
From: Jane Courant <
Sent: Friday, April 8, 2022 2:24 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: County Budget (Item D.1)

Dear Supervisor,

I will be traveling during this Tuesday's budget meeting and wanted to share my views with each of you here.

Once again, I urge you not to increase the Sheriff Department's Budget. The department currently has unfilled vacancies, and other critical County programs need to be funded more robustly.

Such programs and departments include, but are not limited to:

- The Public Defender's Office to hire more social workers, investigators, and attorneys to provide services to clients.
- Free eviction defense legal services so all county residents, regardless of immigration status or financial resources, can have representation by a qualified attorney to protect their legal rights with respect to evictions.
- Contra Costa CARES to provide critical gap funding for health care to undocumented immigrants including mental health.
- Stand Together Contra Costa, to provide social workers, public education, community outreach, and free immigration lawyers for immigrant families.

Thank you for your attention.

Jane Courant
Richmond, CA

From: Danny Espinoza <despinoza@liftupcoco.org>
Sent: Friday, April 8, 2022 2:41 PM
To: Clerk of the Board; Supervisor_Burgis; Supervisor Candace Andersen; SupervisorMitchoff; District5; John_Gioia
Subject: Official Letter to BOS from the Reimagine Public Safety Contra Costa Campaign.
Attachments: 2022 Budget Letter to BOS (1).pdf

Hello please distribute the attached letter to the BOS in response to the budget presentation, and ahead of the April 12th BOS meeting.

Please note the CBO sign-on list at the bottom.

In community,
on behalf of the *Reimagine Public Safety Contra Costa Campaign*

--
Daniel Espinoza
Lift Up Contra Costa | Campaign Director
100 E 18th St. Antioch CA 94509
despinoza@liftupcoco.org
707.398.5298
(He/Him/His)



Lift Up Contra Costa members include Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE), Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN), Communities for a Better Environment, The Contra Costa AFL-CIO Labor Council, East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy, SEIU Local 1021, SEIU Local 2015, Safe Return Project, and the Richmond Progressive Alliance



April 8, 2022

The Honorable Karen Mitchoff and Members of the Board
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
1025 Escobar Street, 1st Floor
Martinez, CA 94553

Re: 2022/23 Fiscal year county budget presentation

Dear Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of the *Reimagine Public Safety Contra Costa Campaign*, an equipped, educated, and equity-centered countywide group made up of non-profit organizations, faith, elected, and community leaders, advocates, residents, parents, and students all working to address public safety through the lens of racial equity, and civic engagement, we are writing you today to ask that you consider the following when working and voting on this year's budget proposals:

- Close Juvenile Hall and fully fund the new Youth and *Equity* Center in East Contra Costa by closing Marsh Creek Detention Facility and keeping the word "Equity" in the name of the Youth and Equity Center to honor its intentions.
- Fully fund Stand Together Contra Costa to provide social workers, public education, community outreach, and free immigration lawyers for immigrant families.
- Fund the public defender's office to hire more social workers, investigators, and attorneys to provide services to clients on the front-end of their entanglement with law enforcement through Front-End Advocacy Teams.
- Pass a county-wide ordinance regulating the procurement and use of surveillance technologies and military equipment by law enforcement which includes annual reporting on use and community equity impacts, as well as robust community transparency and input.
- Provide and Fund a non-police Traffic Enforcement unit, and Legal Dumping options for indigent residents of the unincorporated areas, to address community needs by reallocating funding from the Office of the Sheriff.

- Fund a Robust and independent Sheriff Oversight and Auditor body led by the community and fund said body by defunding the Internal Affairs and Coroners office expenditures of the Sheriff and not adding any financial resources to the sheriff's office.
- Provide county funding for free eviction defense legal services for Contra Costa so that all residents, regardless of immigration status or financial resources, can have representation by a qualified attorney to protect their legal rights with respect to evictions.
- Invest in Contra Costa CARES to provide critical gap funding for health care to undocumented immigrants including mental health.

The General Fund already has a 20.5% reserve balance. Quarterly fluctuations in sales tax revenue rarely exceed 10% - the Board should substantially lower the reserve balances for Measure X, as well as the General Fund, and use the money to support urgent community needs. We ask the Board to also give serious and due consideration to all of MXCAB's proposed funding priorities from last year that could not adequately be funded and conduct and review all appropriate financial analyses, including allocation and review of ARPA funding, before making funding decisions to the general budget.

We demand that the Board explain its decision-making methodology moving forward, including how it will incorporate and honor MXCAB's research-based operating principles of equity and prioritize funding for the needs of low-income people and those most in need in the Measure X allocations as well as with respect to all County revenue and expenditure sources, including the General Fund and ARPA. The COVID-19 Pandemic has laid bare the inequities present in our housing, health, and economic systems, leaving our historically marginalized communities with nowhere to go. Instead of continuing to pour millions and millions of our tax dollars into the criminal punishment system with little or no oversight and transparency, the Board needs to urgently change course to prioritize investments in common-sense solutions that uplift our communities and squarely address the root causes of inequity so that we can create effective and lasting alternatives to mass incarceration while co-creating an equitable Contra Costa where everyone can thrive.

In community,

The Reimagine Public Safety Contra Costa Campaign
reimaginepublicsafetycoco@gmail.com

Organization Sign-on's

Lift Up Contra Costa
ACCE Contra Costa
Contra Costa Immigrant Rights Alliance
Conscious Contra Costa
NAMI Contra Costa
Black Minds Matter 2
Elsie Mills, Concord resident
Village Community Resource Center
Monument Impact
Contra Costa Defenders Association

From: Millie Phillips <millie@workingeastbay.org>
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 12:28 PM
To: John Gioia; Candace Andersen; Diane Burgis; Karen Mitchoff; Federal Glover
Cc: Clerk of the Board; Kristi Laughlin
Subject: Public comment on county budget

Dear Members of the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors,

As you meet tomorrow, I hope you will consider the needs of the most vulnerable residents of Contra Costa County. If you are a person of faith, please ask yourself how the values of your religious tradition could guide you in supporting a moral budget.

Specifically, I would urge you to respond favorably to the requests of the Budget Justice and Racial Justice Coalitions:

1. Allocate enough ARPA, ERAP, and Measure X funds to meet immediate community needs, and, in particular, \$1.8 million for comprehensive legal services for tenants.
2. Ensure that ARPA allocations and other budget decisions are grounded in the principle of equity for all county residents.
3. Consider reducing allocations to the sheriff and implementing a 1-to-1 match of any increased funding for sheriff patrol for community-based prevention and reentry programs.

Thank you,

Rev. Millie Phillips

Rev. Millie Phillips

[\(She/Her\)](#)

Faith-Rooted Organizer FAME Concord

[Faith Alliance for a Moral Economy \(FAME\) an initiative of EBASE](#)

2140 Minert Rd, Concord CA 94518

Cell: 415 272-4152

From: 1463 Marclair Dr Tenants Union <1463marclairdrtenantsunion@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 1:54 PM
To: John Gioia; Candace Andersen; Diane Burgis; Karen Mitchoff; Federal Glover
Cc: Kristi Laughlin; Clerk of the Board
Subject: Investment in Tenant Legal Services

Good afternoon Supervisor Mitchoff,

My name is Juan Damian. I am a tenant and resident of Concord. I am sending you this email to tell you how important it is to have legal representation in court.

I appreciate that the BOS invested \$600,000 in CDBG funds that helped bring Centro Legal to Contra Costa. But that is a one-time allocation that will run out this year.

Like me, many other Contra Costa County tenants can't afford to lose this service. In January 2021, I received notice of a rent increase, which was illegal under the county's eviction moratorium. So I worked with my neighbors to stop that rent increase by sending a group letter to the property manager. In October 2021, I met with the landlord to ask for repairs and register complaints of harassment by the property manager. I received a 60-day eviction notice a few weeks later due to major remodeling.

I inquired about it with the City of Concord and discovered that the landlord had not pulled permits. I submitted a letter requesting more information and proof of the pending remodel, but this letter was ignored, and I was notified to vacate by January 23. On January 27, I received an unlawful detainer.

Thanks to Centro Legal de la Raza, which represented me in court, I can stay in my apartment. However, this whole ordeal has caused my son and me a lot of stress. In the same way, my neighbors, all of whom are Latino immigrants, now fear speaking up for themselves and asking for reparations because of this injustice.

It is imperative to ensure the continued involvement of Centro Legal de la Raza in serving the Contra Costa County community. In the absence of Centro Legal, there will be no one to counsel and support the tens of thousands of undocumented members of our community, most of whom are renters like me.

I urge the Board to free up some portion of ARPA funds, ERAP funds, or Measure X funds for critical tenant legal services.

Sincerely

Juan Damian

From: Linda Thuman >
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 6:56 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: BOS 041222

I am writing regarding Discussion Item D1, number 7 Presentation-Sheriff

I STRONGLY support the additional staffing in the Sheriff's Budget, specifically but not limited to Deputy Sheriff's assigned to the Byron area. My family and I appreciate all of our first responders and especially The Sheriff's Office. They are stretched too thin in our area and at times have been unable to respond in a timely manner to problems in our area. Just the presence of the patrol vehicles is a deterrent, but sadly we do not see them often enough. Please approve the Sheriff's Office budget as presented.

Sincerely
Gary & Linda Thuman

From: Courtney Coon
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 9:06 PM
To: karen.mitchoff@ccccounty.us
Cc: John Gioia; District5; Supervisor Candace Andersen; Diane.Burgis@bosccccounty.us; Clerk of the Board
Subject: Contra Costa 2022-23 proposed budget

Supervisor Mitchoff,

Since the Board of Supervisors will be discussing the 2022-2023 budget tomorrow, I wanted you to know what I hope to see in the leftover ARPA funds in the county spent on. Specifically, money should be spent on the county's most pressing needs including those identified by the Measure X committee that were unable to be funded initially. Additionally, I don't think any budget should go to increase police presence but if you must, I hope that you will consider matching whatever funds you give them with an equivalent amount on re-entry and social services that have been shown to prevent crime in the first place. It is a much investment of the funding!

Sincerely,

Courtney Coon, PhD
she/her
Pleasant Hill, California

From: P
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 8:25 AM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Proposed Budget - Office of the Contra Costa County Sheriff

Good morning Honorable Supervisors and Madam Clerk,

I would like to provide comment on Item #7 of this morning's Agenda, which addresses the proposed budget for the Contra Costa Sheriff's Department.

As a long time resident of the far East County, I very much appreciate the great work that the Sheriff's Office, along with the other law enforcement agencies, in their efforts to maintain public safety and provide services in a very large geographical area where we live.

I am requesting that adequate resources be made available for the Sheriff's Office to not only maintain the present number of officers, but to increase the staffing levels to help beef up the number of deputies on patrol, add to the supervisory positions, and maintain the adequate support staffing, as well.

Thank you very much for your consideration and continued support of the Contra Costa Sheriff's Office.

Mike Nisen
Member - BMAC

From: Rick Kendrick (FA)
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 8:50 AM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Public Comment April 12 agenda Item 7

With the increase in crime in general that we are experiencing, I support any and all funding we can provide Law Enforcement. Law Enforcement risks their lives everyday to provide our safety, Making sure they have what they need keeps us safer. I would like to provide my support for passing item 7 to increase Sheriff staffing for Byron and unincorporated Brentwood.

Thank you
Rick Kendrick

Byron Ca

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E-mail is covered by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 USC SS 2510-2521 and is legally privileged.

From: Karen Beck -
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 10:11 AM
To: John Gioia; Supervisor Candace Andersen; Supervisor Mitchoff; Diane Burgis; Clerk of the Board; District 5
Subject: Statements from 2 Conscious Contra Costa Members from Danville

Dear Supervisors:

My husband and I are 35 year residents of Danville and members of Conscious Contra Costa. Our county needs a lot of work to improve. These are things we are concerned about:

The Sheriff's support of a convicted felon cop over our judicial system-- which he has sworn to protect and uphold--is a disgrace. Your inaction on this issue is also a disgrace. Instead many of you endorse him. What a stain on our county and YOU. Your reputations may never recover. Just as the East Bay Times editorial said, "We deserve better."

It is very important that you fund a robust and independent oversight and auditor body led by the community and you could fund this by defunding the ridiculous Internal Affairs and Coroners office expenditures of the Sheriff. Don't give any additional money to the Sheriff. Additionally, the Sheriff should not get an increase to his budget.

If you somehow and incorrectly approve the Sheriff's budget request then you should match funding dollar for dollar for re entry and preventative services.

You should close juvenile hall and fully fund the new Youth and Equity Center

Fully fund Stand Together Contra Costa to provide social workers, public education, community outreach and free immigration lawyers for immigrant families.

Fund the public defender's office to hire more social workers, investigator and attorneys to provide services to provide front end services for clients.

Provide county funding for free eviction defense legal services so that all residents regardless of their status can have a qualified attorney.

Invest in Contra Costa CARES to provide critical gap funding for health care to undocumented immigrants including mental health.

Pass a county-wide ordinance regulating procurement and use of surveillance technologies and military equipment by law enforcement which includes annual reporting on use and community equity impacts as well as robust community input..

Please make this county a better place and stop embarrassing us--especially yourselves. Contra Costa County is a laughing stock at present.

Sincerely,

Steve and Karen Beck

June McHuen

From: Danny Espinoza <despinoza@liftupcoco.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 10:56 AM
To: Clerk of the Board; John_Gioia; Supervisor_Burgis; Supervisor Candace Andersen; SupervisorMitchoff; District5
Subject: Fwd: Official Letter to BOS from the Reimagine Public Safety Contra Costa Campaign.
Attachments: 2022 Budget Letter to BOS (1).pdf

To be read and or acknowledged on the Record for today's April 12th BOS Budget presentation meeting.

On behalf of the Reimagine Public Safety Contra Costa Campaign

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Danny Espinoza** <despinoza@liftupcoco.org>
Date: Fri, Apr 8, 2022 at 2:40 PM
Subject: Official Letter to BOS from the Reimagine Public Safety Contra Costa Campaign.
To: <clerkoftheboard@cob.cccounty.us>, <supervisor_burgis@bos.cccounty.us>, <supervisorandersen@bos.cccounty.us>, <SupervisorMitchoff@bos.cccounty.us>, <district5@bos.cccounty.us>, <john_gioia@bos.cccounty.us>

Hello please distribute the attached letter to the BOS in response to the budget presentation, and ahead of the April 12th BOS meeting.

Please note the CBO sign-on list at the bottom.

In community,
on behalf of the *Reimagine Public Safety Contra Costa Campaign*

--

Daniel Espinoza

Lift Up Contra Costa | Campaign Director
100 E 18th St. Antioch CA 94509
despinoza@liftupcoco.org
707.398.5298
(He/Him/His)



Lift Up Contra Costa members include Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE), Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN), Communities for a Better Environment, The Contra Costa AFL-CIO Labor Council, East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy, SEIU Local 1021, SEIU Local 2015, Safe Return Project, and the Richmond Progressive Alliance

--

Daniel Espinoza

Lift Up Contra Costa | Campaign Director

100 E 18th St. Antioch CA 94509

despinoza@liftupcoco.org

707.398.5298

(He/Him/His)



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April 8, 2022

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Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
1025 Escobar Street, 1st Floor
Martinez, CA 94553

Re: 2022/23 Fiscal year county budget presentation

Dear Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

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- Fund a Robust and independent Sheriff Oversight and Auditor body led by the community and fund said body by defunding the Internal Affairs and Coroners office expenditures of the Sheriff and not adding any financial resources to the sheriff's office.
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We demand that the Board explain its decision-making methodology moving forward, including how it will incorporate and honor MXCAB's research-based operating principles of equity and prioritize funding for the needs of low-income people and those most in need in the Measure X allocations as well as with respect to all County revenue and expenditure sources, including the General Fund and ARPA. The COVID-19 Pandemic has laid bare the inequities present in our housing, health, and economic systems, leaving our historically marginalized communities with nowhere to go. Instead of continuing to pour millions and millions of our tax dollars into the criminal punishment system with little or no oversight and transparency, the Board needs to urgently change course to prioritize investments in common-sense solutions that uplift our communities and squarely address the root causes of inequity so that we can create effective and lasting alternatives to mass incarceration while co-creating an equitable Contra Costa where everyone can thrive.

In community,

The Reimagine Public Safety Contra Costa Campaign
reimaginepublicsafetycoco@gmail.com

Organization Sign-on's

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ACCE Contra Costa
Contra Costa Immigrant Rights Alliance
Conscious Contra Costa
NAMI Contra Costa
Black Minds Matter 2
Elsie Mills, Concord resident
Village Community Resource Center
Monument Impact
Contra Costa Defenders Association

From: Jeff Allendorph m>
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 11:07 AM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Board Meeting agenda; budget. P-6 Funds

Hello. I want to send in my support for dispersal of funding to the Sheriff Department. I live in the P6 District, pay over \$600/year for the Special Tax and only recently learned that (1), there are no dedicated Sheriff Deputies in the Discovery Bay Area between the hours of midnight to 5am and (2), those funds might be diverted as some would like to defund the Sheriff Department. I support more funding from the General Fund (not taxation). If my math is correct, the P6 Fund is over \$3 million/year. We need more Law Enforcement coverage, not less.

Thank you,
Jeff Allendorph

Discovery Bay

From: Jan Warren <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 12:02 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Comments on Agenda item D1 2022-23 Budget Discussion April 12, 2022

Dear Clerk of the Board, Chair, and Members of the Board,

I appreciate the discussion this morning and particularly the discussion on the four COVID-19 cost recovery funding sources. I appreciate the fiscal responsibility and understand the delays on reimbursement of funds that the County has to carry at times.

As to the \$59 million that was originally discussed at the Board retreat to come back for discussion in January 2023, I ask you to look at allocating some of those funds in September.

While we will continue to see impacts from the mutations of COVID-19, I find it difficult to imagine that we will spend as much on health services in the 2nd tranche as in the first \$112 million.

I acknowledge that you're flying a large plane through a big storm and trying to come down and have a comfortable landing without missing the runway or running off the landing space.

A lot of times the public just needs more clarity of information. Therefore, please address what is the fallacy in the statement that CC and Marin County are the only Counties nationwide out of the 152 cities and counties that set aside 100% of ARPA funds on COVID related health expenses?

The current income eligible insured for CC Cares known to EHSD in CCC is 12,000. I request your consideration in increasing the outreach funding for Contra Costa Cares outreach to increase the number of people using the program before it converts to a State Medical program in 2024.

It is in the County's best interest, as well as the public's, to have people on board before the transfer date, since the State has fallen short in implementing large numbers with new programs without delays, lack of staffing, and insufficient database set-ups.

Thank you for setting a balance between fiscal responsibility and compassion for needs the people need now.

Jan Warren

[redacted]
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

From: PAULA WHERITY <
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 12:50 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: BUDGET HEARING

I would like to address item #7 of this morning's budget meeting. I am a resident of Byron and have been for the last 11 years. We are in urgent need of increased Deputy Staffing. Being out in the rural area of East Contra County we seem to get overlooked with funding and our voices being heard. Times have changed as it has everywhere. We are seeing a lot more homeless people wandering our small town, more crimes such as break ins, trespassing and loitering, not to mention the recent garbage dumping and graffiti. In my area alone (Camino Diablo & McCabe Rd.) there are 6 women, 5 over the age of 65, the oldest is 93, that live alone in our homes. This area is popular for people to drive around the Church parking lot and in the almond orchard and behind the Church just to hang out and sit in their cars for hours into the night. This is concerning when I've called into the non-emergency Sheriff's number and get a recording no one is available to take my call or that a Deputy will be out shortly and the response time is almost 30 minutes. Please allow a budget increase for Deputy Sheriff services to our small community. Thank You!

Paula Wherity

President - Byron Chamber of Commerce/ Friends of Byron

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 1:31 PM
To: Clerk of the Board; John_Gioia
Cc: David Sharples; Patricia Aguiar; ACCE's Edith Pastrano
Subject: budget public comment

I may be on a call with Kaiser's Anesthesiologist regarding my son's upcoming sedated dental procedure.

In case I do not get to speak today, here is my input:

Dear CCC Board of Supervisors:

In 1960, we Cold War Cubans, running away from communism, got the red-carpet treatment. Easy visas, food, and a path to citizenship allowed Cubans to succeed more than other immigrant groups. The U.S. knows how to treat refugees. What happens at the Mexican/U.S. border is unforgivable.

What is happening here, in Contra Costa, is unforgivable. Immigrants contribute 24 billion to our County economy yearly, yet 500 Contra Costans face deportation. Did I hear that C.A.R.E.S. was allowed to sunset while tens of millions of ARPA monies are available? Did I hear correctly County Supervisors agree that millions of ARPA monies should be hoarded in anticipation of Ukrainian refugee arrivals in 2023?

How about hiring 36 more immigration lawyers instead of 36 more deputies?

I say treat our current refugees AND future Ukrainian refugees as my family was treated. We Cubans have proven that it is not only morally right; It is a good investment to properly welcome refugees.

Very sincerely,
Mrs. Elsa China Stevens
ACCE member and Richmond, CA voter

From: Chris Kelley <CKelley@ci.hercules.ca.us>
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 2:30 PM
To: Supervisor Mitchoff; Clerk of the Board
Subject: Appoint Annie Ziff to Rodeo Hercules Fire District Board

Dear Chair Mitchoff & Supervisors,

I would like to voice my support for Annie Ziff being appointed as the replacement Director to the Rodeo Hercules Fire District (RHFD) Board. Ms. Ziff lives in Rodeo and currently serves on the RHFD Measure O Oversight Committee.

She understands our Fire District's financial situation and its operations. Choosing her for the vacant Director position would be a good choice because of her considerable knowledge about the fire district. Moreover, appointing Ms. Ziff would make Rodeo residents feel they have local representation on the RHFD Board.

Sincerely,

Chris Kelley
Council Member
City of Hercules

From: Alex Werth <alex@ebho.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 3:25 PM
To: John Gioia; Candace Andersen; Federal Glover; Karen Mitchoff; Diane Burgis; Clerk of the Board
Subject: Comment Re: Budget Hearing and Need for Tenant Legal Services

I intended to give the following comment during the budget hearing, but I won't be available for the rest of the day. Please include this comment in the public record.

...

Good afternoon, Supervisors. As we discuss the budget, I'd like to draw your attention to the memo that I sent on behalf of the Raise the Roof Coalition on April 5th, which outlines the substantial need and benefits of investing \$1.8 million in ongoing funding for tenant legal aid.

Let's take stock of where we are. In March, the Census found that one in ten California tenants had *no confidence* in their ability to make April rent. If we apply this ratio to Contra Costa, that would mean that 14,000 households are at risk of missing rent, if they haven't already. Interestingly, this number corresponds almost exactly to the 13,000 households that are still awaiting rent relief from the State—more than half of all who applied. Statewide, the share of renters at risk of non-payment is twice as high for Black and Latinx folks as White ones, owing to the legacies of systemic racism in housing and employment, and we have to assume the same disparities are present here.

At the same time, there are no longer any protections against non-payment eviction for local tenants who are still suffering due to the pandemic. Taken together, this spells a dangerous and avoidable wave of eviction and displacement, which will put increasing strain on our homeless service system, which is already overtaxed. In this context, tenant legal aid is like the finger in the dam.

But the County seems poised to pull the finger, too. The \$600,000 in CDBG that the Board allocated in 2020 is set to run out in June, jeopardizing Centro Legal's ability to continue to help low-income and immigrant members of our community. **Without investing in ongoing funding, this Board would, in practice, be cutting critical services at the very moment they're most needed.** We can't abandon these families—including tens of thousands of undocumented folks—at this dangerous hour. So we urge the Board to invest \$1.8 million in ongoing funding to ensure that all Contra Costa renters can access high-quality legal support regardless of income, immigration status, or area of residence. The money is there. Indeed, investing in eviction prevention would actually save the County a good deal in terms of the high moral and financial costs of simply mitigating homelessness after the fact. Let's work together to make our eviction prevention system more efficient, effective, and equitable. Thank you.

--

Alex Werth | Policy Manager
[East Bay Housing Organizations](#)
413-222-8880 (cell) | alex@ebho.org
538 9th St. Suite 200 | Oakland, CA 94607
Pronouns: He/Him/His

May 4th is EBHO's Affordable Housing Month Kickoff event! 🍷 This year, you can join the event by gathering in person OR online. At our in-person gathering, we'll share food and drink and jam to music from [DJ Wild Man](#). The event programming will showcase the amazing events scheduled throughout our [East Bay Affordable](#)

[Housing Month](#) and honor this year's Affordable Housing Month Honorees. We want to see you! [RSVP for the online gathering](#) or [get your tickets for the in-person gathering today](#).

June McHuen

From: Alex Werth <alex@ebho.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 3:27 PM
To: John Gioia; Candace Andersen; Federal Glover; Karen Mitchoff; Diane Burgis; Clerk of the Board
Subject: Re: Comment Re: Budget Hearing and Need for Tenant Legal Services
Attachments: Memo - Tenant Legal Aid Funding in Contra Costa 4-5-22.pdf

I'm re-attaching our memo for reference and for inclusion in the public record.

Thank you,
Alex

On Tue, Apr 12, 2022 at 6:25 PM Alex Werth <alex@ebho.org> wrote:

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...

Good afternoon, Supervisors. As we discuss the budget, I'd like to draw your attention to the memo that I sent on behalf of the Raise the Roof Coalition on April 5th, which outlines the substantial need and benefits of investing \$1.8 million in ongoing funding for tenant legal aid.

Let's take stock of where we are. In March, the Census found that one in ten California tenants had *no confidence* in their ability to make April rent. If we apply this ratio to Contra Costa, that would mean that 14,000 households are at risk of missing rent, if they haven't already. Interestingly, this number corresponds almost exactly to the 13,000 households that are still awaiting rent relief from the State—more than half of all who applied. Statewide, the share of renters at risk of non-payment is twice as high for Black and Latinx folks as White ones, owing to the legacies of systemic racism in housing and employment, and we have to assume the same disparities are present here.

At the same time, there are no longer any protections against non-payment eviction for local tenants who are still suffering due to the pandemic. Taken together, this spells a dangerous and avoidable wave of eviction and displacement, which will put increasing strain on our homeless service system, which is already overtaxed. In this context, tenant legal aid is like the finger in the dam.

But the County seems poised to pull the finger, too. The \$600,000 in CDBG that the Board allocated in 2020 is set to run out in June, jeopardizing Centro Legal's ability to continue to help low-income and immigrant members of our community. **Without investing in ongoing funding, this Board would, in practice, be cutting critical services at the very moment they're most needed.** We can't abandon these families—including tens of thousands of undocumented folks—at this dangerous hour. So we urge the Board to invest \$1.8 million in ongoing funding to ensure that all Contra Costa renters can access high-quality legal support regardless of income, immigration status, or area of residence. The money is there. Indeed, investing in eviction prevention would actually save the County a good deal in terms of the high moral and financial costs of simply mitigating homelessness after the fact. Let's work together to make our eviction prevention system more efficient, effective, and equitable. Thank you.

--

Alex Werth | Policy Manager
[East Bay Housing Organizations](#)
413-222-8880 (cell) | alex@ebho.org

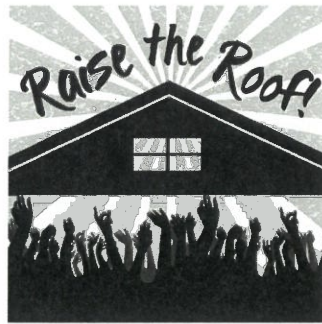
538 9th St. Suite 200 | Oakland, CA 94607
Pronouns: He/Him/His

May 4th is EBHO's Affordable Housing Month Kickoff event! 🎉 This year, you can join the event by gathering in person OR online. At our in-person gathering, we'll share food and drink and jam to music from [DJ Wild Man](#). The event programming will showcase the amazing events scheduled throughout our [East Bay Affordable Housing Month](#) and honor this year's Affordable Housing Month Honorees. **We want to see you! [RSVP for the online gathering](#) or [get your tickets for the in-person gathering today](#).**

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We Can't Go Backwards: Funding the Future of Tenant Legal Aid in Contra Costa County

Funding Request

The purpose of this memo is to request \$1,835,280 per year in County funding to sustain and expand a robust and equitable tenant legal services infrastructure to service the thousands of families in Contra Costa County who will continue to face housing insecurity and the risk of eviction and displacement even as we begin to emerge from the pandemic. This document provides detailed data on the needs and costs of additional tenant legal services, and provides options and recommendations on the most efficient and effective ways to staff and provide these critical services to residents in need.

Need for More Tenant Legal Aid

The COVID-19 pandemic has put renewed attention on an old problem: evictions have a devastating impact on the health and wellbeing of individuals, families, and communities. These burdens fall disproportionately on Black and Latina women, and the people they care for, due to persistent racial and gender inequities in housing and employment.¹ Yet, with so much at stake, only one in ten tenants who winds up in eviction court receives representation from an attorney, while nine in ten landlords do.² This is true despite the fact that legal advice and representation have been proven, again and again, to stabilize families and communities by helping to resolve tenant/landlord disputes, stop cases of unlawful harassment, and, when a tenant needs to move out, ensure that they have enough time and resources to find replacement housing.³ Legal aid is thus a priceless tool to prevent displacement and homelessness, which deepen racial inequities, while having a negative impact on the quality of life and coffers of the community as a whole. In Los Angeles County, Stout—a financial services firm—found that every County dollar invested in a

¹ Bay Area Equity Atlas. [“The Coming Wave of COVID-19 Evictions: A Growing Crisis for Families in Contra Costa County.”](#) July 10, 2020.

² Heidi Schulteis and Caitlin Rooney. [“A Right to Counsel Is a Right to a Fighting Chance: The Importance of Legal Representation in Eviction Proceedings.”](#) *American Progress*. October 2, 2019.

³ *Ibid.*

full tenant right-to-counsel program would save the County \$4.80 in emergency shelter, housing navigation, health care, and other costs.⁴

Two recent client stories from Bay Area Legal Aid (BayLegal) demonstrate the invaluable impact of tenant legal aid in either preventing needless evictions or, in cases in which the client is required to move, ensuring that they remain stably housed. In 2021, BayLegal represented a Black, disabled, elder woman whose landlord lied in his eviction filing in an attempt to evict her for non-payment, despite the State moratorium. Whereas, without representation, this tenant might well have lost her home, once BayLegal took the case, the landlord voluntarily dropped the eviction. Recently, the landlord issued a new eviction against the tenant, using loopholes in State law to claim, on spurious grounds, that he intends to move into her small unit. Once again, BayLegal intends to fight the case and defend their client's housing. In another case, BayLegal represented a widowed mother with three minor children, one of whom is disabled. At the landlord's request, the tenant had been prepared to move, but the owner refused to sign a required form that would allow her to transfer her Housing Choice Voucher. During the eviction lawsuit, he illegally shut off her water for seven days. While the tenant was unable to remain in her home, with support from BayLegal, she was able to get the lawsuit dismissed—thus keeping the eviction off of her record—and find a new place for her family to live while retaining her rental assistance Voucher.⁵

Unfortunately, whether due to capacity or client eligibility, there are bound to be cases that BayLegal cannot take. That is why it is essential to ensure that Centro Legal de la Raza can remain part of the tenant legal aid landscape in Contra Costa County. In one recent case, for instance, Centro Legal took on a 17-year-old client that another organization was unable to assist due to a representation conflict. Using the Violence Against Women Act, Centro Legal helped the young woman to secure subsidized housing by applying their expertise in federal, state, and local law to assert her unique rights as a survivor of domestic violence. In another case, Centro Legal represented a client whose landlord attempted to retaliate against them for asking the landlord to make important housing repairs. In lieu of making the repairs, the landlord attempted to circumvent the law by claiming to evict the tenant in order to perform a “substantial renovation” of the unit. After extensive research, depositions, and litigation, during which Centro Legal attorneys attended multiple court dates with the client, the landlord agreed to dismiss this baseless lawsuit.

These outcomes show that legal aid is essential to maintaining the housing security of our most vulnerable community members. **Still, tenants in Contra Costa County have long faced a dangerous lack of legal services relative to many neighboring counties. At the start of the pandemic, there was no organization that could represent tenants in eviction court without regard for income, immigration status, or city of residence.**⁶ Recognizing the

⁴ Stout. [“Cost-Benefit Analysis of Providing Right to Counsel to Tenants in Eviction Proceedings.”](#) December 10, 2019, p. 8.

⁵ Client stories provided by BayLegal.

⁶ The only legal service provider that could represent tenants across Contra Costa County, regardless of location, was Bay Area Legal Aid. But due to the restrictions attached to their federal funding, BayLegal is generally barred from representing undocumented tenants. This meant that the only countywide service

harms caused by this lack of equitable access to services in Fall 2020, the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors voted to allocate \$600,000 in CDBG funds from the CARES Act to provide legal services to low-income tenants facing eviction. With the County's leadership and support, three out of four of the municipal members of the CDBG Consortium (Antioch, Concord, and Walnut Creek) then allocated their own CARES Act funds, raising the overall pool to around \$1 million.⁷ This process allowed Centro Legal de la Raza—which has provided critical services to tenants, workers, and immigrants in Oakland and Alameda County since 1969—to launch a tenants' rights practice in Contra Costa.⁸ Since then, Centro Legal has collaborated with other local legal service organizations to take referrals for tenants at imminent risk of eviction and displacement, including undocumented tenants, many of whom are front line workers disproportionately harmed by economic losses and inequitable government policies during the pandemic.

The addition of Centro Legal's services in Contra Costa has been an important improvement to the tenant legal aid landscape. Still, there is a lot of room to grow in order to build a legal services structure with sufficient and sustainable capacity. **There is extensive unmet need in the community due to the overall lack of sufficient and ongoing funding for tenant legal services.** Monument Impact, which provided application assistance for the State's COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), has been providing 80 to 100 referrals per month to low-income tenants in search of legal services.⁹ And in March 2022, the State indicated that around 3,500 of the more than 23,000 Contra Costa renter households that applied for ERAP asked to be contacted by a legal service provider due to concerns about their housing security that went beyond COVID-related rental debt.¹⁰ **This level of need far outstrips the capacity of local agencies to provide robust services.** The upshot is that the tenant legal aid system—which is key to preventing homelessness—is heavily oversubscribed, thus putting more pressure on the homeless service system, which is also over capacity. Indeed, according to a recent report from the Council on Homelessness, the County's homeless system of care is only able to meet the needs of about 46% of people experiencing homelessness.¹¹

provider that could serve undocumented renters was ECHO Housing, which, without staff attorneys, contracted with one half-time attorney to handle eviction cases on an ad hoc basis.

⁷ Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are allocated to larger cities and counties. Here, in Contra Costa County, the Cities of Walnut Creek, Concord, Antioch, and Pittsburg all receive CDBG funds from the federal government. The County then receives its own allocation in order to serve all other areas of Contra Costa. These five "entitlement jurisdictions" often coordinate on matters of countywide concern through the CDBG Consortium. Of the members of the CDBG Consortium, Pittsburg was the only one not to allocate new funding for tenant legal services in Fall 2020.

⁸ Centro Legal de la Raza was selected as a subcontractor to ECHO Housing, which was contracted to provide tenant/landlord mediation.

⁹ Data provided by Monument Impact.

¹⁰ Data on the number of applicants seeking legal support provided by California Department of Housing and Community Development via the Legal Aid Association of California. The total number of applicants refers to the number of "Complete Household Applications" listed on the State's [data dashboard](#) as of March 2022.

¹¹ Contra Costa County Continuum of Care. "[Staff Report from the Contra Costa Council on Homelessness.](#)" January-March, 2021, p. 3.

Moreover, as a one-time allocation of pandemic relief funds, the Contra Costa CDBG Consortium's investment in tenant legal aid only provided enough funding for a single year of services, which is currently set to expire in June 2022. **Without an ongoing source to replace the CARES Act CDBG funds, Centro Legal might not be able to continue to provide these services in Contra Costa, setting our communities back to the dangerous situation that existed in 2020.** Recognizing this risk, in November 2021, the Measure X Community Advisory Board identified ongoing funds for tenant legal services as #8 on its extensive list of priorities for new sales tax revenue. **The Board of Supervisors has twice declined this request,¹² leaving the current eviction defense system at risk of being dismantled at the same moment that emergency tenant protections and rental assistance are coming to an end, despite the increasing availability of federal, state, and local funds.**

Therefore, the purpose of this memo is to outline a path toward expanded legal services for local low-income tenants who need them. Having consulted with BayLegal and Centro Legal about their current operating constraints and funding needs, **we recommend that the County fund a more robust and integrated eviction prevention system by allocating \$1,835,280 per year on an ongoing basis.** As the remainder of this memo shows, this level of investment is needed to increase the number of attorneys and paralegals required to address the growing service gap and enact programmatic innovations that will make the eviction defense system more effective, efficient, and equitable. This is a small cost to pay to keep residents in their homes and out of overcrowded shelters and encampments—**one that will actually save the County money.** At minimum, the County should continue to fund existing levels of legal aid, which would cost around \$945,494 per year, rather than taking away the services that have been a lifeline for renters during this pandemic.

Options to Maintain and Improve Services

In order to strengthen Contra Costa's tenant legal services and eviction defense system, we asked Centro Legal and BayLegal¹³ what they need to maintain and improve upon current service levels.

Current Service Levels

BayLegal's Contra Costa housing practice currently consists of three full-time equivalent employee (FTE) staff attorneys, with limited time from a managing attorney and other support

¹² The Board did vote to fund a Housing Trust Fund at around \$12 million per year. The HTF could be used to fund tenant legal services. However, legal services will have to compete with a large number of housing programs and priorities for a small pool of funds unless they are directly funded by the Board. By contrast, a direct line item for tenant legal services would protect legal services for years to come while leaving the HTF dollars to support other critical programs to promote affordable and secure housing.

¹³ We're mindful of the fact that Eviction Defense Center and Contra Costa Senior Legal Services are also equipped to provide tenant legal aid. However, for this memo, we have chosen to focus on BayLegal and Centro Legal because they have fewer constraints around location or demographics, and are thus able to serve the broadest swath of low-income households across the county.

staff. This structure costs around \$462,000 per year to maintain (including salary, benefits, and overhead). At current staffing levels, BayLegal is able to serve around 450 households per year in the form of advice/brief services and full-scope representation, with a focus on households that live in subsidized housing or receive housing subsidies. BayLegal is also able to support additional households through weekly clinics without regard to income or immigration status.¹⁴ After starting at a clinic, eligible residents often advance to receive a range of services, including individualized legal consultation; completion of forms, letters, or paperwork; negotiation; and full-scope litigation and representation at trial.¹⁵ While BayLegal's impact is extensive, they recognize that, given their budget and staffing limitations, their attorneys can only meet a fraction of the existing need. They are further limited in what services they can provide to the clients they do represent. In particular, they often focus their limited resources on representing clients from the point when an eviction case is filed to when a judgment is issued. This means that they are typically unable to serve a client pre-filing (e.g. responding to a defective eviction notice) or post-judgment (e.g. assisting with a petition to stay the actual eviction), both of which lead to worse outcomes in terms of residents' housing security.

Centro Legal's Contra Costa tenants' rights practice currently consists of one managing attorney, one staff attorney, and one paralegal. As the practice is still in its launch phase,¹⁶ Centro Legal has conducted brief consults with over 71 households and offered full-scope legal representation to over 22 households since July 2021, with a focus on serving undocumented residents and handling cases that involve multiple tenants in a single building. Centro Legal has also invested a significant amount of time in building relationships with local administrators, advocates, and court officials in order to build a strong foundation for their continued work in the county. Like BayLegal, Centro Legal notes that, with more attorneys and paralegals, they could meet a greater proportion of tenant needs in Contra Costa—needs that are growing due to the backlog of eviction cases and the expiration of temporary eviction protections as the pandemic enters its third year.

Proposed Service Levels and Costs

While BayLegal is committed to maintaining its current staffing levels, the organization and local residents would benefit from expanding funding for additional staff. Each additional FTE attorney would start out at \$150,000 per year (including salary, benefits, overhead, and ancillary staff time) with an annual 4% cost of living adjustment. **With each additional FTE, BayLegal would be able to serve an additional 150 households through the range of services discussed above.**

Option #1: 3 FTE staff attorneys and support staff time - \$462,000 per year - to serve approximately 450 households

¹⁴ Currently, BayLegal is only running clinics in Richmond. However, as it becomes safe to provide more services in-person, they hope to offer clinics in Antioch and Martinez again, as well.

¹⁵ If clients are ineligible for services, due to either income or immigration status, then BayLegal refers them to one of Contra Costa County's other tenant legal aid providers or the court's "self-help" center.

¹⁶ Centro Legal is budgeted for additional positions; but they have experienced delays in the process of staffing up due to a regional shortage of tenant attorneys amidst the pandemic-induced eviction crisis.

Option #2: 4 FTE staff attorneys and support staff time - \$612,000 per year - to serve approximately 600 households

Centro Legal also contemplates different staffing arrangements, with greater funding and staffing allowing for deeper impact.

Option #1: 2 managing attorneys, 1 supervising attorney, 1 staff attorney, 2 paralegals - \$478,494 per year - to provide approximately 230 consults and 60 legal representations

Option #2: 2 managing attorneys, 1 supervising attorney, 3 staff attorneys, 2 paralegals - \$630,000 per year - to provide approximately 350 consults and 120 legal representations

Programmatic Innovations

BayLegal and Centro Legal agree that the best way to satisfy the unmet need for tenant legal services in Contra Costa County would be to fund more staff who can provide legal advice and representation to low-income households. However, they also acknowledge that, even with existing staffing levels, there are programmatic innovations that—with adequate funding—could enhance the efficiency and impact of the current system of legal services.

BayLegal envisions developing a Contra Costa tenants' rights hotline, peer-to-peer system for coordinated referral, and in-court clinic program.

Tenants' Rights Hotline (estimated cost \$300,000 per year): Currently, when tenants in crisis call BayLegal for support, they are routed to the organization's main intake line, which covers all practice areas and geographies. In other words, Contra Costa tenants are put into a queue with callers from around the Bay Area who have not only housing concerns, but also concerns about immigration, domestic violence, Medi-Cal, and more. They are thus initially helped by attorneys who are, by necessity, generalists. BayLegal then refers Contra Costa tenants to either clinics or attorneys with more specialized local knowledge. But for someone in crisis, every additional step in the process represents a barrier that could ultimately prevent them from receiving critical services. By contrast, if BayLegal were able to create a dedicated Contra Costa tenants' rights hotline, it would ensure that when local tenants call for help, they can talk to someone who understands this specific legal landscape and provide them with immediate information about their rights and responsibilities. With County funding, BayLegal has two dedicated attorneys who run this type of hotline in Alameda County. The cost estimate for Contra Costa assumes a similar staffing structure of two FTE.

Peer-to-Peer Referral System (estimated cost \$3,000):¹⁷ Similarly, with County funding, BayLegal and other legal aid providers participate in a coordinated peer-to-peer referral system in Alameda County. Managed by Centro Legal, this system consists of a back-end database that is shared across all legal service organizations. It creates a “no wrong door” approach for tenants, in which any organization can perform client intake, even if they ultimately refer that client out to another organization that can better meet their needs. This streamlines the intake and referral process while avoiding duplication, which costs time and money, both of which are scarce in eviction defense. This system also makes it easier for multiple organizations to collaborate in serving a single client. For instance, BayLegal could write a letter on behalf of a tenant to the tenant’s landlord, while Centro Legal could pick up the case to provide legal representation, should the matter end up in court. Each of these actions would be tracked in the peer-to-peer system, thus promoting transparency and efficiency across collaborating organizations. This would be especially useful in Contra Costa because, while there is often a lack of capacity within individual organizations, peer-to-peer collaboration could ultimately allow more clients to be served. Centro Legal adds that creating a shared back-end database could also allow legal service providers to make referrals to other agencies for non-legal supports such as social services and rental assistance.

In-Court Clinics (estimated cost \$150,000 per year): Despite the existence of legal services, such as clinics, in local communities, countless tenants end up in eviction court without ever having been able to speak to an attorney. This means that the court itself is a critical place to offer legal support. While the courts provide “self-help” centers, these resources are far more difficult to comprehend, and thus less useful, than advice from a tenant attorney. With one additional FTE, BayLegal would be able to staff in-court clinics as a last line of defense for low-income tenants in need of services when they are on the brink of eviction.

Centro Legal also envisions a number of additional service enhancements.

Investigator (estimated cost \$67,000 per year): An investigator would add capacity to the legal team—thus preserving the time of the attorneys and paralegals—by conducting home visits to document habitability issues, assisting in serving opposing parties trying to evade service, and conducting additional research on information presented through the discovery process—for instance, by interviewing witnesses. These tasks are critical to mounting a strong defense, but they are difficult for the legal team, which has a number of responsibilities, to perform within the expedited timeline for discovery that is typical of eviction cases.

Translation (estimated cost \$10,000 per year): The swift timeline of eviction cases means that, for non-English-speaking clients, the added step of translating documents, such as an answer to an eviction complaint, can make that tenant more vulnerable to

¹⁷ The ultimate cost will vary depending on how many employees of different legal service organizations intend to use the peer-to-peer system, and thus require individualized licenses.

eviction. Likewise, if an eviction case results in a settlement agreement, the court issues that agreement in English. It must then be translated into another language at the client or legal service provider's expense in order to ensure that the client fully understands the terms. Without this timely translation, non-English speakers are put at an increased risk of inadvertently violating the terms of the agreement, and thus being summarily evicted. Funds for translation services would help to remedy these inequities in language access.

Communications and Outreach Coordinator (estimated cost \$36,280 per year):

This position would allow Centro Legal to extend its impact by creating and distributing content that helps tenants access information about their rights, such as infographics, FAQs, and advertisements for clinics. These sorts of products are especially critical to expanding impact in Contra Costa, because the current shortage of funded attorneys means that legal aid providers need to rely upon mass communication strategies to reach tenants at risk of eviction, even if those tenants never receive full-scope legal representation. Such information campaigns can also reduce the overall need for legal services by ensuring that more tenants understand their rights and responsibilities, and thus avoid conflicts with their landlords in the first place. A communications and outreach coordinator would also help Centro Legal continue to develop relationships in the region. This item, which amounts to 0.5 FTE, would allow the organization to hire a staffer who could support the Contra Costa tenants' rights practice.

Satellite Office (estimated cost \$23,000-30,000 per year):¹⁸ As more services are once again being provided in person, it would be beneficial for Centro Legal—whose offices are located in East Oakland—to establish a satellite space in a central area of Contra Costa County where staff can meet with clients, make copies, and otherwise interface with current and potential clients. Currently, Centro Legal attorneys need to meet with clients in public spaces where it's more difficult to maintain privacy. Having a dedicated office would also make the work of the existing legal team more efficient.

Recruitment Budget (estimated cost \$3,000 per year): Given the negative impact of the pandemic on Bay Area renters, there has been a significant increase in demand across the region for attorneys who can provide eviction defense. This, in addition to systemic pay equity issues, has made it difficult for legal aid organizations to hire the attorneys they need to adequately scale operations.¹⁹ A recruitment budget would allow Centro Legal to circulate job listings, send representatives to recruit at law schools and employment fairs, and engage in other activities that will help them staff up as they sustain and expand their services in Contra Costa County.

¹⁸ This estimate is based on the following assumptions: 6-8 employees, 150 square feet per employee, and \$2.11 per square foot, which is the average monthly asking rent for Class B office space in Concord, as of the Fourth Quarter of 2021, according to [Colliers](#).

¹⁹ California Access to Justice Commission. "[Legal Aid Recruitment, Retention, and Diversity: A Report to the State Bar of California.](#)" February 2022.

Conclusion

As this memo makes clear, \$1,835,280 per year is a small price to pay for the positive impact of tenant legal services on everything from child wellness to homelessness prevention and racial equity in Contra Costa County. During the pandemic, the County has made critical strides toward these community goals. But all of that is at risk without continued and strategic investment. Now is not the time to reverse course. At minimum, the County should continue to support the current staffing levels of these two essential providers at a cost of \$945,494 per year. The money is there. Over the past year, Contra Costa County has seen a surge in new resources—many designed to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on vulnerable residents—such as money from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Rounds 1 and 2, and the Measure X Housing Trust Fund. In addition, in 2021, the State of California approved new funds for tenant legal services, and more may be forthcoming. By working in partnership with local advocates, elected officials, and philanthropic foundations, we can maintain and strengthen tenant legal aid to the benefit of all Contra Costa residents. Our organizations stand at the ready to provide the community vision and technical assistance needed to make this happen.

Sincerely,

Alex Werth
Policy Manager
East Bay Housing Organizations

On behalf of the members of the Raise the Roof Coalition

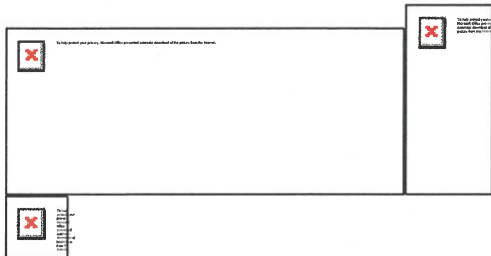
From: Ashley Ciullo <[redacted]@bosccc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 9:02 AM
To: John Gioia; District5; SupervisorMitchoff; Supervisor Candace Andersen; Diane.Burgis@bosccc.org; Clerk of the Board
Subject: Public Comment on Healthcare Funding and Budget 4/12/2022

Good morning my name is Ashley and I have been with NAMI CC for four years serving as a crisis counselor and I work with ALL people but specifically with the dual Diagnosis population. I want to reiterate the fact that mental health treatment needs differ based on ethnicity and culture. We need more funding to promote culturally responsive preventive approaches to reduce disparities because there are too many health disparity gaps for communities of color, LGBT other marginalized communities. We could use unspent dollars to go towards wellness centers that address the root causes of health equity.

--
Appreciate you,

Ashley M. Ciullo, B.S., L.E. (925) 765-9406
Lead Peer Dual Diagnosis Liaison; Lead Media Coordinator
NAMI CC The National Alliance On Mental Illness Contra Costa
Office: 2151 Salvio St Suite V Concord, CA 94520 (925) 942-0767
Family Support Network
www.namicontracosta.org

"You are not alone."



Jami Morritt

From: Mark MacMahon < >m>
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 7:26 PM
To: supervisormitchoff@bos.cccounty.us
Subject: Comments regarding proposed county budget

Supervisor Mitchoff,

I am writing to provide comments on the county budget which is being presented at the Board meeting April 12. I saw these points in a presentation by the Budget Justice Coalition and I personally agree with each of them:

First, a portion of the expected \$72 million excess of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds should be made available for urgent, immediate Covid-related needs in communities most impacted by the pandemic. These funds should be directed to provide services including:

- Tenant legal services
- Support for immigrants
- Emergency rental assistance
- Increased mental health services support, especial for Asian and African American and LGBTQI+ communities
- Children's services and parent education
- Unfunded Measure X Community Advisory Board recommendations, especially a guaranteed income pilot that would attract local philanthropic support as well
- Contra Costa CARES community outreach

Second, why should the Sheriff-Coroner get half of all new County FTEs? If 34 FTEs are allocated for Sheriff patrol, and only 9 are funded, is there an obligation for the additional 25 in future years? If the Board funds additional Sheriff patrol, in the interest of building a holistic and robust set of programs addressing public safety, the Board should allocate a dollar-for-dollar match for any new funding for patrol officers for funding for community-based reentry and crime prevention services. Also, Contra Costa should build on existing models employed in other counties to explicitly embed equity principles into budgeting processes and decision making, and develop ways to make budget information and impacts information more accessible to the general public.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations.

Sincerely,
Mark MacMahon

Walnut Creek

Jami Morritt

From: Sophia DeWitt <sophia@ebho.org>
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 4:49 PM
To: john_gioia@bos.cccounty.us; SupervisorAndersen@bos.cccounty.us; supervisor_burgis@bos.cccounty.us; supervisormitchoff@bos.cccounty.us; district5@bos.cccounty.us
Subject: Contra Costa County Budget Decisions

Dear Supervisors Gioia, Andersen, Burgis, Mitchoff and Glover:

On behalf of East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO) I write to urge you to free up some portion of ARPA funds, ERAP funds or Measure X funds for critical tenant legal services. **We ask that the Board invest \$1.8 million per year** in County funding to sustain and expand a much needed tenant legal services infrastructure.

We also support the requests of the Budget Justice Coalition & Racial Justice Coalitions in asking for

- Support for immigrants
- Emergency rental assistance
- Increased mental health services support, especially for Asian and African American and LGBTQI+ communities
- Children's services and parent education
- Unfunded Measure X Community Advisory Board recommendations, especially a guaranteed income pilot that would attract local philanthropic support as well
- Contra Costa CARES community outreach

Thank you for your consideration and leadership.

Sincerely,
Rev. Sophia DeWitt
Program Director
EAST BAY HOUSING ORGANIZATIONS (EBHO)
[510-663-3830 ext. 313](tel:510-663-3830) | sophia@ebho.org
[538 Ninth Street, Suite 200 | Oakland, CA 94607](https://www.ebho.org/)

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"Remember who you are and what you represent." -- Mills College motto

"Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable...Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle, the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals." Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.