



# COMMUNITY SERVICES BUREAU

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*"A Little Grain of Sand"*  
Economic Justice Empowerment

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JOINT MEETING



April 4, 2022

# Welcome and Introductions

- *Michelle Mankewich,  
Analyst III*

●  
"A Little Grain of Sand"  
Economic Justice  
Empowerment

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# Program Overview

2:00	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Michelle Mankewich, Analyst III</i></li><li>• <i>Jasmine Cisneros, Policy Council Chair</i></li></ul>
2:10	<b>Public Comment</b>
2:15	<b>Opening Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Dr. Aaron Alarcon-Bowen, Community Services Bureau Director</i></li><li>• <i>Karen Mitchoff, Board of Supervisor Chair, District IV</i></li></ul>
2:25	<b>Key Note Presentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Maria Elena De La Garza</i></li></ul>
2:55	<b>Adjourn</b>
3:00	<b>Wellness Break</b>
3:05	<b>Table Discussion and Activity</b> <b>Discuss opportunities to advance economic justice within Contra Costa County</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Ana Araujo, Parent Family and Community Engagement Manager</i></li></ul>
3:35	<b>Reconvene</b>
3:36	<b>Table Discussion Report out</b>
3:50	<b>Closing Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Dr. Easter Calvit, Community Services Bureau Deputy Director</i></li></ul>
4:00	<b>Adjourn</b>

# Welcome and Introductions

- *Jasmine Cisneros,  
Policy Council Chair*



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# Public Comments



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# Opening Remarks

- *Dr. Aaron Alarcon-Bowen,  
Community Services Bureau Director*
- *Karen Mitchoff,  
Board of Supervisor Chair, District IV*

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# Key Note Presentation

- *Maria Elena De La Garza*  
*Executive Director of the Community*  
*Action Board of Santa Cruz County*

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# ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Un granito de arena...Una Platica

MariaElena De La Garza



# Learnings for today



Share my story



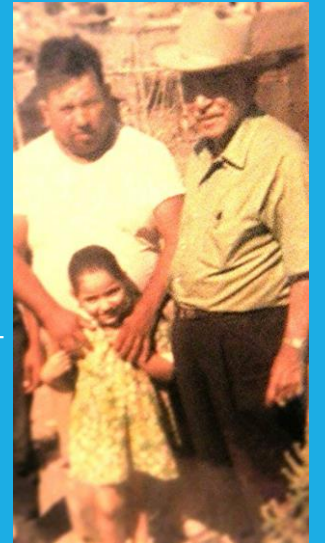
Economic Justice



Granitos de Arena—  
Call to Action



# QUIEN SOY YO?



# Dichos de mi madre

→ Dime con quien andas y  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Tell me who you walk with and I will tell you who you are*

→ Lo que haga la mano derecha que  
\_\_\_\_\_ la mano izquierda.

*What my right hand does, may my left hand never know about*

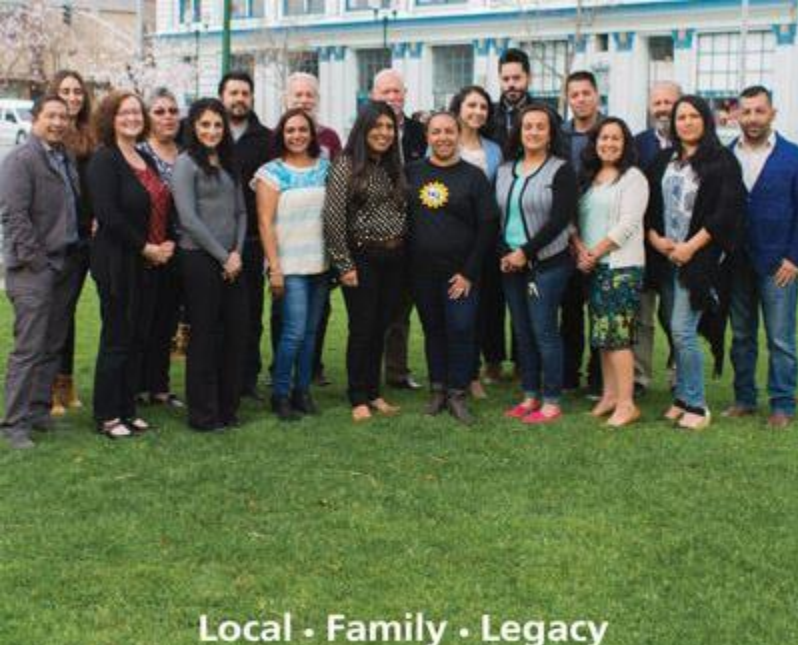
→ Cada quien pone su granito de  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Every person contributes their little grain of sand*



**Granito de arena = Grain of sand**  
**Individual contributions = collective impact**





Local • Family • Legacy

“It takes people to change the world. We trust local partners. Community Foundation, for the long haul.”



# COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, INC (CAB)

**Mission:** To partner with the community to eliminate poverty and create social change through advocacy and essential services.

**Vision:** A thriving, equitable and diverse community free from poverty and injustice

## Values:

- Equity ~We are committed to economic, political and social justice;
- Dignity and Diversity ~ *We believe every person has value and is worthy of dignity and respect;*
- Service ~ *Compassion, humility and partnership are the hallmarks of our work with one another.*
- Community Action ~ *Collective action and advocacy empower the community and create change.*
- Inclusion ~ The community shall be a voice in shaping our work



# Local Poverty Realities

- Contra Costa median income \$103k (*census*)
- Contra Costa County poverty rate 13.8% (*Public Policy Institute of Ca.*)
- 57% Renters
- Average cost of rent \$2411 /income \$87,000/ \$41.73 an hour (*RentCafe*)
- Approximately 1 out of every 6 people are hungry (*CC Health Services*)



# Quien es su comunidad? Who is your community?



# What does poverty or economic injustice look like in a community?

Children living in poverty

Low wage work i.e.,  
farmworkers,  
service workers

High  
Unemployment or  
underemployed

High Rents

High Density Living

Impacts of the  
Pandemic

Middle income  
earners struggling—  
teachers, blue collar  
workers

Immigrants, single  
parents, seniors,  
young parents

Indigenous  
Language Speakers

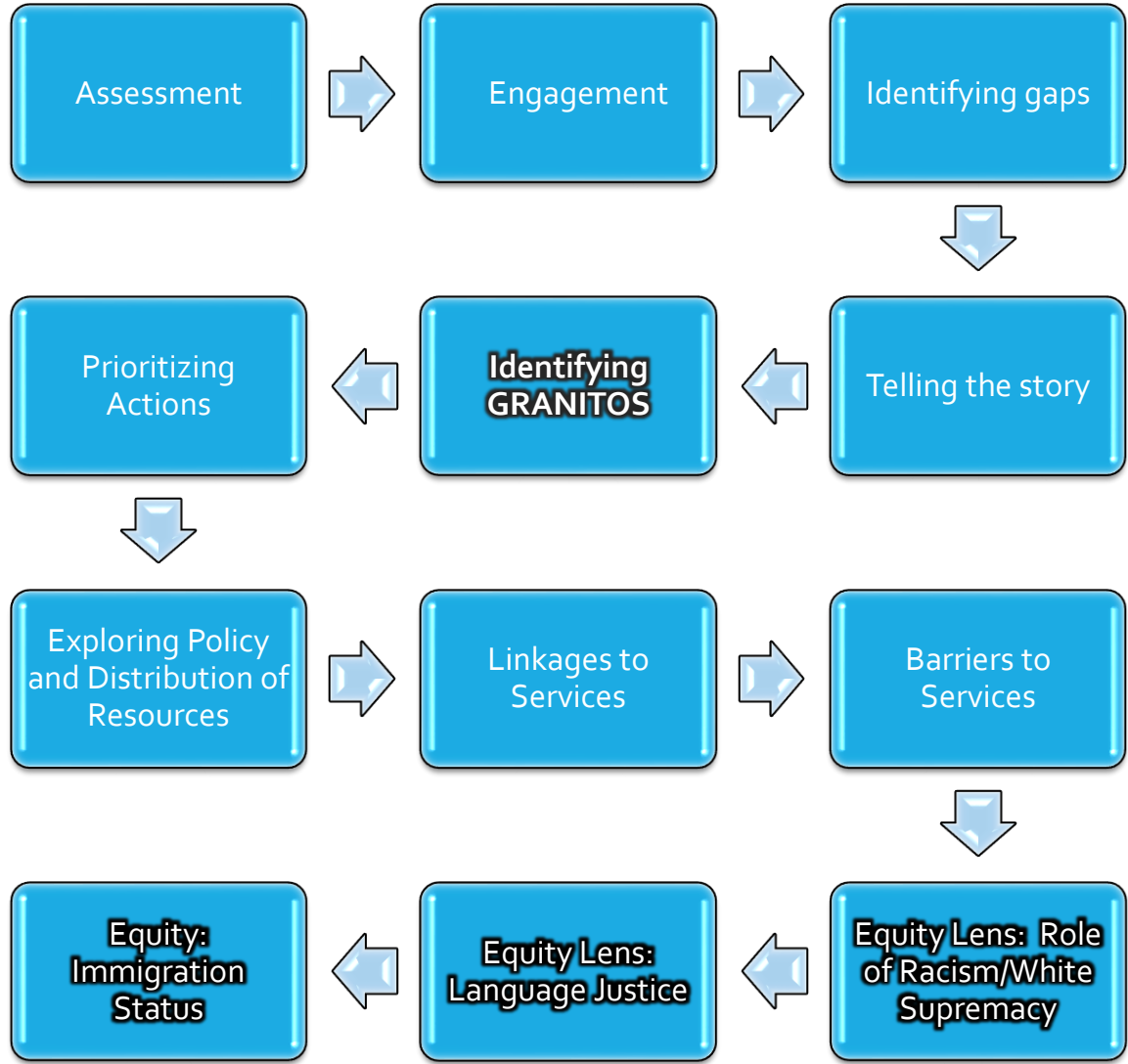
Limited access to  
services

Pressures on Youth

Health Disparities

**What else?**





How can a community respond?

# Example of a community response.....

- Covid response
- Gaps in services for Spanish speakers, Indigenous Language Speakers
- Partnerships and the South County Triage
- Resources and funding
- Indigenous Language Line
- Communication and Marketing
- Rental Assistance



# What does poverty or economic injustice look like in a community?

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farmworkers,  
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High Density Living

Impacts of the  
Pandemic

Middle income  
earners struggling—  
teachers, blue collar  
workers

Immigrants, single  
parents, seniors,  
young parents

Indigenous  
Language Speakers

Limited access to  
services

Pressures on Youth

Health Disparities

**What else?**

# HOW DO WE RESPOND TO POVERTY/ECONOMIC INJUSTICE IN OUR COMMUNITY?

GRANITOS DE ARENA =  
GRAINS OF SAND=  
INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS=  
COLLECTIVE IMPACT





**GRANITOS DE ARENA =  
GRAINS OF SAND =  
INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS =  
COLLECTIVE IMPACT**

- It TAKES VISION, PLANNING, ACTION to build a sand castle from millions of grains of sand
- Each grain of sand is needed to come together to make a difference

# Break Out Discussion

- Share your favorite Dicho and what was the lesson it taught you?
- What is the granito de arena that YOU bring to this leadership partnership?
- Choose one:
  - What can Elected Officials do to help respond to Poverty/Economic Injustice in your community?
  - What can Head Start do to respond to Poverty/Economic Injustice in your community?
  - What can YOU do to respond to Poverty/Economic Injustice in your community?

# MIL GRACIAS

MariaElena De La Garza

[mariaelena@cabinc.org](mailto:mariaelena@cabinc.org)





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Meeting Adjourn

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# Wellness break!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=97bl2OV06nE>

# Table Discussions and Activity

- *Ana Araujo, Parent Family and Community Engagement Manager*



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# Table Discussions

Breakrooms

1. Share your favorite Dicho and what was the lesson it taught you?
2. What is the granito de arena that YOU bring to this leadership partnership? taught you?
3. Choose one:
  - What can Elected Officials do to help respond to Poverty/Economic Injustice in your community?
  - What can Head Start do to respond to Poverty/Economic Injustice in your community?
  - What can YOU do to respond to Poverty/Economic Injustice in your community?

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# Meeting Reconvene

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# Table Discussions Report-out

- *Ana Araujo, Parent Family and Community Engagement Manager*



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# Closing Remarks

- *Dr. Easter Calvit, Community Services Bureau Deputy Director*



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Thank you for your participation!

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