional resources are needed in order to adequately assess local communities and specific high-risk populations in order to develop appropriate communications and outreach to educate and engage communities at risk.
- **Promote & support policies and practices to prevent healthcare associated infections and antibiotic resistance.** Healthcare associated infections (HAI) are infections acquired while receiving health care. They are increasingly becoming a significant cause of morbidity and mortality in the U.S., and a substantial public health challenge. These infections are preventable and require robust programs and policies in order to reduce or eliminate HAIs. Effective policies and programs are also needed to strengthen the response to antimicrobial resistance, such as enhanced coordination and leadership, surveillance, prevention and control, and research efforts for new antibiotics and implementation of antibiotic stewardship programs to improve appropriate use of antibiotics.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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

- **Support Product Stewardship/Extended Producer Responsibility legislation.** 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 but is not limited to existing and emerging waste streams such as Pharmaceuticals, Sharps, Household Batteries, Fluorescent lamps and Marine flares, and Single use propane cylinders. Effective Product Stewardship/EPR legislation should apply to all manufacturers across a particular product spectrum, have minimum collection rates and progressing collection targets, and no local preemption clause.
- **Oppose any legislation that pre-empts or supersedes local control over Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) programs, adds mandates without providing state or producer funding, or supersedes local Product Stewardship/EPR ordinances and limits the role of manufactures and producers in product stewardship programs.** In the 2015-16 legislative session AB 45 proposed statewide mandates for Household Hazardous waste programs to increase resident participation without providing a funding mechanism. AB 45 also attempted to preempt local product stewardship ordinances and attempted to limit the role of manufacturers and producers as merely communicating with consumers rather than funding and operating product take-back programs. We expect these attempts to preempt local ordinances to resurface in the 18-19 legislative session. State legislation with the effect of weakening local ordinances and/or relieving manufacturers of responsibility for funding and operating take-back programs should be vigorously opposed.
- **Support 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.
- **Oppose state legislation that restricts the use of rodenticides by County Vector Control agencies.** Recent state attempts to ban the use of rodenticides throughout the state will have a serious impact on controlling sewer rats within urban areas. These rodenticides are absolutely critical to control serious rodent infestations and prevent the spread of plague, Hantavirus and other rodent borne diseases. Rodent control using single-dose rodenticides in urban sewer systems provides minimal threat to wildlife living outside the sewer system. Rodent control using multiple-dose rodenticides in tamper-resistance bait stations will provide a safety margin for wildlife.
- **Oppose state legislation that overly restricts the use of Drone/Unmanned Aerial systems (UAS) by Environmental Health departments.** Using UAS in rural settings to surveil and control mosquito and other

vectors in remote locations can reduce the environmental impact on sensitive lands. Retaining information collected via UAS allows agencies to measure the changes in landscapes over time. Privacy rights, UAS flight, and data retention policies need to be balanced against the use of UAS for the protection of public health.

- **Support legislation which increases the authority of Environmental Health departments to deal with emerging Public and Environmental Health Issues:** A number of emerging Environmental Health issues will require increased Department authority to monitor and regulate threats to community health. Alameda County supports Health and Safety Code changes that broaden the Environmental Health Department's authority to regulate the following (but not limited to) emerging issues: Fracking, Green Chemistry, Carpet Recovery, Coal and Oil transport and transshipment, ensuring the safety of organized camps, bedbug infestations, Zika virus, waste generated incident to Cannabis and extract cultivation and production, Cannabis edibles production and sales establishments, Food Waste composting, Recycling center requirements, Lead in drinking water, Cultivation of food for donation, barter, or swap, by schools non & profits, and threats to food safety by climate change induced alterations in vector geographic distributions.

- **Support Legislation that provides regulators with more authority to oversee both existing and new Onsite Wastewater Treatment System.** On June 19, 2012, the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted the Water Quality Control Policy for Siting, Design, Operation, and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS Policy). The state estimates that more than 1.2 million OWTS are installed and operating in California. As California's population continues to grow, and we see both increased rural housing densities and the building of residences and other structures in more varied terrain, the risks of causing environmental damage and creating public health risks from the use of OWTS increases. Regulatory oversight that may have been effective in the past may not continue to be as conditions and circumstances surrounding particular locations change.

- **Supports legislation which provides funding assistance from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, bond money from Proposition 1 (2014 Water Bond) and other sources to help private property owners and communities.** There is a need for funding assistance to help private property owners and communities relying on OWTS with costs associated with complying with the State OWTS Policy.

- **Toxics Reduction and Environmental Health.** The release of toxic chemicals into our environment impact human health and the health of the ecosystems on which our communities rely. Policies to address this issue include: 1) Reducing Toxics Impact. Support legislation and programs that reduce the amount of chemicals released into our environment and that impact worker health including, but not limited to, sustainable agriculture practices, integrated pest management, and micro plastic pollution; 2) Toxic Chemical Regulation. Support policies to speed the evaluation of potentially dangerous chemicals and limit the use of chemicals and products known or suspected to have an adverse impact on human health and the environment; and 3) Public Health and Equity. Support policies and funding for programs that prevent and mitigate the disproportionate environmental and health impacts of pollution and vehicular traffic through and within low income communities, including commodities being transported such as coal and crude oil.

- **Oppose Legislation to legalize microenterprise home food preparation and sale of high risk cooked foods.** California counties have an extensive system of food facility regulation and inspection to ensure potentially hazardous foods receive careful preparation, using commercial equipment, by food safety trained employees in a sanitary environment to prevent outbreaks of food borne illness. AB626 and successor microenterprise legislation seek to bypass these extensive safeguards to allow unregulated preparation of high risk foods by untrained preparers in a home kitchen setting with none of the safeguards found in commercial kitchens and restaurants. This would result in a vast increase in the outbreaks of food borne illness while increasing the difficulty in tracking its source. California already has a Cottage Food law which allows the sale of certain non-potentially hazardous foods prepared in private-homes that are regulated by and inspected by local environmental health departments.

EDUCATION

To promote equity and ensure a bright future for all children, the County supports State-level education policies that achieve the following across the life course:

- **Increase equitable funding in State Budget for public education regardless of immigration status and prioritize resources for low-income students of color.** Increase and create more equitable and transparent funding to increase reading proficiency and literacy, particularly for third-grade students of color, and promote family engagement, while ensuring fair taxation for residents and businesses. Promote investments to increase parent engagement, to expand the arts, music, physical education, academic tutoring, literacy and after-school enrichment programs, to increase internships and college and career preparedness, including funding of Linked Learning. Promote more flexible adult education, particularly to support transitioning youth released from probation through support of Transition Center services, allowing youth to finish credits towards receiving high school diplomas and improving the connection with school districts within County; in addition to increasing educational opportunities for people formerly incarcerated. As the Local Control Funding Formula is implemented, ensure adequate funding to build data capacity in school districts and stronger accountability measures and ensure supplemental funds for low-income students, students with disabilities, English language learners, and foster youth are spent on programs and services that address their needs and improve equity in educational outcomes.
- **Support policies and increased funding to ensure all high school students graduate college and career ready.** For those unable to graduate, support policies that assure the highest level of training that result in better employment outcomes, including obtaining a GED, alternative schools, on the job work experience or other pathways to receive high school diploma credits, such as Civic Corps. Support policies that prepare all high school students for college and career and promote equity in access to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) curriculum while providing wraparound supports. The County supports creating more opportunities for sustainable funding streams for Linked Learning, career pathways and career technical training, such as the California Career Pathway Trust Fund, particularly for low-income students of color, students with disabilities, foster youth, and boys of color.
- **Increase funding, access and affordability of post-secondary education and provide debt management assistance regardless of immigration status.** Support policies and funding that promote equity in the community college and university systems and remove barriers to educational opportunities. Support policies that ensure affordable tuition and reduce and forgive student debt, particularly for low-income communities and students of color. Additionally, the County supports strengthening policies such as the DREAM Act that provide residency status and increase access and funding to post-secondary education for undocumented youth and legislation that extends and increases access to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals to increase deferred action from deportation and access to work permits.
- **Eliminate inequities in funding and access to quality teachers, particularly for teachers of early childhood, special education, and Dual Language Learners.** Support increases in investments in recruitment, retention and support of teachers through competitive salaries, high-quality mentoring, and ongoing professional development, especially among teachers in low-income schools, special education teachers, and teachers of English Language Learners. Increase mentoring and professional development of administrators and teachers including training on restorative practices, diversity, inclusion, trauma-informed care and mental health. Protect, stabilize and increase funding for Early Care and Education professional development, including dedicated paid training days for staff at Title V-contracted centers.
- **Eliminate inequities to quality early childhood education access.** Increase funding for Early Care and childhood education; adequately fund inclusive early childhood education classrooms. Increase efforts to subsidize early childhood programs, and improve the link between reimbursement rates for State-contracted programs and those funded with vouchers, and continue to expand funds for a Quality Rating and Improvement System for all Early Childhood Education programs.
- **Increase funding to promote full service community schools and ensure all students are healthy and ready to learn.** Support adoption of full service community schools, resources for coordination of learning supports (i.e. community school coordinators), and promotion of partnerships between youth, families, schools, community-based organizations, businesses, and other entities. Support increased funding for full service community schools through the adoption of comprehensive and sustainable education revenues and a reform package that establishes an equitable, adequate finance system, ensures transparency,

continues to enable greater local decision-making flexibility, and strengthens human capital and accountability. Support efforts that increase access to violence prevention programs and services, including programs that promote healthy inter- personal relationships.

- **Support policies that prevent the school to prison pipeline that disproportionately affects low income students of color and students with disabilities.** Provide funding for programs and services that reduce chronic student absenteeism and truancy, particularly in schools with low academic performance and low-income students of color, particularly African American and Latino males. Provide funded mandates requiring schools to create an absenteeism and truancy early warning system that identifies frequently absent children and connects them and their families with comprehensive, wraparound services and interventions such as coordinated medical care, behavioral and mental health services, youth development programs, and parent, family, and community engagement programs. Increase funding for male involvement programs and mentoring that aim to reduce disparities in early literacy skills, graduation rates, and dropout rates for low-income students of color, particularly boys of color.

- **Ensure students with disabilities have equitable access to educational opportunities.** Improve the identification rate of students with disabilities to promote equal access to education through accommodations, modifications in curriculum, or through the development of specialized technical or vocational training courses. The County supports the State's Employment First policy which establishes the value of work and makes integrated competitive employment the highest priority. Increase efforts to utilize benefit planning to support Employment First policies.

- **Support policies and practices to eliminate the use of physical force and seclusion and eliminate disproportionate suspension and expulsion rates among students of color and students with disabilities.** Eliminate punitive and zero tolerance policies and preschool suspensions. The County supports legislation that promotes positive school climates and calls for funding three-tiered behavioral health supports (i.e., universal, targeted and individual supports), staff and teacher training and consultation for the creation of trauma/healing-informed classrooms and schools to foster early intervention alternatives to expulsions and suspensions, and reforms in suspension policies for defiance at all grade levels, particularly for African American students, and Latino and Pacific Islander males. The County supports policies that increase transparency, accountability and professional development of administrators and teachers including training on restorative practices, diversity, inclusion and mental health with a focus on trauma-informed care.

- **Promote health and wellness among all students and healthy school environments.** Increase access to safe, appropriate health, dental and mental health services within schools, including school-based health centers, particularly for students of color and students in families with mixed immigration status, and increased funding flexibility for County services and for building teacher and parental awareness of sexually exploited minors. The County supports comprehensive wellness policies and funding that reduce chronic diseases , including asthma and diabetes and communicable disease, including sexually transmitted infections (STI's), promotes programs aimed at decreasing teen pregnancy and STI's, particularly among youth of color, and that reduce childhood obesity and other physical activity and diet-related diseases. The County supports policies that create healthy school environments both on-campus and the surrounding neighborhoods, including policies that improve access to fresh and nutritious food in and around schools, protecting and strengthening nutrition guidelines and increasing funding in the Farm Bill Reauthorization, prohibit unhealthy food vendors at or near schools, increase access to clean and safe drinking water, and prevent unnecessary exposure to environmental toxins. The County supports the inclusion of youth in decision-making processes, including former probation youth and foster youth.

IMMIGRATION

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

- **Increase access to culturally and linguistically appropriate health and behavioral health care among immigrants, including unaccompanied immigrant youth:** The County supports: (1) legislation that increases

equitable access to quality, affordable health care coverage and service; includes undocumented and other immigrants not covered by the Affordable Care Act; and promotes culturally and linguistically appropriate care; (2) policies and funding to reduce barriers to the enrollment of documented and undocumented immigrants and their family members in Medi-Cal; (3) policies that provide a “No Wrong Door” fund for school and community-based Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) providers; and (4) policies and efforts to streamline, integrate and coordinate services and providers, such as a ‘one-stop’ approach to services.

- **Minimize the harmful local impacts of federal immigration policy and increase access to legal services:** The County supports: (1) policies that ensure a separation between local law enforcement and the federal deportation system which lacks sufficient due process; policies that address the public safety, civil liberties, local resource burden, accountability and transparency issues related to federal immigration enforcement systems; (2) policies that limit transfers and holds in local jails and reduce the risk and fear of deportation such as in the Transparent Review of Unjust Transfers and Holds (TRUTH) Act of 2016 (AB 2792), the TRUST Act of 2014 (AB 4), and the CA Values Act (SB 54); and work towards monitoring compliance with these bills within Alameda County; (3) policies that reinforce and strengthen privacy protections for state residents, and that promote the constitutional and civil rights of patients, students, workers and individuals seeking critical services in the event of an immigration enforcement action; and (4) policies and programs that ensure the right and create access to an attorney during immigration proceedings for all immigrant adults, including adults, families and unaccompanied immigrant youth, regardless of criminal or immigration history, and funding to ensure the provision of free legal assistance.

- **Protect against racial profiling based on “perceived” immigration status, ethnicity, religion, language or national origin:** The County supports legislation, such as AB 524, signed into law on Oct. 5, 2013, that identifies and eliminates racial profiling in public and private sectors.

- **Protect the health and welfare of all children, including children whose parents are being detained or deported by Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Border Patrol:** The County supports policies that emphasize the needs and welfare of children by prioritizing family unity, providing resources for unaccompanied immigrant minors, and creating appropriate, humanitarian, transparent, and accountable training policies and protocols for interacting with and screening children.

- **Increase access to critical safety net services for immigrants:** The County supports policies and funding to expand California Food Assistance Program eligibility to include all immigrants who meet all other program requirements including individuals granted deferred action and other lawfully residing individuals.

- **Promote public safety by ensuring that reporting crimes, including domestic violence, to local authorities, does not lead to deportation proceedings:** The county supports work with local law enforcement to ensure to the extent possible that reporting of crimes does not lead to deportation or other adverse consequences. The county supports programs and safety measures that strengthen protections for all victims involved, to reduce the likelihood of victims being placed in removal proceedings.

- **Protect access to all public spaces, including courthouses, to ensure that all individuals regardless of immigration status are protected in those spaces:** The County supports programs that protect access to courthouses, libraries, homeless shelters, and other social service providers, so that all individuals can access these spaces.

- **Protect and promote the well-being of immigrant workers, including undocumented workers:** The 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 and domestic workers. The county also supports legislation that protects immigrant workers from possible immigration-related retaliation by their employers.

- **Ensure nondiscriminatory, equal treatment under the law, and protect the confidentiality and privacy of individuals:** The County supports actions that affirmatively extend access to public services and benefits for all residents, regardless of immigration status, limit inquiries and reduce the collection and recording of information about immigration status, and prohibit the disclosure of information about persons seeking or receiving social services for purposes not directly related to administering the program or protecting individual

or public health. This includes policies that prohibit landlords from threatening to report tenants to Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE). Due process should also be ensured for immigrants in federal and local detention facilities and those facing deportation.

- **Multi-sector collaborations between community, advocacy, and government sectors to address health and build power amongst vulnerable populations, including immigrants.**

JOB AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CREATE A STRONG AND ROBUST JOB-DRIVEN SYSTEM

Invest in Systems and Policies that Support Workers and Employers

- **Preserve and enhance Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Funding.** Alameda County supports preserving and fully restoring WIOA funding. WIOA is a federal law passed in 2014, which reauthorized the nation's employment and training programs related to adult, dislocated workers and youth, as well as adult education and vocational rehabilitation programs created under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). With recent deep budget cuts across all WIOA program areas, some of the goals of the legislation are unlikely to be met. Additional funding is needed to continue implementation of WIOA. At the core of WIOA is an emphasis on facilitating access to high-quality training programs that lead to industry-recognized valued credentials/certificates within high-growth industries and occupations. To accomplish this, specific funding is needed to develop better coordinated training programs for job seekers. More funding is needed for enhanced supportive services for job seekers, increased stipends for youth participants in work-based learning programs, and for the coordination and alignment of Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs), California Community College Districts, Adult Schools/Adult Consortium, K-12 education, and Economic Development agencies.
- **Invest in education that prepares individuals for the 21st century workforce.** Alameda County supports the alignment of the education and workforce investment systems to meet the needs of the 21st century workforce, which promotes and develops a well-educated and highly-skilled workforce. A special effort should be made to support education in the Science, Technology, Education, and Math (STEM) areas and other career within high-growth sectors and occupations.
- **Support affordable higher education.** Alameda County supports affordable higher education that provides greater access to people seeking credentials and degrees. The cost of college often poses a hardship to graduates and a barrier to people trying to enter higher education to pursue career interests. Research shows the staggering difference in income between people who pursue some form of higher education as opposed to those who don't, and that 48 percent of occupations in the Country will be middle-skills jobs by the year 2024 and 43 percent in California. Middle-skills jobs require more than a high school education but less than a four-year degree, so investments in Career Technical Education (CTE) are critical. The success of the economy will partially rely on how well job seekers are prepared to compete within the economy. Alameda County supports affordable higher education that prepares workers to succeed in the labor market.
- **Support fair, sustainable, and non-stagnant wages.** Alameda County supports policies that aim to create livable wages, promote income mobility, and close the gender and racial wage gaps. Alameda County supports wage growth and policies/strategies that promote income mobility, in order to combat wage stagnation.
- **Support fair scheduling policies.** Alameda County supports fair scheduling policies that give workers sufficient time to make alternative arrangements in their schedules, if needed. Part-time workers are subject to last minute scheduling changes, affecting their ability to find child care in a timely manner or make transportation arrangements putting worker's jobs at risk.
- **Promote job creation and economic development.** Alameda County supports policies and programs that create local jobs. Specifically, Alameda County supports tax incentives, innovative funding mechanisms to support public/private partnerships, waivers, support for small businesses and entrepreneurs, and policies that

promote/support locally-made products. Policies should increase resources for “proactive” business assistance programs that prevent closures and mitigate job loss.

- **Support integrated and supported employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities in alignment with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).** Alameda County supports inclusive policies and programs that provide integrated employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities, as well as proper accommodations and supports in the workplace.

- **Extend workplace rights, protections, and resources to all victims of crime.** All victims should be treated with dignity and respect by their employer and should have access to reasonable time off to receive medical treatment and recover from the crime. Alameda County supports policies that assist victims of crime in maintaining employment, while receiving the proper stabilization services.

- **Support resources and policies that promote workforce alignment activities articulated in Alameda County Workforce Development Board’s Regional and Local Plan.** Alameda County supports and reaffirms the Regional and Local Plan of the Alameda County Workforce Development Board (ACWDB), which acts as a strategic road map for the implementation of the WIOA. The Regional and Local Plan calls for collaborative partnerships that strengthen training outcomes and employment outcomes, and services to job seekers, while enhancing employer engagement and services in Alameda County.

- **Support pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs.** Alameda County supports robust pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs that prepare youth and adults for employment within high growth industries and occupations. The apprenticeship model is a tried and true approach for helping job seekers simultaneously find meaningful training while earning a sustainable wage. Pre-apprenticeships prepare participants for competitive apprenticeship programs and equip youth and adults with both soft and hard skill development, as well as mentorship opportunities from industry experts.

- **Support the alignment between workforce development, adult education, and the community college districts.** Alameda County supports the alignment between the existing partners in the workforce system, as education and workforce are inextricably linked and together to support the success of current and future workers. Coordination and alignment in the workforce system will streamline services and reduce duplication of efforts, and will set the state for collaborative and innovative partnerships.

- **Ensure the systematic inclusion of the Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) in the implementation and planning for, the Strong Workforce Initiative.** The Strong Workforce Initiative grew out of AB 1602 (Statutes of 2015) and \$200 million was included in the 2016-2017 budget. The Strong Workforce Program places emphasis on the expansion of quality Career Technical Education leading to the attainment of industry-valued middle skill credentials as a proven path to social and economic mobility and career advancement. This program aligns with WIOA and it is vital that LWDBs are included at the table with adult school, economic development, K-12, and industry leaders to inform course offerings, develop training programs, and align efforts to reduce duplication of service to students and job seekers.

- **Support Adult Education program and funding.** Alameda County supports adult education as a means to assist adults in educational remediation or training to update skills, in order to compete in today’s local economy. Adult education programs also have a proven track record for bridging individuals to higher education, as well as assisting immigrant populations, including undocumented, in acquiring skills in English, improving employment prospects and educational outcomes. With the passage of AB 86 in 2013 and AB 104 in 2015, Adult Schools have an increased presence throughout the State. AB 104 established the Adult Education Block Grant (AEBG) Program under the administration of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges and the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The ABEG program allocates funding to regional adult school consortia throughout the State and calls for accountability, oversight, and performance to meet adult educational outcomes.

- **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 small businesses in ramping up to fully implement the \$15/hour minimum wage in California.** Alameda County supports working collaboratively with Economic Development agencies to provide

technical assistance to small businesses, as the minimum wage hike may affect small businesses and the workers within those small businesses more profoundly. Supporting small businesses in this way may minimize the impact on workers who may otherwise be at risk for being laid off as a result of the minimum wage increases.

- **Support the alignment between workforce and financial education programs.** Alameda County supports programs and policies that integrate financial education with workforce and education. Financial education is a safeguard against predatory lending and empowers individuals to make better financial decisions, helping workers spend wisely and save the earnings they've worked hard to acquire for themselves and their families.

Support Individuals with Barriers to Employment

- **Support policies that create employment and educational opportunities for long-term unemployed workers, individuals with disabilities, returning/re-entry populations, low-income adults, marginally attached workers, at-risk youth, and older workers.** Alameda County supports subsidized employment, supportive services, summer and year-round employment opportunities for youth (including youth in foster care), and programs/resources to help low-income adults, CalWORKs clients, Limited English Proficient (LEP) clients, re-entry populations, marginally attached populations, and older workers obtain the proper education and training leading to employment and income mobility.
- **Support programs that develop and/or enhance employment and educational services to Limited English Proficient (LEP) and immigrants populations.** Alameda County supports programs that create access to employment, training, and supportive services for LEP and immigrant populations, as well as legislation that promotes the alignment between WIOA and the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act programs, to support the educational attainment of immigrant and foreign-born individuals. Policies should support the partnership between the LWDBs and entities carrying out DREAM Act programs.
- **Support and expand workforce development efforts that promote career pathways and address racial, cultural, and economic disparities in employment outcomes.** Alameda County supports inclusive programs and policies that help prepare and integrate communities of color, individuals experiencing homelessness, low-income populations, immigrant and migrant workers, older adults, individuals with disabilities, re-entry populations (including women who have been formerly incarcerated), veterans, and other individuals with barriers to employment into the workforce.
- **Expand support of Adult Schools and programs that offer basic and remedial skill attainment for individuals who need on-ramps into sustainable-wage careers.** Alameda County supports programs and initiatives that provide remediation and supportive services designed to help individuals who need basic skills training in order to be successful.
- **Increase employment opportunities for older adults and individuals with disabilities.** Alameda County supports policies that combat ageism in the work place against older workers and policies that combat discrimination against individuals with disabilities. Alameda County supports innovative programs that help older adults and individuals with disabilities access training and employment opportunities that lead to competitive and integrated employment. Specifically, we support policies such as subsidized employment or tax incentives that encourage employers to hire older adults and individuals with disabilities.
- **Remove the criminal background check requirement from initial job application requirements.** Alameda County supports policies and legislation that support fair hiring for formerly incarcerated individuals, as well as strategies and policies designed to reduce recidivism. Economic opportunity is greatly diminished for formerly incarcerated individuals (who are disproportionately people of color) because of employment discrimination against people with criminal records. California and the federal government should pass broad "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 programs and policies that prepare formerly incarcerated individuals for employment before release.** Alameda County supports programs and policies that are designed to help formerly incarcerated individuals prepare for employment opportunities before release, offering them a greater chance to succeed in the labor market. Evidence points to customized job readiness strategies and transitional jobs as promising

strategies for helping re-entry populations re-adjust, as well as services that address mental and behavioral health. Alameda County supports innovative programs that provide relevant interventions to help re-entry clients become contributing members of their communities and society.

- **Align and leverage SB 1.** SB 1 was signed by the Governor in 2017 and establishes the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program to address deferred maintenance on the state highway system and the local street and road systems. While the funding would be generated by a vehicle gas tax, the program requires that \$5 million over the course of five years is used to promote and implement pre-apprenticeship programs. SB 1 would also authorize \$2 million to be allocated to the University of California and the California State University, respectively, for the purpose of conducting transportation research and transportation-related workforce education, training, and development. Alameda County supports the alignment between workforce development programs, and the leverage of SB 1 for workforce development programs. Such alignment and leverage will put the much-needed resources behind implementing and scaling effective pre-apprenticeship programs in Alameda County.

- **Align and leverage AB 1111.** AB1111 or the Removing Barriers to Employment Act, if passed, would establish a competitive grant program for activities that address the needs of individuals with multiple barriers to employment. AB 111 would prepare people with multiple employment barriers for training, apprenticeship, or employment opportunities, leading to economic stability. The initiative would target: veterans, disconnected youth, women seeking training or education in non-traditional fields of employment, displaced workers, the long-term unemployed, unskilled or under-skilled workers, low-earning workers, English Language Learners, the economically disadvantaged, CalWORKs participants, formerly incarcerated individuals, Native Americans, migrant or seasonal farmworkers, and people with developmental or other disabilities. Alameda County supports the alignment between workforce development programs, and the leverage of AB1111 for workforce development programs that provide crucial supports to people with barriers to employment.

- **Align and leverage workforce programs and job opportunities for re-entry/formerly incarcerated populations.** Alameda County supports the alignment with other agencies and existing programs, like AB 109 programs, to expand access and retention in work and employment-related activities. Alameda County supports innovative programs and policies that provide long-term employment strategies, and supportive and behavioral health services, designed to reduce recidivism for re-entry populations.

Expand Opportunities for Youth

- **Invest in intensive summer programs geared toward work readiness and STEM-related occupations.** Alameda County supports initiatives, policies, and programs designed to help youth prepare for employment, apprenticeships and higher education. Summer work-readiness programs geared toward STEM-related occupations, and/or other in-demand occupations, provide applied learning opportunities and ongoing engagement during summer time, where low-income youth are specifically at-risk for losing ground in their education. Summer time can be leveraged to help vulnerable youth learn while gaining valuable work experience, boosting their confidence and helping youth perform better in the academic school year or while pursuing an internship/apprenticeship opportunity. Summer programs also expose youth to careers that will pave their way into career pathways and other earn-and-learn opportunities offered year-long.

- **Preserve, support, and expand programs that serve young people.** Alameda County supports investments in programs and services targeted at young people both in and out-of-school to assist them in their career and educational development. Specifically, programs should target young people who are at-risk for dropping out of school or have left school, foster youth, homeless youth, juvenile justice involved youth, and other youth with barriers to employment.

- **Preserve, support and expand programs that involve parents/guardians in the workforce programs.** Alameda County supports two-generation strategies that improve the education and career readiness of youth, while simultaneously improving the education and career readiness of parents/guardians. Alameda County supports the dual engagement and education of parents/guardians and students in decisions related to career path development for youth, including breaking myths related to higher education and training opportunities. Parent/guardians and students should have the most relevant and accurate information to arrive at decisions

related to career pathways. Students should feel supported in pursuing prospective careers, while maintaining a sense of autonomy.

- **Support programs designed to reduce the youth unemployment rate and provide/enhance relevant work experience.** One year estimates for youth unemployment in Alameda County for youth ages 16-19 is 14.8 percent and 8.3 percent for youth ages 20-24, translating roughly as 2-3 times greater than the overall unemployment rate in Alameda County. Employment opportunities for youth can be a protective factor, helping youth to form positive interpersonal relationships, build confidence, and relevant work experience. Connecting this early work experience to training opportunities and high-growth career pathways can lead to successful outcomes later in adulthood. Alameda County supports programs and initiatives designed to reduce the youth unemployment rate and strengthen work experiences that lead to high-growth career pathways.
- **Support youth voice in program design and implementation.** Alameda County supports the integration of youth voice and perspective in the development and implementation of workforce development programs and initiatives. A human-centered design perspective illuminates the importance of design-thinking and involves client voice at the fore-front of program development. It also leverages that same voice throughout the testing, operationalizing, and evaluation of programs.
- **Support Career Technical Education programs and Career Pathway Program initiatives.** Alameda County supports extensions to Career Technical Education (CTE) programs and initiatives that strengthen the partnerships and linkages between workforce development boards, and educational institutions that help students participate in career pathways and prepare them for training opportunities, higher education, and employment.

IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES BY ADDRESSING SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS

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

- **Improve wages and benefits for all workers:** The County supports oversight over employers to implement California's historic state minimum wage that will reach \$15 in 2020. Oversight should include programs to increase workforce participation for persons with developmental disabilities to protect those workers and prevent downward pressure on wages for others. Ensure that providers are reimbursed according to the state-mandated wage level.
- **Protect worker health and safety:** Strengthen existing laws and enforcement for worker health and safety, including paid sick days and family leave. Support policies to ensure healthy and safe working conditions and to prevent unnecessary harmful exposures for all workers; this includes increasing funding for enforcement, penalties for violators of health and safety laws, and meaningful regulations of dangerous chemicals.
- **Protect and expand workers' rights:** Enact State legislation that protects and strengthens workers' right to organize and collectively bargain. This includes protecting the rights of temporary and contingent workers and support for policies that require fair and stable work schedules. Support efforts to educate workers, including youth and immigrants, including undocumented immigrants, about worker rights. Support policies that incentivize and enable businesses to hire and retain local residents.
- **Restore civil rights protections and reduce barriers for formerly incarcerated people in the workplace:** Formerly incarcerated individuals often struggle to access quality employment because of barriers maintained by State policy. The County supports policies that prevent discrimination in hiring and enable formerly incarcerated individuals to access quality jobs and economic stability.
- **Increase access to entrepreneurship opportunities:** (1) Support small businesses and microenterprise, especially those owned by women, minorities and persons with developmental disabilities, through expanding fair access to safe and sustainable credit and capital; (2) Support co-operatives and create incentives for employee ownership through State policies that promote sound business conversion to cooperative business models as well as removing barriers to starting co-operative businesses; and (3) Support policies that expand

access to capital among entrepreneurs of color and people with disabilities, such as working with the State to use its contracts with financial institutions to increase lending and extension of credit in low income communities and communities of color.

- **Improve the quality of low-wage jobs and provide pathways to middle-wage jobs:** Enforce and modernize labor laws, including closing loopholes that allow employers to misclassify workers as independent contractors and preventing wage theft. Undocumented workers have the highest rates of wage and hour violations and must be included in prevention efforts. Support strategies to establish sector-based training programs, pipelines from apprenticeships and credentialing programs to industries with job growth, and improved career navigation systems.
- **Preserve and expand the social safety net:** The County supports strong safety net programs, including better funding and reform of unemployment insurance to cover more workers, adequate benefits for state disability and workers compensation programs, and public benefits.
- **Ensure equitable taxation:** Tax code benefits accrue to the wealthiest 5 percent of taxpayers and largely miss the asset-poor majority in this country. Meaningful incentives to save for residents of all income groups should be provided, and the tax system should benefit all residents equally. Successful tax credits, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) should be expanded to continue lifting California residents out of poverty.
- **Establish standards for public dollars to be invested equitably for economic opportunity:** Resources should be targeted to areas where sustained disinvestment has produced concentrated poverty and lack of opportunity. Government spending can also be used to shift more industries to provide better wages and benefits through approaches like living wage standards, community benefits agreements, prevailing wage ordinances, and project labor agreements. In addition, the County supports supplier diversity policies which require businesses to engage in proactive and measureable efforts to provide diverse suppliers equal access to contracting opportunities.
- **Support asset and wealth-building efforts while regulating against unfair financial practices.** Policies and practices that prevent predatory financial practices, increase access to quality financial services and products, and support financial literacy will help to build wealth.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

LOCAL JURISDICTION AND TAX SYSTEM

- **Local governance.** The County must have adequate authority, flexibility and resources to meet its role as agent of the State and local service provider. The County supports efforts to ensure local discretionary control over governance issues and the delivery of services and opposes legislation that preempts the county's authority or limits the county's ability to operate in a reasonable and cost effective manner.
- **Support the guarantee of dependable, predictable, and equitable revenue streams to support programs needed by County residents.** The County supports opportunities for increasing State revenues and expansion of the County's ability to generate local revenues and **opposes** the shift of any further property taxes or other revenues away from the County.
- **Support legislation and increased funding to support the County's infrastructure needs and expand capital investments vital to economic development.** Support State and federal funding for infrastructure investments that improve seismic safety of essential government facilities. 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 to meet the increased costs of delivering 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 and In-Home Supportive Services.

- **Support equitable taxation, a tax system that benefits all residents equally and can serve to reduce poverty.** Support expansion of the State Earned Income Tax credit and reforming Proposition 13 by creating a Split Roll Property Tax that would require businesses to pay a higher share of property taxes.
- **Support marketplace 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.
- **Local regulation of cannabis.** Support legislation that ensures cannabis, whether for recreational or medical use, remains a taxable commodity, the county retains its local taxing authority and receives tax revenue from this source as well as retains local regulatory control over matters such as sale, distribution, production, cultivation.
- **Encourage local partnerships to fight illegal dumping.** Multiple stakeholders play a role in responding to illegal dumping, including Public Works Agency, Environmental Health Department, Public Health Department, Community Development Agency's Code Enforcement, public protection agencies, and waste management companies. Additionally, illegal dumping has become a regional issue. The County supports partnerships with all stakeholders to develop, implement and promote solutions to illegal dumping.
- **Increase enforcement efforts for illegal dumping.** The majority of illegal dumping is done without someone witnessing the act and therefore it becomes very difficult to prosecute the responsible party. In some instances, however, there may be mail or other identifying information which can be used to cite/fine parties responsible for the dumped material. The County supports regulating, licensing, prohibiting and enforcement of unlicensed independent wastes haulers in order to combat illegal dumping.
- **Increase funding for illegal dumping programs.** Funds collected through fines imposed for illegal dumping can be placed in this special revenue account and used for outreach and educational programs to combat illegal dumping as well as surveillance cameras to capture the illegal activity. The County supports policies, funding, programming and grants targeting illegal dumping, particularly a proactive approach to alleviating hotspot areas. The County also supports identifying a portion of solid waste fees that could be earmarked for illegal dumping enforcement and remediation.
- **Restore Opportunities for City Incorporation.** The county recognizes that city incorporation can provide residents with additional local authority to govern their municipal affairs and provide more tailored and local services to the wants and needs of a community, including access to some funds available to cities. Incorporation can also reduce burdens on county government to fulfill service needs across broad geographical areas. For these reasons, the county supports local incorporation efforts in areas where significant resident interest exists, and the incorporation is determined to be fiscally viable under reasonable terms.
- **Fiscal viability for incorporation of unincorporated communities.** The county also recognizes that the passage of SB 89, Chapter 35 of 2011, removed a vital funding source relied upon by incorporating communities and seriously undermined the fiscal viability of city formation and many potential annexations of unincorporated areas by cities. While the Legislature approved SB 130, Chapter 9, Statutes of 2017, to address the fiscal harm caused to four recently incorporated cities in Riverside County, the law has no similar accommodation for the needs of future incorporations. The county supports legislation that would restore the fiscal viability of city incorporations based on the same formula that was used to resolve issues for the four recently incorporated cities via SB 130.
- **Oppose the transfer of programs** from the State to counties unless program control and flexibility are also shifted and adequate State funding is guaranteed.

PLANNING LAND USE AND HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

LAND USE PLANNING

To create healthy and vibrant communities, the County supports policies and legislation that would:

- **Include health and equity in General Plans and Land Use Plans.** Require a health and wellness element, health language, health analysis, or health standards in all General Plans, as well as in guidelines from the State Office of Planning and Research. The County also supports collaborative planning processes that give communities more power to influence land use plans and policies as well as associated capital infrastructure budget investments.
- **Increase local authority and governance over energy procurement to strengthen Alameda County's Community Choice Aggregation program,** the East Bay Community Energy joint powers agency, promoting local procurement of energy and program development that builds community sustainability, lowers Green House Gas (GHG), and creates local jobs.
- **Limit access to alcohol, tobacco, and other unhealthy goods.** Certain neighborhoods and communities in the County are overburdened with a concentration of alcohol and tobacco outlets that are often in low-income communities of color. 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. Discourage consumption of unhealthy foods and sugary beverages that are linked to the obesity epidemic and chronic diseases.
- **Promote healthy, livable, and resilient communities.** Prevent, reduce, and mitigate toxic emissions and chemical exposure, as well as other environmental impacts that harm the public and workers health and quality of life, particularly in low-income communities of color, including ensuring access to clean drinking water. The County supports policies that create opportunities for more healthy food access and access to affordable housing, develop 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. In addition, the County supports policies that prevent displacement of current residents when improving communities.
- **Support mineral resource management.** To reduce greenhouse gases and encourage extraction of quarried materials in "Regionally Significant Construction Aggregate Resource Areas" should be encouraged. Aggregate from these resource areas is used for the construction industry, much of it occurring in the County, mostly in the urban centers and highly developed areas. To reduce emissions and discourage long hauls of aggregate material, quarries in Regionally Significant Construction Aggregate Resource Areas should continue to be recognized as a regional asset, and every effort should be made to promote compatibility between quarries and adjacent land uses.
- **Limit or prohibit the extraction, handling and transportation of fossil fuels.** Limit or prohibit hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and the handling and transportation of fossil fuels at Port facilities. Locally, the County has moved to limit oil and gas extraction, including a ban on enhanced recovery methods including hydraulic fracturing.
- **Maintain local authority over the siting and operation of cannabis operations.** Continue to recognize each local jurisdiction's authority to determine the appropriate type, size, and location of cannabis operations to be located in their communities. Support funding at the local level to address health and safety concerns regarding cannabis use.

HOMELESSNESS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The County's goal is to ensure adequate, affordable, safe, and high-quality housing for all of its residents. Without long-term resources dedicated to developing and maintaining affordable housing, this goal will be unreachable. The elimination of Redevelopment Agencies in 2012 significantly reduced funds available for the development of affordable housing, which have not been fully replaced. The County and other localities are doing their part, for example passing a \$580 Million local bond for affordable housing in 2016, but these local sources are not sufficient on their own. Creating a permanent source of funding for affordable housing is a top priority in maintaining the housing opportunities and infrastructure needed in the unincorporated areas of the County, the County as a whole, and Statewide.

To this end, the County supports:

- **Increased 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, and school attendance and reduces active substance use, criminal justice recidivism, and other negative community impacts. Housing is considered affordable when monthly housing costs, including utilities, are no more than 30 percent of total household income. Homelessness is inhumane and also increases costs to emergency and safety net systems. The County supports policies which increase the supply of and access to affordable housing, particularly for low- and extremely-low-income residents, including policies such as mixed income housing, increased funding for affordable housing development and permanent rental assistance, and promoting the development of new funding sources to replace those lost to federal budget reductions, the elimination of redevelopment agencies, and reductions in available State funding.
- **Safe and healthy housing.** The County supports “green”, healthy, safe and high-quality housing, particularly for low-income people. Housing quality has a significant impact on people’s health and well-being. Issues such as the existence of lead, water leaks, poor ventilation, mold, 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. Additionally, the County supports efforts to rehabilitate existing housing, without placing the financial burden on low-income tenants and homeowners, and develop 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. The County supports housing preservation/rehabilitation through increased efforts to inspect rental properties through strategies such as proactive rental inspection programs. The County supports efforts to assist low-income landlords and elderly property owners to maintain their properties.
- **Preventing and ending homelessness, and assisting people currently homeless.** Higher funding levels and increased coordination between funding for services and housing are needed to create and sustain supportive housing for the highest need individuals and families who are homeless. The County supports increases to funding and coordination to address the needs of people who are currently homeless, especially those most vulnerable and living on the streets and in places unfit for human habitation. Responses to unsheltered homelessness and public encampments include immediate efforts to expand, improve and coordinate street outreach and access to basic needs; midterm strategies such as establishing low-barrier transitional housing and bridge communities; and ultimately investment in more housing for extremely low-income individuals. Affordable and supportive housing are critical to preventing and ending homelessness and cost the same or less than shelter, incarceration, hospitalization and other crisis response interventions.
- **Protecting homeowners from foreclosure and the rights of tenants living in foreclosed properties.** Communities and neighborhoods in the County are still suffering the effects of high foreclosure rates and resident displacement. The County supports legislative efforts to increase funding and prevent foreclosures and ameliorate their impacts.
- **Removing barriers to accessing housing.** The County supports anti-discrimination policies that prevent landlords from discriminating against housing vouchers and that prevent adverse housing decisions based on a person’s status as former incarcerated or immigration status.
- **Prevent displacement of community residents.** Involuntary displacement of long-term residents is a continuing problem in the County’s high-cost housing market. The County supports policy and funding efforts to limit and ameliorate resident displacement. The County supports tenant rights and protections to prevent displacement such as anti-harassment policies, rent stabilization, and just cause eviction ordinances.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

To create more livable and economically vibrant communities for everyone, the County supports the following policies:

- **Access to open space.** An increase in funding for and access to safe and quality parks, trails, green and open space, urban agriculture/community gardens, and recreation centers. Policies should ensure that these opportunities are made available in all communities. A person's neighborhood shapes their opportunities to play, exercise, enjoy nature, and be healthy.
- **Accessible communities.** Promote the use of universal design to ensure accessibility of spaces for every one of all abilities. Communities that are designed to be accessible to seniors, children, and people with disabilities will be accessible for everyone. This includes street and sidewalk design, as well as wheelchair accessible public spaces such as parks and community centers, lighting, and other safety issues.
- **Prioritizing reinvestment in low-income communities.** Increased funding and the creation of funding tools, such as tax increment financing, developer incentives, and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds that local jurisdictions can use to increase affordable housing, and affordable and reliable transit and infrastructure in their communities. The elimination of redevelopment revenues greatly reduced sources of funding to invest in low-income and blighted communities. This funding should prioritize the needs and prevent displacement of existing residents.
- **Regional planning efforts.** Additional resources to promote the greenhouse gas reduction goals of the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), including policies, investments and programs that promote walkability, transit, infill development, housing near transit without increasing the risk of exposure to pollution or displacement of current residents, particularly for low-income communities and vulnerable populations, increasing affordable housing production, urban greening networks throughout the County, and the conservation of irrigated agricultural land. The SCS goals of compact, infill development should be supported at the State level with additional funding for housing, transit and public infrastructure.
- **Incentives for smart growth development.** Additional resources to promote smart growth as a corollary to regional and local 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. The County supports the creation of resources to create a PDA “bank” at the regional level and other resources to attract smart growth development, especially to areas that suffer from economic neglect and low-income communities.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- **Urban Density.** Support policies and legislation that promote dense affordable housing development, especially along transit corridors, adjacent to transit hubs, and near employment centers. This includes updating zoning codes to support dense mixed-use developments, transit-oriented development (TOD), promoting up-zoning, infill housing development, and auxiliary dwelling units.
- **Preparing for Climate Impacts.** Support policies and funding for climate adaptation and resilience planning, specifically implementation for retrofitting and building out infrastructure, reduction of urban heat island effects, and reducing other climate impacts on health and the environment including flooding and sea level rise.
- **Regional Planning for Housing.** Support regional cooperation for all jurisdictions to meet the housing goals as set forth in the Regional Housing Needs Assessment, and support innovative programs, such as a regional affordable housing bank for priority development areas.
- **Equity & Environmental Justice.** Support policies that grow sustainable and equitable communities by creating new housing that is healthy and affordable, transit-oriented, and near jobs, while preventing and minimizing the impacts of displacement of low-income communities and vulnerable populations.
- **Climate Adaptation.** Support funding and legislation that advances the use of natural vegetation to adapt to rising seas, manages flooding, prepares for drought, and reduces the impact that urban areas have on the

environment, including, but not limited to, restoring natural wetlands, designing for on-site storm water treatment, and promoting urban forests, native plants, and natural landscapes.

- **Urban Greening** In conjunction with Regional Agencies leading the implementation of SB 375, support the development of a comprehensive urban greening (“Planning Conservation Area”) network throughout the County with particular emphasis on connections to disadvantaged communities which will integrate with and complement the planned Priority Development Areas and smart growth transit corridors.

PUBLIC SAFETY

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

The District Attorney’s Office is responsible for the prosecution of crimes in the County of Alameda, California. The 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 requires funds to educate the community, provide effective community outreach and train law enforcement. Stronger legislation is needed to prosecute human traffickers, as well as expand services and resources for victims of sex trafficking and labor trafficking.
- **DNA Backlog.** DNA evidence can be used to eliminate or confirm suspects, develop investigative leads to solve a number of unsolved cases, and exonerate the innocent. Funding to eliminate the current backlog of untested sexual assault kits, solidifying a partnership between our office, law enforcement agencies, and private entities to provide a streamlined model throughout the State to prevent future backlogs.
- **Victims of Crime.** Enhancement of the rights and protections of all victims of crime, and increased funding to expand services to all victims, especially those of violent crime including: homicide, child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, and commercially exploited minors. Increase funding to aggressively collect restitution of behalf of all victims of crime. Strengthen the process for seeking and securing restitution for victims of crime.
- **Mental Health.** Advocate for strong funding streams for treating and assisting people with mental health issues.
- **Realignment.** Reduce recidivism by realigning lower level offenders to community corrections programs strengthened through community-based punishment, improved supervision strategies and evidence-based practices, and supervision practices demonstrated by research to reduce recidivism. This includes employing proven alternatives to incarceration for low-risk offenders. In addition, systemic reforms in the Alameda County court system are required to establish a centralized process to help in filing revocation petitions.
- **Reducing Serious/Violent Crimes.** Initiatives to reduce violent crimes by proposing the formation of the regional multi-agency 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 aid 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 and/or counseling programs for youth who are at risk of or have been involved in crime to provide information about the juvenile justice system; teach about healthy relationships and decision-making, and assist youth to achieve their dreams. Also more partnerships with additional groups to provide counseling, mentorship, case management, life skills, employment and training.
- **Alternative Programs to Incarceration.** Advocate for continued funding for programs seeking alternatives to incarceration.
- **Enhancing Public Safety.** Evaluate and propose changes in the law that protect innocent bystanders and children from mutual gun combat.
- **Consumer Protection, Environmental Protection, and Worker Protection.** Increase efforts in consumer protection, environmental protection, and worker protection, particularly around labor trafficking.
- **Collaboration.** Advocate for and create a legislative platform to require county agencies to work with community agencies collaboratively to combat human trafficking, specifically the sex trafficking of minors as well as labor trafficking.

PROBATION

The Alameda County Probation Department provides adult and juvenile clients with the treatment, supervision and support necessary to prevent re-offending, while enhancing public safety and reducing victimization. Through the use of innovative strategies and the engagement of our government and community partners, we maintain a “layered approach” to providing support to our clients and their families. Partnerships include cross-jurisdictional collaborations with Federal, State and County agencies, community and faith-based organizations, therapists, and social workers.

The Probation Department supports policies and legislation on the following:

- **Eliminate Racial Disparities.** Elimination of disparities among boys and men of color which lead to their disproportionate representation in the juvenile justice system.
- **Commitment to Vulnerable Youth and Families.** Commitment to serving vulnerable youth and families and reducing the number of youth crossing over between the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.
- **Expand and Build Support Services and Improve Systems Change under Title IV-E.** Expand and build support services aimed at improving system changes that meet the identified Title IV-E goals, to include reducing the number of youth in out-of-home placements, providing the least restrictive level of placement when out-of-home placement is necessary, and promoting family preservation and family reunification services.
- **Improve Supervision Strategies.** Continue to improve supervision strategies using Smart Supervision to better identify, supervise and treat high-risk/high-needs clients. The Smart Supervision Program provides grants and assistance to states, units of local government, and federally recognized Indian tribes to develop and implement more effective and evidence-based probation and parole practices that effectively address individuals’ needs and reduce recidivism
- **Improve Probation Success Rates.** Continue to improve probation success rates, thereby increasing public safety, reducing victimization, admissions to prisons and jails, and saving taxpayer dollars.
- **Commitment to Criminal Justice Reform.** Continued commitment to realignment and reentry efforts within juvenile and adult areas. Provide evidence-based detention alternatives for adults designed to restore them to the community.

- **Utilization of Evidence-Based Practices.** By incorporating practices and programming that have been proven to reduce recidivism through empirical data, we reduce victimization and costs associated with the criminal justice system, and the long-term integration of clients into our communities.
- **Caseload Sizes Based Upon American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) Industry Standards:** Youth and adult caseloads should be right sized in accordance with APPA industry standards. Such a shift would enable probation officers to devote the appropriate amount of time to providing clients with quality supervision and management, to include assessing client needs, case planning, program referrals, follow-up, engagement, counseling, treatment, intermediate sanctions, etc. Without a more balanced and evidence-based approach to the management of adult clients, probation officers are limited in the quality of the service and follow up services provided to adult clients and their families.
- **Increased Funding to Support the Advent of Higher Risk Clients into the County's Probation System:** The passage of legislation redirecting adults and youth, with more serious backgrounds, to the County -- has resulted in the need for increased services at the local level. The funding funneled to the Counties in response to this legislation (*i.e.*, AB 109, Proposition 47) is insufficient to meet the public safety needs of the County.
- **Increased Funding to Support Prevention and Intervention Services for At Risk Clients, Adult and Youth:** Insufficient funding exists to identify and service youth and adults before they come to the attention of the criminal justice system.. By proactively integrating prevention and intervention services and strategies within the highest risk communities, the State and the County can reduce its reliance on the criminal justice system by addressing precursors that lead to criminality, *i.e.*, substance abuse, mental health, family dysfunction, gangs, truancy.
- **Increased Funding to Support the Family Unit:** The dysfunction of the family unit contributes in immeasurable ways to human suffering, victimization and the criminal justice system. The County supports services and programming (parenting classes, anger management, family cohesion) to identify and service the most at-risk families in our communities. Such funding is an "up-front" investment in the quality of life for our residents through the prevention of issues that, if left unaddressed, have the potential to lead to criminality, homelessness, poverty, mental health issues, etc.
- **Cross-Departmental Data System:** Most adult and youth clients are provided services by State and County Departments before they come to the attention of the criminal justice system, to include Probation. The development of a statewide cross-departmental data system will enable state and local agencies to share information about clients that will facilitate each Department's ability to more comprehensively service the individual and/or the entire family. The absence of collaboration among different agencies, through a comprehensive data source, results in missed opportunities to improve the well-being of our clients and to reduce their involvement with multiple systems, *i.e.*, health services, mental health, children and family services, law enforcement, schools.
- **Statewide Data Integrated System Research Department:** Funding should be provided to create County Research Departments to enable jurisdictions to synthesize the data elements from the "statewide cross-departmental data systems" (see bullet above). This will enable Counties to determine outcomes, measure program effectiveness, evaluate approaches and make data-informed decisions on the best manner in which to utilize resources.
- **Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC):** Insufficient resources exist to prevent, identify, and service young victims of sexual exploitation. The long-term impact of this victimization can contribute to PTSD, impair cognitive functioning, create numerous physical and mental health issues, homelessness, contribute to poverty and poor interpersonal relationships, etc. The County also supports strengthening existing legislation to increase penalties for traffickers and pimps.
- **Mental Health Treatment & Community Resources:** The County supports a marked increase in resources to provide residential and outpatient services to those suffering from mental health disorders. The closure of State mental hospitals and the lack of community resources to service this population has contributed to an increase in those coming to the attention of the criminal justice system, homelessness, emergency room hospital use, etc. as a result of the deterioration of those with the most critical needs.

- **Security of Data Housed in the Government Cloud:** Currently many County Departments host their data on servers that are located on premises. This type of data storage is a traditional system that has been replaced by “Cloud Computer” storage systems because of enhanced security and reduced costs. By storing automated databases in the Cloud, a County can: (1) save a significant amount of funds with unlimited storage capacity, (2) rely on updates that are installed immediately versus sending out updates to the users’ computers, (3) connect to other secured government databases, and (4) increase overall security of the data. Alameda County supports funding to increase the County’s storage of data in the Cloud, through the State Department of Justice.
- **Pre-trial Services.** Probation will lead the pre-trial service program in collaboration with our public safety agency partners. A robust evidence-based risk and needs assessment tool will be utilized to determine a client's eligibility for release, while also addressing the safety needs of the community. Dedicated 2011 Public Safety Realignment funds, pursuant to AB 109, will be utilized to support the pre-trial infrastructure and service needs of its pre-trial clients.

PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE

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. Specifically, instituting non-suggestive policies regarding identification procedures, such as double-blind photo line-ups.
- Increasing treatment program funding for drug and alcohol abuse.
- Increasing the funding for mental health treatment programs. Promoting ways to divert those with mental illness out of the criminal justice system.
- Reducing the number of people under supervision by the courts, state, and/or County by 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.
- Principles of Restorative Justice and policies designed to implement those principles.

- Initiatives promoting racial justice at all levels of the criminal justice system.
- Sources of additional sustainable funding for any of the foregoing programs and policies.

HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Alameda County supports budgetary and legislative actions that address root causes of all forms of violence, improve public safety, shift resources from incarceration to prevention, and benefit communities disproportionately affected by violence, including low-income communities, communities of color and people with disabilities. Alameda County is committed to pursuing solutions that recognize the impact of mental health, drug use, and poverty on those involved in or at risk of involvement in the criminal justice system. Alameda County opposes legislation that focuses on suppression strategies that do not ameliorate root causes and risk factors unless they are balanced by primary prevention support.

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, as well as other forms of violence. Alameda County defines public safety as efforts that promote crime prevention and reduction, positive community-law enforcement relationships and collaboration, non-violent conflict resolution, restorative justice, successful reintegration of people with criminal convictions into communities, living wage jobs, educational opportunities, affordable housing, 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. Per the Department of Justice, the number of violent crimes in Alameda County has decreased steadily between 2012 and 2016, with a slight uptick in crimes from 2015-2016.

The following policies are recommended to improve the public safety and health of the community:

- **Decrease risk factors and increase resiliency factors for youth and families:** Alameda County supports legislation and funding that supports resiliency building strategies, 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:** the County supports 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. Additionally, Alameda County should pursue legislation that ensures that public safety funds can be used flexibly and can support building community cohesiveness for collective problem solving. Alameda County supports policies that promote evidence-based trauma-informed care.
- **Improve community-law enforcement relationships:** Alameda County supports legislation and funding for strategies that strengthen community-law enforcement relationships such as community policing, crisis intervention training for 1st responders, and mandatory trainings like those offered by the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST). Training topics should include de-escalation skills, increased police awareness of conscious and unconscious bias and how to account for it in the line of duty, and appropriate police response to persons with mental illness or developmental disability, which will help to avoid additional violence and/or inappropriate admission into the criminal justice system. Alameda County supports the collection of data to determine the effectiveness of public safety methods and interventions for accountability to Alameda County residents.

- **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 and people with disabilities 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 including sentencing reform, and decriminalization of substance use disorders and other criminal justice reforms as a way to reduce recidivism and shrink the prison population.**
- **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 reentry 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 and efforts that provide amnesty to the more than 4 million people in California who have a suspended license, mostly for unpaid fines; living without a license is a significant barrier to employment and transportation. Driving with a suspended license is grounds for a misdemeanor charge in California, “even if the sole reason for the suspension is an inability to pay a citation fine”. (Source: <http://ebcllc.org/backontheroad/problem/>)
- **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 reentry planning in jails and prisons so as to support successful reentry. 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 post release. Alameda County supports legislation that ensures that jail and 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 2012 and 2014, the third greatest number of unintentional injuries was due to firearms (healthyalamedacounty.org). 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.
- **Ensure state funding for local domestic violence services and increase federal support for domestic violence victims:** Alameda County supports efforts to secure and expand domestic violence prevention dollars “for emergency shelter and other essential victim services”, policies that support victims’ ability “to obtain a restraining order, navigate divorce and custody proceedings, have meaningful language access and interpretation services in civil court,” “provide free court reporters in domestic violence family law proceedings”, and promote efforts to enforce restraining orders. The County supports “system-change efforts encouraging schools to adopt and implement school policies to address adolescent dating abuse” and the County supports efforts to address “the needs of traditionally underserved or unserved communities, including populations underserved because of geographic location, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity”, race, ethnicity, and “populations underserved because of special needs such as language barriers, disabilities, alienage status or age.” Lastly, the County supports efforts to address the economic concerns that domestic violence survivors often face that lead them to “return to abusive relationships”: “safe and affordable housing; the ability to work and earn a fair and livable wage; and access to public benefits that meet the basic needs of recipients.” (From the CA Partnership to End Domestic Violence: <http://www.cpedv.org/policy-priorities>)

SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND ENERGY

OPENING

Creating a healthy and sustainable Alameda County today and for future generations is a key cornerstone of the County's Strategic Vision. To fulfill this vision of protecting public health, preserving our natural resources, and ensuring an equitable and strong green economy, state legislative action, resources, and support are needed. It is critical to advance California's leadership efforts and initiatives at the local level to fight and plan for the effects of climate change on our communities.

CLIMATE CHANGE

- **Adaptation, Mitigation, and Resilience.** Support legislation and funding to help local governments, citizens, and businesses fight and adapt to climate change while also building equitable resilient communities that serve vulnerable populations and prioritize ecosystem restoration.
- **Climate Partnerships.** Support policies and legislation that promote regional, state, national, and international partnerships that drive forward climate action including fulfilling the U.S. commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement.
- **Climate Science Research.** Support legislation and allocate funding resources to ensure that robust climate science research continues to be conducted so policy making and best practices for climate action are based on the best information.
- **Coordinated Statewide Action.** Support legislation and programs that promote coordinated statewide climate action across all sectors.
- **Carbon Offsets.** Support Alameda County eligibility as a carbon offset receiving area where carbon offset resources can be realigned and invested.
- **Increasing Public Awareness.** Support policies and programs that raise public awareness of the causes and likely impacts of climate change, help citizens understand what they can do to protect the environment, and build broad support for effective climate solutions.
- **Local Government Climate Action.** Support policies, programs, and resources that make climate action at the local level easier. This includes, but is not limited to, providing state and regional greenhouse gas inventories, improving data access and standardizing rules for energy use reporting, creating climate models for the local level, and developing lifecycle greenhouse gas accounting models.
- **Regulation of Greenhouse Gases.** Support legislation to regulate all greenhouse gases (carbon, methane, etc.) as pollutants, both point sources and fugitive emissions; set binding reduction targets; and establish science-based protocols for emissions accounting.

ENERGY

- **Clean Energy Generation and Storage.** Support legislation and funding that increases the generation of renewable energy and energy storage at public facilities, in communities, and in industry; funds clean energy research and technology demonstration projects; and advances grid modernization.
- **Clean Energy Targets.** Support legislation that sets aggressive statewide renewable portfolio standards.
- **Energy Efficiency.** Support legislation, funding, and requirements for the California Public Utilities Commission and California Energy Commission to offer programs that improve energy efficiency, particularly at public facilities, by providing stable funding sources (low interest loans, grants, reduced transaction costs), and expanding use of flexible, efficient, public contracting methodologies.
- **Investor Owned Utility (IOU) Reform.** Support legislation and rule making that reforms IOU practices that create barriers for local governments to implement renewables, new energy technologies, and to advance grid modernization. This includes, but is not limited to, setting standard fee schedules for interconnects (EVs, Microgrids, advanced energy storage), addressing utility charges on stranded assets, negatively impacting Community Choice Aggregation programs, and supporting tax structures that promote lower carbon fuels.

- **Local Clean Energy Models.** Support increased funding and legislative authority for local government to develop and participate in new models for energy generation and efficiency including, but not limited to, Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE), and Regional Energy Networks such as BayREN, that include goals such as expanding access to renewable energy and reducing energy costs for all communities. Oppose legislative efforts to limit local control and operational efficiencies and effectiveness in these areas.
- **New and Existing Building Performance.** Support legislation, funding incentives, and building code changes that promote deep de-carbonization and reduction of full lifecycle impacts of new and existing buildings. Including, but not limited to, support for zero net energy buildings, onsite power generation and battery storage, use of electric vehicles (EVs) as power storage, water reuse, and incentivizing fuel switching and low carbon building materials.

GREEN ECONOMY

- **Economic Development.** Support legislation that promotes innovative economic development policies and approaches that result in the expansion of and access to local green jobs that provide livable wages, while reducing climate change impacts in the County.
- **Green Purchasing.** Support local and state policies and programs to purchase products and services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment throughout their entire lifecycle when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose.
- **Resource Conservation.** Support policies and legislation to keep products in use for as long as possible, extract the maximum value from their use, and recover and reuse their component materials at the end of life. This includes, but is not limited to, legislation on extended producer responsibility; programs for sharing, repairing, reuse, and remanufacturing; and supporting development of secondary markets and on-shore reprocessing for recycled materials.

LAND USE

The policies and practices on land use development are one of the most critical aspects of building healthy, equitable, and resilient communities that are sustainable today and for future generations. State legislative priorities on land use can be found in the State Legislative Priorities *Planning Land Use and Housing and Community Development* chapter of the 2018 Legislative Platform.

NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION

- **Bottle Bill.** Support legislation to reform California's Beverage Container Recycling Program ("Bottle Bill") to ensure long term continuation of this program and to ensure that all Californians have convenient access to recycling centers.
- **Ecosystem Preservation.** Support policies and legislation to preserve and protect public lands, waterways, and oceans. Ensure that fracking, offshore and onshore oil drilling, and mining on sensitive lands are prohibited.
- **Extended Producer Responsibility.** Support legislation and policies that effectively shift the financial and managerial responsibility for the end-of-life management of products and packaging from local governments to manufacturers and that put in place policies to minimize the environmental impacts of packaging.
- **Precautionary Principle.** Support legislation and regulations to ban the use or sale of products or materials that are known or suspected to be harmful to humans or the environment such as known or suspected carcinogens in cosmetics, expanded polystyrene, plastic bags and other single use disposable plastics that are significant sources of litter.

Waste Diversion. Support funding and legislation for programs that increase the diversion of waste from landfills to recycling and composting programs, build local recycling and compost infrastructure, and support local green jobs in the resource recovery sector. Support policies that develop new markets for recycled content materials and that establish fees and funding streams for large volume or hard to recycle materials such as polystyrene and tires.

- **Food Waste Reduction.** Support legislation and policies that establish funding streams for food recovery programs and promote the reduction of food waste through policies such as establishing effective guidelines on food quality and safety date labeling.
- **Waste Reduction.** Support legislation that allows consumers to repair broken equipment, electronics, and products without voiding warranties and support requirements on manufacturers to design such products so they can be repaired.

TOXICS REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The release of toxic chemicals into our environment impact human health and the health of the ecosystems on which our communities rely. State legislative priorities on reducing toxics exposure, chemical regulation, and health equity can be found in the State Legislative Priorities *Environmental Health* chapter of the 2018 Legislative Platform.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation systems and technologies have some of the greatest impacts on the health of communities, local air quality, and global climate change. State legislative priorities on transportation infrastructure, modes of transportation, deployment of more sustainable technologies, and access to public transit can be found in the State Legislative Priorities *Transportation* chapter of the 2018 Legislative Platform.

WATER

- **Water Efficiency.** Support legislation, funding, and requirements for the California Public Utilities Commission, California Energy Commission, Department of Water Resources to offer programs that improve water efficiency, particularly at public facilities, by providing stable funding sources (low interest loans, grants, reduced transaction costs), and expanding use of flexible, efficient, public contracting methodologies.
- **Water Regulation and Resources.** Support legislation and programs that set requirements for water conservation in buildings and outdoor use; that allow for water reuse; that provide financial resources such as low interest loans, grants, and tax incentives for water efficiency; that invest in water infrastructure to adapt to changing rainfall patterns; and that appropriately price water to drive conservation.

TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Adequate funding is critical to both ongoing maintenance of and improvements to the transportation infrastructure to provide safe and convenient travel along and across streets for all users, including motorists, emergency vehicles, pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation and freight and commercial goods movement.

In April 2017, the legislature and Governor enacted the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017 (SB 1) - a long-sought robust, multi-modal and comprehensive transportation funding package. Once fully implemented, California counties will share approximately \$750 million annually for local streets and roads maintenance, rehabilitation. SB 1 also provides opportunities to compete for grants in the active transportation, planning, and congestion relief programs.

While this is good news for the immediate future, with the shift from fossil fuel vehicles to clean energy, it will be necessary to identify an ongoing, sustainable revenue source that isn't reliant on fossil fuel consumption. Transportation funding should move California toward an all-users pay structure, in which everyone who benefits from the system contributes to maintaining it – including traditional gasoline-fueled vehicles, new hybrids or electric vehicles and/or commercial vehicles.

The County supports policies and legislation that:

- **Invest in transportation infrastructure.** With increasing fuel efficiency and the introduction of hybrid and electric vehicles, revenues from the gas tax, the primary source of transportation infrastructure maintenance and project delivery, are expected to continue to decline. Support legislation that provide alternative methods of increasing transportation revenues through a variety of sources including, but not limited to, fuel taxes, Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) fees and Vehicle License Fees (VLF). Support legislation and regulations that promote complete streets that provide access for all users regardless of age, ability, or transportation mode through development of bicycle, pedestrian and transit facilities.
- **Develop autonomous vehicles (AVs) and emerging technology policies.** Technological advancements, including autonomous vehicles (AV) and associated infrastructure, are rapidly changing. Support the development of critical policies to ensure the effective deployment and safe operation of AVs on public transportation infrastructure. Support policies and legislation which provide specific parameters which ensure the safety of AVs in ways that enhance the benefits for all constituents. Support comprehensive policies which consider the implications and impacts of automation on the local transportation infrastructure.
- **Enhance Active Transportation Programs.** Active transportation projects, which encourage greater mobility through walking and bicycling, have grown in popularity due to the numerous benefits to the community, including reducing air pollution in the community and improving physical and mental health. Support legislation, policies and funding for the design and construction of sidewalk infrastructure, bicycle facilities and other infrastructure improvements which enable all pedestrian and bicyclists to travel safely and efficiently.

ONGOING FUNDING FOR I-580 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

The I-580 corridor in the Tri-Valley is one of the most traffic congested locations 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. Although it has dropped out of the Top 10, this chronic condition has resulted in multiple locations along I-580 still being in the Top 50 most congested Bay Area corridors, as 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, including the construction of both eastbound and westbound HOT lanes, and a new interchange at Isabel/SR 84 in Livermore. Other improvements include the completion of the auxiliary lane system and an eastbound truck climbing lane. Projects in the planning stage include the reconstruction of the existing I-580/I-680 interchange, and a BART connection to the Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) inter-regional passenger rail. Additionally, in October 2017, AB 758 established the Tri-Valley-San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority for purposes of planning, developing, and delivering cost-effective and responsive transit connectivity between the BART's rapid transit system and the Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) commuter rail services in the Tri-Valley.

Alameda County continues its support of ongoing funding for the I-580 corridor improvements.

RURAL ROAD SAFETY

Alameda County is a primary destination for regional and inter-regional traffic for goods movement and workforce commute travel between San Joaquin County, Contra Costa County and Santa Clara County. Major transportation corridors in this region routinely experience extreme traffic congestion. In an effort to avoid these congested freeways, commuters continue to seek alternative routes along the rural roads. As a result, many of Alameda County's rural roadways are now being used by commuters attempting to bypass the heavily congested I-580 and I-680 corridors. On these rural roadways, traffic volumes during peak hour may be 100 times greater than the traffic volume during non-peak hour. The increased traffic congestion and aggressive behavior by many commuters (speeding, unsafe passing, etc.) results in safety issues, especially for the residents living along these rural roadways.

The County supports policies and legislation that:

- **Increase rural road safety.** Support legislation that increases safety on the existing transportation system, with emphasis on programs/projects focused to improve safety and reduce accidents and fatalities.
- **Increase funding for enforcement.** Support increased funding for public protection and enforcement of existing traffic safety codes, ordinances, and laws.

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

Throughout California, transportation agencies are taking innovative actions to combat climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and toxic air pollution from transportation. Some of the sustainable goals include improving the durability of construction materials, 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 and toxic air pollution by reducing traffic congestion, expanding active transportation (multi-modal trails, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure), embracing new technology in construction materials and efficient roadway lighting.

The County supports policies and legislation that:

- **Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.** Support legislation that provides funding for innovative infrastructure, operations and programs to relieve congestion, improves air quality, reduces emissions, and supports economic development.
- **Support public transit.** Support policies and funding that expand and improve the availability, reliability, affordability, and accessibility of modern public transit systems. Supports policies and funding to improve regional collaboration and cooperation on transit improvements and consolidation of systems and programs. Supports policies for the development of local and high-speed rail networks to provide additional travel alternatives.
- **Expand partnerships.** Support legislation, funding and policies that support collaboration among local and regional partners to deliver sustainable transportation infrastructure resilience in the face of climate change.
- **Promote commute alternatives.** Support policies and programs that increase clean commute opportunities and vehicle trip reduction, increase walking and bicycling mobility and safety for all users, promote traffic calming, and improve regional transportation demand management.
- **Improve electric vehicle infrastructure.** Support legislation and incentives to develop and expand electric vehicle deployment and charging infrastructure, vehicle to grid technology, and stationary battery storage.
- **Regulate low carbon fuels.** Support legislation, regulation, and funding to promotes the use of low carbon fuels through methods, such as adopting low carbon fuel standards, considering the full production and use lifecycle impacts of fuels, and banning the use of biofuel feedstocks that increase overall carbon emissions

PUBLIC TRANSIT

California is at the forefront of built environment and climate change policies that drive planning decisions in local communities to reduce greenhouse gases and integrate transportation, land use and housing planning, while promoting needs around health and environmental justice. Fossil fuel vehicles are significant contributors to greenhouse gases and toxic air pollution. Transportation policies and funding should support all modes and all users to ensure the long-term effectiveness in reducing greenhouse gases and improving overall health.

Use of public transit instead of single-occupant vehicles reduces greenhouse gas emissions, reduces the number of vehicle miles driven, and encourages walking and biking, which helps to make an impact on health outcomes, including the obesity epidemic. Access to affordable and reliable public transit is particularly vital to access economic opportunities, to get to jobs and schools, and to promote health for all communities, especially youth, seniors, and people with disabilities. People will more likely avoid car trips and have more access to job opportunities when homes, jobs, and services are placed close accessible and affordable public transit options. This, in turn, provides a reliable customer base for public transit systems.

The County supports policies and legislation that:

- **Sustain and prioritize increased funding for public transit.** Support funding to increase the accessibility, reliability, and affordability of public transit options, particularly local buses, as well as improve connectivity to regional rail systems. Support flexible funding for public transit so that they can be used for mobility management and other needs.
- **Sustainable transportation infrastructure.** Support funding and policies and funding that promote sustainable transportation systems that expand and improve the availability, reliability, affordability, and accessibility of modern public transit systems. Support policies and provide funding to improve regional collaboration and cooperation on transit improvements and consolidation of systems and programs. Support policies for the development of local and high-speed rail networks to provide additional travel alternatives.
- **Prioritize funding for low-income and transit-dependent populations.** Mobility management is a strategic, cost-effective approach to encourage the development of services and best practices in the coordination of public transportation services connecting people needing transportation to available transportation resources within a community. Support increased public transit funding and prioritize uses which benefit low-income populations and transit dependent populations, such as seniors, youth and people with disabilities, including maintaining and improving local transit service levels, improving affordability through free and reduced fare programs. Support the coordination of alternative transportation options as part of a mobility management strategy. Support the inclusion of low-income communities and transit-dependent populations in transportation policy decision-making.
- **Prioritize transit-oriented development over urban sprawl.** Support policies and legislation that increase housing density and infill in urban areas, rather than developing existing open or agricultural spaces in suburban and rural areas. Support smart growth parking strategies and locating housing and jobs near rail and bus lines. Support increasing housing and transit affordability for low-income communities and the inclusion of anti-displacement provisions and protections in transit-oriented development projects, in order to support the ability of existing residents to stay and benefit from improvements in their neighborhoods.
- **Sustain and prioritize greenhouse gas reduction goal-setting and funds for vulnerable communities.** Support policies and legislation which increases greenhouse gas reduction goals and support policies and funding that benefit health and well-being for communities facing environmental hazards, health burdens, high levels of neighborhood poverty and other vulnerabilities. Support policies that address pollution and safety impacts and other barriers to transit users, pedestrians and bicyclists, particularly health-burdened and low-income communities. Support prioritizing transportation policies and projects that have greater community benefits, such as living-wage jobs and zero emissions transportation, than burdens for vulnerable communities and which minimize unintended consequences, such as displacement.
- **Improve Partnerships.** Support policies and provide funding to improve regional collaboration and cooperation on transit improvements and consolidation of systems and programs. Support policies for the development of local and high-speed rail networks to provide additional travel alternatives.

GOODS MOVEMENT

Alameda County is a gateway to the world for goods movement. Its airport, Oakland International, is one of three in the region. The Port of Oakland, the nation's 5th busiest container port, is one of three Pacific Coast gateways with maritime, rail and aviation freight activities. 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 United States. As an intermodal operation, port activities impact regional and inter-regional streets, rural roads and highway, rail corridors and waterways.

Planning and implementation is underway for future expansion of the Port of Oakland to support its activities and for improvements to the transportation network system and, to facilitate, Alameda CTC has worked to develop a Countywide Goods Movement Plan. The Commission approved the plan in February 2016. The Plan also outlines a long-range strategy for how to move goods efficiently, reliably and sustainably within, to, from and through Alameda County by roads, rail, air and water.

Because a substantial amount of good movement occurs on local streets and roads throughout Alameda County, the plan also addresses impacts to transportation infrastructure. Challenges faced on the local streets and roads include lack of truck route connectivity across city boundaries, providing safe access by all local streets and road users (autos, pedestrians, bicyclists and public transit) and cut through traffic on rural roads to avoid congestion on major corridors. Additionally, truck traffic on local streets and rural roads designed to accommodate vehicles is resulting in pavement damage and impacting the livability and quality of life for the residents living adjacent to these goods movement corridors.

The County supports policies and legislation that:

- **Expand goods movement funding and policy development.** Support the development of policies that preserve and strengthen an integrated and connected multi-modal goods movement system, support freight mobility and access, and are coordinated with passenger transportation systems and local land use decisions.
- **Improve goods movement infrastructure.** Support legislation, policies and funding to study, plan, fund and implement improvements for a safe, efficient, resilient and well-maintained goods movement facilities and corridors. Supports legislation, policies and funding to study, plan and design safety improvements along local streets and rural roads to accommodate the increasing goods movement traffic, including driveway consolidation for truck access to wineries, left-turn pockets and truck deceleration lanes.
- **Identify goods movement funding stream.** Support identifying a funding stream for goods movements to maintain and improve the goods movement infrastructure.
- **Prioritize Bay Area transportation systems.** Support legislation and policies that prioritize the Bay Area transportation systems in both State and federal planning and funding processes.
- **Mitigate goods movement impacts.** Support policies and programs that reduce and mitigate impacts from goods movement operations, such as noise and air quality, to create a healthy and clean environment and support improved quality-of-life for people most impacted by goods movement.

REGIONAL AND INTER-REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND PROJECTS

With over 20 percent percent of the population, Alameda County experiences roughly 40 percent 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, significant investment to improve transportation infrastructure has 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.

The County supports policies and legislation that:

- **Expand partnerships.** Support efforts that encourage and promote regional and mega-regional cooperation and coordination to develop, promote, and fund solutions to transportation infrastructure improvement and support governmental efficiencies and cost savings in transportation. 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, Greenville Road, and Patterson Pass Road in unincorporated Eastern Alameda County. Support efforts that encourage and facilitate the establishment of public-private partnerships and low-cost financing strategies.
- **Develop transportation policies.** Support policy development to influence transportation planning, policy, and funding at the county, regional, State, and federal levels.
- **Express/HOT (High Occupancy Toll) lane expansion.** Support Express/HOT Lane expansion in Alameda County and the Bay Area.

TRANSPORTATION REGULATORY AND PROJECT DELIVERY PROCESS

The 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, the County continues to seek legislative remedies in streamlining regulatory burdens while advocating for any and all funding opportunities at all levels of government.

The County supports policies and legislation that would:

- **Improve the project delivery regulatory process.** Support policies and legislation which streamline 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. Support policies and legislation to expedite project delivery while ensuring appropriate environmental protection and mitigation.
- **Create reciprocity pilot program.** Support the establishment of a State-federal “reciprocity” pilot program which allows the State of California and the local transportation agencies to carry out the federal environmental review processes to streamline and expedite delivery of federally-funded projects. Support self-certification policies among local transportation agencies.
- **Regulatory exemptions.** Support the categorical exemption of road safety projects from CEQA and State and federal permitting requirements (i.e., 404 permits, 1601 permits) and exempt the maintenance of existing transportation facilities and infrastructure from permit requirements under the Endangered Species Act.
- **Mandate response times.** Support policies and legislation which improve the environmental review and regulatory approval processes by mandating adherence to the response time frames, schedules and deadlines specified in the environmental review process. Support policies and legislation that eliminates redundant documentation.

FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER RESOURCES

INCREASED FUNDING FOR FLOOD PROTECTION

Continued protection from flooding and protecting 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.

The County supports policies and legislation that:

- **Ensures consistency between State and federal definitions.** The State Water Resources Control Board's proposed Wetland and Riparian Protection Policy includes different terms and definitions of wetlands. Support legislation that would ensure consistency between State and federal 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.
- **Ensures levee funding.** Support policies and legislation which identify additional funding sources and opportunities to ensure levee maintenance, including repair and reconstruction after a flood event.
- **Includes local flood control projects in voter-approved bonds.** The State issues bonds to fund flood control projects throughout California, however, projects in Alameda County have not been included. Support legislative changes which allow for the funding of local flood control projects by voter-approved bonds.
- **Ensures climate change resiliency.** Support State and federal funding to study, design, and implement coastal flood protection solutions to protect Alameda County residents from effects of sea level rise and extreme tides due to climate change. Support establishing partnerships among local, State and federal agencies to promote protection from floods, climate change adaptation and resiliency.

STREAMLINE THE REGULATORY AND PROJECT DELIVERY PROCESS

Regulatory inefficiencies continue to hamper the effective and timely delivery of flood control projects. Projects are bogged down by the multiple redundant and overlapping regulatory agency's approval processes, long time-frames, and required reports and mitigation that do not add significantly to improving the environment but rather result in costly project delivery costs. To this end, Alameda County seeks legislative remedies to eliminate regulatory redundancies, streamline regulatory burdens and advocate for funding support to adequate staffing levels at the local, State, and federal regulatory agencies.

The County supports policies and legislation that:

- **Encourage service agreements.** Support policies which allow and encourage State and federal regulatory agencies to offer service agreements to public entity applicants and permittees to fund additional personnel or contractors needed for expeditious permit processing.
- **Mandated response timelines in review and approval process.** Support policies and legislation which improve the environmental review and regulatory approval processes by mandating specific time frames for State reviews and approvals of permits to expedite project delivery while ensuring appropriate environmental protection and mitigation.
- **Approve the CEQA-NEPA Reciprocity Pilot Program.** Support the approval of the CEQA-NEPA Reciprocity Pilot Program, which build on California's successful implementation of the Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program and allow for even greater project streamlining to enhance efficiency in flood control project delivery.
- **Eliminate redundancy.** Support policies and legislation which eliminate redundancy between State agencies (such as Fish and Wildlife Services, Water Quality Control Board, and the Bay Coastal Development Commission) which create extensive delays in project delivery.

- **Identify review process enhancements.** Review processing and approval time frames could be dramatically reduced by providing expedited review for projects that are consistent with an adopted Sustainability Communities Strategy and exempting maintenance projects and activities of existing flood control facilities and infrastructure from permit requirements under the Endangered Species Act. Support policies and legislation which streamline these processes.
- **Encourage Partnerships.** Support the establishment of local, State and federal partnerships among stakeholders focused on habitat restoration/resource protection including developing adaptive strategies to climate change and sea level rise.

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Federal Legislative Priorities

HUMAN SERVICES

CREATE A HUMAN SERVICES SYSTEM THAT IS RESPONSIVE TO COMMUNITY NEEDS

Low-income individuals and families need restoration of critical benefits, increased flexibility, expansion of programs that work, services that are linguistically and culturally accessible, and the simplification/streamlining of processes and systems to ensure they are able to access all the benefits for which they are eligible. Alameda County supports public policies that preserve and strengthen the social safety net for the most vulnerable while also advancing economic prosperity and equity so that all individuals, children, and families have the opportunity to succeed.

Better Facilitate Access to Benefits

- **Streamline and integrate public assistance benefits enrollment.** Support policies and systems that make it easier for individuals and families to have access to, apply for, utilize, retain, and recertify for benefits, including TANF (CalWORKs), SNAP (CalFresh), General Assistance, Medicaid (Medi-Cal), and supportive services, including housing and childcare.

Focus on Effective Implementation and Staff Training

- **Reasonable timelines and funding for implementation of new policies/procedures.** The federal government should work with stakeholders, including counties, when determining timelines and funding for rolling out new policies and procedures.
- **Include training funding as part of new laws/changes.** Standardize all new laws or changes that impact the practice of human services programs to include training funding. Resources to train staff are vital to successful implementation of program changes.

Increase Access to Safe, Affordable Housing Options

- **Protect and increase supports for affordable housing and homelessness prevention.** Support a range of policies and programs that prevent and resolve homelessness and housing instability. Support evidence-based programs, including housing first, rapid re-housing, long-term housing subsidies, and models that include wrap-around transitional housing and housing support services designed to promote housing stability. Additionally, support policies to end housing discrimination based on race, ethnicity, sovereignty, national origin, immigration status, gender, sexual orientation/gender identity, age, disability status, and socioeconomic status.
- **Protect and enhance supports and services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.** Support funding and policies that ensure adequate emergency shelter and transitional housing. Investments in supportive housing result in the decreased use of homeless shelters, hospitals, emergency rooms, jails, and prisons.
- **Increase income guidelines for housing assistance.** Support funding and policies that raise the income percentage restrictions for housing assistance. In Alameda County, the Fair Market annual rent for a two-bedroom apartment is approximately \$26,000. For individuals and families living below the Federal Poverty level housing is out of reach without housing support programs. Research shows that stable, safe housing is critical to one's well-being, health, and long-term success.

For additional homelessness and housing priorities, please see the Planning, Land Use, and Housing and Community Development Chapter

Early Care and Education

- **Protect and increase access to quality early care and education for eligible families.** Support funding, policies, and systems which create and expand equal access to stable, high quality early care and education programs for vulnerable families including children and youth in foster care, families that are undocumented, or experiencing homelessness, and children with special needs.
- **Streamline systems, where possible, to ease navigation and endure a continuum of quality childcare that is culturally and developmentally appropriate.** Enact and support policies which ease navigation of resources available for childcare and support family engagement.
- **Reduce barriers to public and private collaboration to strengthen childcare systems to more effectively and efficiently meet the needs of vulnerable children and families.** Support policies and programs that help parents make informed choices and access information to support child development.

Achieve Racial Equity and Advance Opportunities for All

- **Protect and support public policies and practices that eliminate racial disparities and ensure equitable opportunities and better futures for all Alameda County residents.** Policies and practices should promote equity and reduce disparities based on race, ethnicity, sovereignty, national origin, immigration status, gender, sexual orientation/gender identity, age, disability status, and socioeconomic status. Policies should address all forms of racism, particularly institutional and structural racism, which have played a central role historically and currently in creating and perpetuating persistent social and health inequities.

Promote Economic Stability and Wealth Building

Asset building policies and programs include a range of opportunities including matched-saving accounts, homeownership assistance, financial education, free tax preparation, 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 assistance benefits.** Asset limits create disincentives for low-income families to save money for emergencies. Policies should promote savings and ensure individuals and families do not have to spend down any cushion they have before qualifying for public assistance.
- **Maintain and expand savings programs.** Policies should help low-income individuals and families accumulate assets through increased savings and investments. Support a variety of savings accounts and incentive programs that are designed to help low-income individuals build assets and opportunities (such as Individual Development Accounts (IDAs), Children's Savings Accounts, Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Accounts, and retirement accounts).
- **Restrict payday lending and other predatory financial products and services.** Support 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.** 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. Support efforts to encourage safe, affordable financial products 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 historically disinvested communities. Support 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 specific needs of economically underserved communities.
- **Protect assets and savings.** Support policies that preserve assets and protect individuals and families from predatory practices. Specifically, protections for student loan borrowers and policies that promote access to education, lessen student debt burdens, and make loan repayment more manageable. Defaulting on a student

loan can ruin a borrower's credit and impact future opportunities. Additionally, support protecting the continuation of Pell Grant and Cal Grant loans that provide financial aid in meeting the increasing cost of a college education.

- **Promote retirement savings.** Less than half of California's private sector workers have access to an employer-sponsored retirement plan. Support State and federal policies that promote retirement savings that make it easier to save.
- **Preserve, expand, and increase federal tax credits for low-income childless individuals and families.**
 - **Protect eligibility for the Child Tax Credit (CTC) for all taxpaying families, including undocumented immigrants who have tax filing responsibilities.** Support policies that protect child tax credit eligibility for immigrants who use an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) to file taxes. Limiting the child tax credit to only those with Social Security Numbers not only impacts the families with mixed immigration statuses but impacts the economy as a whole.
 - **Expand and increase the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).** Support expanding this vital credit and ensuring low-income working families are able to keep more of their hard-earned money.
 - **Expand refundable tax credits.** More federal tax credits (including the Child Tax Credit) should be fully refundable so that all low-income families, even those without a tax liability, can benefit from the credits.
 - **Implement a refundable tax credit for foster parents.** This credit could help increase foster homes for children and youth.
- **Reauthorize the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program and ensure adequate funding.** The VITA program is a safe, effective, and free tax preparation service for low-and moderate-income individuals and families that helps them to keep more of their hard earned money and file accurate tax returns.

Invest in Place-Based Initiatives

Too many children in our communities are growing up in neighborhoods with no grocery stores, closed parks, and struggling schools. Recognizing that people and place are inextricably linked, place-based initiatives take a comprehensive approach to community development and aim to revitalize multiple aspects of 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.** 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 residents.
- **Support place-based initiatives.** Specifically, support the Partnership for Sustainable Communities' Integrated Planning and Investment Grants Initiative, Promise Neighborhoods, Choice Neighborhoods, the Community Economic Development Program, the Healthy Food Financing Initiative, the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Grants, and the broader Promise Zones Initiative.
- **Support neighborhood revitalization through the Promise Zone Initiative.** This initiative aims to revitalize high-poverty communities by creating local jobs, spurring economic activity, improving educational opportunities, leveraging private investment, and reducing violent crime. Support measures that create coordinated efforts to benefit designated Promise Zones, including:
 - Priority for relevant federal funding opportunities from the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, Justice, Education, Agriculture, Labor, Commerce, and Transportation, Treasury, and others.
 - Tax deductions for business property located within a community designated as a Promise Zone and employment tax credits for businesses that locate within Promise Zones and/or hire residents living in Promise Zones.

- **Reauthorize TANF with a focus on alleviating poverty and preventing material hardship among children and families.** TANF reauthorization should also focus on rebuilding partnership between the federal government, states, and counties to move forward with common goals. Specifically:
 - **Maintain and expand subsidized employment.** Permanently authorize and appropriate funding for subsidized employment as enacted originally in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.
 - **Enhance employment and training services.** Create effective pathways to economic opportunity including access to mainstream education, training, internships and individualized services for those with barriers to employment. Employment programs should be focused on improving family economic well-being, and not be designed to discourage participation in TANF programs for families in need.
 - **Restore and enhance flexibility.** State and county flexibility is vital to tailor work, training and family stabilization activities to families' individual needs. TANF reauthorization should measure states' performance 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 limits reduces administrative costs and promotes savings and self-sufficiency.
 - **Remove the 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 the opportunity for employment and financial stability and reducing the risks of reoffending.
 - **Restore and protect benefits to immigrants.** 1996 TANF legislation imposed a five-year ban on federal means-tested benefits for legal immigrants. Support restoring and protecting those benefits and ensuring immigrants, including undocumented immigrants, have access to basic assistance, including health care, nutrition supports, housing, access to early care and education, and culturally competent legal services.
 - **Preserve and increase funding for TANF.** The TANF block grant has been set at \$16.5 billion each year since 1996; as a result, its real value has fallen by one-third due to inflation.
 - **Eliminate the "marriage penalty."** Currently, two-parent households have a higher hourly participation requirement and states are required to achieve a 90 percent work participation rate for these families. Support eliminating these additional requirements to allow for more flexibility in serving two-parent families.
 - **Preserve and maintain contingency funding for TANF.** In times of economic downturn, contingency funds are essential for states to serve all families in need.
 - **Expand the time limit for TANF.** The 60-month lifetime limit restricts the ability of those in the highest need to receive services and supports necessary to gain financial stability. Vulnerable families may need to return to aid due to economic downturns or new family hardships.
 - **Increase income disregards.** A TANF family's grant decreases as the family earns more income. However, a portion of earned income, known as the "earned income disregard," is excluded from the grant calculation. Support policies that increase or modify the income disregard to encourage work and allow families to keep more of their earnings, and grant levels to be higher.
 - **Support funding and services for non-custodial parents of TANF eligible children.** Non-custodial parents of children in poverty often fall behind in their child support payments because they, too, are struggling to get by. Support policies, funding and services for non-custodial parents to receive employment services that promote self-sufficiency and ability to care for their child(ren).

Support Adults without Dependents

Low-income childless adults are not eligible for most state or federal cash aid programs. A comprehensive approach is needed to strengthen the social safety net for all individuals, including those who are not caring for children.

- **Increase federal supports for low-income adults without dependents.** Support policies that provide increased cash aid, employment assistance, and other supportive services for low-income adults without dependents. Programs should recognize and address barriers to employment while also encouraging participation in the labor market to improve economic well-being not be designed to discourage participation in supportive programs for people in need.

Protect and Enhance Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

The SNAP/CalFresh program provides monthly benefits to eligible low-income individuals and families to purchase food. Alameda County supports strengthening SNAP and ensuring this vital program reaches individuals and families struggling with food insecurity. Specifically:

- **Protect and increase SNAP benefits and ensure access to critical nutrition support.** Alameda County opposes block granting the program, which would limit funding over time, as well as the ability of localities to respond to increased need during an economic downturn, opposes any cuts to SNAP or restrictions on eligibility, and supports benefit level increases for individuals and families experiencing food insecurity.
- **Ensure food access for adults without dependents.** Under current federal law, certain unemployed individuals without dependents can face time limits of three months of SNAP benefits in any 36-month period. Alameda County opposes this rule. Until the rule is repealed, support continued State and local waivers to ensure individuals are able to access critical food benefits.
- **Identify opportunities to streamline and simplify.** Support efforts to streamline, and simplify federal SNAP requirements to enhance enrollment and retention.
- **Support programs and policies that improve access to healthy and nutritious food.** Support programs and policies that improve access to healthy and nutritious food for physically or medically homebound individuals, including individuals and families in remote areas.
- **Increase the minimum allotment.** This is especially important for elderly and/or disabled households and should be increased.
- **Maintain and provide additional flexibility.** Allow states to align SNAP eligibility and processes with state TANF programs (and Medicaid) and allow state flexibility and streamlining, such as the expanded categorical eligibility and “reverse express lane” enrollment to automatically provide SNAP to Medicaid-eligible individuals.
- **Remove existing bans for certain individuals.** Support restoring eligibility to all documented immigrants, policies that entitle Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients to SNAP benefits, drop the lifetime ban on benefits for individuals with drug or violent crime felonies, and remove 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 and the SNAP-Education program.
- **Restore free Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Point of Sale (POS) equipment for all retailers.** As a result of cuts made in the 2014 Farm Bill, retailers are no longer offered free EBT equipment, supplies, and related services to participate in SNAP/CalFresh. Support restoring access to EBT equipment to ensure SNAP recipients can access their benefits at a variety of retailers.
- **Promote increased access to nutritious and affordable food in neighborhoods.** Specifically, support the efforts to develop additional supermarkets and outlets in “food deserts” and to equip all farmers’ markets with EBT capability.
- **Improve timeliness of data.** Specifically, data provided by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to states for use in administering SNAP.

- **Preserve and support additional funding and flexibility for SNAP Employment and Training (E&T).** Support additional appropriations for SNAP E&T and policies and pilots that seek to improve employment outcomes for SNAP recipients.
- **Oppose efforts to deny support through the imposition of overly burdensome work requirements.** Overly burdensome work requirements are costly for agencies to implement, and function to deny access to desperately needed nutritional, health, and income support programs to individuals who may be experiencing discrimination in labor practices outside of their control such as hiring, consistency of scheduling, or pay. Support program rules that allow State flexibility in defining work and work preparation activities.

Child Nutrition Programs

- **Expand access to meals during school breaks.** When school is not in session, many low-income children lose access to free and reduced-price school breakfasts, lunches, and afterschool snacks they rely on during the regular school year. Support policies to coordinate and expand access to free meals when school is not in session, including the summer months, and connect kids and their families to healthy nutrition assistance.
- **Reauthorize and improve the Child Nutrition Act.** This legislation oversees critical child nutrition programs, including school meals, summer meals, afterschool meal programs, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Support policies that make it easier for children and families to access nutrition programs and ensure adequate funding.

Food Banks

- **Support food banks.** The Alameda County Community Food Bank estimates that one in five Alameda County residents turn to the Food Bank for assistance. Support efforts to help local food banks secure nutritious food and assist individuals and families in applying for SNAP. Specifically, expanding The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) bonus buys federal program.

Better Assist Immigrants, Refugees, and Asylees

Currently a third of Alameda County residents are foreign-born. The existing system of services and providers who work with immigrants, including undocumented immigrants, refugees, and asylees is complicated and can be difficult to navigate and access. As one of eight Refugee-Impacted counties in California, Alameda County recognizes the unique needs of immigrant populations to access services, gain employment, and integrate into their new communities.

- **Protect and increase access to services for immigrants, including undocumented immigrants, refugees, and asylees.** In particular, immigrants, including undocumented immigrants, need access to basic assistance, including health care, nutrition supports, housing, early care and education, and culturally competent and quality legal services to keep families together and secure; and, communities whole. Alameda County opposes policies and initiatives that place restrictions of services and benefits to immigrants, including undocumented immigrants.
- **Additional supports and services for refugees and asylees.** Support additional State and federal funding to expand services available to refugees and asylees. Specifically, we support increasing Refugee Cash Assistance payment levels, providing homelessness and housing supports, expanding employment and vocational training programs, and increasing other supportive services.

For more information, please see the Immigration Chapter.

ADVANCE FOSTER YOUTH WELL-BEING AND STRENGTHEN CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

The Alameda County Social Services Agency's Department of Children and Family Services serves children and youth who have experienced, or are at-risk of experiencing, abuse, or neglect.

Preserve and Enhance Services and Programs

Alameda County supports a range of increases in child welfare funding and supportive services to improve the well-being of children, including undocumented children.

- **Reform child welfare financing to focus on prevention activities.** Support changes to federal funding to provide states with the flexibility to make front-end investments in family services in order to reduce stays in foster care, rather than only funding services for children after they are placed in out-of-home care.
- **Update Title IV-E eligibility requirements.** Specifically, update the eligibility requirements associated with the so-called 1996 "look-back" provision of Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, so that more children are 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 (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) under the program rules in 1996. Support policy changes that update the requirements (perhaps through using an income limit that is based on the federal poverty level).
- **Funding for services and income supports needed by parents seeking to reunify with their children who are in foster care.** This could include:
 - Funding for childcare, housing, immigration legal services, and other necessary supportive services.
 - Additional funding and policies to support the availability and quality of substance abuse programs for parents. Specifically, support of substance abuse family residential programs that allow for 1) an entire family, including both parents, to reside together, and 2) single fathers to reside in the program with their child(ren). Typically, residential programs do not allow the family to remain together, which causes additional trauma to children who must separate from one or both parents.
- **Additional resources that promote better outcomes for children.** Examples include culturally relevant mental health services, educational supports, employment/linked learning opportunities, matched-savings accounts, developmental child care (including post-permanency), respite services for relative and foster caregivers, services and resources promoting father engagement, housing subsidies, one-stop community centers serving families (e.g. with employment, housing, and healthcare), and improved mental health service delivery to foster youth through the increased availability of licensed clinicians trained in empirically-based treatments for youth who have experienced trauma.
- **Elimination of resource limits on income supports and benefits given directly to the youth such as matched savings accounts, Social Security Income (SSI), and SNAP.** Providing additional resources to foster youth will increase the chances of their successful transition to adulthood.
- **The continued provision of flexible funding through the Title IV-E Waiver.** The waivers have enabled counties to increase the use of community services to prevent child abuse and neglect and divert families away from formal child welfare services. This has increased permanence for children through strategies like family finding and engagement.
- **Strengthen policies, services, and other resources to address the disproportionate presence of African American, Latino, and Native American children in foster care.** Support leadership and funding to improve conditions in low-income communities of color that contain high levels of unemployment, crime, homelessness, substance abuse, and disproportionate experiences with the child welfare system. Services and resources are needed to assist children and families early on to prevent any need for child welfare services in the future.
- **Increase funding to support counties in monitoring and providing services to foster youth who are authorized by the court to receive psychotropic medications.** The children served by the foster care system have experienced severe trauma; for some, medication is appropriate when thoughtfully prescribed as part of an overall treatment plan that includes non-pharmacological interventions as well. Support additional funding for behavioral health services for youth and to support counties in providing oversight and monitoring of psychotropic medications prescribed to foster youth.

- **Expand child welfare funding and resources to populations with unique needs:**

- *Youth in foster care who are also parents.* Parenting foster youth are in particular need of services that promote their educational attainment, parenting skills, and resources that support their transition to independence.
- *Children of foster youth.* Provide resources and supports for children of foster youth. In particular, support continuing to provide resources, including but not limited to an Infant Supplement, while the parent is temporarily away from placement but still caring for their child (for instance when they are living in a shelter). This change will help ensure food and other basic necessities to the infant until they both return to an eligible foster setting.
- *Undocumented children of undocumented parents who are under child welfare supervision.* Additional resources are needed to ensure that these families receive the necessary services to prevent the child from entering into or remaining in foster care. Support increased funding to address reunification barriers faced by many immigrant families in the child welfare system.
- *Families who speak a language other than English.* Resources are needed to support counties in hiring additional bilingual staff to provide assistance to children and families in their preferred language.
- *Support for children of incarcerated parents.* Additional funding and programs that promote the health, safety, and well-being of the children of incarcerated parents and the efforts of parents to reunify with their children are needed.
- *Parents and children with disabilities.* Foster children with disabilities, their parents, and their caregivers need additional support to navigate systems and services that may meet their developmental, educational, and medical needs. Disabled parents also may need additional resources and support to access needed services.
- *Commercially Sexually Exploited Children* (see section below).

- **Establish Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for all eligible foster youth and allow those benefits to remain in suspense for the duration of their stay in foster care.** Current law leads to situations where foster youth who are both disabled and from impoverished backgrounds, risk being dropped from, or not able to access, SSI even though they meet other eligibility criteria. Support policy changes that ensure all foster youth who are eligible can apply for SSI benefits and maintain their SSI eligibility throughout their involvement in foster care, without the need for an annual temporary suspension of the Title IV-E or federal payment.

- **Support agreements with consulates and foreign governments for the protection of foster youth.** Statewide agreements with foreign consulates and governments are needed to enhance the services provided to minors and their parents when the parent or child is a foreign national. These agreements should clarify the responsibilities between parties to protect the safety of minors during custody and dependency proceedings involving minors who have experienced abuse or neglect.

- **Preserve and enhance existing funding sources.** Support the enhancement of existing programmatic funding sources that provide either direct or indirect services to children in foster care, or who are at risk of abuse or neglect. Alameda County opposes the proposed elimination of flexible funding sources, such as the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) and Community Services Block Grant (CSBG).

Support Caregivers and Provide Permanency for Foster Youth

- **Increase funding for foster and adoptive parent recruitment, training, and retention.** Alameda County encourages additional support, funding, and other resources designed to increase the number of qualified caregivers available to provide stable and loving foster and adoptive homes. Examples of supports and resources deemed critical by caregivers:

- Increased funding for and access to subsidized childcare and respite care.
- Funding for one-time expenses, such as a bed.
- Specialized training and targeted support services, including those that offer in-home based services, for caregivers of foster youth with acute mental health needs, commercially sexually exploited children, or disabled children.

- A statewide public education campaign to promote interest in foster parenting.
- A refundable tax credit for foster parents.
- **Expand funding and eligibility time for post-placement services to support permanence for children who have left foster care through reunification, adoption, or guardianship.** Policies should help maintain the child in their home and prevent reentry to foster care. For example, housing and child care assistance to help parents provide a safe and stable environment as well as supervision for their child(ren) while they are at work or school. There are limited housing and child care slots available through existing resources, and additional resources should be targeted specifically to these families. Other examples include substance abuse treatment and mental health services that are culturally responsive to the child and the adoptive parent or guardian.
- **Provide Kin-GAP benefits to children whose relative guardianship was established in Probate Court.** Although Probate Court guardianships with a non-relative can be eligible for Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) Foster Care payments, relative guardianships established in Probate Court do not qualify for Kin-GAP, even though many of these children have needs similar to youth who have a guardianship established in Juvenile Court. Providing Kin-GAP benefits to these probate guardianship youth will improve their transition to adulthood and may reduce their need for social services as an adult.
- **Remove barriers to legal guardianship for youth.** Current law doesn't allow for guardianships by Non-Relative Extended Family Members (NREFMs) and non-related foster parents for youth under age six. Alameda County supports providing statutory authorization for courts to establish guardianships when a NREFM is the caregiver to a child under age six or to a child within a sibling group with at least one sibling under age six, whenever the child is unable to return to their parent's or guardian's care. The intent of this change is not to divert children away from adoption but instead provide as many options available as possible to provide legal permanence for foster children.
- **Continued support for policies and resources that meet the needs of LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning) foster youth and recognize a youth's gender identity.** Alameda County encourages additional laws and policies, such as SB 731 (Statutes of 2015), that promote the protections of rights of foster youth who are LGBTQ and are supportive of a foster youth's gender identity. Computer data systems and forms should allow for recognition of gender identity in addition to the youth's gender assigned at birth. Additional resources are needed to further the recruitment and retention of resource families that will provide effective care for LGBTQ youth.
- **Support the enhancement and strengthening of connections between foster youth and persons in their support network.** Additional resources and improved policies are needed that help maintain networks of service providers, family, and friends that serve the best interests of foster youth, even though they are not the parent or resource parent to the youth. These support networks are vital to the health and well-being of foster youth.
- **Allow for continued benefits after age 18 for all former foster youth who exited from foster care to a guardianship prior to their 18th birthday.** Current law limits eligibility for these benefits based on the youth's age at the time the guardianship was established. These limits have created a disincentive for permanency for these children. Support policies that extend Federal and State Kin-GAP (to relative guardians) and State AFDC-FC (to non-related guardians) benefits to age 21 for youth who otherwise meet eligibility criteria except for the age at which the guardianship was established.

Improve Assistance and Services for Transition-Age Youth

- **Additional supports and programs for transition-age foster youth (ages 14 – 21).** In October 2010, California passed AB 12, also known as the California Fostering Connections to Success Act, in response to the federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (Public Law 110-351). AB 12 changed foster care significantly by optionally extending foster care until age 21. Although some transition-age foster youth now have the benefit of extended foster care, these youth often remain in need of additional funding, policies, and programs that support their transition out of foster care and into independent adulthood. Specifically, Alameda County supports:

- **Increased financial support for programs that assist foster youth in the transition to financial stability.** Examples include post-emancipation assistance such as secondary education, job training, housing, access to health care, and tax credits to employers for the employment of a current or former foster youth. Support the intent of both S. 885 and H.R. 2060; bills that would provide for such a tax credit.
- **Additional funding for safe and stable housing and supportive services such as substance abuse or mental health treatment.** There is a specific need for financial support of a continuum of care of substance abuse programs for minors to ensure that all youth in need are able to receive services.
- **Flexibility with placement requirements for non-minor dependents (NMDs) in Extended Foster Care who are in need of in-patient substance abuse treatment.** If a NMD's temporary stay in an in-patient facility could be considered a Supervised Independent Living Placement, for example, this would allow the otherwise eligible youth to remain in Extended Foster Care and receive related services that support their transition to independence, rather than forcing their exit from care.
- **Expand Independent Living Program (ILP) eligibility to include older youth in Family Maintenance.** Youth who are nearing adulthood (age 16 – 18) and receiving in-home child welfare services, such as Family Maintenance, are in need of services supporting their transition to independence as healthy and responsible adults. An expansion of eligibility requirements for ILP funds could allow for the provision of services to these youth and better prepare them for adulthood.
- **Allow for after care benefits to continue for youth up until age 23.** Support the intent of S. 1215 and H.R. 2847, bills that would allow states to serve former foster youth under the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for an additional two years.
- **Provide counties funding to fulfill credit report monitoring and assistance activities to foster youth.** Identity theft is a major concern for youth in foster care and can destroy their credit. For foster children who "age out" of the system as young adults, the consequences of identity theft are particularly devastating and can make it difficult to rent an apartment or obtain educational loans. Support additional funding for counties to assist with monitoring credit reports on behalf of foster youth and ensuring that youth receive assistance in interpreting their reports and clearing any inaccuracies, as required by State and federal law.

Ensure the Safety and Well-Being of Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC)

- **Additional funding and supports for Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC).** Responding to CSEC requires a multi-pronged response that does not criminalize the youth for their actions and includes prevention, intervention, and after care. Support additional funding and resources, beyond what is currently provided to counties, to expand training, tailor services, and support collaborative work with other systems. More funding is needed to address the immediate needs of victims, including clothing and safe shelter, and to provide long-term services to assist CSEC victims in achieving positive outcomes of permanency and well-being.
- **Protect and enhance funding for homeless youth.** The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) authorizes community-based runaway and homeless youth projects to provide temporary shelter and care to run-aways or otherwise homeless youth who are in need of temporary shelter, counseling, and aftercare services. Approximately 1 out of every 5 homeless youth are victims of trafficking, with higher rates of victimization occurring for LGBTQ youth and youth with previous involvement in the child welfare system. RHYA provides necessary funding to provide for these vulnerable young people. Support enhanced funding for RHYA, or similar introduced legislation for runaway and homeless youth, recognizing the increasing need to provide for CSEC and vulnerable youth who experience trafficking and exploitation.

Align Child Welfare Requirements with Local Best Practice Efforts

- **Flexibility allowing for exemptions in existing requirements concerning social worker contacts with foster youth that unfairly penalize counties.** Policy changes are needed to remove penalties when social workers are unable to make monthly face to face contact with a foster youth who has run away from placement and his or her current whereabouts are unknown. The existing requirements do not consider and give credit for the social worker's efforts to locate and make contact with the youth.

SUPPORT ADULTS, SENIORS, AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The growing demographics of aging require a fundamental shift in how we view and incorporate aging in our system of services and in our communities. It is projected that the Alameda County senior population will increase by over 40 percent in the next ten years and approximately 50 percent of all seniors in Alameda County do not have adequate financial resources to address their daily needs. In addition, approximately one in five people with disabilities in Alameda County live below the federal poverty line.

Protect and Enhance Systems and Programs

- **Protect and increase funding available to develop and support affordable, accessible, and integrated housing options for seniors and persons with disabilities.** Older adults and persons with disabilities often live on fixed incomes and appropriate housing options are scarce and incomes are not increasing at the same rate as housing prices. Local affordable housing resources are severely limited, which is adversely impacting the health, care, and quality of life of seniors and people with disabilities. Fifty-four percent of adults over age 65 live below 200 percent of federal poverty, and people with disabilities are twice as likely as others to live in poverty. Inability to find or sustain stable housing results in health system costs when people cannot transition from institutional care. Support housing strategies that allow people to modify their home, access assisted living, health and supportive services, leverage Medicaid to access housing dollars and find housing after a health crisis for older adults and people with disabilities. Specifically, support HUD's Supportive Housing for the Elderly, or the Section 202 program.
- **Preserve, support and expand programs for equitable access to advance care planning (ACP) and end-of-life services at any age.** Advance care planning gives people a way to think about death and dying allowing them to confront dying directly instead of being a "vague, unmanageable concept" or leaving the end of life decisions up to others once the patient is unable to meaningfully participate in the process. Supporting programs that provide culturally relevant outreach and understanding of palliative care and hospice to our diverse populations will increase equitable access and utilization of end-of-life services.
- **Fully support the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).** The ADA prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in employment, transportation, public accommodation, communications, and governmental activities. Alameda County opposes all efforts to erode the legislative mandate of the ADA. Specifically, we oppose ADA notification bills that seek to create barriers to filing a complaint, resulting in loss of access and civil rights.
- **Increase employment opportunities for older adults and individuals with disabilities.** Support policies that help older adults and individuals with disabilities access training and employment opportunities that lead to competitive and integrated employment. Specifically, we support policies such as subsidized employment or tax incentives that encourage employers to hire older adults and individuals with disabilities.
- **Support Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act improvements.** Created in 2014, ABLE accounts are tax-advantaged savings accounts for individuals with disabilities and their families. Savings in ABLE accounts do not affect eligibility for SSI, Medicaid and other public benefits. Support the ABLE Act and the enactment of policies that enhance and improve the current laws.
- **Support fair access to resources and services.** Older adults and people with disabilities have the right to live free from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and discriminatory practices. Older adults and people with disabilities have the right to services that promote independence and autonomy. Support policies that promote parity of resources and services among older adults and people with disabilities, including those with cognitive impairments, regardless of their social, economic, and immigration status.
- **Support services that are linguistically and culturally accessible.** Individuals and families who speak a language other than English have the right to receive services in their preferred language. Support funding and resources that allow hiring of additional bilingual staff to provide assistance to older adults and people with disabilities in their preferred language.
- **Reform and improve Supplemental Security Income (SSI).** Support restoring the original intent of the SSI

program (protecting seniors and people with disabilities from the harms of living in poverty) by eliminating the asset limit, updating earned and unearned income disregard rules, improving the application process, standardizing the time it takes to approve or deny applications, technological advancements that promote access to services and administrative efficiencies, and modernizing financial eligibility rules. Additionally, support policies that allow SSI recipients to access Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. Alameda County opposes any cuts to these benefits.

- **Appropriate planning funds for CareerACCESS pilot projects.** CareerACCESS is a community-driven proposal to reform SSI rules so that young adults with disabilities can work and achieve their full potential without risking losing their disability benefits. Under the pilot, youth would create a career plan supported by coaching, counseling and employment support services. The pilot would allow for increased earnings and remove asset limits.
- **Preserve and expand the Community Choice First Option (CFCO).** The CFCO increases federal funding for many home and community-based services. California receives a six percent enhancement in federal funding for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) for approximately 50 percent of IHSS recipients, representing nearly 70 percent of total IHSS hours paid, as these are the highest need IHSS clients. Because CFCO is a component of the Affordable Care Act, its funding certainty has been threatened with proposals for ACA repeal. If CFCO were repealed, states and counties would have a higher cost burden for providing services to seniors and persons with disabilities with high need.

Coordinate the System of Care for Older Adults

Systematic inefficiencies are extremely costly while keeping people from getting the essential care and services they need. To accommodate the growing numbers of older adults who need services and serve them cost-effectively, Alameda County supports a coordinated service delivery system that protects, supports, and advocates for an aging population. Specifically, we support the integration and simplification of the complex system of senior services to ensure policies and programs are consumer-focused and that residents have access to and receive the services they need.

- **Preserve, support and expand programs and policies that promote Healthy Aging/Aging in Place.** Older adults often lack access to information and resources about social service and health issues, or are unaware of preventative measures they can take to remain healthier for longer. Support policies that promote healthy aging, independence, and well-being of seniors who wish to age in place, or who wish to remain in their homes as they age.
- **Reduce nutrition insecurity for seniors.** According to the Alameda County Community Food Bank, residents over 50 years old now make up more than one-third of their clients. This need is only expected to increase as older adults are the fastest growing segment of the population in Alameda County; however, State and federal funding for senior nutrition is limited and restrictive. Support protecting and increasing funding and funding flexibility for senior nutrition programs and services.
- **Support and increase funding for Elder Courts.** Many seniors find the legal system complicated and difficult to navigate, which creates a barrier to remediation of legal issues such as elder abuse, housing disputes, and more. Elder Courts facilitate legal issues specifically for seniors, including coordinating, scheduling, and making referrals to providers.
- **Preserve and expand programs that support caregivers.** Families are the major provider of long-term care for older adults, but research has shown that caregiving exacts a heavy emotional and financial toll. Almost half of all caregivers are over age 50, making them more vulnerable to a decline in their own health, and one-third describe their own health as fair to poor. Support increased efforts to support caregivers through creation of a Blue-Ribbon Caregiver Council and restoration of funding to Caregiver Resource Centers.
- **Support adequate and stable funding for the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP).** LTCOP is mandated, through State and federal law, to protect residents' rights and ensure that residents are treated with respect and dignity. Complaints identified and investigated by Ombudsmen are often the precursors to

more severe cases of abuse and neglect. Increased ongoing funding would enable the program to conduct vital unannounced monitoring visits to all long-term care facilities in Alameda County; recruit, supervise and train volunteer Ombudsmen; investigate more complaints per year; and, advocate for residents rights and safety.

- **Protect and increase funding, capacity, and access to critical senior services and programs.** Support restorations and expansions of programs that help older adults age with independence and dignity in their homes and communities. This includes the Adult Day Health Care, Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP), PACE (Program of All-Include Care for the Elderly), and other Medicaid funded services.

- **Promote retirement savings.** Less than half of California's private sector workers have access to an employer-sponsored retirement plan. Support State and federal policies that promote retirement savings and make it easier to save.

- **Increase funding for programs that support the integration of health care and social services focused on aging and advance care planning.** Funding a whole person approach to care and reducing barriers to the integration of health and social service systems will increase the coordination of services and allow sharing of vital health information. The integration of advance care planning into a health and social services regimen allows time to put social supports in place before self-care and mobility are limited by the downward trajectory of a terminal illness. The ability to stay at home with integrated health care and social services may reduce hospital readmissions, futile treatments, and suffering from symptom burdens, while also improving the quality of care at the end of life.

- **Preserve, restore, and increase funding for community-based programs for seniors and people with disabilities.** Over the past few years, senior safety net funding for multiple programs under the Older Californians Act and Older Americans Act has been eliminated or severely reduced. Support preserving, reinstating and increasing funding for these and other programs that support seniors and people with disabilities.

- **Increase funding to expand services specifically for older adults with mental health and co-occurring substance abuse issues.** Behavioral health concerns are not a normal part of the aging process. Mental illness and substance use disorders are major impediments to living well in old age; they cause considerable personal suffering and make it difficult for older people to achieve their potential. Older adults who become disabled by mental illness deserve the same guarantee of care already extended to those who face other kinds of disabilities.

For more information on these issues, please see the Behavioral Health section in the Health Chapter.

- **Protect and enhance funding for Older Americans Act (OAA) appropriations.** OAA provides the federal mandate to fund Area Agencies on Aging (AAA). The services that the AAA provides to residents age 60 and older are often underfunded or restricted. Support the protection and enhancement of appropriation to the OAA Titles and additional local flexibility in Title III funding. Support 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. Support increased federal funding and flexibility.

- **Increase funding and support for Aging & Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs).** ADRCs serve as single points of access into the long-term supports and services system for older adults and people with disabilities. Support increased appropriations to the ADRCs as well as any measures that can strengthen the structure and resources available to ADRCs.

- **Support expansion of the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP).** SCSEP is the largest federally-funded program specifically targeting older adults seeking employment and training assistance. In 2016 under SCSEP, 70,000 older adults received on-the-job training while providing nearly 36 million hours of staff support to 30,000 organizations.

- **Protect the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF) in the Affordable Care Act (ACA).** Every 11 seconds an older adult is treated in an emergency room for a fall-related injury. Support protecting funding for PPHF, specifically preserving the Center for Disease Control's Fall Prevention program.

Protect Vulnerable Adults

Alameda County Division of Adult Protection consists of Adult Protective Services (APS), Office of the Public Guardian-Conservator (PG/PC), and the Public Administrator's Office (PA). Together these programs provide a continuum of services that form a safety net for vulnerable adults.

- **Institute a federal mandate for Adult Protective Services (APS) that includes adequate and stable funding.** Training for APS workers and their partner agencies is severely underfunded (a fraction of funding is received compared to child welfare workers who deal with similar situations) and has not kept pace with rising cases. 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 child abuse victims receive. APS programs require ongoing State and federal funding and support to be able to maintain and expand a highly-trained workforce to successfully serve vulnerable elders and dependent adults. Additionally, federal funding is necessary to address the needs of underserved groups, including rural older adults, elders of color, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) elders. Support increased federal and State funding for APS programs and training.
- **Protect and enhance funding and supports to preserve housing and prevent eviction for seniors and dependents adults who are victims of abuse or neglect.** Senior and dependent adults who are the victims of abuse or neglect are among the most vulnerable to becoming homeless. Support State and federal funding for services, case-management, and resources to help preserve stable housing for vulnerable elders and dependent adults.
- **Protect and increase services and supports for elderly or dependent adults who are victims of financial abuse.** Financial abuse is estimated to account for 40 percent of all forms of reported abuse against seniors. Dependent adults also face similar challenges. Additional services and supports are needed for education, prevention, and investigation of financial abuse and exploitation of these populations.
- **Raise awareness of elder and dependent adult abuse.** Specifically, support State and federal efforts to better define elder and dependent abuse and ensure consistency in data tracking and reporting. Efforts should be made to lift up the issue and raise public awareness of this silent epidemic.
- **Enhance coordination to respond to crimes against elders and dependent adults.** Support State and federal efforts to make it easier for agencies (including law enforcement, District Attorneys, Public Guardians, Victim/Witness Programs, and the Victims Compensation Board, etc.) that respond to crimes against elder and dependent adults to coordinate services. This should include support to identify, prevent, and remedy elder and dependent adult abuse.
- **Improve data collection on elder and dependent adult abuse.** There is a lack of good data on elder and dependent abuse. The most recent national numbers (from 2009) estimate that 11 percent of older Americans experience abuse, neglect, or exploitation in the community (this survey excluded individuals in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities). The actual prevalence is likely even higher. The National Council on Aging also estimates that only one in 14 cases of abuse come to the attention of officials. Additional State and federal support is needed to improve local data collection on the incidence of elder and dependent adult abuse.
- **Protect and increase services and supports for elderly or dependent adults who are victims of crimes.** Individuals with disabilities and seniors have a disproportionately high victimization rate. According to the most recent Bureau of Justice Statistics report, the rate of serious violent crimes is three times higher for those with disabilities than those without. Additional services and supports are needed for education, prevention, and investigation of abuse and exploitation of seniors and individuals with disabilities.
- **Protect funding the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP, known as HICAP in California).** Each year SHIPs support over 15,000 counselors who provide free, state-specific assistance to over six million people. In Alameda County, HICAP is provided by Legal Assistance for Seniors, and helps thousands of people navigate the complexities of Medicare, many of them referred to HICAP by the Medicare help line. Alameda County supports policies that protect State and federal funding for SHIP/HICAP.
- **Provide and enhance appropriations authorized under the Elder Justice Act.** This funding would help

provide vital adult protective services in states and counties and allow for continued research on elder abuse.

- **Preserve and enhance existing funding sources.** Alameda County supports the enhancement of existing programmatic funding sources that provide either direct or indirect services to seniors and people with disabilities. Alameda County opposes the proposed elimination of flexible funding sources, such as the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) and Community Services Block Grant (CSBG).

Better Serve Veterans

Alameda County supports policies that assist veterans with accessing benefits, housing, and stable employment.

- **Increase employment opportunities for veterans.** Support policies that help veterans access employment in the public and private sectors. Specifically, support 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.** Support 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.
- **Protect veterans funding.** Support efforts to ensure that Veterans Affairs services 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.** Support the Department of Veterans Affairs in providing outreach services that educate veterans on the benefits for which they are eligible. Specifically, increased funding and support to assist veterans in need of compensation, medical, rehabilitative, educational, and employment services.

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 given multiple years of funding cuts at the State and federal levels. The Council strongly supports efforts to protect and improve early care and education funding, ensuring the availability of quality child care, increasing subsidies and expanding 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, the Child Care and Development Block Grant, and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families.
- **Take positions on federal initiatives and budget appropriations that positively 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.**
- **Support 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 issued Child Care and Development Block Grant regulations that are laudable and create significant resource needs.
- **Increase ECE reinvestment:** Adjusted for inflation federal ECE expenditures are much lower than the preceding decade.
- **Increase 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) engages in cross-system collaboration by improving interagency communication, developing child-friendly policies and practices, and initiating systems changes that result in healthy, safe, and thriving children and youth throughout Alameda County. Comprised of County department directors and leaders, ICPC provides advocacy and leadership to improve and enhance service delivery and outcomes for children and youth. Our priorities for legislative advocacy are guided by a set of overarching principles that emphasize equity, upstream investment, and interagency collaboration. ICPC supports legislative actions that:

- Prioritize the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families, regardless of immigration or housing status
- Recognize and mitigate systemic inequities in public systems;
- Support evidence-based policies and programs to ensure healthy, educated children, stable families, and safe and supportive communities.
- Bolster, enhance, and innovate safety net programs that serve our most vulnerable populations;
- Recognize wealth inequality and provide equitable access to economic opportunity and self-sufficiency for all Alameda County residents;
- Remove barriers to public and private interagency collaboration; and
- Preserve and increase funding streams dedicated to upstream and preventative investments in children and youth.

Our vision for healthy, safe, and thriving children, youth, and families includes ensuring the following priorities are addressed. ICPC advocates for policy change and legislative action that increases equitable outcomes across the following domains:

Healthy

- Ensure all children are born healthy;
- Give parents adequate support they need to care for young children;
- Support consistent access to quality medical, dental, and behavioral health care;
- Support prevention of childhood obesity and increase overall family health;
- Ensure access to safe spaces for physical activity within their own communities; and
- Ensure access to quality nutritious foods and guarantee access to safe drinking water in schools and communities.

Safe

- Strengthen all families to ensure all children and youth live in safe and stable environments;
- Ensure safe, affordable housing for all families with children and youth, and unaccompanied transitional age youth;
- Prioritize prevention, diversion, and restorative justice practices that impede youth involvement in juvenile justice systems;
- Guarantee freedom from mistreatment, abuse, neglect, and violence; and
- Address and mitigate the impacts of trauma on children, youth, and families.

Thriving

- Ensure all families have the ability to meet basic needs— nutritious food, shelter, clothing, health care, and accessible transportation;
- Guarantee that all children have equitable access to a quality education and opportunities that promote success in life and future careers;
- Ensure children have the right to a voice and representation in matters that affect them; and
- Support and sustain programs promoting healthy development and care coordination for families and children.

HEALTH

HEALTH CARE ACCESS, QUALITY, AND AFFORDABILITY

All key provisions of the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) are in place as of January 2014, and the legislation has been successful in reducing the rates of uninsured and in the nation. According to the US Census Bureau, the rate of U.S. residents who were uninsured fell from 13.3 percent in 2013 to 10.4 percent in 2014; in California, the rate of uninsured fell from 17.2 percent in 2013 to 12.4 percent in 2014, a decline of almost 5 percentage points. In the County, the rate of uninsured fell from 12.6 percent in 2013 to 8.2 percent in 2014. However, there were still approximately 65,000 people with incomes <200 percent FPL who were uninsured in the County.

The County embraces the “Triple Aim:” improving patient experience, satisfaction and quality, the health of populations, and cost-effectiveness. For health care reform to further succeed, we must maximize health insurance affordability, eligibility, enrollment, and retention, as well as ensuring broad access to appropriate and high quality health care. Special attention should be paid to policies that:

- **Simplify the health insurance application process** for all, especially hard-to-reach and underserved populations.
- **Increase 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 where there are physician shortages and use of a wider range of healthcare team members, such as community health workers.
- **Expand dental care access and preventive services for low-income Californians.** Dental health is a preventive disease, an integral part of overall health and can have impacts on children’s growth, development, self-esteem, and learning. The County supports policies that would increase prevention services and new more efficient models of care, such as the virtual dental home and expanded dental teams.
- **Promote federal payment reform** that increases the ability to provide preventive services and establishes risk-sharing between hospitals and primary care. Support payment reform that incentivizes positive health outcomes, not just the ability to bill for more tests or visits. It should promote health education and allow same-day visits for better integrated care, and enable doctors to spend more time with patients at the initial visit to improve the quality of overall care.
- **Ensure maintenance and enhancement of the safety net system.** Increase provider rates; improve transitions of care (e.g. from acute or specialty care to primary care medical homes); and support policies that provide coverage to those with part-time or temporary employment. Use the opportunities provided by the 1115 Medi-Cal 2020 Waiver to enhance integration and effectiveness of the safety net healthcare system. Support adequate Per Member Per Month (PMPM) payments for health home services and the new Health Home Program under Affordable Care Act Section 2703.
- **Support improved treatment of chronic pain while reducing inappropriate prescription of opioids and their unsafe storage and disposal.** For example, support coverage for and access to acupuncture, physical therapy, and other non-pharmaceutical interventions to treat chronic pain and opioid addiction, and reduce barriers to opioid and other medication collection sites.
- **Preserve and increase funding for community health centers** in order to meet the increased demand for health center services among the ACA’s Medicaid Coverage Expansion population.
- **Protect the confidentiality and privacy of individuals** by not disclosing personal information to the US Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) and other entities for purposes not directly related to administering the program or protecting the individual or public health.

MEDICAID AND HEALTH CARE REFORM

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA) allowed states to expand Medicaid (Medi-Cal in California). Medi-Cal is California's health insurance program for eligible low-income individuals and families. Beginning in January 2014, Medi-Cal was expanded to include income-eligible childless, non-disabled, adults. Enrollment locally and across the State exceeded all predictions and one-third of California residents are currently receiving Medi-Cal. Alameda County supports efforts to leverage health care reform to enroll children, individuals and families in the full range of benefits for which they are eligible. *For more information on public benefits (SNAP and TANF), please see the Human Services Chapter.*

Medicaid

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

- **Protect and support the Affordable Care Act (ACA).** Support protecting rules and requirements for Medicaid and Exchange enrollment under the ACA that reduce program complexity, recognize the county role in eligibility and enrollment, and support Statewide Automated Welfare System (SAWS) consortia information technology modernization efforts. Alameda County opposes any policies and efforts to cut funding, reduce current program benefits, or restrict eligibility to the Medicaid program. Without necessary funding many families and individuals could lose access to health care, jeopardizing their well-being, and the health of their communities.
- **Protect Medicaid funding.** Alameda County opposes efforts to reduce federal funding for Medicaid administration or benefits, including efforts to place a per-capita cap on funding, create Medicaid block grants for states, or limit the ability of states to leverage funds through assessments on providers.
- **Support the protection of and expansion of Medicaid.** Support the protection of and expansion of Medicaid for individuals who do not have access to insurance, especially families, children, and individuals with pre-existing health conditions.
- **Oppose the imposition of work requirements for Medicaid.** Alameda County opposes placing burdensome work requirements as a condition for the receipt of Medicaid. Medicaid recipients are primarily children, families, people with disabilities, and vulnerable adults working low-paying jobs that do not provide health insurance. Most adults on Medicaid who can work do. Work requirements would serve to potentially deny life-saving services that promote community health and well-being, when non-compliance with overly burdensome requirements may be due to discrimination in labor practices outside of their control such as hiring, consistency of scheduling, or pay.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Behavioral health problems (mental health and/or substance use disorders) are significant public health problems impacting millions, and are associated with other chronic diseases that often result in morbidity and mortality. The effects of mental illness can range from minor disruptions in daily functioning to incapacitating personal, social, and occupational impairments and premature death.

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

- **Develop a consolidated billing structure for Medicaid and Medicare:** Medicaid and Medicare have separate reimbursement criteria and methodologies that have become increasingly problematic and costly as the number of individuals covered under both Medicaid and Medicare (dual eligible) has risen. Having two separate, distinct systems, with different reimbursement criteria, contributes to time-intensive billing processes that are cumbersome, confusing and increase the cost of care. Having one consolidated billing system would decrease costs as well as increase billing ease and efficiency.

- **End the Medicaid lock out of reimbursable mental health and substance use disorder treatment services for youth and adults who are incarcerated.** Research shows that 50 percent or more of state prisoners meet the criteria for a diagnosis of drug abuse or dependence, but only 10 percent receive medically-based drug treatment. Similarly for youth, as many as four out of five teens in the juvenile justice system have drug or alcohol problems, yet fewer than 20 percent have access to substance abuse treatment programs. Additionally, more than 8 in 10 formally incarcerated individuals have chronic physical, mental, or substance abuse disorders 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 in both the juvenile and adult prison systems have the potential to yield substantial health and economic benefits.

REDUCING INEQUITIES IN HIV

In 1998, Alameda County instituted a State of Emergency due to the disproportionate impact of HIV among African Americans. Approximately 40 percent of all HIV infections in the County occur in this group, yet African Americans comprise only 11.6 percent of the population. HIV also disproportionately impacts Latinos and men who have sex with men in the County. Although overall rates of HIV in women are lower, they are even more concentrated in African American women than in other women. It is the goal of the County to stop the transmission of HIV, improve HIV treatment outcomes and combat HIV-related health disparities. Biomedical interventions to prevent and treat HIV are now well-established and should be implemented in coordination with harm reduction efforts, wrap-around services, and traditional prevention (especially education and condom distribution) in order to meet the County goal. This can best be accomplished by supporting legislation and policy that facilitates access to testing, treatment, Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis/Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP/PEP), and related services for all impacted populations while at the same time reducing stigma.

- **Support Funding for HIV Prevention and Care:** Increase funding for HIV prevention and care. Powerful tools exist for preventing, diagnosing and treating HIV. Increased funding will lead to increased access to and more effective use of these tools in impacted communities.
- **Support funding for housing and other supportive services:** Alameda County residents infected with or at risk of contracting HIV cannot consistently access HIV-related services without also addressing basic needs such as food and shelter. Supporting funding to meet these needs for populations affected by HIV is essential to reduce the impact of HIV in the County.

SYSTEMS OF CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Children and adults with disabilities in California rely on systems of care that have been chronically underfunded. The US economy is in its seventh year of recovery from the Great Recession, but the disability community has not shared in these economic gains. The need for full restoration of essential safety net services should remain a priority. Disability status is almost a guarantee of significant disparity in Alameda County: one in five people with a disability live in poverty compared to one in ten people without a disability; the percentage of adults with less than a high school education is over twice as high among people with disabilities than those without disabilities; only 22 percent of people with disabilities are employed compared to 67 percent of those without disabilities, and people with disabilities are more likely to experience a high housing cost burden compared to those without disabilities based on low and extremely low income status. Alameda County supports policies that result in better outcomes for children and adults with disabilities, and the development of services designed for all our residents. Restoration of funding, reinvestment in new services, and reform strategies are necessary for the stabilization of our compromised systems of care in order to provide a quality of life beyond institutionalized poverty for children and adults with disabilities.

- **Reform Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Payment (SSI/SSP) Payment Structure.** SSI/SSP payments are a critical source of income for people with disabilities, but current rates are tied to 1972 legislation and provide income below the poverty line. The SSI payment is below \$900 a month. Support legislation that increases Supplemental Security Income payments, allows SSI recipients to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, raises asset limits and updates the earned and

general income disregard for individuals with disabilities. Financial constraints inherent in the program discourage savings, work, and financial security through restrictions on income and asset limits. Create policies that encourage asset building and lead to financial security, and include cost of living increases.

- **Support the development of national, state and local policies that create an infrastructure of programs and services that assist individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families.** Increase funding to local governments and school districts to meet the fiscal challenges of providing for a large population of individuals with ASD. ASD is the fastest growing serious developmental disability and has a national annual economic impact of \$137 billion. In the County, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Autism cases have increased 1,573 percent since 1990 (representing just a portion of the overall clinically-defined population). The report, “Autism Rising”, notes that based on current averages for cost of services for adults with autism, Regional Center annual costs will nearly triple over the next ten years, and do not include non-regional center costs such as parental expenses, In-Home Support Services, SSI or housing assistance, and do not address significant future factors such as aging parents, cost-of-living increases or the need for higher levels of support as the ASD population ages.
- **Oppose the elimination of federal programs proposed under the guise of “budget restructuring” such as ACL’s Partnerships for Innovation, Inclusion and Independence (P3I) proposal.** The P3I proposed by the President’s budget seeks to consolidate the advocacy and support activities of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD), State Independent Living Council (SILC) and State Advisory Council on Traumatic Brain Injury for an achieved savings of \$57 million. These three agencies serve three distinctly different populations which require an expertise in each of their respective disability subgroups; consolidation would be both devastating and illogical, and be disruptive to their respective goals. Budget cuts to these successful although underfunded programs would have a detrimental effect on the individuals with disabilities that they are tasked to serve.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 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 has also expanded access to care and preventive services for many Alameda County residents. It is critical that these gains not be reversed. 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 for example, a key maternal and child health indicator, has remained constant over the last ten years. Being born at low birth weight 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 to four times higher than whites and African-American women are three to four 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 family planning and abortion services, and case management where appropriate – will continue to be important, as will program and policy efforts that 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.

- **Support access to comprehensive, low cost and readily accessible reproductive health services, including family planning, emergency contraception and abortion services.** Special attention should be paid to policies that 1) do not limit the range of options available and 2) ensure access to accurate, unbiased information about reproductive and sexual health for youth and adults. Policy changes that have expanded access to health care for women and men of reproductive age must be maintained.
- **Support level or increased funding for the Title V Maternal and Child Health Services block grant.** For the

last 80 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, SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) Education, and other health education and promotion efforts.

- **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.
- **Support the continued ability of local health jurisdictions to draw down Title XIX money.** Title XIX Medicaid monies are available for activities that link Medicaid-eligible individuals to care and are a significant source of funds for many services that reach low-income women, children and families, including early childhood home visiting programs.
- **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, reduce disparities in perinatal health, and improve perinatal outcomes through grants to project areas with high rates of infant mortality. In Alameda County, the Healthy Start program has been in place since 1991. It provides case management, navigation and support services, health education and empowerment groups and neighborhood-based interventions for low income, multi-stressed African-American women, children and families in the zip codes with the highest infant mortality rates.
- **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.
- **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 and expanding part of Alameda County's home visiting system of care.
- **Support efforts to ensure safe, stable and affordable housing for pregnant women and families with young children.** Pregnancy, infancy and early childhood are critical periods where adverse social conditions can have a disproportionate effect on health and development. Living in substandard housing, experiencing neighborhood violence or being homeless for even short periods of time during the early stages of life can expose young children and their families to dangerous levels of toxic stress, resulting in potential damage to their long-term health, well-being and overall life trajectory.
- **Support legislation to enhance and support early childhood development such as comprehensive paid parental leave and universal preschool.** Paid family leave enables parents to spend a minimum of six to eight weeks with newborns, which is recommended by physicians. Currently, fewer than 15 percent of workers have access to paid family leave and only half of first-time mothers take any kind of leave around the time of their child's birth. Universal preschool legislation in other states, such as Oklahoma, have resulted in improved fourth grade reading scores, a strong predictor of high school graduation and overall success later in life.
- **Support funding for the equitable inclusion of services for men in local family support systems of care.** For decades publicly funded family support systems of care have provided services to ensure the health and well-being of women and children. Federal and state funding is needed to address the health and wellbeing of men and assure their inclusion in family support programming so that they can successfully engage with their families and children. This funding should be directed towards programs, agencies, and organizations that are open to and inclusive of the needs of men and that provide father-specific services and activities that further

the goal of increasing fathers' involvement in their children's lives. Additionally, the County supports legislation to ensure full access to physical and mental health services for men, particularly for men re-entering the community from the local criminal justice systems.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Communicable diseases are among the top 10 leading causes of death in the United States and the fourth leading cause of death worldwide. Control of communicable disease is a core public safety function of government at the local, State, and federal levels. Fulfilling this function requires a sustained, adequately funded infrastructure that monitors, evaluates, and responds to communicable disease threats. Communicable diseases are kept in control only through continual vigilance and ongoing efforts, even when a threat may not be apparent. In addition, the threat of bioterrorism requires Health Officers be prepared to recognize and respond to possible cases of intentional outbreaks of unusual diseases such as smallpox, plague, anthrax, or botulism. The three key activities of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention are epidemiology and surveillance, communicable disease response, and vaccine-preventable disease programs. Support for these key areas will help protect public health infrastructure and capacity to control and prevent communicable diseases in the County.

Key federal priorities in 2018 are:

- **Support and restore adequate funding for personnel with the capacity for communicable disease control and prevention.** Adequate funding is needed to recruit and retain experienced masters and doctoral level epidemiologists, nurse and medical epidemiologists, public health investigators, bioinformaticists to analyze genomic sequencing data, and health educators. Personnel with this training and experience are required to assure timely and effective investigation and response to outbreaks, emerging infectious diseases, pandemics and bioterrorism events.
- **Support increased funding for prevention programs dealing with Sexually Transmitted Disease such as partner services, pre-exposure prophylaxis, early testing, and education and outreach.**
- **Maintain Ryan White funding for HIV services not covered in the Affordable Care Act.** Maintenance of funding is also critical for on-going local support and technical assistance.
- **Support restoration and augmentation of funding for tuberculosis (TB) control and prevention.** Adequate funding includes increased resources for treatment of costly and dangerous multi-drug resistant TB, treatment of latent tuberculosis infection as prevention of disease, adequate health care access and insurance coverage for all persons requiring tuberculosis assessment and treatment. Globally, TB is the leading cause of infectious death, killing more people than AIDS. In 2015, the US had the first national increase in TB cases since 1992. Despite these concerning trends, funding for the CDC's domestic TB program has been threatened by cuts, which will lead to funding cuts for State and local public health programs, leaving our communities vulnerable.
- **Support improved systems and funding for screening and treatment of TB prior to the arrival of new immigrants in the United States.** These systems must include follow up as well, and accessible, culturally competent health care access for evaluation and treatment of new immigrants once they have arrived.
- **Maintain and support ongoing funding for pandemic influenza, and administration of local preparedness programs.** Ongoing financial support is needed to maintain critical services such as Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Health Care Preparedness, Cities Readiness Initiative, Urban Area Security Initiative, State Homeland Security Grant Program, and other crucial funding for emerging infectious diseases, natural disasters, and terrorism planning and response.
- **Support policies that assure access to vaccines for the population.** Policies must assure access to immunizations, public education and outreach regarding immunizations, and improve immunization rates or require immunizations in key settings such as schools and other settings with vulnerable populations and/or high risk of exposures.
- **Support policies and funding that provide resources to adapt and develop locally relevant and culturally competent public education and outreach regarding communicable diseases, immunizations, and public health emergency preparedness and response.** The broad diversity of local communities requires the capability to communicate in culturally relevant modes to ensure the education and safety of all residents.

- **Promote & support policies and practices to prevent healthcare associated infections and antibiotic resistance.** Healthcare associated infections (HAI) are infections acquired while receiving health care. They are increasingly becoming a significant cause of morbidity and mortality in the U.S., and a substantial public health challenge. These infections are preventable and require robust programs and policies in order to reduce or eliminate HAIs. Effective policies and programs are also needed to strengthen the response to antimicrobial resistance, such as enhanced coordination and leadership, surveillance, prevention and control, and research efforts for new antibiotics and implementation of antibiotic stewardship programs to improve appropriate use of antibiotics across multiple health, industrial and food production systems.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Natural and human-made disasters including the recent fires in California, earthquakes, acts of terrorism, projections of more frequent and severe extreme weather events and emerging communicable diseases demonstrate the need to ensure that Alameda County has a coordinated system in place to respond to any hazard. Building the response capacity of public health, emergency medical services and health care systems includes planning for a “surge” of patients. The Public Health Department and Emergency Medical Services (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. The following will ensure that our State and local disaster response systems are adequately prepared to respond in an emergency, prepared to respond to long-term health issues from disaster, and prepared to maintain continuity of operations:

- **Support funding for regional communications.** Regional planning must take place to develop communication systems that are functional in a mutual aid response situation. Clear leadership provided by the State Department of Public Health and EMS Authority should promote improved communication with the public and private sector. Funding is needed to support robust and redundant systems and enhance existing communications and information management systems.
- **Develop systems for vulnerable populations.** Develop and fund systems to ensure that services are delivered in a timely and efficient manner to vulnerable populations with special consideration for children and adults with disabilities requiring functional or access support services, as well as low income populations, seniors, children, individuals with language barriers and other specific needs. Pre-planning for disaster response must be focused on those who are dependent on others such as caretakers in the event of a large-scale public health emergency.
- **Secure funding for disaster preparedness, response and mitigation.** Support legislation that promotes funding for medical and health disaster planning, coordination, response and mitigation including infrastructure and emergency response personnel.

REDUCING INEQUITIES IN CHRONIC DISEASES

In Alameda County the 4 leading causes of death: cancer, heart disease, stroke, and chronic lower Respiratory Disease, are due to chronic diseases and account for 57 percent of all deaths. Diabetes and Hypertension account for another 5.7 percent of deaths. Despite overall increases in life expectancy among all racial/ethnic groups, there has been a growing disparity in life expectancy rates. 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 6.5 years.

- **Support chronic disease screening, detection, education and care management system** - Chronic diseases disproportionately affect people of color. Poor screening, access to care, and the lack of understanding of how to manage these diseases leads to complications and premature death. The County supports expanding and enforcing a chronic disease system of care that includes the payment for and provision of self-management education to people with chronic diseases.

- **Protect and support child nutrition standards and efforts to expand access to food assistance programs and increase benefits through the Farm Bill and Child Nutrition Reauthorization** – Streamline systems to automatically refer Medi-Cal recipients to SNAP and WIC or automatically qualify for SNAP and WIC. Advocate for California to be able to use a separate income guideline aligned to the higher cost of living, as Hawaii and Alaska has done. Increase the value of WIC food packets, extending infant certification to age 2, extend child eligibility to age 6, and extend benefits to non-breastfeeding mothers until the child turns 1.
- **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, allow family leave, foster child bonding, and create breastfeeding-friendly work places 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 marketing has increased greatly, particularly concentrated in low income communities, leading to an increase in childhood obesity and its associated diseases.
- **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 - SNAP (formerly Food Stamps), Women, Infants and Children (WIC), and School Meals Program (Breakfast/Lunch) would greatly increase the numbers of children served.
- **Create "Asthma-Friendly" communities:** Support 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 Institute's 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 reducing diesel emissions in our communities, and improving housing conditions to meet the standards of a healthy home while holding those responsible for the conditions to a legal standard.
- **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. The USDA's programs 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.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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

- **Policies and funding that promotes environmental health and justice.** People of color and low-income communities are disproportionately impacted by environmental pollution and climate change, particularly children and elderly. Environmental pollution, including conditions of blight and climate change degrades and poses added risks to the environment and public health. Support policies and funding that uses a "precautionary approach," prevents and mitigates environmental pollution, increases monitoring and enforcement action, creates green jobs and spurs the green economy, and seeks to meaningfully involve community residents most impacted by pollution decision-making in order to address health disparities, cumulative health impacts and further environmental justice.
- **Legislation that regulates the shipment and processing of fossil fuels for local use or export to reduce local impacts to health and safety.** Changes in the fossil fuel industry have resulted in plans by producers to increase exports of coal and liquid petroleum products by rail to seaports. Rail incidents involving crude oil jumped nearly sixteen fold nationally between 2010 and 2014. Fossil fuels transported by rail to port facilities in

Alameda County would disproportionately impact the health of low-income communities of color but provide little benefit to those communities. Greater federal oversight is needed to regulate shipments in order to ensure the safety and health of all County residents.

- **Effective Product Stewardship/Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation.** EPR is a strategy that shifts the responsibility for end of life/residual management to the producers by internalizing the cost of collection and disposal in the price of the product. This includes, but is not limited to, existing and emerging waste streams such as pharmaceuticals, sharps, household batteries, fluorescent lamps and marine flares. Effective product stewardship legislation should apply to all manufacturers across a particular product spectrum, have required minimum collection rates, increasing collection goals over the course of the program, no line item fee at the point of purchase or fee at the point of surrender and no local preemption clause.

- **Toxics Reduction and Environmental Health.** The release of toxic chemicals into our environment impacts human health and the health of the ecosystems on which our communities rely. Policies to address this issue include: 1) Health Equity. Support policies and funding for programs that prevent and mitigate the disproportionate environmental and health impacts of pollution and vehicular traffic through and within low-income communities, including commodities being transported such as coal and oil. Support policies and funding to reduce the costs of utilities and reduce health burdens of pollution on all communities; 2) Reducing Toxics Impact. Support legislation and programs that reduce the amount of chemicals released into our environment and that impact worker health including, but not limited to, sustainable agriculture practices, integrated pest management, and microplastic pollution. Oppose policies and practices that allow industry to unduly influence the assessment of the health or environmental impacts of chemicals for the purposes of regulatory decision making; and 3) Regulating Dangerous Chemicals. Support policies to speed the evaluation of potentially dangerous chemicals, to regulate classes of chemicals, not just individual chemicals, known to have adverse impacts on human health, and reform the federal Toxic Substances Control Act to better protect human and environmental health.

EDUCATION

To promote equity and ensure a bright future for all of our children, the County supports federal-level education policies that achieve the following across the life course:

- **Sustain and increase equitable Federal Budget funding for public education regardless of immigration status and prioritize resources for low-income students of color.** Support policies that protect and increase and create more equitable and transparent funding for public education to increase reading proficiency and literacy, particularly for third-grade students of color, and promote family engagement, while ensuring fair taxation for residents and businesses. Protect and increase investments to increase parent engagement, to the arts, music, physical education, academic tutoring, literacy and after-school enrichment programs, including 21st Century Community Learning Centers funding, and increase internships, and college and career preparedness. Promote policies that support funding and adoption of Linked Learning; more flexible adult education, particularly to support transitioning youth after being released by probation by supporting Transition Center services and allowing youth to finish credits towards receiving high school diplomas and improving the connection with school districts within County; and increasing educational opportunities for people that are formerly incarcerated. The County supports full funding for IDEA (special education services), Common Core Standards Implementation and for SBAC (school testing method).

- **Protect and support policies and increased funding to ensure all high school students graduate college and career ready.** For those unable to graduate, support policies to ensure the highest level of training that result in better employment outcomes, including obtaining a GED, alternative schools, on the job work experience or other pathways to receive diploma credits and a high school diploma, such as Civic Corps. The County supports policies that prepare high school students for college and career and promote equity in access to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics education, while providing wraparound supports, reduction of disproportionate graduation and drop-out rates. The County supports the creation of more opportunities for sustainable funding streams for Linked Learning, career pathways and career technical training, such as the California Career Pathway Trust Fund, particularly for low-income students of color, students with disabilities, foster youth, and boys of color.

- **Protect and increase funding, access and affordability to post-secondary education and provide debt management assistance regardless of immigration status.** Support policies and funding to strengthen and promote equity in the community college and university systems and remove barriers to educational opportunities. Sustain and increase policies and funding that ensure affordable tuition and reduce the burden of student debt. The County supports tax credits for education expenses such as the American Opportunity Tax Credit, expansion of education subsidies for those in need such as 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, the County supports strengthening policies, such as the DREAM Act, that provide residency status and increase access and funding to post-secondary education for undocumented youth and legislation that extends and increases access to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals to increase deferred action from deportation and access to work permits.
- **Eliminate inequities in funding and access to quality teachers, particularly teachers of early childhood, special education, and Dual Language Learners.** Support policies to increase investments in recruitment, retention and support of teachers through competitive salaries, high-quality mentoring, and ongoing professional development, especially among teachers in low-income schools, special education teachers, and teachers of English Language Learners and special education. Support policies that increase mentoring and professional development of administrators and teachers including training on restorative practices, diversity, inclusion, trauma-informed care and mental health. The County supports efforts to protect, stabilize and increase funding for Early Care and Education professional development, with a focus on dedicated paid training days for staff at Title V-contracted centers.
- **Eliminate inequities to quality early childhood education access.** Increase funding for Early Care and Childhood Education; adequately fund inclusive early childhood education classrooms. Increase efforts to subsidize early childhood programs and improve the link between reimbursement rates for State-contracted programs and those funded with vouchers, and continue to expand funds for a Quality Rating and Improvement System for all Early Childhood Education programs.
- **Increase funding to promote full service community schools and ensure all students are healthy and ready to learn.** Support adoption of full service community schools, resources for coordination of learning supports (i.e. community school coordinators), and promotion of partnerships between youth, families, schools, community-based organizations, businesses, and other entities. Support increased funding for full service community schools through the adoption of comprehensive and sustainable education revenues and a reform package that establishes an equitable, adequate finance system that ensures transparency, continues to enable greater local decision-making flexibility, and strengthens human capital and accountability. The County supports efforts that increase access to violence prevention programs and services, including programs that promote healthy inter-personal relationships.
- **Sustain and support policies that prevent the school to prison pipeline that disproportionately affects low income students of color and students with disabilities.** Provide funding for programs and services particularly in schools with low academic performance, low income students of color, and particularly for African American and Latino males. Provide funded mandates for schools to create an absenteeism and truancy early warning system that identifies frequently absent children and connects them and their families to comprehensive, wraparound services and interventions, such as coordinated medical care, behavioral and mental health services, youth development programs, parent, family and community engagement programs. Increase funding for programs such as male involvement programs and mentoring that aim to reduce disparities in early literacy skills, graduation rates, and dropout rates for low-income students and students of color, particularly boys of color.
- **Ensure students with disabilities have equitable access to educational opportunities.** Improve the identification rate of students with disabilities to promote equal access to education. The County supports strengthening the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, legislation designed to ensure that students with disabilities are provided with education that is tailored to their individual needs and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, which prohibits discrimination based on disability.

- **Support policies and practices that abolish the use of physical force and seclusion and eliminate the disproportionate suspension and expulsion rates among students of color and students with disabilities.** Eliminate punitive and zero tolerance policies and preschool suspensions. Supports legislation that builds positive school climates, funding three-tiered behavioral health supports (i.e., universal, targeted and individual supports), staff and teacher training and consultation for the creation of trauma/ healing-informed classrooms and schools, to foster early intervention alternatives to expulsions and suspensions, and reforms in suspension policies for defiance at all grade levels, particularly for African American students, and Latino and Pacific Islander males. Also support policies that increase transparency, accountability and professional development of administrators and teachers including training in restorative practices, diversity, inclusion and mental health with a focus on trauma-informed care.
- **Protect and promote health and wellness among all students and healthy school environments.** Increase access to safe, appropriate health, dental and mental health services within schools, including school-based health centers, particularly for students of color and students in families with mixed immigration status, and increased funding flexibility for County services and for building teacher and parental awareness of sexually exploited minors. The County supports comprehensive wellness policies and funding that reduce chronic diseases (such as asthma and diabetes), communicable disease (such as sexually transmitted infections (STI's)), promotes policies and programs aimed at decreasing teen pregnancy and STI's, particularly among youth of color, and that reduce childhood obesity and other physical activity and diet-related diseases. The County supports policies that create healthy school environments both on-campus and in surrounding neighborhoods, including policies that improve access to fresh and nutritious food in and around schools, including protecting and strengthening nutrition guidelines and increasing funding in the Farm Bill Reauthorization; prohibit unhealthy food vendors at or near schools; increase access to clean and safe drinking water, and prevent unnecessary exposure to environmental toxins. The County supports the inclusion of youth in decision-making processes, including former probation youth and foster youth.

IMMIGRATION

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

- **Support deferred action programs and other efforts to make immigration relief available:** Support policies and programs like deferred action that enables eligible immigrants to register with the government, request a reprieve from removal, and apply for a temporary work permit.
- **Protect the health and welfare of children and children whose parents are being detained or deported by Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Border Patrol:** The County supports policies that protect children of parents detained or deported within the current system. Additionally, the County supports policies prioritizing the needs and welfare of children by prioritizing the following: family unity, resources for unaccompanied immigrant youth, creating appropriate, humanitarian, transparent and accountable training policies and protocols for interacting with and screening children.
- **End all detention and deportation programs:** The County supports reforms that reduce the negative impacts of detention and deportation programs on public safety, civil liberties, public health, and the conditions of detainees. The County supports: (1) policies to limit transfers, holds and interviews in local jails and reduce the risk and fear of deportation; (2) policies that reinforce and strengthen privacy protections for state residents; and that promote the constitutional and civil rights of patients, students, workers and individuals seeking critical services in the event of an immigration enforcement action; and (3) programs within detention centers that increase access to medical services for all detainees, and that provide support to all detainees in their native language.
- **Protect against racial profiling based on “perceived” immigration status, ethnicity, religion, language or national origin:** The County supports legislation that identifies and eliminates racial profiling in the public and private sectors.
- **Increase access to culturally and linguistically appropriate behavioral health and health care for**

immigrants: The County supports legislation that increases equitable access to quality, affordable, and culturally and linguistically appropriate health care coverage and services, and includes all categories of immigrants not covered by the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The County supports policies and funding to reduce the barriers to enrollment of undocumented and other uninsured immigrants in Medicare and policies to streamline, integrate and coordinate services and providers, such as a one-stop approach.

- **Promote public safety by supporting policies to ensure that reporting crimes, including domestic violence, to local authorities, does not lead to deportation proceedings.** The county supports work with local law enforcement to help ensure that reporting of crimes does not lead to deportation or other adverse consequences.

- **Protect and promote the well-being of immigrant workers, including undocumented workers:** The County supports legislation that protects immigrant workers, especially vulnerable undocumented population, from wage theft, and extends important labor standards to jobs predominantly occupied by immigrants. The county also supports legislation that protects immigrant workers from immigration-related retaliation by their employers.

- **Ensure nondiscriminatory, equal treatment under the law, and protect the confidentiality and privacy of individuals:** The County supports actions that affirmatively extend access to public services and benefits to all residents, regardless of immigration status, limit inquiries and reduce the collection and recording of information about immigration status, and prohibit the disclosure of information about persons seeking or receiving social services for purposes not directly related to administering the program or protecting individual or public health. Support policies that prohibit landlords from threatening to report tenants to Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Border Patrol. Ensure due process for immigrants in federal and local detention facilities and those facing deportation.

- **Restore benefits to lawfully residing immigrants that were stripped in 1996 legislation that imposed a 5-year ban on federal means-tested benefits for documented immigrants:** The County supports restoring benefits and ensuring legal immigrants have access to basic assistance, including but not limited to linguistically appropriate behavioral health, health care, and nutrition supports.

- **Immigration reform with a clear path to citizenship:** The County supports immigration reform that provides an expedited, common-sense route to citizenship for new Americans who aspire to become citizens, recognizes the contribution of immigrants, and keeps families together in this country. The County supports prioritizing family unity, resources for unaccompanied immigrant youth, and appropriate, humanitarian training policies and protocols for interacting with and screening children. We support policies and programs that ensure the right to an attorney during immigration proceedings for immigrant adults, families and unaccompanied immigrant youth, and the provision of funding to ensure free legal assistance.

JOBS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CREATE A STRONG AND ROBUST JOB-DRIVEN SYSTEM

Invest in Systems and Policies that Support Workers and Employers

- **Preserve and enhance Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Funding.** Support preserving and fully restoring WIOA funding. WIOA is a federal law passed in 2014, which reauthorized the nation's employment and training programs related to adult, dislocated workers and youth, as well as adult education and vocational rehabilitation programs created under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). With recent deep budget cuts across all WIOA program areas, some of the goals of the legislation are unlikely to be met. Additional funding is needed to continue implementation of WIOA. At the core of WIOA is an emphasis on facilitating access to high-quality training programs that lead to industry-recognized valued credentials/certificates within high-growth industries and occupations. To accomplish this, specific funding is needed to develop better coordinated training programs for job seekers. More funding is needed for enhanced

supportive services for job seekers, increased stipends for youth participants in work-based learning programs, and for the coordination and alignment of Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs), California Community College Districts, Adult Schools/Adult Consortium, K-12 education, and Economic Development agencies.

- **Invest in education that prepares individuals for the 21st century workforce.** Support the alignment of the education and workforce investment systems to meet the needs of the 21st century workforce, which promotes and develops a well-educated and highly-skilled workforce. A special effort should be made to support education in the Science, Technology, Education, and Math (STEM) areas and other career within high-growth sectors and occupations.
- **Support affordable higher education.** Support affordable higher education that provides greater access to people seeking credentials and degrees. The cost of college often poses a hardship to graduates and a barrier to people trying to enter higher education to pursue career interests. Research shows the staggering difference in income between people who pursue some form of higher education as opposed to those who don't, and that 48 percent of occupations in the Country will be middle-skills jobs by the year 2024 and 43 percent in California. Middle-skills jobs require more than a high school education but less than a four-year degree, so investments in Career Technical Education (CTE) are critical. The success of the economy will partially rely on how well job seekers are prepared to compete within the economy. Alameda County supports affordable higher education that prepares workers to succeed in the labor market.
- **Support fair, sustainable, and non-stagnant wages.** Support policies that aim to create livable wages, promote income mobility, and close the gender and racial wage gaps. Alameda County supports wage growth and policies/strategies that promote income mobility, in order to combat wage stagnation.
- **Support fair scheduling policies.** Support fair scheduling policies that give workers sufficient time to make alternative arrangements in their schedules, if needed. Part-time workers are subject to last minute scheduling changes, affecting their ability to find child care in a timely manner or make transportation arrangements putting worker's jobs at risk.
- **Promote job creation and economic development.** Support policies and programs that create local jobs. Specifically, Alameda County supports tax incentives, innovative funding mechanisms to support public/private partnerships, waivers, support for small businesses and entrepreneurs, and policies that promote/support locally-made products. Policies should increase resources for "proactive" business assistance programs that prevent closures and mitigate job loss.
- **Support integrated and supported employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities in alignment with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).** Support inclusive policies and programs that provide integrated employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities, as well as proper accommodations and supports in the workplace.
- **Extend workplace rights, protections, and resources to all victims of crime.** All victims should be treated with dignity and respect by their employer and should have access to reasonable time off to receive medical treatment and recover from the crime. Alameda County supports policies that assist victims of crime in maintaining employment, while receiving the proper stabilization services.
- **Support resources and policies that promote workforce alignment activities articulated in Alameda County Workforce Development Board's Regional and Local Plan.** Support and reaffirm the Regional and Local Plan of the Alameda County Workforce Development Board (ACWDB), which acts as a strategic road map for the implementation of the WIOA. The Regional and Local Plan calls for collaborative partnerships that strengthen training outcomes and employment outcomes, and services to job seekers, while enhancing employer engagement and services in Alameda County.
- **Support pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs.** Support robust pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs that prepare youth and adults for employment within high growth industries and occupations. The apprenticeship model is a tried and true approach for helping job seekers simultaneously find meaningful training while earning a sustainable wage. Pre-apprenticeships prepare participants for competitive apprenticeship programs and equip youth and adults with both soft and hard skill development, as well as mentorship opportunities from industry experts.

- **Support the alignment between workforce development, adult education, and the community college districts.** Support the alignment between the existing partners in the workforce system, as education and workforce are inextricably linked and together to support the success of current and future workers. Coordination and alignment in the workforce system will streamline services and reduce duplication of efforts, and will set the state for collaborative and innovative partnerships.
- **Reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education (CTE) Act.** Reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins CET Act is essential to support career technical education at the local level within the California Community College Districts, which can be leveraged by WIOA for further operationalization of high quality CTE programs. CTE programs and courses are aligned with industry needs and result in the attainment of industry-recognized certificates and credentials that can offer quicker onramps to the labor market.
- **Reauthorize the Higher Education Act (HEA).** Reauthorization of the HEA is essential in establishing the government's commitment to higher education. The existing literature around HEA reauthorization points to possible alignment between HEA and WIOA, specifically around workforce-related outcomes, the attainment of industry-recognized credentials/certificates, the expansion of work-based learning opportunities, the development and expansion of sector partnerships, and increased employer engagement in the design of educational programs/curriculum. Alignment can promote a closer-knit relationship between higher education and workforce, and would establish better outcomes for students as they enter the labor force.

Support Individuals with Barriers to Employment

- **Support policies that create employment and educational opportunities for long-term unemployed workers, individuals with disabilities, returning/re-entry populations, low-income adults, marginally attached workers, at-risk youth, and older workers.** Support subsidized employment, supportive services, summer and year-round employment opportunities for youth (including youth in foster care), and programs/resources to help low-income adults, CalWORKs clients, Limited English Proficient (LEP) clients, re-entry populations, marginally attached populations, and older workers obtain the proper education and training leading to employment and income mobility.
- **Support programs that develop and/or enhance employment and educational services to Limited English Proficient (LEP) and immigrants populations.** Support programs that create access to employment, training, and supportive services for LEP and immigrant populations, as well as legislation that promotes the alignment between WIOA and the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act programs, to support the educational attainment of immigrant and foreign-born individuals. Policies should support the partnership between the LWDBs and entities carrying out DREAM Act programs.
- **Support and expand workforce development efforts that promote career pathways and address racial, cultural, and economic disparities in employment outcomes.** Support inclusive programs and policies that help prepare and integrate communities of color, individuals experiencing homelessness, low-income populations, immigrant and migrant workers, older adults, individuals with disabilities, re-entry populations (including women who have been formerly incarcerated), veterans, and other individuals with barriers to employment into the workforce.
- **Expand support of Adult Schools and programs that offer basic and remedial skill attainment for individuals who need on-ramps into sustainable-wage careers.** Support programs and initiatives that provide remediation and supportive services designed to help individuals who need basic skills training in order to be successful.
- **Increase employment opportunities for older adults and individuals with disabilities.** Support policies that combat ageism in the work place against older workers and policies that combat discrimination against individuals with disabilities. Alameda County supports innovative programs that help older adults and individuals with disabilities access training and employment opportunities that lead to competitive and integrated employment. Specifically, we support policies such as subsidized employment or tax incentives that encourage employers to hire older adults and individuals with disabilities.
- **Remove the criminal background check requirement from initial job application requirements.** Support

policies and legislation that support fair hiring for formerly incarcerated individuals, as well as strategies and policies designed to reduce recidivism. Economic opportunity is greatly diminished for formerly incarcerated individuals (who are disproportionately people of color) because of employment discrimination. California and the federal government should pass broad “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 programs and policies that prepare formerly incarcerated individuals for employment before release.** Support programs and policies that are designed to help formerly incarcerated individuals prepare for employment opportunities before release, offering them a greater chance to succeed in the labor market. Evidence points to customized job readiness strategies and transitional jobs as promising strategies for helping re-entry populations re-adjust, as well as services that address mental and behavioral health. Alameda County supports innovative programs that provide relevant interventions to help re-entry clients become contributing members of their communities and society.

- **Provide access to federal financial aid for individuals with previous drug-related offenses.** The opportunity to go to college and improve one’s economic position is limited for those with previous drug offenses because they do not have access to federal student aid. Evidence shows that recidivism is greatest when individuals do not have access to employment and educational opportunities. Alameda County supports removing restrictions on financial aid so that all individuals can have the opportunity to continue their education and become contributing members to the economy and society.

Expand Opportunities for Youth

- **Invest in intensive summer programs geared toward work readiness and STEM-related occupations.** Support initiatives, policies, and programs designed to help youth prepare for employment, apprenticeships and higher education. Summer work-readiness programs geared toward STEM-related occupations, and/or other in-demand occupations, provide applied learning opportunities and ongoing engagement during summer time, where low-income youth are specifically at-risk for losing ground in their education. Summer time can be leveraged to help vulnerable youth learn while gaining valuable work experience, boosting their confidence and helping youth perform better in the academic school year or while pursuing an internship/apprenticeship opportunity. Summer programs also expose youth to careers that will pave their way into career pathways and other earn-and-learn opportunities offered year-long.

- **Preserve, support, and expand programs that serve young people.** Support investments in programs and services targeted at young people both in and out-of-school to assist them in their career and educational development. Specifically, programs should target young people who are at-risk for dropping out of school or have left school, foster youth, homeless youth, juvenile justice involved youth, and other youth with barriers to employment.

- **Preserve, support and expand programs that involve parents/guardians in the workforce programs.** Support two-generation strategies that improve the education and career readiness of youth, while simultaneously improving the education and career readiness of parents/guardians. Alameda County supports the dual engagement and education of parents/guardians and students in decisions related to career path development for youth, including breaking myths related to higher education and training opportunities. Parent/guardians and students should have the most relevant and accurate information to arrive at decisions related to career pathways. Students should feel supported in pursuing prospective careers, while maintaining a sense of autonomy.

- **Support programs designed to reduce the youth unemployment rate and provide/enhance relevant work experience.** One year estimates for youth unemployment in Alameda County for youth ages 16-19 is 14.8 percent and 8.3 percent for youth ages 20-24, translating roughly as 2-3 times greater than the overall unemployment rate in Alameda County. Employment opportunities for youth can be a protective factor, helping youth to form positive interpersonal relationships, build confidence, and relevant work experience. Connecting this early work experience to training opportunities and high-growth career pathways can lead to successful outcomes later in adulthood. Alameda County supports programs and initiatives designed to reduce the youth unemployment rate and strengthen work experiences that lead to high-growth career pathways.

- **Support youth voice in program design and implementation.** Support the integration of youth voice and perspective in the development and implementation of workforce development programs and initiatives. A human-centered design perspective illuminates the importance of design-thinking and involves client voice at the fore-front of program development. It also leverages that same voice throughout the testing, operationalizing, and evaluation of programs.
- **Reinstate a federal summer youth employment program.** Support summer youth employment programs that promote positive youth development and opportunities to explore career pathways and work-based learning especially for vulnerable youth populations. Although many youth are eager to work and begin building their skills, few resources are available to initiate programs specifically focused on populations in low-income communities or distressed neighborhoods, where job opportunities are declining. Summer jobs programs traditionally strive to deliver the first work experience to young adults and prepare them for work as they learn soft skills, career awareness, and some basic skills.

IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES BY ADDRESSING SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS

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

- **Enact a higher federal minimum wage:** Increasing the income of low-wage workers is fundamental to positive health outcomes because it provides access to important health-enabling resources, including proper nutrition, good medical care, stable health insurance, and favorable housing — all of which can be leveraged to avoid risks and protect health. Create policy that closes loopholes and includes cost of living increases. Federal services that are dependent on fixed rates should be adequately funded to ensure continued service provision.
- **Protect worker health and safety:** Strengthen existing laws and enforcement for worker health and safety. Strengthen existing laws and enforcement for worker health and safety, including paid sick days and family leave. Support policies to ensure healthy and safe working conditions and to prevent unnecessary harmful exposures for all workers; this includes increasing funding for enforcement, penalties for violators of health and safety laws, and meaningful regulations of dangerous chemicals.
- **Protect and expand worker's rights:** Enact federal legislation that protects and strengthens workers' right to organize and collectively bargain, such as labor peace agreements and card-check and neutrality agreements. This includes protecting the rights of temporary and contingent workers and supporting policies that require fair and stable work schedules. Support efforts to educate workers, including youth and immigrants, about worker rights.
- **Restore civil rights protections and reduce barriers for formerly incarcerated people in the workplace:** Formerly incarcerated individuals often struggle to access quality employment because of barriers maintained by State policy. The County supports policies that enable formerly incarcerated individuals to access quality jobs and economic stability such as "ban the box/ fair-chance hiring policies.
- **Increase access to entrepreneurship opportunities:** (1) Support small businesses and microenterprise, especially women and minority-owned businesses, through expanding fair access to safe and sustainable credit and capital, 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 policies that promote sound business conversion to cooperative business models, as well as removing barriers to starting co-operative businesses; and (3) Support policies that expand access to capital among entrepreneurs of color and persons with disabilities, such as adapting the New Markets Tax Credit and the Small Business Administration loans program to target those businesses.
- **Improve the quality of low-wage jobs and provide pathways to middle-wage jobs:** Enforce and modernize labor laws, closing loopholes that allow employers to misclassify workers as independent contractors and

preventing wage theft. Support strategies to establish sector-based training programs and pipelines from apprenticeships and credentialing programs to industries with job growth, and improved career navigation systems.

- **Preserve and expand the social safety net:** The County supports strong safety net programs, including better funding and reform of unemployment insurance to cover more workers, adequate benefits for disability and workers compensation programs, and public benefits.
- **Establish standards for public dollars to be invested equitably for economic opportunity:** Resources should be targeted to areas where sustained disinvestment has produced concentrated poverty and lack of opportunity. Government spending can be used to shift more industries towards providing better wages and benefits. In addition, the County supports supplier diversity policies – which require businesses to engage in proactive and measureable efforts to provide diverse suppliers equal access to contracting opportunities.
- **Ensure equitable taxation:** Tax code benefits accrue to the wealthiest 5 percent of taxpayers and largely miss the asset-poor majority in this country. Meaningful incentives to save for residents of all income groups should be provided, and the tax system should benefit all residents equally. Successful tax credits, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) should be expanded to continue lifting people out of poverty across the nation.
- **Protect and support asset and wealth-building efforts while regulating against unfair financial practices and reforming the banking industry:** Policies and practices that prevent predatory financial practices, increase access to quality financial services and products, and support financial literacy will help to protect and build wealth. The County supports protecting and strengthening regulatory tools like the Community Reinvestment Act and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to fight redlining and ensure that financial institutions serve the communities in which they are chartered with responsible lending and funding of community development and affordable housing.

PLANNING LAND USE AND HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

HOMELESSNESS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The County, like many other Bay Area communities, is experiencing a severe housing crisis. To address this crisis, the County supports policies that:

- **Increase federal funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Veterans Administration and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMSHA) and other sources at the federal level** for programs supporting stable and affordable housing for low-income and homeless populations and work to ensure that HUD uses a fair and equitable formula to determine Fair Market Rent levels that reflect the reality of the housing market in Alameda County. HUD programs that fund affordable housing development have been severely reduced in the last several budget years and continue to be threatened by additional funding reductions. Further decreases to HUD programs will impact local government's ability to respond to the current housing crisis, 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: improvements in housing stability, employment, mental and physical health, school attendance, reduction in active substance use, and helps to 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 and coordinate funding to prevent and end homelessness.** Higher funding levels and increased coordination between funding for services and housing is needed to create and sustain supportive housing for highest need and individuals and families who are disabled and homeless. Affordable and supportive housing are critical to preventing and ending homelessness and cost the same or less than shelter, incarceration, hospitalization and other crisis response interventions.

- **Fund and establish policies to protect homeowners from foreclosure and protect the rights of tenants living in foreclosed properties.** Communities and neighborhoods in the County are still suffering the effects of high foreclosure rates and resident displacement. The County supports legislative efforts to prevent foreclosures and ameliorate their impacts.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

To create more livable and economically vibrant communities for everyone, the County supports the following policies:

- **Increase funding for the Community Development Block Grant Program and oppose any efforts to decrease the cap on administrative costs for the program.** This 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.** Extension of the federal Production Tax Credit for the expansion of repowering efforts for wind energy. Support and protect policies and funding that promote clean and renewable energy access and affordability to all communities.
- **Protect and promote access to open and green space:** An increase in funding for and access to safe and quality parks, trails, green and open space and recreation centers. Policies should ensure that these opportunities are made available in all communities. A person's neighborhood shapes their opportunities to play, exercise, enjoy nature, and be healthy.
- **Protect and promote accessible communities.** Promote the use of universal design to ensure accessibility of spaces for every one of all abilities. Communities that are designed to be accessible to seniors, children, and people with disabilities will be accessible for everyone. This includes street and sidewalk design, as well as wheelchair accessible public spaces such as parks and community centers, lighting, and other safety issues.
- **Prioritize reinvestment to improve low-income communities.** Increased funding to develop community infrastructure such as community centers and day care centers, affordable housing, and affordable, reliable transit and infrastructure in local communities, particularly low-income communities.

PUBLIC SAFETY

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

The Alameda County District Attorney's Office is responsible for the prosecution of crimes in the County of Alameda, California. The 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, provide effective community outreach and train law enforcement. Stronger legislation is needed to prosecute human traffickers, as well as expand services and resources for victims of sex trafficking and labor trafficking.
- **DNA Backlog.** DNA evidence can be used to eliminate or confirm suspects, develop investigative leads to solve a number of unsolved cases, and exonerate the innocent. Funding to eliminate the current backlog of untested sexual assault kits, solidifying a partnership between our office, law enforcement agencies, and private entities to provide a streamlined model throughout the State to prevent future backlogs.
- **Victims of Crime.** Enhancement of the rights and protections of all victims of crime, and increased funding to

expand services to all victims, especially those 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. Strengthen the process for seeking and securing restitution for victims of crime.

- **Mental Health.** Advocate for strong funding streams for treating and assisting people with mental health issues.
- **Realignment.** Reduce recidivism by realigning lower level offenders to community corrections programs strengthened through community-based punishment, improved supervision strategies and evidence-based practices, and supervision practices demonstrated by research to reduce recidivism. This includes employing proven alternatives to incarceration for low-risk offenders. In addition, systemic reforms in the Alameda County court system to establish a centralized process to help in filing revocation petitions.
- **Reducing Serious/Violent Crimes.** Initiatives to reduce violent crimes by proposing the formation of the regional multi-agency 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 aid 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 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, and assist youth to achieve their dreams. Also more partnerships with additional groups to provide counseling, mentorship, case management, life skills, employment and training.
- **Alternative Programs to Incarceration.** Advocate for continued funding for programs seeking alternatives to incarceration.
- **Enhancing Public Safety.** Evaluate and propose changes in the law that protect innocent bystanders and children from mutual gun combat.
- **Consumer Protection, Environmental Protection, and Worker Protection.** Increase efforts in consumer protection, environmental protection, and worker protection, particularly around labor trafficking.
- **Collaboration.** Advocate for and create a legislative platform to require county agencies to work with community agencies collaboratively to combat human trafficking, specifically the sex trafficking of minors as well as labor trafficking.

PROBATION

The Alameda County Probation Department provides adult and juvenile clients with the treatment, supervision and support necessary to prevent re-offending, while enhancing public safety and reducing victimization. Through the use of innovative strategies and the engagement of our government and community partners, we maintain a “layered approach” to providing support to our clients and their families. Partnership include cross-jurisdictional collaborations with Federal, State and County agencies, community and faith-based organizations, therapists, and social workers.

The Probation Department supports policies and legislation as follows:

- **Eliminate Racial Disparities.** Elimination of disparities among boys and men of color which lead to their disproportionate representation in the juvenile justice system.
- **Commitment to Vulnerable Youth and Families.** Commitment to serving vulnerable youth and families and reducing the number of youth crossing over between the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.
- **Expand and Build Support Services and Improve Systems Change under Title IV-E.** Expand and build support services aimed at improving system changes that meet the identified Title IV-E goals, to include reducing the number of youth in out-of-home placements, providing the least restrictive level of placement when out-of-home placement is necessary, and promoting family preservation and family reunification services.
- **Improve Supervision Strategies.** Continue to improve supervision strategies using Smart Supervision to better identify, supervise and treat high-risk/high-needs clients. The Smart Supervision Program provides grants and assistance to states, units of local government, and federally recognized Indian tribes to develop and implement more effective and evidence-based probation and parole practices that effectively address individuals' needs and reduce recidivism
- **Improve Probation Success Rates.** Continue to improve probation success rates, thereby increasing public safety, reducing victimization, admissions to prisons and jails, and saving taxpayer dollars.
- **Commitment to Criminal Justice Reform.** Continued commitment to realignment and reentry efforts within juvenile and adult areas. Provide evidence-based detention alternatives for adults designed to restore them to the community.
- **Utilization of Evidence-Based Practices.** By incorporating practices and programming that have been proven to reduce recidivism through empirical data, we reduce victimization and costs associated with the criminal justice system, and the long-term integration of clients into our communities.

PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE

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. Specifically, instituting non-suggestive policies regarding identification procedures, such as double-blind photo line-ups.

- Increasing treatment program funding for drug and alcohol abuse.
- Increasing the funding for mental health treatment programs. Promoting ways to divert those with mental illness out of the criminal justice system.
- Reducing the number of people under supervision by the courts, State, and/or County by 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.
- Principles of Restorative Justice and policies designed to implement those principles.
- Initiatives promoting racial justice at all levels of the criminal justice system.
- Sources of additional sustainable funding for any of the foregoing programs and policies.

SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND ENERGY

OPENING

Alameda County maintains a strong commitment to ensuring that federal legislation works to preserve our nation's natural resources and protect our public health. It is imperative that federal policy protects our country from the physical, economic and public health effects of climate change while also providing pathways to economic prosperity.

In 2018, it is critical that the nation does not step backwards to unwind 40 years of environmental and public health progress by weakening or dismantling regulations or rendering federal regulatory agencies ineffective by cutting funding and resources or allowing industry to unduly influence sound environmental decision making. Federal legislative efforts must focus on making meaningful commitments to establishing targets to reduce carbon pollution and shifting towards a deeply de-carbonized energy system while also considering environmental justice and equity for all citizens.

CLIMATE CHANGE

- **Adaptation, Mitigation, and Resilience.** Support policies and increased funding to help prepare local governments, communities, and businesses to fight climate change and to adapt to changes in the climate while also building resilient communities. In developing solutions and taking actions, policies should consider equity, serve vulnerable populations, and prioritize restoration of ecosystems to leverage nature-based solutions.
- **Carbon Cost Accounting.** Support policies that require using the full social cost of carbon in regulatory rulemaking.
- **Climate Action Partnerships.** Support policies and legislation that promote regional, state, national, and international partnerships to drive climate action in the absence of federal commitment, including fulfilling the U.S. commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement.
- **Federal Reimbursement for Wildfires.** Support legislation and budgetary fixes that allow adequate federal monies to be allocated for preventing wildfires, fighting wildfires, and wildfire recovery efforts.
- **National Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets.** Support legislation to set aggressive and binding greenhouse gas reduction targets at the national level and ensure compliance.
- **Regulating Greenhouse Gases:** Protect the endangerment finding (policy based on the Supreme Court ruling that greenhouse gases are pollutants regulated under the Clean Air Act) and ensure that EPA has the necessary resources, funding, and full authority to develop rules and regulations and to implement and enforce them.
- **Scientific Climate Research.** Support legislation and protect funding sources to ensure that robust climate

science research continues in order to inform policies and practices based on the best available science. Support funding and policies that establish science-based protocols for accurately accounting for greenhouse gas emissions.

ENERGY

- **Clean Energy Generation and Storage.** Support legislation and funding that increases the generation of renewable energy and energy storage at public facilities, in communities, and in industry; funds clean energy research and technology demonstration projects; and advances grid modernization. Support the expansion of grants from DOE for clean energy technology demonstration and implementation.
- **Clean Power Plan.** Support legislation to adopt the principles laid out in the Clean Power Plan.
- **Community-Based Energy Models.** Support increased funding and legislative authority to encourage local and state government's development and participation in new models for energy generation and efficiency including, but not limited to, Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) and Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE), that include goals such as expanding access to renewable energy and reducing energy costs for all communities.
- **Fossil Fuel Extraction.** Oppose legislation that opens public lands and oceans for drilling, mining, and fracking or provides tax breaks, financial incentives, or subsidies to oil, gas, and coal industries.
- **National Transition to Clean Power.** Support legislation that sets the country on an aggressive path towards a deeply-decarbonized energy supply. Support policies that harness the research capabilities and resources of the national labs; federal, state, and local agencies; and the free market to accelerate this transition.

ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE, AND NATURAL RESOURCES

- **Clean Air and Water Protection.** Oppose legislation that reduces the strength of the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts to protect our public health and our environment or that limits the ability of state and local governments to adopt regulatory standards more stringent than the federal level.
- **Enforcement of Current Laws.** Ensure that existing environmental legislation and regulatory structures are not dismantled or weakened; protect the ability of federal agencies such as the EPA, DOJ, and DOI to enforce environmental regulations and protect public health; and ensure that regulatory agencies are not rendered ineffective from lack of funding, resources, or authority.
- **Public Lands.** Promote the preservation of our public lands and oppose legislation that redefines, underfunds, or weakens the status of national parks and monuments, wilderness areas, or other lands designated for conservation purposes.
- **Sustainable Agriculture.** Support agricultural practices that limit chemical use, minimize erosion, limit water use, and promote the sequestration of carbon.
- **Urban Forestry.** Support the Forest Service and other programs that research and provide funding for urban forestry and other urban greening programs to incorporate vegetation into urban areas to reduce the urban heat island effect, reduce energy use, filter air pollution, and manage water runoff.
- **Water Efficiency.** Support legislation that sets regulations for water conservation in buildings and in outdoor use; allows for water reuse; provides financial resources such as low interest loans, grants, and tax incentives for water efficiency; ensures water infrastructure accounts for changes in rainfall due to the changing climate; and appropriately prices water to drive conservation.

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

Transportation systems and technologies have some of the greatest impacts on the health of communities, local air quality, and global climate change. Federal legislative priorities on transportation infrastructure, modes of transportation, deployment of more sustainable technologies, and access to public transit can be found in the Federal Legislative Priorities *Transportation* chapter of the 2018 Legislative Platform.

TOXICS REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The release of toxic chemicals into our environment impact human health and the health of the ecosystems on which our communities rely. Federal legislative priorities on reducing toxics exposure, chemical regulation, and health equity can be found in the Federal *Environmental Health* chapter of the 2018 Legislative Platform.

WASTE REDUCTION

- **Green Purchasing.** Support local, state, and federal government programs for purchasing products and services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment throughout their entire lifecycle when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose.
- **Recycling.** Support policies, legislation, and funding to expand domestic recycling infrastructure, develop markets for recycled materials, and support local collection programs.

TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

The federal government is an important partner in delivering locally-developed transportation projects. At the local level, counties see the direct impact of federal dollars spent on transportation. In addition to moving goods and people, federal transportation investments are major economic drivers for local communities. However, in order to plan and execute large and small-scale transportation projects that are critical to commerce and the American quality of life, counties need long-term funding certainty and a reliable federal partner.

The ability of local jurisdictions to effectively plan, maintain and deliver projects for the country's transportation infrastructure system requires the assurance of a reliable and robust Highway Trust Fund in the coming years. The Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) ensured solvency of the Highway Trust Fund through 2020, however, the federal gas tax has lost its purchasing power since it was last increased in 1993. It is critical that a new surface transportation authorization provide long-term funding certainty, which includes direct subventions for counties to address significant infrastructure issues on the federal-aid system, including locally owned bridges and safety needs.

The County supports policies and legislation that:

- **Ensure long-term funding certainty.** Support the reauthorization and implementation of the provisions of FAST Act in an equitable manner that promotes equitable funding levels, programming roles, and local discretion in allocation decisions. Support legislation which protects local receipt of federal transportation and infrastructure funds and enhances revenues for investments in the national transportation infrastructure. Support direct subventions for counties to address significant infrastructure issues on the federal-aid system, including locally owned bridges and safety needs.
- **Maximize innovative funding and financing methods.** Declining transportation revenues require innovating solutions to help local governments stretch federal, State and local investments farther. Support maximizing the use and flexibility of federal funds by not requiring minimum federal matches, eliminating the need to program multiple phases for small projects, and eliminating the need for TIP programming for air quality neutral projects.
- **Rural road safety.** Support policies and legislation that increase safety on the existing transportation system, with an emphasis on programs/projects focused on reducing injuries and fatalities. Support policies and regulations that ensure a dedicated funding source for all rural road safety projects and programs.
- **Streamline project delivery.** Regulatory inefficiencies continue to hamper the effective and timely delivery of local transportation projects. Support legislation that builds on reforms that strive to expedite project delivery, that continue and expand efforts to streamline and expedite project delivery by maintaining the categorical

exclusion for projects receiving limited federal assistance (\$5 million or less), and that simplifies the process for pursuing categorical exclusions. Support the approval of a State-federal “reciprocity” pilot program which allows the State of California and the local transportation agencies to carry out federal environmental review processes to streamline and expedite delivery of federally funded projects.

ONGOING FUNDING FOR I-580 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

The I-580 corridor in the Tri-Valley is one of the most traffic congested locations 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. Although it has dropped out of the Top 10, this chronic condition has resulted in multiple locations along I-580 still being in the Top 50 most congested Bay Area corridors, as 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, including the construction of both eastbound and westbound HOT lanes, and a new interchange at Isabel/SR 84 in Livermore. Other improvements include the completion of the auxiliary lane system and an eastbound truck climbing lane. Projects in the planning stage include the reconstruction of the existing I-580/I-680 interchange, and a BART connection to the Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) inter-regional passenger rail. Additionally, in October 2017, AB 758 established the Tri-Valley-San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority for purposes of planning, developing, and delivering cost-effective and responsive transit connectivity between the BART’s rapid transit system and the Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) commuter rail service in the Tri-Valley.

Alameda County continues its support of the ongoing funding for the I-580 Corridor Improvement Projects.

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

Transportation systems and technologies have some of the greatest impacts on the health of communities, local air quality, and global climate change.

The County supports policies and legislation that:

- **Increase funding for public transit.** Support the reauthorization and expansion of federal transportation funds to increase funding for public transit and pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.
- **Provide incentives.** Support broader incentives for promoting electric vehicles and the development of charging infrastructure.
- **Renewable fuel financial incentives.** Support financial incentives, such as the Renewable Fuel Tax Credit, to reduce the cost of advanced-fuels such as renewable diesel and bio-diesel.
- **Improve rail transportation safety.** Support policies to improve the safety of rail transportation, including prohibiting the transport and handling of coal and crude oil. Support the development of local and inter-regional high speed rail networks.
- **Adopt renewable fuel standards.** Support the adoption of renewable fuel standards that account for life cycle greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Regulate vehicle emissions.** Support regulations that increase, not decrease, fuel economy standards (CAFE) and vehicle emissions standards. Support legislation and policies that protect California’s ability to set its own State standards.

PUBLIC TRANSIT

Use of public transit instead of single-occupant vehicles reduces greenhouse gas emissions, reduces the number of vehicle miles driven, and encourages walking and biking, which helps to make an impact on health outcomes, including the obesity epidemic. Access to affordable and reliable public transit is particularly vital to access economic opportunities, to get to jobs and schools, and to promote health for all communities, especially youth, seniors, and people with disabilities. People will more likely avoid car trips and have more access to job opportunities when homes, jobs, and services are placed close accessible and affordable public transit options. This, in turn, provides a reliable customer base for public transit systems.

The County supports policies and legislation that:

- **Sustain and prioritize increased funding for public transit.** Support the reauthorization and expansion of transportation funds to increase the accessibility, reliability, and affordability of public transit options, particularly local buses, as well as improve connectivity to regional rail systems. Support flexible funding for public transit so that they can be used for mobility management and other needs. Support increased funding for needed infrastructure upgrades.
- **Prioritize funding for low-income and transit-dependent populations.** Support increasing public transit funds and prioritize uses which benefit low-income populations and transit dependent populations, such as seniors, youth and people with disabilities, including maintaining and improving local transit service levels, improving affordability through free and reduced fare programs. Support the coordination of alternative transportation options as part of a mobility management strategy. Mobility management is a strategic, cost-effective approach to encourage the development of services and best practices in the coordination of public transportation services connecting people needing transportation to available transportation resources within a community. Support the inclusion of low-income communities and transit-dependent populations in transportation policy decision-making.
- **Prioritize transit-oriented development over urban sprawl.** Support increasing housing density and infill in urban areas, rather than developing existing open or agricultural spaces in suburban and rural areas. Support smart growth parking strategies and locating housing and jobs near rail and bus lines. Support increasing housing and transit affordability for low-income communities and the inclusion of anti-displacement provisions and protections in transit-oriented development projects, in order to support the ability of existing residents to stay and benefit from improvements in their neighborhoods.
- **Sustain and prioritize greenhouse gas reduction goal-setting and funds for vulnerable communities.** Support increasing greenhouse gas reduction goals and support policies and funding that benefit health and well-being for communities facing environmental hazards, health burdens, high levels of neighborhood poverty and other vulnerabilities. Support policies that address pollution and safety impacts and other barriers to transit users, pedestrians and bicyclists, particularly health-burdened and low-income communities. Support prioritizing transportation policies and projects that have greater community benefits, such as living-wage jobs and zero emissions transportation, than burdens for vulnerable communities and which minimize unintended consequences, such as displacement.
- **Improve partnerships.** Support policies and funding to improve regional collaboration and cooperation on transit improvements and consolidation of systems and programs. Support policies for the development of local and high-speed rail networks to provide additional travel alternatives.

GOODS MOVEMENT

Alameda County is a gateway to the world for goods movement. Its airport, Oakland International, is one of three in the region. The Port of Oakland, the nation's 5th busiest container port, is one of three Pacific Coast gateways with maritime, rail and aviation freight activities. 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 United States. As an intermodal operation, port activities impact regional and inter-regional streets, rural roads and highway, rail corridors and waterways.

Planning and implementation is underway for future expansion of the Port of Oakland to support its activities and for improvements to the transportation network system. The Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) is developing the first Countywide Goods Movement Plan. The Plan also outlines a long-range strategy for how to move goods efficiently, reliably and sustainably within, to, from and through Alameda County by roads, rail, air and water.

Because a substantial amount of goods movement occurs on local streets and roads throughout Alameda County, the plan also addresses impacts to transportation infrastructure. Challenges faced on the local streets and roads include lack of truck route connectivity across city boundaries, providing safe access by all local streets and road users (autos, pedestrians, bicyclists and public transit) and cut through traffic on rural roads to avoid congestion on major corridors. Additionally, truck traffic on local streets and rural roads designed to accommodate vehicles is resulting in pavement damage and impacting the livability and quality of life for the residents living adjacent to these goods movement corridors.

The County supports policies and legislation that:

- **Expand goods movement funding and policy development.** Develop policies that preserve and strengthen an integrated and connected multi-modal goods movement system, support freight mobility and access, and are coordinated with passenger transportation systems and local land use decisions.
- **Improve goods movement infrastructure.** Support legislation, policies and funding to study, plan, fund and implement improvements for a safe, efficient, resilient and well-maintained goods movement facilities and corridors. Support legislation, policies and funding to study, plan and design safety improvements along local streets and rural roads to accommodate the increasing goods movement traffic, including driveway consolidation for truck access to wineries, left-turn pockets and truck deceleration lanes.
- **Identify goods movement funding stream.** Identifying a funding stream for goods movements to maintain and improve the goods movement infrastructure.
- **Prioritize Bay Area transportation systems.** Support legislation and policies that prioritize the Bay Area transportation systems in both State and federal planning and funding processes.
- **Mitigate goods movement impacts.** Support policies and programs that reduce and mitigate impacts from goods movement operations, such as noise and air quality, to create a healthy and clean environment and support improved quality-of-life for people most impacted by goods movement.

REGIONAL AND INTER-REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND PROJECTS

With over 20 percent of the population, Alameda County experiences roughly 40 percent 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, significant investment to improve transportation infrastructure has 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.

The County supports policies and legislation that:

- **Expand partnerships.** Support efforts that encourage and promote regional and mega-regional cooperation and coordination to develop, promote, and fund solutions to transportation infrastructure improvement and support governmental efficiencies and cost savings in transportation. 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, Greenville Road, and Patterson Pass Road in unincorporated Eastern

Alameda County. Support efforts that encourage and facilitate the establishment of public-private partnerships and low-cost financing strategies.

- **Encourage policy development.** Support policy development to influence transportation planning, policy, and funding at the county, regional, State, and federal levels.
- **Fund Express/HOT (High Occupancy Toll) lane expansion.** Support continued funding for the Express/HOT Lane expansion in Alameda County and the Bay Area.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

LOCAL REVENUE AND ECONOMIC INCENTIVES

- **Economic inclusion.** Support requiring federal agencies to create “Economic Inclusion Plans” which mandate agencies to create spending plans to create jobs in low-income communities and communities of color.
- **Tax Reform impact on residents.** Support equitable taxation, a tax system to benefit all residents equally, support the middle class and reduce poverty by implementing the following approaches:
 - (1) Expand the Earned Income Tax Credit, the country’s most successful anti-poverty program, to increase access and create more work incentives and benefits for single fathers and childless adults, to build upon the successes of the program.
 - (2) Reduce the tax burden on the lowest income earners 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.
 - (3) Permanently raise taxes on high-income individuals, limit deductions for wealthier filers, target tax loopholes, and end certain corporate tax breaks and subsidies used by large corporations.
 - (4) Spare retirees from any changes in Social Security and direct most of the cuts in Medicare spending to health care providers instead of beneficiaries. Ensure preservation of Social Security for future beneficiaries.
- **Local governance.** Oppose legislation and tax reforms that negatively impact the county’s ability to operate in a reasonable and cost effective manner to meet its mission and support its strategic vision.
- **Infrastructure and financing of public projects. Support legislation and increased funding to support the County’s infrastructure needs and expand capital investments vital to economic development.** Support State and federal funding for infrastructure investments that improve seismic safety of essential government facilities. 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.
- **Municipal bonds and public capital projects.** Oppose eliminating or limiting the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds or weakening other mechanisms to finance critical public capital projects, such as the low-income housing tax credit program. Municipal bonds enable Counties to build essential infrastructure projects, such as hospitals, other critical public facilities and roads. The loss of the tax-exempt status would hurt the County’s ability to deliver critical infrastructure and services.

FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER RESOURCES

INCREASED FUNDING FOR FLOOD PROTECTION

Continued protection from flooding and protecting 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.

The County supports policies and legislation that:

- **Ensure consistency between State and federal definitions.** The State Water Resources Control Board’s proposed Wetland and Riparian Protection Policy includes different terms and definitions of wetlands. Support legislation that would 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.

- **Ensure levee funding.** Support identifying additional funding sources and opportunities necessary to ensure levee maintenance in Alameda County, including repair and reconstruction after a flood event.
- **Implement service agreements.** Support policies and legislation which authorize State and federal regulatory agencies to offer service agreements to public entity applicants and permittees to fund additional personnel or contractors needed to expedite permit processing.
- **Ensure climate change resiliency.** Support identifying federal funding to study, design and implement coastal flood protection solutions to protect Alameda County residents from effects of sea level rise, extreme tides due to climate change. Support the establishment of partnerships among local, State and federal agencies to promote protection from floods and climate change adaptation and resiliency.

FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT FUNDING REQUEST - SAN LORENZO CREEK

Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) will begin preliminary engineering for a project to implement improvements using Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) funding in the amount of \$500,000 which will provide increased flood protection to contain the updated 100-year design flow within San Lorenzo Creek. This project will reduce the 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 expensive flood insurance for affected residents.

STREAMLINE ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATORY AND PROJECT DELIVERY PROCESS

Regulatory inefficiencies continue to hamper the effective and timely delivery of flood control projects. Projects are bogged down by the multiple redundant and overlapping regulatory agency's approval processes, long time frames, and required reports and mitigation that do not add significantly to improving the environment and result in costly project delivery costs. To this end, Alameda County seeks legislative remedies in eliminate regulatory redundancies, streamline regulatory burdens and advocate for funding support to adequate staffing levels at the local, state, and federal regulatory agencies.

The County supports policies and legislation that:

- **Encourage service agreements.** Support policies that allow and encourage State and federal regulatory agencies to offer service agreements to public entity applicants and permittees to fund additional personnel or contractors needed for expeditious permit processing.
- **Mandate response timelines in review and approval process.** Support improving the environmental review and regulatory approval processes by mandating the Federal review process adhere to the specific time frames, prescribed schedule and deadlines specified in the environmental review process and by eliminating unnecessary redundant documentation.
- **Approve the CEQA-NEPA Reciprocity Pilot Program.** Support the CEQA-NEPA reciprocity pilot program, which builds on California's successful implementation of the Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program and allows for even greater project streamlining, to enhance efficiency in flood control projects.
- **Eliminate redundancy.** Support review and revision of the State regulatory requirements (such as Fish and Wildlife Services, Water Quality Control Board, and the Bay Coastal Development Commission) to eliminate redundancy and accommodate timely project delivery.
- **Identify review process enhancements.** Support dramatically reducing the processing and approval time frames by providing expedited review for projects that are consistent with an adopted Sustainability Communities Strategy and by exempting maintenance activities within existing flood control facilities and infrastructure from permit requirements under the Endangered Species Act.
- **Encourage partnerships.** Supports establishing local, State and federal agency partnerships in habitat restoration/resource protection, including developing adaptive strategies to mitigate climate change and sea level rise.

Appendix

County Department Summaries

Department descriptions are organized within four service areas General Government, Health Care Services Agency, Public Assistance and Public Protection. The descriptions are included in this appendix.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

General Government departments include the Board of Supervisors, Arts Commission, Assessor, Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder, Community Development Agency, County Administrator's Office, County Counsel, General Services Agency, Human Resource Services, Information Technology Department, Public Works Agency, Registrar of Voters, and Treasurer-Tax Collector and County Library. Special Districts within General Government include Flood Control Water Conservation District, Zone 7 Water Agency.

HEALTH CARE SERVICES AGENCY

Major services include Behavioral Health Care, Environmental Health, and Public Health programs, primary care services provided by community-based organizations (CBO), health care services for County residents qualifying as medically indigent, and Health Care Administration. In addition, the Health Care Services Agency (HCSA) administers the County portion of Measure A funds and two special districts for Vector Control and Emergency Medical Services.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Public Assistance services are provided by the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) and the Social Services Agency (SSA).

PUBLIC PROTECTION

Public Protection services include: the District Attorney, Fire Department, Probation Department, Public Defender, Sheriff's Office, Court Security, Trial Court Funding, and eCRIMS – Consolidated Records Information Management System (formerly CORPUS).

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

ASSESSOR

Ron Thomsen
Assessor

MISSION STATEMENT

- To improve services and increase productivity
- To provide a cohesive and unified organization
- To maintain a professional and knowledgeable staff
- To develop and maintain an effective communication system
- To provide informative and responsive services to the public
- To be dedicated in leadership in the field of assessor administration
- To be dedicated in leadership in the field of taxpayer services and taxpayer information
- To provide fair, firm, and uniform treatment to the public; and to perform these functions with quality and efficiency
- To maintain a staff of knowledgeable professionals who demonstrate integrity, honesty, and courtesy towards the Office of Assessor, its employees, and the general public

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: locate and identify the ownership of all taxable property in Alameda County, and determine the taxability of all property; determine the reappraisability of property changing ownership or having new construction added, annually assess all real estate in accordance with the provisions of Article XIII A of the State Constitution (Proposition 13); annually assess all taxable personal property at its fair market value, determine and apply all legal exemptions against these assessments, and surrender an accurate assessment roll to the Auditor's Office prior to July 1 each year.

Other major functions of the Assessor's Office include: perform local and out-of-state business personal property audits of taxpayers who own business personal property located in Alameda County; re-map all real estate parcels when lot-line adjustments, splits, or combinations of parcels are initiated; timely process assessment appeal and calamity applications to determine if assessment reductions are warranted; and appraise 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.

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER AGENCY

Steve Manning
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.

Mandated services include the collection of court-related fines and restitutions, Social Services Agency overpayments, 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 hospital, Public Defender, and environmental fees.

The Office of the Clerk-Recorder provides mandated services established by statute including the recording of public 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.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

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 Alameda County Fire Department, In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority, Surplus Property Authority, Industrial Development Authority, Public Facilities Corporation, Alameda County Joint Powers Authority, Successor Agency for Redevelopment, and Housing Successor Agency to the former Redevelopment Agency. In addition, Board members serve on policy boards of regional and district organizations. Flood Control & Water Conservation District.

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 Agency/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.

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 (CAO) provides a number of mandated services including developing and managing the annual countywide budget. The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors provides mandated services as required by specific statutes, ordinances, policies, and the Board of Supervisors and includes,

but is not limited to, clerking 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 Improvement Plan, Debt Financing, Economic Development, Legislation, Grants, Community Engagement, Public Information, and Cable Television Franchise Authority for the unincorporated areas. Formerly a mandated County function, Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) administrative services are now contracted with the County.

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, healthy/affordable housing, and community/economic 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 Joint Powers Authority, and Successor Agency Oversight Board.
- Administer Surplus Property Authority and Redevelopment Successor Agency. (Note: While the Surplus Property Authority is under the supervision of the Community Development Agency, its budget is included in the Capital Projects budget rather than the Community Development Agency's budget).
- Prepare, update, and implement the County General Plan; administer and update applicable County ordinances.
- Conduct environmental, design, and policy review of proposed development projects pursuant to County and State development and planning laws and procedures.

- Issue and enforce required land use permits and monitor required environmental mitigation measures.
- Enforce the Food and Agriculture and the Business and Professions Codes related to agriculture and weights and measures.
- Verify accuracy of commercial weighing and measuring devices, including point-of-sale terminals.
- Provide financing, project administration, and construction management for housing, community development, rehabilitation, and homeless programs as mandated by local, State, or federal funding sources.
- Administer supportive services, shelter, housing operations, and rental assistance funding for programs serving homeless and at-risk individuals and families.
- Provide case management and environmental investigation of lead-exposed children as mandated by State or federal funding sources, and ensure remediation of lead hazards and compliance with lead-safe work practices.
- Provide education, training, and lead hazard reduction strategies to prevent lead exposure of pre-1978 residential properties in the Lead Joint Powers Authority County Service Area.
- Manage County's demographic and census programs, including redistricting.
- Implement Mineral Resource Management and Surface Mining Permit administration. Process applications and permit amendments. Conduct annual/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 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; District 4 Advisory Committee; Altamont Open Space Committee; and Housing and Community Development Advisory 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; Transportation Commission (formerly Congestion Management Agency); Climate Action Plan Team; BART to Livermore, Bayfair BART Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and Bayfair BART Safety Study Technical Advisory Committees; Tri-Valley Regional Rail Policy Working Group; Technical Advisory Working Group (TAWG); Regional Advisory Working Group (RAWG); and, Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Authority.
- Participate in regular community and regional meetings; including; Rural Roads; Eden Area Livability Initiative (EALI); Agriculture/Canyonlands; East Alameda County Conservation Strategy (EACCS) Implementation Committee; Fire Commission Committee; Cherryland Community Association; San Lorenzo Homes Association; the EveryOne Home Leadership Board, and EveryOne Home committees.

- 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.
- Develop and implement affordable housing programs and policies for the County, including the unincorporated areas of the County.
- 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 of the County.
- Carry out local economic and civic development activities consistent with Board policy on reinvestment of former redevelopment funds in Alameda County.

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 it to provide greater service. Agencies seek County Counsel services across a broad spectrum of matters in recognition of the value added by the Office's involvement.

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 result 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.

GENERAL SERVICES AGENCY

Willie A. Hopkins, Jr.
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 over 150 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; 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); and portfolio management (capital planning and asset management).

DISCRETIONARY SERVICES

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

HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES

Joseph Angelo
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, the 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.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Tim Dupuis
Chief Information Officer

MISSION STATEMENT

Provide the County with technology services. Focus on strategic planning, consulting, data center and cloud operations, web/mobile technologies, application services, citizen engagement, radio, and telephony services.

MANDATED SERVICES

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

DISCRETIONARY SERVICES

All services are discretionary.

COUNTY LIBRARY

*Cindy Chadwick
County Librarian*

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the 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, expertise, technology, partnership, and innovation.

MANDATED SERVICES

According to Education Code 19100-19116, "The boards of supervisors of the several counties may establish and maintain, within their respective counties, county free libraries."

DISCRETIONARY SERVICES

Alameda County Library provides services to children, teens, and adults. Our reach extends to five participating cities: Albany, Dublin, Newark, Union City, and Fremont with satellites at Centerville, Irvington, and Niles. San Lorenzo, Castro Valley, and the Bookmobile serve the unincorporated area of Alameda County. The Library provides literacy support to other county entities and programs such as the Juvenile Justice Center, the Family Justice Center, Camp Sweeney, REACH Ashland Youth Center, and the Santa Rita Jail. The Library's WiFi-enabled Pop Up Library Services for Everyone (P.U.L.S.E.) also reaches community-based organizations throughout the County, such as Abode Housing.

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.

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. Additional information on these mandated services is in the Major Service Areas section of this chapter.

DISCRETIONARY SERVICES

There are no discretionary services provided to County residents by the Registrar of Voters.

TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR

Henry Levy
Treasurer-Tax Collector

MISSION STATEMENT

Provide Alameda County departments and all other depositing agencies with a secure and convenient countywide central banking facility and treasury administration services, including the investment of monies on deposit in the Treasurer's Investment Pool; provide timely and accurate real estate and personal property tax billing and collection services; provide efficient business licensing services in the unincorporated areas of the County; and provide comprehensive 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. The County Ordinance Code (Chapter 3.04, Section 550) 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(b) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Treasurer also administers the County's 401(a) supplemental retirement plan for certain qualified employee groups.

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/maintains adequate facilities to prevent property loss and damage from floods in the Livermore-Amador Valley Area.

DISCRETIONARY SERVICES

There are no discretionary services or programs Zone 7 provides to County residents.

HEALTH CARE SERVICES AGENCY**HEALTH CARE SERVICES AGENCY - ADMINISTRATION**

Colleen Chawla
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, including guidelines for serving the County's medically indigent population as required by Section 17000 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and all indigent health care provider agreements. 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 and Emergency Medical Services (EMS). 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 focus on leadership and advocacy on health issues affecting vulnerable populations, as well as health services to indigent and underserved populations. These programs and services include: Center for Healthy Schools and Communities; Interagency Children's Policy Council; Youth UpRising; Court Appointed Special Advocates; health insurance outreach and enrollment activities; lead governmental agency for the SB 910 Medi-Cal Administrative Activities/Targeted Case Management claiming program; Youth Ventures; Healthy Smiles Dental Program; administration of the Tobacco Master Settlement Fund, the County Measure A fund, and the hospital financing/Intergovernmental Transfer programs; and administration of the Health Program of Alameda County (HealthPAC), a program to serve the remaining low-income uninsured residents of Alameda County.

HEALTH CARE SERVICES AGENCY – BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

*Carol F. Burton
Interim Director*

MISSION STATEMENT

To maximize the recovery, resilience, and wellness of all eligible Alameda County residents who are developing or experiencing serious mental health, alcohol, or drug concerns. We envision communities where people realize their potential, and where stigma and discrimination against those with mental health, alcohol and/or drug issues are eliminated. Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services (BHCS) values:

- Access, where every door is the right door for welcoming people with complex needs;
- Consumer and family empowerment, through shared decision-making;
- Best practices that produce effective outcomes;

- Business excellence, including cost-effective use of public resources;
- Health and wellness, by integrating emotional, spiritual and physical health care;
- Culturally appropriate services built on the strengths and life experiences of culturally diverse consumers and their families;
- Social inclusion utilizing advocacy and education to eliminate stigma, discrimination, isolation, and misunderstanding of persons with mental illness and substance abuse.

MANDATED SERVICES

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Services - The level of mandated services is determined by State and federal statute. Although local needs and priorities are given primary focus, various federal and State requirements exist regarding prevention activities, services for perinatal women, and HIV/AIDS. Beyond those mandates, a full range of services is maintained, including residential, non-residential, prevention, driving under the influence, and drug diversion programs.

Mental Health Services - The level and range of services recommended and the target population are prescribed by AB 1288 (the Bronzan-McCorquodale Mental Health Act). AB 1288 requires the County to fund mental health services for people with a serious, persistent mental illness (or children with serious emotional disturbances within specific funding guidelines). Mandated services include: psychiatric crisis or emergency treatment, inpatient care, outpatient/day treatment, case management, conservatorship, administration, and evaluation.

Medi-Cal Consolidation - requires BHCS to provide the full range of mental health services to any Alameda County Medi-Cal beneficiary meeting Medi-Cal medical necessity criteria and in need of those services.

DISCRETIONARY SERVICES

County General Fund dollars over and above those required as a match for State and federal dollars are defined as discretionary. These dollars are used by BHCS to:

- Provide housing support for homeless people with a mental illness and/or alcohol and/or other substance abuse disorder.
- Deliver mental health and substance abuse services based on local Board of Supervisors' priorities such as:
 - Adults and children in the criminal and juvenile justice systems
 - Adults with traumatic brain injuries and neurobehavioral problems
 - Children in group homes and out-of-home placements
 - Consumer-run self-help and empowerment programs
 - Vocational training
 - A continuum of alcohol and other drug services

Serve clients with life threatening crises who are ineligible for services through the State's mandated (and funded) target population definitions.

HEALTH CARE SERVICES AGENCY – ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

*Ronald Browder
Acting Director*

MISSION STATEMENT

To protect the health, safety, and well-being of the public through promotion of environmental quality.

MANDATED SERVICES

Environmental Health provides a variety of mandated services to County residents and businesses. Standard service levels are determined by the California Health and Safety Code, California Code of Regulations, Public Resources Code, Government Code, and Alameda County General Ordinance Code. The Office of the Director of Environmental Health is mandated by California Health and Safety Code Section 101280 and 17 CCR 1308.

DISCRETIONARY SERVICES

Respond to residential/business complaints and conduct special investigations. Provide health inspections for school districts, community-based organizations, and non-profits. Additionally, Environmental Health operates three household hazardous waste collection facilities, the Vector Control County Service Area, the Safe Take Back (prescription) Program and the Nail Salon Health and Safety program.

HEALTH CARE SERVICES AGENCY – PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

*Muntu Davis, M.D.
Director and County Health Officer*

MISSION STATEMENT

To, in partnership with the community, ensure the optimal health and well-being of all people for both present and future generations.

MANDATED SERVICES

The Department provides the following mandated services referenced in the Alameda County Administrative Code §2.30.040 and the California Code of Regulations (CCR) 17CCR § 1276:

- Collection, tabulation, and analysis of public health statistics
- Health education programs in the community
- Communicable disease control & prevention, including consultation, diagnosis, epidemiologic investigation and prevention to control acute communicable diseases, tuberculosis, and sexually transmitted diseases in the community
- Medical, nursing, and education programs and services to promote and protect maternal and child health
- Public health laboratory services
- Nutrition services, including education to promote positive health and dietary control of disease
- Prevention and control of chronic disease, including education and rehabilitation
- Services directed at social factors affecting health
- Public Health Nursing services to provide preventive and therapeutic care

DISCRETIONARY SERVICES

The Public Health Department provides the following discretionary programs developed in response to Community Health, Health Care Services Agency, and County priorities:

- Asthma, diabetes, and hypertension education and prevention programs
- Developmental Disabilities Council
- Dating Matters (Teen Dating Violence Prevention)
- Maternal/Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting and Family Support System (which includes the Alameda County Healthy Start Initiative (formerly Improving Pregnancy Outcomes Program), Nurse Family Partnership and other home visiting and case management programs serving families with young children)

Public Health Nursing services for foster care youth and abused or neglected adults in partnership with Social Services Agency

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE**DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES**

Phyllis Nance
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 the 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.

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 (SSA) consists of four departments whose mandated services include the following:

- Administration and Finance provides agency-wide administrative direction, oversight, coordination, and outreach, as well as management for the distribution of assistance payments to clients, and prepares claims for reimbursement.

- Adult and Aging Services (AAS) provides Adult Protective, Public Guardian/Conservator/Administrator, and Older American/Californian Acts services. AAS also administers In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) 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 for children and youth, and administers the Foster Care Program.
- Workforce and Benefits Administration administers eligibility for and disbursement of mandated assistance programs and provides the required employment and support services for public assistance recipients.

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY -ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

*Lori A. Cox
Agency Director*

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide employees and departments with strategic direction and leadership, and make available the necessary tools, resources, and services to achieve the Social Services Agency's mission to promote social and economic well-being.

MANDATED SERVICES

Provide welfare administration services including, but not limited to, the hiring of staff, facilities management and planning, preparation of claims for reimbursement, administration of workforce investment funding and policies, oversight of the distribution of assistance payments to clients, assistance with State and federal audits, contracts administration, technology, and provision of welfare fraud prevention services.

DISCRETIONARY SERVICES

Provide administrative support services including public information, staff development, strategic planning services, program planning and evaluation, research services, community affairs, and all other administrative support

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY – ADULT AND AGING SERVICES

Randy Morris
Assistant Agency Director

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide a coordinated, consumer-focused, accessible, high-quality service delivery system that protects, supports, and advocates for dependent adults, particularly those with disabilities and the vulnerable elderly and aging population, and promotes their social, economic, and physical well-being.

MANDATED SERVICES

Mandated services include Adult Protective Services, the Public Guardian-Conservator, the Public Administrator, In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), and the Public Authority for IHSS.

DISCRETIONARY SERVICES

Discretionary services, which serve the non-elderly, include the Veterans' Services Office that assists veterans and their family members, and services provided through the Area Agency on Aging, which are funded through the Older Americans Act and Older Californians Act and include municipal senior centers, adult day care, case management, Ombudsman, and nutrition programs provided to the elderly.

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY -CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

Michelle Love
Assistant Agency Director

MISSION STATEMENT

To strengthen and preserve families; protect children and families when children are in danger of being abused or neglected; find temporary or permanent homes for children who cannot remain safely at home or be returned to their families; assist children and adolescents in foster care to become productive adults; support the work of foster parents and other substitute caregivers; and provide culturally appropriate management, planning, collaboration, and support services.

MANDATED SERVICES

Mandated services include Emergency Response, Dependency Investigation, Family Maintenance, Family Reunification, Independent Living Skills Program, Permanent Youth Connections, and Placement Services for families whose children have been removed from the home. In addition, the mandated Foster Care Eligibility program manages foster care payments for children placed outside their homes.

DISCRETIONARY SERVICES

A wide range of discretionary services are provided to families directly by the Department and through contracts with providers, including family support, preservation and reunification, child assessments, mental health counseling, drug testing, respite care for foster parents, and child abuse prevention. Specific programs include Foster Home Licensing, Child Abuse Prevention Council, Family Conferencing and Dependency Mediation, Family Reclaim, Services to Enhance Early Development, Neighborhood Outreach, and the Department of Education Alternative Placement Child Care Program.

**SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY -
WORKFORCE AND BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION**

Andrea Ford
Assistant Agency Director

MISSION STATEMENT

To promote self-sufficiency and to provide continuing economic assistance through public and private sector partnerships while fostering a workforce development system that supports individuals and families.

MANDATED SERVICES

Mandated services include employment assistance, cash aid, assistance with purchasing food, and referrals to appropriate support services to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families. The Department of Workforce and Benefits Administration (WBA) administers the General Assistance (GA), Cal-Learn, CalFresh, California Food Assistance Program (CFAP), Medi-Cal, Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants, and California Work Opportunity and responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) programs. Key components of the CalWORKs program include issuance of cash aid, employment services, and an array of supportive services such as transportation, child care, and safety net services, as well as refugee employment and social adjustment services.

DISCRETIONARY SERVICES

The Department provides discretionary services to meet the needs of low-income residents, including employment assistance to GA recipients through the CalFresh Employment and Training (CF E&T)

program, health assessment and case management services for disabled GA recipients as they transition onto Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability Insurance, and safety net services such as food, housing assistance, and emergency shelters for residents in crisis.

PUBLIC PROTECTION

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

*Nancy O'Malley
District Attorney*

MISSION STATEMENT

The Alameda County District Attorney's Office maintains the highest standards of excellence, professionalism, and integrity. The mission of the 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 systems in an ethical manner; shall protect consumers and the environment; 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 prescription fraud, public assistance fraud and financial crimes against elders and dependent adults;
- Brings civil actions to protect the environment;
- Is the only agency authorized by law to serve and advocate for all crime victims, irrespective of whether or not the crime is solved and/or charged in court;
- Notifies crime victims 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:

- The Alameda County Family Justice Center (ACFJC) is a one-stop shop providing comprehensive and collaborative services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, human trafficking, child abuse, dependent abuse, and elder abuse. Victims have access to a host of services and service providers from our community. ACFJC has developed several empowerment programs for survivors, including STEP-UP (Survivor Training Empowerment Program - Utilizing your Potential) and El Cafesito. ACFJC also houses a number of programs for children and teens, including Natalie's Nook, a reading/learning center for children ages 0-5; Homework Helper, for school-age children and teens; KidZone, a safe space that allows for play, reading, computer learning, art, and healthy snacks; "Camp Hope" summer program; as well as counseling services for children affected by these crimes.
- The District Attorney's Office educates, mentors, and employs local teens and young adults through the District Attorney's Justice Academy (DAJA), the D.A.'s Summer Youth Fellowship Programs: "Pipeline to Justice" and "Legal Beginnings", the Earl Warren Fellowships and the Mary C. Warren Fellowship.
- Human Exploitation and Trafficking (H.E.A.T.) Watch, the District Attorney's award-winning collaboration to combat human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of minors, has trained thousands of law enforcement officers and victim advocates on H.E.A.T.'s strategic community blueprint and best practices to end human trafficking. The District Attorney conducts informational outreach through billboard and bus stop advertising, radio programs and podcasts, all of which are designed to raise awareness and assist victims of exploitation. In addition, the District Attorney's Office has created The Young Women's Saturday Program, a 16-week program to enhance self-esteem and develop life skills for girls who have been victims of trafficking or are at risk for trafficking.
- The District Attorney's Office produces numerous original training programs, including "Points and Authorities", "Point of View" and "California Criminal Investigation (CCI)" that inform and educate thousands of district attorneys, defense attorneys, judges and peace officers throughout California about recent developments in the law and best practices for law enforcement.
- The District Attorney Truancy Unit works closely with school districts and parents/guardians to improve student attendance.
- The Victim Witness Division provides victim support services and processes claims to the State of California Victims of Crime Program on behalf of crime victims.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

David Rocha
Fire Chief

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 California 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 per 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.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

*Wendy Still
Chief Probation Officer*

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Alameda County Probation Department is to protect the public safety by providing supervision, services, support, and opportunities to clients on behalf of the people of Alameda County through quality supervision, leadership, services, and effective partnerships.

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 reviews 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 and provides a collaborative opportunity for the Probation Department, in concert with other law enforcement agencies and community-based organizations (CBOs), to provide services that meet the needs of youth 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 15-19. Camp Sweeney is a local alternative to group home placement or the California Division of Juvenile Justice. The Camp Sweeney program is six to twelve months in duration, and is designed after the Missouri Model whereby youth participating in this program are offered a wide variety of services intended to address their individual criminogenic risk factors and prepare them for successful transition back into their neighborhoods and families.

Prevention Services are funded by the Juvenile Probation and Camps Funding Program, 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.

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

The Training Unit is a staff development program that coordinates training for staff and ensures compliance with the Board of State and Community Corrections 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.

PUBLIC DEFENDER/INDIGENT DEFENSE

*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's Office. The Indigent Defense budget also includes court-ordered defense expenses for indigent defendants represented by CAAP, and Alternative Dispute Resolution community mediation 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.

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 our ability to

enforce the law fairly, a commitment to professionalism, service to the community with integrity and trust, and an 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 the Transit Crimes Unit, School Resource Officers, the Youth and Family Services Bureau, and the Deputy Sheriff's Activities League are also discretionary.

TRIAL COURT FUNDING

MISSION STATEMENT

The Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, is a part of the judicial branch of State government. Its power and authority is vested in the California Constitution. Its purpose, procedures, and jurisdiction are framed by statutory mandates and State and local rules of court. Its mission is to provide mandated judicial services for the public that maximize the public's access to the court; to create and maintain a quality of service that promotes confidence and generates support from both within and outside the justice system; and to interpret and enforce existing statutes in a way that provides due process, fair treatment, and individual justice to all.

Although the California Courts became a State funding responsibility pursuant to the Lockyer-Isenberg Trial Court Funding Act of 1997, the County continues to have responsibility for statutorily required Maintenance of Effort payments to the State, and funding to maintain and insure court facilities.

Discretionary services include funding for the Court's financial hearing officers and a contract for pre-trial services.