

2020 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

PROPOSED REVISIONS (May 12, 2020)

PANDEMIC RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

Counties are on the front lines of the COVID-19 state response providing direct services to the community across various sectors, including: emergency response through the activation of Emergency Operations Centers (EOC); county hospitals caring for patients, testing, and preparing for surge; social workers assisting residents newly eligible for social service programs, caring for the homebound and securing facilities to house the homeless; local public health officials evaluate data, conduct disease track and tracing; and asses next steps to protect public health; local public safety works to ensure the community is safe despite new responsibilities and court protocols. Because counties have expended considerable resources due to the pandemic to provide these critical services and because it is anticipated that the need for County services will increase at a time of potentially deep recession, the County will focus on maximizing local resources and securing relief (at both the state and federal levels) to assure continued delivery of critical services, including the following actions:

- Work with the state to develop an array of county budget stabilization measures to mitigate significant shortfalls and ensure the County can continue to provide essential services to the community.
- Partner with the state to develop potential solutions to shore up local resources—with a particular focus on 1991 and 2011 Realignment.

HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness is a top priority for the County. To this end, the County has dedicated significant resources towards executing strategies from the County's 2016 Strategic Plan on homelessness to create a Housing Crisis Resolution System to rapidly house people experiencing homeless, including implementation of a coordinated entry system, implementation of prevention and diversion programs, expanded emergency shelter capacity, additional rapid re-housing programs, Homeless Outreach Teams (HOT), and planning for a new expanded Maple Street emergency homeless shelter. Given the growing depth of the crisis, the County will advocate for state assistance and proposals that advance its efforts to combat homelessness, including additional funding for homeless prevention services and funding specifically dedicated to permanent housing and services to help the unhoused achieve more permanent housing solutions. The County also supports ongoing, flexible funding for programs that have evidenced success in keeping individuals permanently housed, outreach programs to meaningfully engage homeless individuals and focused efforts to reduce homelessness among adults over the age of 50 that address the needs of and recognize the particularized causes of homelessness among this age cohort. The County will advocate for enhanced flexibility with respect to existing housing funding sources, including but not limited to No Place Like Home, as well as the use of public facilities for shelter or other homelessness services. Finally, the County will actively seek state support for the construction of the new Maple Street Shelter.

The County will work towards the implementation of a wide range of state funding sources to ensure that it receives its fair share of funding and that the guidelines succeed in increasing housing opportunities and reducing homelessness in the County. In addition, the County will advocate for proposals that fund initiatives that support planning; expand the availability of permanent supportive housing; and provide urban counties with the ability to maximize and leverage available federal, state and local funds to provide services for at-risk and homeless families and single persons. The County will also advocate for the

allocation of consistent, ongoing behavioral health and mental health funding to help formerly homeless residents move toward self-sufficiency.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The County places a high priority on increasing the availability of affordable housing. Since 2013, it has invested \$154.5 million in County funds towards the construction of approximately 3,161 units (in predevelopment, construction or completed). The County will advocate for policies, regulations and funding opportunities that promote healthy, safe, accessible, service-enriched and affordable housing for people at all income levels. The County will also continue to advocate for more and ongoing state funded tax credits for the development of affordable housing and a more expedited process by the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for the release of NOFAs and awards.

The County will support proposals that provide needed revision of prior housing legislation that would make implementation reasonable and workable for the County, including clean-up legislation for the implementation of SB 13 (Wieckowski, Chapter 653, Statutes of 2018), AB 68 (Ting, Chapter 655, Statutes of 2018) and AB 881 (Bloom, Chapter 659, Statutes of 2018), which update state regulation of Second Units (a.k.a. “Accessory Dwelling Units” or “ADUs”). The County will support passage of AB 69 or other efforts to create small home building standards.

The County will support ACA 1, or a similar measure, to amend the California Constitution, subject to approval by voters at a statewide election, to allow a city, county, or special district, with 55% voter approval, to incur bonded indebtedness or impose specified special taxes to fund certain public infrastructure and housing projects. The County will also support SCA 1, a constitutional amendment to repeal Article 34 of the California Constitution, which requires majority approval by the voters of a city or county for the development, construction, or acquisition of a publicly funded affordable housing project.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), approved by California voters in November 2004, has provided dedicated funding for mental health services by imposing a 1 percent tax on personal income over one million dollars—translating to about \$29.7 million average for San Mateo County annually in the last five years through FY 2018-19. MHSA monies are used by Behavioral Health and Recovery Services to fund a variety of County mental health programs in the areas of community services and supports, prevention and early intervention and innovation targeting children, young adults (including transitional age youth), adults, and older adults. However, MHSA’s rigid funding formulas prevent counties from using these funds to address emerging challenges, including the homelessness epidemic and legislative efforts are underway that seek to redirect funding. In response, the County supports efforts to modernize MHSA but opposes efforts that would redirect these dollars which have become an integral part of the County’s mental health system. The County will advocate for flexibility to allow for the use of MHSA funding for services for homeless and criminal justice involved individuals with a primary or sole diagnosis of substance use disorder (SUD) to better target their medical needs. In addition, the County will support the use of an outcomes-based model for distribution of MHSA funds developed with county behavioral health departments that reflect statewide and local priorities in place of current percentage distributions.

~~MEDI-CAL HEALTHIER CALIFORNIA FOR ALL~~ FEDERAL SUPPORTS FOR COUNTY HEALTH SYSTEM

~~In the fall of 2018, t~~The Newsom Administration unveiled a comprehensive, multi-year approach to improving Medi-Cal: ~~CalAIM in the Fall of 2019. The Medi-Cal Healthier California for All proposal (formerly CalAIM) is was intended to be~~ the framework for California's approach to the renewal of the ~~Section~~ 1115 and 1915(b) federal waivers, both of which expire in at the end of 2020. ~~However, on April 10, the Newsom Administration announced that implementation of CalAIM has been delayed due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Medi-Cal Healthier California for All includes 22 distinct proposals, many impacting counties. In the meantime, t~~The County will continue ~~with related advocacy efforts to sustain the county's health system by advocating for: to support and advocate for proposals and funding that ensure the County's residents have access to essential physical health care, behavioral health care, and population health services. This includes those that: 1) protect and expand Medicaid funding, eligibility, and covered services, including through Healthier California for All and the Sections 1115 and 1915(b) Waivers, and related funding mechanisms, for the most vulnerable residents; 2) ensure that individuals with serious mental illness have access to critical services in the most appropriate setting; 3) support community health, disease prevention, and wellness efforts to address the root causes of physical and mental health conditions; and 4) educate and promote access to available health care services for immigrant families and children, such as Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. The County will also support opportunities for bolstering county hospitals and health systems via Medi-Cal Healthier for All and other initiatives. Finally, the County will support opportunities to reduce administrative burdens and streamline funding for behavioral health as part of Medi-Cal Healthier California for All.~~

- Support the Newsom Administration's efforts to extend federal Section 1115 and 1915B waivers for one year.
- Support additional federal funding for county hospitals, clinics and health systems to address revenue losses due to COVID-19.
- Support federal efforts to delay implementation of the Medicaid Federal Accountability Rule.

PUBLIC SAFETY/CRIMINAL FINES AND FEES

The Legislature is continuing its efforts to eliminate fines and fees within the criminal justice system which counties use to support a wide array of public safety programs. Because numerous and diverse programs and reforms in probation, the Sheriff's Office and the Courts have been enacted by the state and are directly tied to an associated fee or fine as a funding source, the County will work with its state associations to ensure that it has the funding necessary to support these local programs.

CLIMATE & RESILIENCY

The Legislature will continue to focus on a variety of topics related to improving statewide resiliency to disasters and adapting to the impacts of climate change, including measures that help fund resiliency work at the local level. The County will continue to advocate for flexible funding at the local level to help prepare, respond and recover from disasters.

The state's investor-owned electric utilities (IOUs) are more frequently utilizing de-energization policies and shutting off electric power, referred to as Public Safety Power Shut-offs (PSPS), to protect against wildfire ignition and to enhance public safety as permitted under California law. These PSPS events have a significant impact on our communities and local economies, oftentimes leaving large segments of the population without power for days at a time. The County will work in collaboration with its associations to

engage the IOUs and stakeholder groups to work towards better coordination during PSPS events and ensure for adequate resources and communication to sensitive populations.

The discussion of utility liability continues to re-emerge as PG&E faces additional liability year after year for igniting wildfires in California. The utility has openly lobbied in bankruptcy court for changes to inverse condemnation law, and despite constitutional protections of local governments' legal standing, this will continue to be an issue as the IOU emerges from bankruptcy. The County will work with its associations to protect the rights of victims and local governments, while holding utilities accountable for their actions.

SAN MATEO COUNTY FLOOD AND SEA LEVEL RISE RESILIENCY DISTRICT BOND FUNDING

Assembly Bill 825 (Chapter 292, Statutes of 2019) created the County's new Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District (FSLRRD) tasked with addressing sea level rise, flooding, coastal erosion, and large-scale storm water infrastructure improvements through integrated regional planning, design, permitting, project implementation, and long-term operations and maintenance with the goal of creating a resilient "one shoreline" in San Mateo County by 2100. The County will advocate for funding to assist the FSLRRD in its mission through any climate resiliency bond legislation that emerges from the Legislature and/or the Administration in 2020 and that would need to be approved by the state's voters in November 2020.

THE BIG LIFT INSPIRING SUMMERS

San Mateo County is one of the most affluent counties in the nation, yet in 2014 only half of third graders were reading proficiently. To address this problem, the County launched The Big Lift—a bold social venture that gives children the evidence-based boosts they need to read and succeed: two years of high quality preschool, four years of inspiring summer experiences, family engagement and community collaboratives that support literacy and builds school attendance. Over the six-year pilot period, the County has invested over \$30 million in Measure K half-cent sales tax revenue to the program as a statement of commitment to the goal of reaching third grade reading proficiency across the County.

In 2020, the County of San Mateo will seek \$2.83 million in state funding for The Big Lift Inspiring Summers, a pillar of The Big Lift that demonstrates average reading gains of 1.5-months year-over-year and aims to increase children's success through an evidence-based model that ensures kids are Kindergarten-ready and reading proficiently by third grade.