

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
ATI OFFICE



Alternatives to Incarceration

"Care First, Jails Last"

Care First and Community Investment (CFCI) Fact Sheet – February 8, 2022

- Los Angeles County and the Board of Supervisors are committed to fully implementing the letter and spirit of Measure J, despite the court decision that removed the legal requirement to do so. We are engaged in an all-out mobilization to build the strong foundation needed to reform the County's justice system and realize the Board's *Care First, Jails Last* vision.
- This is a complex, transformative effort, and we are right on schedule in the 3-year implementation period established in the original Measure J ordinance.
- We need to move as quickly as possible but we also need to get it right. We are working to engineer a seismic shift in our justice system. Reforms we implement now will benefit generations of County residents for years to come and must be undertaken thoughtfully, with full consideration of equity, accountability measures, legal requirements, and labor issues to make sure the system we build not only gets the job done today but also stands the test of time.
- Care First Community Investment is just one element of a multi-tiered transformative system that will support our hardest-hit communities now and into the future. At the same time we are ramping up to fully implement the Board's *Care First, Jails Last* agenda, we are also addressing systemic racism, confronting homelessness and the crisis of affordable housing, and creating innovative programs to fight poverty, such as the Guaranteed Basic Income pilot that will launch this year—among many other efforts.
- In 2021, the Board of Supervisors approved an unprecedented \$187.7 million CFCI spending package with a series of direct community investments and funding for alternatives to incarceration. This is nearly double the \$100 million "down payment" required under the original ordinance, and puts us on track for the full allocation of an estimated \$300 million annually by 2024.
- The approved spending plan for Year One meets or exceeds 91% of the Measure J Re-imagine LA Advisory Committee's recommendations and funds 29 new or expanded programs.

- These investments came after unprecedented public engagement including 500 hours of community meetings involving nearly 2,000 individuals and hundreds of public comments.
- We understand the urgency of pushing funds out to community organizations. To make sure we do so equitably, we are now hard at work on the next steps, which means developing tools to:
 - Assure that programs prioritized by the Committee and the community are designed with equitable outcomes in mind to address issues caused by systemic racism.
 - Ensure that funds are directed to communities most in need and that services are provided by community-based organizations best positioned to serve the community, often led by individuals with lived experience.
 - Reimagine and revise the County’s contracting model so that community-based organizations can more easily contract with the County to provide vital services.
 - Select a third-party administrator to oversee the equitable and strategic distribution of funding to community-based organizations.
- These are essential parts of the start-up process, and should not be considered delays but rather due diligence to start this complex process correctly. Once community-based organizations are selected and funded, they will have three years of funding to implement programs that successfully serve the community.
- CFCI is not intended to “defund” any department. When voters approved Measure J, they did not authorize any new funding streams. Rather, they directed the County to set aside a fixed percentage—10%—of unrestricted revenues in the general fund to augment direct support for communities and to implement programs that support the Board’s *Care First, Jails Last* vision.
- CFCI and public safety are not mutually exclusive. Many of the communities most lacking in resources are also those hardest hit by crime. The Board and CEO are squarely focused on creating safer communities through innovative programs such as a new Alternative Crisis Response 9-8-8 line to provide urgent and appropriate crisis response to individuals experiencing mental health distress and limit law enforcement intervention in mental health crises. This is also in line with expanding the number of clinicians available to accompany law enforcement officers on calls where that is appropriate.

BACKGROUND ON ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS TO COMPLEMENT CFCI EFFORTS

In addition to funding and launching CFCI programs, the County is complementing this work with extensive additional investments. In the past year the County has:

- Committed \$975 million American Rescue Act (ARP) Phase One federal recovery funds for investments in hard-hit communities that advance a broad range of innovative, equity-focused programs.
- Established Poverty Alleviation as a Board-directed priority and took the first steps to establish a pilot Guaranteed Basic Income program to provide a minimum of 1,000 residents up to \$1,000 per month for three years.
- Committed \$27.4 million in one-time funding to support the implementation of the Youth Development Department and related needs.
- Established the Jail Closure Implementation Team to set the foundation for closing the outdated Men's Central Jail.
- Coordinated the implementation of Alternative Crisis Response (ACR), an upcoming nationwide effort to provide urgent and appropriate crisis response to individuals experiencing mental health distress. The 9-8-8 number for behavioral health emergency response is expected to begin operating this summer.
- Launched the first cohort of the Alternatives to Incarceration Office Incubation Academy to build capacity, provide technical assistance, and scale frontline service delivery from new and existing community-based organizations, especially those serving underrepresented and justice-involved populations.
- Expanded the County's jail diversion efforts by increasing site locations and expanding contracting with community-based organizations for pre-file and rapid diversion efforts while nimbly optimizing program models to fit the changing COVID -19 landscape and community needs.
- Initiated additional pretrial reform efforts, including a significant stakeholder engagement effort involving community advocates, providers, justice partners, the Superior Court, leading subject matter experts, and ATI to expand opportunities and access to pretrial release and reduce the jail population. Initial pilots are expected to launch in 2022.
- Coordinated the implementation of the Los Angeles Training Center (LATC), a re-entry and job training program for previously incarcerated young adults for careers in public safety, emergency management, and firefighting. The program will provide re-entry services, housing, and career-focused training with job placement assistance. The program is expected to enroll the first cohort of participants in the summer of 2022.

- Approved more than \$553 million for fiscal year 2021-22 to fund housing and services for people experiencing homelessness through the Homeless Initiative alone. This money was allocated for expanding street outreach and rapid rehousing programs, funding interim and permanent supportive housing, supporting job programs for homeless individuals, advocating for veterans' benefits, providing support for young adults aging out of foster care, expanding emergency shelter programs, improving the tracking of available beds, funding plans to address the needs of the county's Native American population, building additional faith-based partnerships to combat homelessness.