



2024

Recovery Plan Performance Report



American Rescue Plan Act
State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

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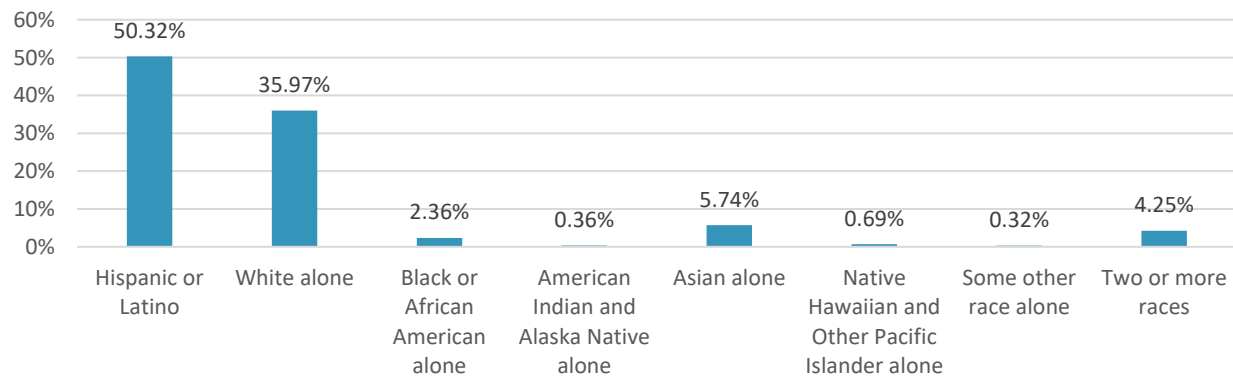
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Stanislaus County, located in the heart of California's central valley, has a rich history in agriculture and community. The County is proud to be home to a diverse group of community organizations, community-centered causes and nonprofits, and an ever-increasing number of philanthropic organizations providing services to residents. The County's vision is becoming a community of choice, where people live, work, and thrive – a place worthy of calling home. Staff work hard every day to demonstrate and achieve this vision, through the mission: "We Build Community."

STANISLAUS COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS

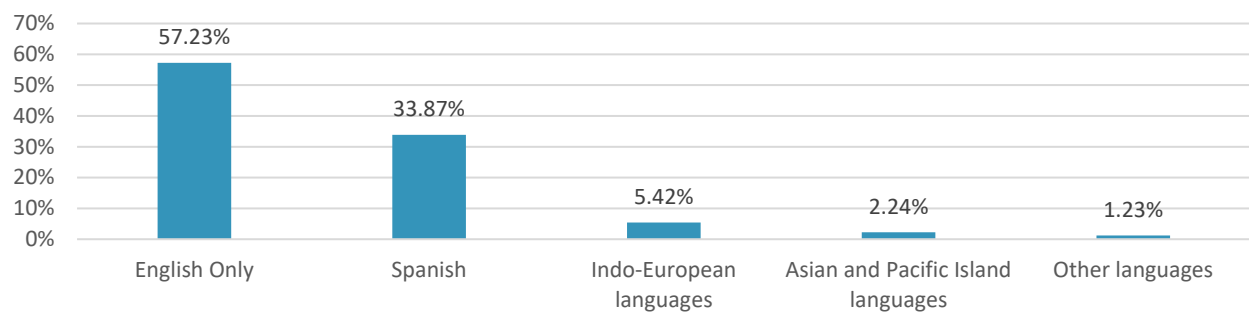
Stanislaus County is a diverse community with a population of 552,878, as of the 2020 census, with an estimated half of all residents being Hispanic or Latino and an estimated 43% of all residents over the age of five speaking a language other than English, predominately Spanish. Below are two graphs from the U.S. Census Bureau that demonstrate the demographics in Stanislaus County.

Percentage of Hispanic or Latino Population



[B03002 - Census Bureau Tables](#)

Languages Spoken at Home



[S1601: Language Spoken at Home - Census Bureau Tables](#)

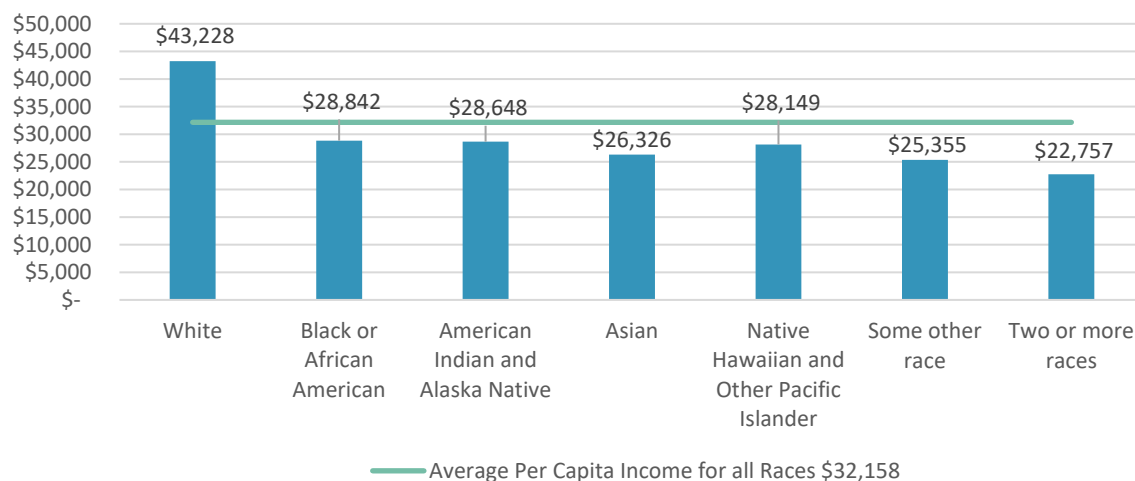
The State and Local Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program, a part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which was signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021, as

a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, includes \$65.1 billion in direct, flexible aid to every county in the United States. Stanislaus County has been allocated \$106,959,250 through ARPA SLFRF.

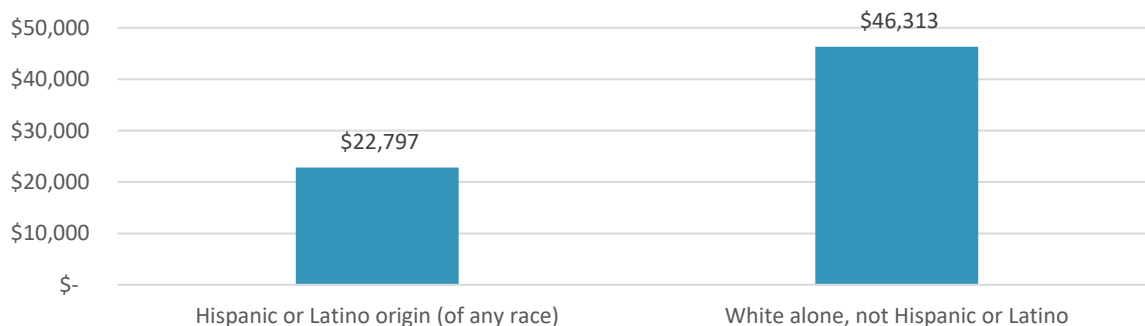
The County acknowledges that its diversity, as well as other factors, made the County especially susceptible to the COVID-19 pandemic, as the pandemic had disproportionate effects on people of color. As is stated in the SLFRF Final Rule ([2022-00292.pdf \(govinfo.gov\)](#)), pre-existing racial and gender disparities exacerbated the disproportionate economic and health impacts of COVID-19. Low-income communities and communities of color faced elevated rates of unemployment and economic hardships and had a harder time recovering as the unemployment rates began to decrease.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates, in table S1901, that the median household income in Stanislaus County, as of 2022, is \$75,886. Table S1902 reports that the per capita income shows a significant gap between residents of Hispanic or Latino origin and those who are White alone.

Average Per Capita Income by Race (2022)



Average per Capita Income with Hispanic/Latino origin vs White Alone (2022)



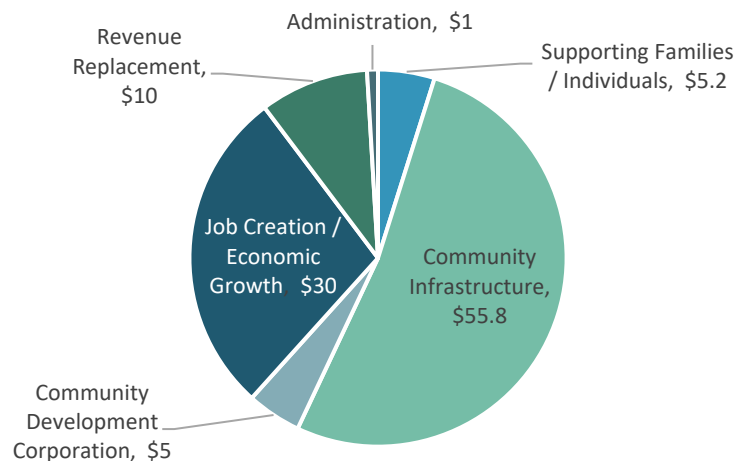
[S1902 - Census Bureau Tables](#)

A market assessment of Stanislaus County conducted by the Stanislaus 2030 initiative in 2021 concluded that over half of the county's population struggles to make ends meet. Of those families struggling to make ends meet, 74% are working families. Part of the issue is a lack in quality jobs that allow for self-sufficiency. The market assessment concluded that there are disparities in access to opportunity jobs by sex, race, and skill level. This report, and more, can be found at the Stanislaus 2030 website ([Home | Stanislaus 2030](#)).

In October 2021, the County conducted an analysis using data available from the California Health and Human Services Agency's website. The data showed that Stanislaus County experienced higher COVID-19 cases per capita and deaths per capita than the State of California average. The data also showed that the County's rates, in both cases and deaths, increased at a higher rate than the State's rates from 3/11/21 to 9/30/21. The high rates and growth in COVID-19 cases and deaths, together with the large percentage of people of color and the pre-existing racial and gender disparities in the County, indicates that Stanislaus County as a whole was disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

On May 18, 2021, the Board of Supervisors approved initial funding priority strategies for the use of \$90 million of the \$107 million ARPA SLFRF funds to support the County's recovery from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic ([resolution number 2021-0210](#)). On March 28, 2023, the Board of Supervisors approved the following updated Spending Plan ([resolution number 2023-0132](#)):

Spending Plan in Millions as of 3/28/23



The goal of the County's SLFRF spending plan is to promote equity by connecting individuals with the benefits and services that are needed, increasing affordable housing in Stanislaus County, improving infrastructure in communities hit hardest by the COVID-19 public health emergency, and improving economic opportunities for all community members seeking employment or better employment, especially minorities and women who have been historically marginalized.

USES OF FUNDS

Negative Economic Impacts

Social inequities prevented some residents from taking advantage of programs/services in existence pre-COVID, and the pandemic exacerbated those difficulties for individuals and families already struggling with self-sufficiency and meeting basic life needs. Given the multitude of safety net programs in place in the County, augmented through several Federal and State funding streams to ensure adequate food, shelter, and access to health services to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and aid in recovery, staff have identified a need to assist individuals and families in accessing the array of resources available to them. Through these efforts, the County will be able to help community members most in need access the services they need. These efforts will also help the County identify program/service gaps, should an agency not be able to connect an individual with an appropriate benefit. \$5 million was allocated to Community Based Organizations and \$208,250 was allocated for a local Farmworkers Resource Center.

See project: [Benefit Navigation Services](#) for more details.



To maximize the receipt of public and private investment opportunities, Stanislaus County is investing \$30 million in ARPA funding to support investments in activities focused on the creation of quality job opportunities in the community and the elimination of barriers to jobs and training. Stanislaus County worked with a broad consortium of public and private stakeholders to review existing conditions in Stanislaus County, advise on best practices in high-performing communities and develop a comprehensive plan with specific initiatives designed for the community. There are multiple examples of similar efforts in other communities which have proven successful in attracting and aligning funding for economic development activities. The result of the consortium was an initiative that came to be known as the Stanislaus 2030 initiative, after the published comprehensive plan titled the Stanislaus 2030 Investment Blueprint ([Investment Blueprint](#)). As a

result of the Investment Blueprint, the Board of Supervisors (Board) has approved funding of \$10

million towards BioIndustrial Manufacturing, \$1.3 million in additional research and development for projects supporting the Stanislaus 2030 initiatives, and \$1 million towards the expansion of the National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP) run by Central Valley Opportunity Center (CVOC). Another \$5 million are expected to be approved in early Fiscal Year 2025 for the advancement of the Stanislaus 2030 initiatives – childcare, talent development, and small business supports.

See project: [Job Creation and Economic Development](#) for more details.

A portion of the Board approved \$30 million investment towards job creation and economic development is an investment of \$12 million towards the Crows Landing Industrial Business Park (CLIBP). The County is ultimately seeking to revitalize the local economy through the creation of jobs at a 1500-acre former airfield, now known as the CLIBP. The \$12 million, however, will be used towards water and sewer projects and will be reported under Water and Sewer Infrastructure.

See project: [Crows Landing Industrial Business Park](#) and the [Water and Sewer Infrastructure](#) uses of funds below for more details.

Affordable housing is lacking in Stanislaus County, affecting some of the most vulnerable populations, including low-income individuals/families and individuals with behavioral health issues. Recognizing the need, the Board of Supervisors approved an agreement with Stanislaus Equity Partners, Inc. (STEP) on October 26, 2021. The agreement supports STEP's two core initiatives, "Pathways to Homeownership" and "Economic & Resource Development." In addition, the agreement supports more specific goals such as facilitating the development of innovative and cost-effective housing projects (accessory dwelling units (ADUs), tiny home villages, transitional housing, nonprofit housing development projects, workforce housing, and other unique housing models) and providing economic resource development services (access to capital, resources, and technical assistance) to individuals and businesses, particularly those in at-risk and/or minority-owned categories.

See project: [Community Development Corporation \(CDC\)](#) for more details.

Water and Sewer Infrastructure

Stanislaus County has been working for several years to address infrastructure deficiencies within unincorporated developed neighborhoods of the County. On August 23, 2011, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors (Board) took several actions intended to guide infrastructure improvements and support the annexation of unincorporated pocket areas to incorporated cities. For residential neighborhood infrastructure projects utilizing redevelopment and community development grant funds, the Board action placed priority on those with public health and safety needs. The installation of sewer mainlines, and potable



water systems would be the first priority. Storm drainage would be considered a second priority in areas subject to persistent standing water problems. Further, the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution supporting the annexation of unincorporated county residential pockets within adopted city spheres of influence. The greatest impediment to such annexations is providing municipal infrastructure (curbs, gutter, sidewalks, streets, sewer, storm drains, lighting, etc.) consistent with city standards. Such infrastructure improvements are costly and without an adequate funding source. In the past, Stanislaus County has utilized a variety of sources of funds (California redevelopment funding, Community Development Block Grant funding, highway user tax, federal/state grants) to advance work in this area slowly. In a subsequent action by the Board on March 28, 2017, Community Development Block Grant funds were prioritized for use in low-income neighborhoods in the unincorporated area of Stanislaus County for sewer infrastructure improvements. In 2019, Stanislaus County began to develop cost estimates for public improvements consistent with city standards and to prepare an expanded analysis of key criteria to prioritize urban pockets for annexation. The analysis evaluated 41 individual pocket areas. The urban pockets are in all 5 Supervisorial Districts but predominantly around Modesto, Turlock, Ceres, and Riverbank. A preliminary analysis revealed a total of 7,641 total parcels with infrastructure needs in the 41 pocket areas examined. Further, \$453 million was the estimated cost associated with needed infrastructure improvements in these pocket areas. In 2020, a companion analysis was conducted of 13 County Communities: Cowan, Crows Landing, Del Rio, Denair, East Oakdale, Grayson, Hickman, Keyes, Knights Ferry, Monterey Park, Salida, Valley Home, and Westley. A preliminary analysis revealed a total of 9,453 total parcels with infrastructure needs in the 13 County Communities. Further, \$178 million was the estimated cost associated with needed infrastructure improvements in the County Communities. ARPA funds provide a unique opportunity for Stanislaus County to begin making a “dent” strategically on the infrastructure needs in its urban pockets.



See project: [Urban Pockets and Communities Public Outreach](#) for more details.

The Crows Landing Naval Air Facility, located in the Crows Landing Community, was previously owned by the United States Department of Defense. In 1999, the United States Congress passed Public Law 106-82 to convey the airfield to the County. Since taking ownership of the airfield, the County has sought opportunities to revitalize the western County's economy through the reuse of the former airfield. The County has pursued development of a locally based, regional employment center on the 1,528-acre former military property to improve its jobs-to-housing balance and to provide sustainable-wage jobs that will not require long commutes outside of the County. The project is known as the Crows Landing Industrial Business Park (CLIBP). At buildout, there will be over 14 million square feet of vertical building space and a 370-acre public-use airport. To date, the Board of Supervisors has dedicated over \$20 million of General Fund reserves for the project. In addition to General Fund reserves, nearly \$3.5 million was identified in the Fiscal Year 2023 Federal budget for the potable water project through the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) program.

On March 28, 2023, the Board of Supervisors approved the designation of \$12 million of ARPA funds towards the CLIBP. The investment will help fund the water and sewer infrastructure needed in the area, including a well that will benefit the 355 residents of the Crows Landing Community.



The Crows Landing Community Services District (CLCSD) owns, operates, and maintains the water distribution system serving the Crows Landing Community. The existing water system is served by two groundwater wells, Well No. 4 and Well No. 5. The CLCSD Well No. 4 experiences periodic failures that renders the Community with only one well with no backup system for water services. The proposed Crows Landing Industrial Business Park (CLIBP) is to the west of the Crows Landing Community. On November 29, 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the CLCSD that outlined the construction of a new well for the CLIBP and the rehabilitation of the existing CLCSD Well No. 4. A proposed interconnection between the new CLIBP well and CLCSD Well No. 4 would provide mutually beneficial redundant well backup water service. The CLIBP well has been drilled, but the functionality of the new CLIBP well will not occur until early 2025. The attempted rehabilitation efforts for the CLCSD Well No. 4 have found that there are failures in the well casing. As a result, there will continue to be operational challenges for the CLCSD Well No. 4, exposing the Crows Landing Community to a lack of water should their lone Well No. 5 become inoperable. As a result of these circumstances, the Board of Supervisors has declared a state of emergency and Public Works Department and CLCSD have agreed to drill a new well on the CLCSD Well No. 4 site, relocate the existing pump and equipment into the new well, and abandon the existing well.

See project: [Crows Landing Industrial Business Park](#) for more details.

Revenue Replacement-Standard Allowance



ARPA permits recipients to claim funds for revenue replacement to address loss of local funds due to the COVID-19 pandemic response. Funds can be claimed using two different methods. Stanislaus County is electing to use the standard allowance of revenue replacement due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. ARPA – SLFRF guidelines allow for a standard allowance of up to \$10 million of ARPA SLFRF awarded funds to be claimed as revenue replacement under a presumed status. The flexibility of

claiming these funds allowed the County to continue to operate county services without considering reductions that could affect operations and allowed the County to continue to address the needs of the community. The \$10 million helped offset the cost of funding the Sheriff's Office, Probation, Veterans' Services, Parks and Recreation, and other county operations in Fiscal Year 2023. The Board of Supervisors approved this plan on March 28, 2023.

Other Recovery Funds Received

In addition to ARPA SLFRF, the County received a multitude of other Federal funding in support of the COVID-19 recovery. Thanks to those funds supporting the immediate needs of the community, including prevention, testing, and recovery, the County's need in public health, behavioral health, and assistance to individuals has largely been met and the SLFRF allocation is available to address the long-standing inequities that were exacerbated by COVID-19. A summary of other allocated recovery funds follows:

ARPA – Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF) - \$100,000

The purpose of the LATCF program is to serve as a general revenue enhancement program. Funds can be used for any governmental purpose except lobbying activities.

ARPA – Child Care Stage 2 - \$216,019

The purpose of the CalWORKs Child Care program is to provide payments to subsidized childcare providers. Child Care Stage 2 serves CalWORKs recipients who are determined to be stable. They can remain in Stage 2 until they have been off cash aid for 24 months.



ARPA – Child Care Stage 3 - \$277,269

The purpose of the CalWORKs Child Care program is to provide payments to subsidized childcare providers. Child Care Stage 3 serves CalWORKs recipients who have exhausted 24 months of CalWORKs Stage 1 or CalWORKs Stage 2 Child Care after they have been off cash aid.

ARPA Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP)- \$451,111

The Fiscal Year 2021 supplemental CBCAP grant has a five-year project and expenditure period from October 1, 2020, to September 30, 2025. These ARPA/CBCAP funds will be used by the Family Resource Centers (FRC) for concrete supports that are known to stabilize and strengthen families by ensuring that everyday needs are being met that can be barriers to families struggling to make “ends meet.” Having the ability to meet every day needs for families is a known prevention strategy by ensuring families have the basic things needed to survive and prosper in their community.

ARPA Adult Protective Services (APS) - \$202,664

To enhance, improve, and expand protective services provided by APS in the investigation and remediation of instances of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of adults receiving care.



ARPA CalFresh - \$337,030

To supplement state investments in allowable Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program administrative expenses.

Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) - \$42.9 million

The ERAP funding was made available to assist households unable to pay rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding allocated to Stanislaus County was comprised of \$20.7 million in ERAP 1 and \$22.2 million in ARPA ERAP 2. Of that, \$22.7 million was received directly from Treasury and \$20.2 million was received through the State of California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). \$3.4 million were administered locally, with the remaining \$39.5 million being administered by HCD.

ARPA – Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) - \$4,649,874



The HRSA ARPA funding was allocated to establish, expand, and sustain the health care workforce to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19, and to carry out other health work force-related activities, including modifying, enhancing, and expanding health care services and infrastructure.

ARPA - Workforce Development Supplemental Funding - \$1,153,893

These ARPA funds are provided for strategically recruiting, hiring, and training personnel to address projected jurisdictional COVID-19 response needs while continuing to distribute and administer vaccines without discriminating on non-public-health groups within a prioritized group.

ARPA - COVID-19 Public Workforce - \$268,073

These ARPA funds are designated to establish, train, and sustain a response-ready public health workforce at State, Tribal, Local and Territorial levels.



ARPA – Bridge Access Program - \$17,454

These ARPA funds were awarded to support COVID-19 related services at Federally Qualified Health Centers and Look-Alikes including testing, vaccination, outreach, education, and care coordination provided by medical personnel.

ARPA - Older American Act Programs - \$1,590,818

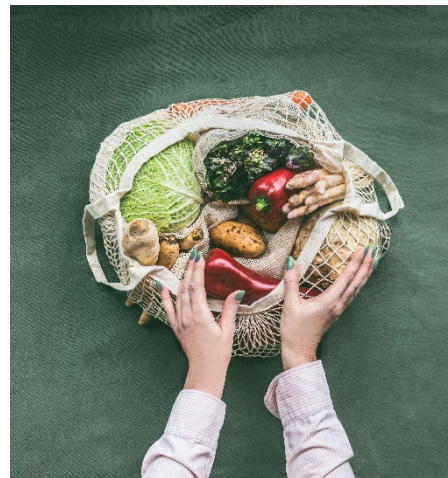
These funds are intended to be used for the following purposes:

Supportive Services- These include Personal care, homemaker and chore costs, adult day health care, case management, assisted transportation, transportation, legal assistance, information and assistance, outreach, outreach services, services that promote or support social connectedness and reduce negative health effects associated with social isolation, and long-term care ombudsman advocacy, as defined in the National Aging Programs Information Systems categories and the National Ombudsman Reporting systems.

Congregate Nutrition- Nutrition services for older individuals in a congregate setting. Services include meals, nutrition and health promotion education, health promotion programs, nutrition risk screening, and opportunities for socialization.

Delivered Meals- Nutrition services provided to homebound older individuals including meals, nutrition, and health promotion education, and nutrition risk screening.

Preventative Services- Disease prevention and health promotion programs that are based on scientific evidence and demonstrated through rigorous evaluation to be effective in improving the health of older adults. Title III-D evidence-based health promotion programs include programs related to the prevention and mitigation of the effects of chronic diseases (including



osteoporosis, hypertension, obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease) infectious diseases, vaccine-preventable disease, and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. Evidence-based programs also include programs focused on alcohol and substance abuse reduction, chronic pain management, smoking cessation, weight loss and control, stress management, fall prevention, physical activity, and improved nutrition. Family Caregiver: Information services, access assistance, support services, respite care, and supplemental services.



Elder Abuse Prevention- Activities to develop, strengthen and carry out programs for the prevention, detection, assessment, and treatment of, intervention in, investigation of, and response to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation (including financial exploitation). Activities that promote the development, coordination, and utilization of Ombudsman services and establish and maintain effective communication with programs that provide legal and advocacy services for the elderly.

ARPA - Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) - \$530,318

Community Assessment, Response, and Engagement (CARE): CARE is a multidisciplinary team of mental health, criminal justice, and other service providers who facilitate, provide, and share responsibilities for assessment coordination and treatment services to appropriately meet the complex mental, physical, and social needs of the targeted population. The target population includes individuals who may have severe and persistent mental illness, exhibit high-risk health and safety behaviors, engage in vagrancy-related criminal behavior, and experience severe SUDs; and for a variety of reasons, they focus on outreach and engagement services in order to see an increase in acceptance of services by the target population.

Crisis Stabilization: Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Crisis Line: The purpose of the Adult System of Care's CERT Crisis Line is to provide crisis support and management and general phone support to the residents of Stanislaus County. The purpose for the utilizers of this service is to decrease the need, when safe and appropriate, for increased crisis response services (ex. 911 responses; transport of persons to safe assessment sites for potential 5150/5585 hold evaluations) by providing appropriate information, support, de-escalation, and linkage to appropriate Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) and community resources.

First Episode Psychosis (FEP): Early identification of and intervention for a serious mental illness promotes recovery and positive outcomes for individuals and families. BHRS is collaborating with Telecare Corporation to provide comprehensive screening, assertive case

management and stigma reduction to individuals who have had a first episode of psychosis. BHRS has a considerable history of treatment services that incorporate community collaboration, cultural competence, client/family driven services with a focus on wellness.

ARPA Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG) - \$504,848

The SUD System of Care focuses on and provides oversight for aspects related to substance abuse prevention and treatment services in Stanislaus County. SABG Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA) discretionary funds provide for needed substance use disorder treatment, prevention, and recovery services, including services to specific populations. Those populations include youth, pregnant, and parenting women. In accordance with United States Code (U.S.C.), Title 42, Section 300x-21, SABG discretionary funds may be spent on planning, carrying out, and evaluating activities to prevent and treat substance use disorders.

Stanislaus County Primary Prevention Programs are directed at individuals who have not been determined to require treatment for substance abuse. Programs are aimed at educating and counseling individuals on such abuse and providing activities to reduce the risk of such abuse. Primary Prevention includes strategies, programs and initiatives which reduce both direct and indirect adverse personal, social, health, and economic consequences resulting from problematic alcohol and other drug availability, manufacture, distribution, promotion, sales, and use. The desired result of Primary Prevention is to promote safe and healthy behaviors and environments for individuals, families, and communities.



Stanislaus County Primary Prevention Programs oversee the Friday Night Live (FNL) programs. FNL builds partnerships for positive and healthy youth development which engage youth as active leaders and resources in their communities. FNL & Club Live (CL) are programs designed for high school and middle school aged young people. It is motivated by youth-adult partnerships that create essential and powerful opportunities that enhance and improve local communities.

CRRSA - Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG) BHRS - \$1,390,565.88

Adolescent/Youth Set-Aside: Stanislaus County will utilize the Youth Treatment Guidelines, Guiding Principles for Youth Treatment, to perform Outreach & Screening service

components to identify Substance Use Disorder (SUD) - abusing youth and encourage them to take advantage of treatment services.

Perinatal Set-Aside: First Step provides intensive outpatient and outpatient substance use treatment, recovery services and aftercare for pregnant and parenting women of children under 18. In addition to substance use treatment, First Step clients receive intensive parenting education which includes group parenting sessions, individual parenting sessions, individual interactive parenting sessions and individual parenting labs. First Step also provides childcare for children up to age 5 while their mothers are in treatment. On a case-by-case basis, First Step is also accepting non-perinatal women for gender specific intensive outpatient and outpatient substance use services only.

The SABG BHRS is also used to fund the SUD System of Care, Primary Prevention, and Friday Night Live programs which have been described in sections above.

CRRSAA - Crisis Emergency Response Teams (CERT) (Mobile Crisis) - \$998,034

CERT embeds trained crisis mental health staff from BHRS to ride along with Modesto Police Department patrol officers and in conjunction with Stanislaus County Sheriff's Office patrol deputies to provide services to individuals experiencing behavioral health crisis, including mental health, substance use, or co-occurring mental health and substance use crises. CERT staff provide triage/screening, assessment, de-escalation/resolution, peer support, coordination with medical and behavioral health services, crisis planning, and follow-up.



CRRSAA - Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) - \$224,865

Aging and Veteran Services (AVS) Early Intervention Services: Program shall provide Community based Mental Health Early Intervention Services for Older Adults, with an emphasis on underserved and unserved populations within Stanislaus County.

The MHBG is also used to fund the CERT Crisis Line and the First Episode Psychosis program which have been described in above sections.

Additionally, the County received Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding from both Federal and State agencies. This funding assisted multiple County Departments, including the Health Services Agency, which received approximately \$55 million for the Public Health division to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes

The goals of the ARPA initiatives defined in this document are to address the negative impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency. The programs identified in this document target historically underserved or adversely affected groups within the community. Performance criteria has been incorporated into the various projects to ensure equitable outcomes.



[Project Benefit Navigation Services](#) was created to address issues of access and distribution. This project specifically aims to connect individuals with the benefits and services they need. The project specifically targets those communities hit hardest by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

[Project Community Development Corporation](#) was created to address the housing crisis in Stanislaus County that was exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency. The project was created to provide services to disproportionately impacted groups in Stanislaus County by creating more affordable housing. It also aims to provide support to minority and women owned business.

[Project Job Creation and Economic Development](#) was created to identify the gaps and inequities preventing the success and growth of the community. Having been successful in identifying barriers to quality jobs, specifically for low-income and non-English speakers, and identifying the inequities in access to quality jobs by women and people of color, the project aims at eliminating the barriers and closing the gap in access to quality jobs.

[Project Crows Landing Industrial Business Park](#) will benefit the community by ensuring water, especially potable water, is consistently accessible to residents. Without safe water, the health of community members is at risk, leaving them vulnerable to COVID-19 and future viruses.

[Project Urban Pockets and Communities Public Outreach](#) is targeting some of the most marginalized areas, including multiple Qualified Census Tracts, with longstanding needs for infrastructure improvements. The intended improvements will enhance the communities' health.

Community Engagements

Spending plans proposed to be funded with ARPA-SLFRF are first brought to Public Meetings with the County's Local Governing Body, the County Board of Supervisors (Board), for public awareness and Board of Supervisors approval. These reports are presented to the Board of Supervisors through an agenda published for the public to see and inspect at least 72 hours before the public meeting is held. Members of the public are invited to bring forward comments and attend the meetings in person, or to view the meetings in televised form. In addition, the meetings accept correspondence on this and any other issue of public interest and discloses receipt of correspondence in the meeting agenda and in the Board of Supervisor's public

meetings. This process will continue as future plans and updates to approved plans are brought back to subsequent Board of Supervisor's public meetings.

Understanding the need for community engagement and public input, the County implemented a structured reporting schedule for project updates to the Board in Fiscal Year 2024. In August 2023, a comprehensive update of all ARPA SLFRF plans and projects was presented to the Board. The leads for each project (Benefits Navigation Services, Community Development Corporation, Job Creation and Economic Development, and Urban Pockets & Communities) also presented to the Board and subsequently began submitting updates to the Board on a quarterly basis. This reporting schedule will continue until the completion of each project.

In addition to Board meetings, Stanislaus County contracted with NBS to perform public outreach regarding the allocated investment in county islands and county communities. A survey was developed in both English and Spanish to assist in soliciting comments and feedback from the residents, landowners, and stakeholders in the 53 unincorporated urban pockets and communities selected for ARPA projects to determine how and where to allocate the available funding. There were also virtual and in-person workshops held.

See project: [Urban Pockets & Communities Public Outreach](#) for more details.

The Board of Supervisors held special public meetings in unincorporated communities throughout Stanislaus County to provide updates regarding community infrastructure. The meetings were held on the dates and locations listed below.

May 5, 2022

Riverdale Park & Fishing Access (Corner of Parkdale Dr. and Avondale Ave., Modesto)
Iglesia Bautista Emanuel (1318 Hays St., Modesto)
Mancini Memorial Park (1204 River Road, Modesto)
Olympic Southern Mission Baptist Church (1601 Church Lane, Modesto)

May 16, 2022

Oregon Drive Park (1601 Oregon Dr., Modesto)
Northeast Corner of Coffee Rd. and Thorsen Ave., Modesto
Oasis of Hope Church (6600 Claus Rd., Riverbank)

June 15, 2022

Corner of Starr Ave. and N. Mitchell Ave., Turlock
Montana Park (1001 Montana Ave., Turlock)
Fairview Park, Corner of Tucson Ave. and Placer Ave., Modesto

At each step of the way, the County is ensuring that residents of the community infrastructure projects are informed of and involved with the progress of the projects. In mid-July of 2023, residents were surveyed via civicmic.com to find the best time and location for community update meetings. As a result, community meetings were held on the dates and locations listed below.

Community Meetings to allow residents the opportunity to ask questions and to provide a general update on the project:

August 17th, 2023:

Parklawn Community Meeting (Watch Party & Virtual)

Bret Harte Community Meeting (Virtual)

September 6th, 2023:

Kenwood/Starr Community Meeting (Virtual)

Topeka/Santa Fe Community Meeting (Virtual)

September 26th, 2023:

Colorado/Rouse (Virtual)

Herndon (Virtual)

Riverdale Park Tract (Virtual)



Community Meetings as a follow-up to the previous meetings, to allow the residents to see the design of the improvements and to provide them an update and timeline:

March 20th, 2024:

Kenwood/Starr (In-Person) 1441 Colorado Ave, Turlock, CA 95380

March 21st, 2024:

Colorado/Rouse (In-Person) 601 S Martin Luther King Dr., Modesto, CA 95351

March 24th, 2024:

Topeka/Santa Fe (Watch Party & Virtual)

March 26th, 2024:

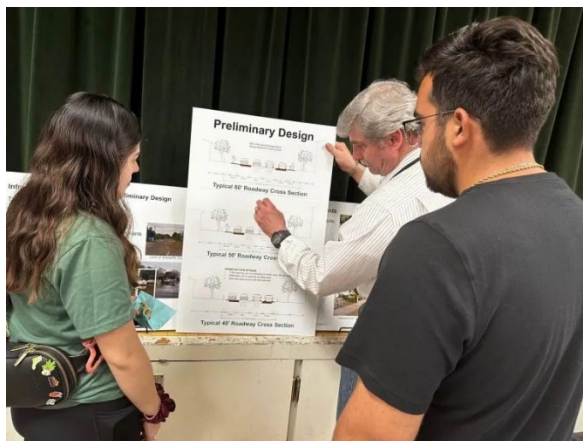
Parklawn and Herndon (In-Person) 900 Crows Landing Rd., Modesto, CA 955351

March 27th, 2024:

Bret Harte (In-Person) 1725 Las Vegas St., Modesto, CA 95358

April 10th, 2024:

Riverdale Park Tract (In-Person) 2801 W Hatch Rd., Modesto, CA 95358



The Benefit Navigation vendors, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), offer outreach materials and services in multiple languages to ensure that all members of the community can learn about and access services. CBOs participate in various outreach efforts specifically targeting low-income individuals. Flyers are left at medical offices, Community Services Agency buildings, homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, refugee support organizations, and other community-based entities. Each CBO has their own strategy for community outreach as

further described in the project section for [Benefit Navigation Services](#), but they all host or participate in community events. One vendor hosts quarterly workshops to promote their services

while another vendor partners with local schools and food banks to attract new clients. Most of the CBOs also partner with Promotoras, who are considered liaisons between health and social services providers and the community, especially the Spanish speaking residents. The vendors also supply clients with satisfaction surveys and comment cards to evaluate their effectiveness and find ways to improve.

Stanislaus Community Foundation, working as the Stanislaus 2030 team, has continuously met with community stakeholders in conducting research and in seeking input and feedback. Outreach, further described in the Use of Funds section above and in the project section for Job Creation and Economic Development, has included interviews and surveys.

Stanislaus 2030 launched four collaborative tables and met with partners regularly over the course of the Fiscal Year 2024 to help inform implementation plans. The Manufacturing Industry Workgroup was comprised of 35 representatives from over 20 significant manufacturing business partners in Stanislaus County. The Childcare Workgroup was comprised of over 40 representatives from Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE) Children & Families Division, Valley Sierra Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Stanislaus County Workforce Development, Community-Based Organizations, and childcare entrepreneurs. The Small Business Workgroup was comprised of representatives from Stanislaus Equity Partners,



Valley Sierra SBDC, Local Chambers of Commerce, Local Community Development Financial Institutions, and small business owners. The Education & Training Provider Workgroup was comprised of representatives from K-12 districts, SCOE, Modesto Junior College, VOLT Institute, California State University, Stanislaus, and others.

In an effort to promote ongoing understanding and support of the Stanislaus 2030 initiative among key audiences, Stanislaus 2030 began distributing monthly newsletters to collaborative members and anyone who signs up for them through the [Stanislaus 2030 website](#). In addition, Stanislaus 2030 has presented to or has been interviewed by the following organizations:

- Stanislaus Cradle to Career (10/5/23)
- Community Roundtable with Senator Alvarado Gill (10/19/23)
- Modesto Rotary (10/24/23)

- Better Modesto Podcast (10/25/23)
- San Joaquin Council of Governments Speaker Series, “Good Jobs/Green Jobs/High Road Jobs in the North San Joaquin Valley” (11/28/23).
- Maddy Report Valley Views podcast (11/14/23)
- Senator Alvarado-Gil Briefing (2/23/24)
- Lt. Governor Briefing (3/13/24) with follow-up presentation to staff (4/11/24)

BioEconomy, Agriculture, & Manufacturing (BEAM) Circular hired a community engagement specialist to focus on outreach to disinvested communities and development of programing



targeting communities disproportionately burdened by economic impacts of the pandemic and the region’s gap in quality job opportunities. So far, BEAM Circular has engaged over 200 community members through 13 “Community Conversation” events which aim at receiving public input for the project design and site selection of proposed infrastructure projects. To ensure access, the Community Conversation events were held virtually and in-person, in both English and Spanish, and in multiple locations. In addition, BEAM Circular

provided transportation, food, participation stipends, and childcare. At a Community Symposium event that BEAM Circular participated in, they ensured live translation and education poster translation packets.

As BEAM Circular continues to develop marketing and communication materials for its programs, it will ensure that marketing of workforce development opportunities is made available in Spanish as well as English and will work directly with community-serving institutions and networks to distribute information and solicit feedback.

Two farmworker assistance programs, run by Central Valley Opportunity Center (CVOC), began in July 2023. The Farmworkers Resource Center program resides with County department Community Services Agency (CSA). The National Farmworker Jobs Program resides with County department Workforce Development (WFD). In November 2023 and March 2024, CVOC, CSA, and WFD jointly hosted ‘roundtables’ open to the public with the intent to share program implementation and outcome updates and receive input from the community. The Farmworkers Resource Center program ended in May 2024. While CSA will no longer be involved, CVOC and CSA will continue to host roundtables. The next roundtable is scheduled for August 2024.

Labor Practices

County staff will follow the bid procedures as outlined in the California Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act and follow the California Public Contract Code to ensure quality infrastructure is delivered using licensed contractors, whom have not been debarred, and are experienced with public works improvement projects. Although ground-breaking on ARPA funded infrastructure projects has not begun, the County uses prevailing wage clauses and requires contractors pay

prevailing wage on all County bid projects. This section will be updated with additional applicable information when infrastructure projects are being contracted.

Use of Evidence

Community Development Corporations (CDCs) – Through their grassroots efforts, CDCs have played a critical role in advancing positive transformation and ensuring that they are responsive to the needs of lower-income communities and residents. CDCs contribute a significant amount to their local economies through housing and commercial development and a range of community services, while also increasing household wealth, building the local tax base, revitalizing neighborhoods and creating jobs.

<https://www.stlouisfed.org/publications/bridges/summer-2018/neighbors-first>

Job Creation and Economic Development – Stanislaus 2030 – Over the winter of Fiscal Year 2022, the Brookings Institute led significant qualitative and quantitative research resulting in a comprehensive market assessment with implications and considerations for local economic and workforce development. The market analysis was synthesized into an Executive Summary and widely disseminated in late March 2022 to the local community. Five workgroups were formed in April 2022 and launched for a mini-sprint process. Since then, qualitative and quantitative research, including landscape analyses and pilot programs, has continued and lead to specific reports on small



businesses, child care, and talent development, which can be found on the Stanislaus 2030 website: [Resources | Stanislaus 2030](#). New programs and extensions of programs are anticipated to begin in early Fiscal Year 2025. A third party will be contracted to evaluate the effectiveness of each project. More information can be found in this report under the “Performance Report” section.



Urban Pockets & Communities Public Outreach Project – Similar to the guidance provided in Title 42 – The Public Health and

Welfare, Chapter 69- Community Development, Sec. 5301 - Congressional findings and declaration of purpose for the Community Development Block Grant which can be used to improve infrastructure in low and moderate-income communities, this project meets the goal

of ensuring a suitable living environment by addressing infrastructure needs in Urban pockets. More information can be found in this report under the “Performance Report” section.

Performance Report

The goals of the County’s established programs are to connect individuals with the benefits and services that are needed, increase affordable housing in Stanislaus County, improve infrastructure in communities hit hardest by the COVID-19 public health emergency, and improve economic opportunities for all community members, especially minorities who have been historically marginalized.

The benefit navigation services program will report on the following outcomes:

1. Number of people served.
2. Demographic information.
3. Number of referrals/applications/enrollments completed for recovery supports by type.
4. Number of case plans developed.
5. Percentage of referrals where a case plan was completed.
6. Percentage of case plans where the stated goal was completed.

Stanislaus Equity Partners (STEP), the CDC, is reporting on the following outcomes:

1. Number of additional housing units being created.
2. Demographics of the residents once the units are made available and become occupied.
3. Number and demographic information of participants in the Micro-Business Development Hub (MBDH) annual entrepreneur cohort created and ran by STEP.
4. Number and demographic information of applicants for the Microbusiness COVID-19 Relief Grant (MBCRG) being awarded through STEP.

Using these outcomes, Stanislaus County will be able to evaluate the performance of the programs to ensure that they are successfully helping those populations most in need. Stanislaus County will monitor these outcomes and work with vendors to update the outcomes being tracked to ensure adequate information is being captured to fully evaluate the program.

Additionally, Stanislaus County is tracking the progress of the infrastructure projects and the Stanislaus 2030 initiative in order to ensure that the expected outcomes of community equity and economic recovery are met on schedule.



PROJECT INVENTORY

Job Creation and Economic Development

Funding amount: \$18,000,000

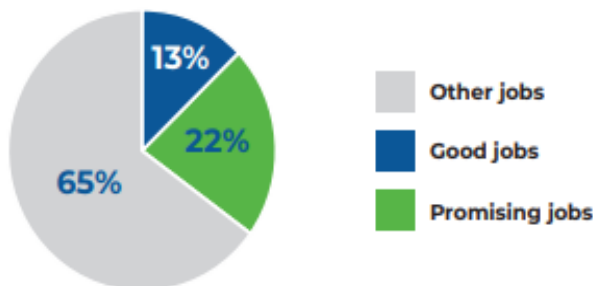
Identification number: SCF

Project Expenditure Category: 3.4 – Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

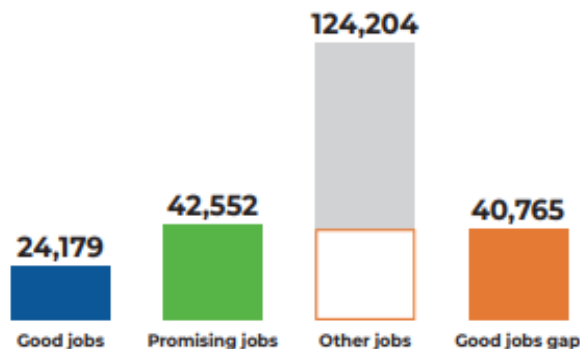
Project Overview

On August 10, 2021, the Board of Supervisors authorized the Chief Executive Officer to execute an agreement with the Stanislaus Community Foundation (SCF) for a consulting engagement in support of the Stanislaus 2030 economic development initiative. Stanislaus 2030 was formed as a collaboration among business, government, and civic stakeholders to

Share of Stanislaus County's jobs by quality — 2020



Stanislaus County's job quality numbers — 2020



create and deliver a joint strategy and investment plan for regional economic growth and opportunity in the coming decade.

A community assessment was completed, community engagement efforts were initiated, and local researchers convened. Community outreach and public engagement augmented data analysis by providing a lived-experience perspective. The research found large numbers of struggling families and workers and that only 13% of jobs in the County qualify as good jobs under the Opportunity Industries. Description of the methodology follows.

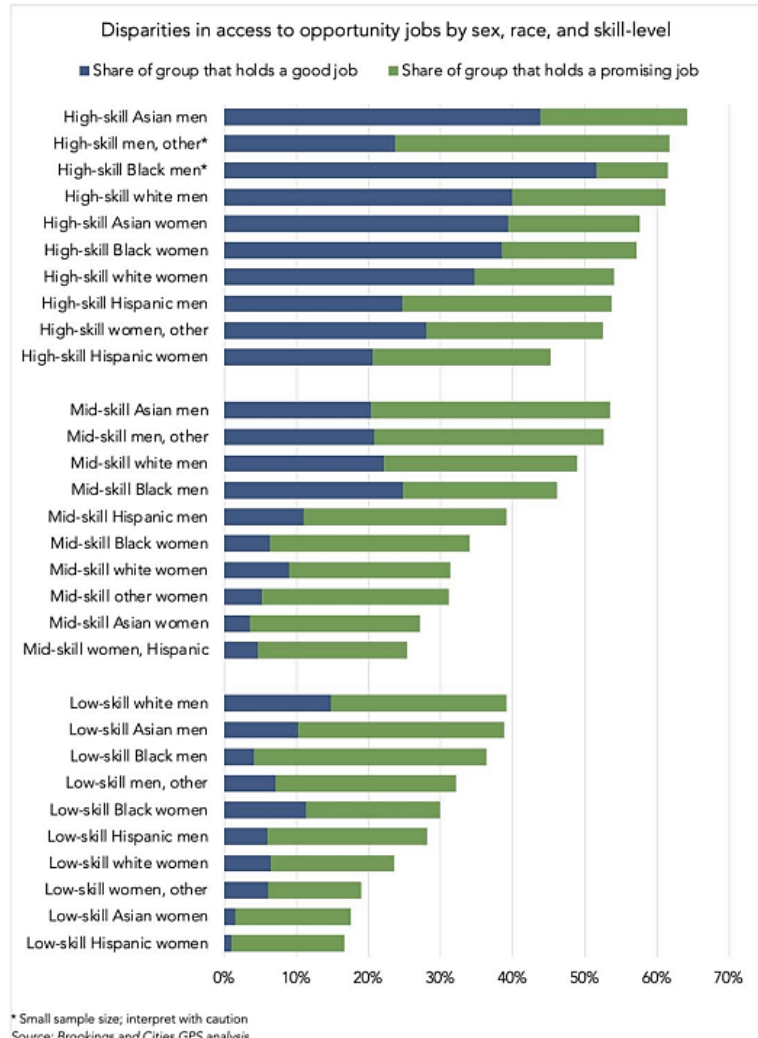
Good quality jobs are defined as those that provide most families with enough income to “make ends meet” based on a localized set of basic living expenses and savings and to be ineligible for public benefits, provide employer-sponsored health insurance, and afford durability in retaining or leading to other good jobs in the future.

Promising jobs do not meet all good job criteria but provide career pathways leading most workers to a good job within 10 years. Other jobs do not qualify as good or promising. The County would require access to 40,765 additional “good” jobs in order to reduce the share of children in struggling families by 50%. Sex, race, and skill-level all attributed to disparities in access to opportunity jobs.

The group identified five factors that underlie the economic success of regions and then analyzed Stanislaus County’s position. The analysis uncovered five strategic

focus areas in the County (BioIndustrial Manufacturing, Talent Development, Non-Skill Barriers to Jobs & Training, Entrepreneurship & Small Business Dynamism, and Governance & Capacity Building) and developed workgroups for each of the focus areas. The work groups were comprised of technical experts, local community members and key stakeholders with the goal of converting research finding into strategies. Through the research, outreach, and workgroups, the Stanislaus 2030 Investment Blueprint ([Investment Blueprint](#)) was produced and presented to the County and other stakeholders.

The Investment Blueprint was approved by the Board on November 1, 2022, along with two agreements to continue the efforts of the Stanislaus 2030 initiative. KP Warner Consulting provided consultant services specific to the BioIndustrial Manufacturing Industry initiative. Cities GPS assisted in analyzing data and provided services specific to the BioIndustrial Manufacturing Industry and Talent-to-Industry Exchange initiatives.



On January 31, 2023, the Board authorized a spending plan of up to \$10 million ARPA-SLFRF funds for the BioIndustrial Manufacturing Strategy of the Investment Blueprint. The County executed a \$760,000 agreement with Opportunity Stanislaus in support of the formation and operations of BioEconomy, Agriculture, & Manufacturing (BEAM) Circular. Stanislaus Business Alliance “doing business as” (d.b.a.) Opportunity Stanislaus is acting as the fiscal agent for BEAM Circular as BEAM Circular works to establish itself as its own non-profit entity.

On March 14, 2023, the Board of Supervisors authorized \$1.3 million, later increased to \$1.36 million, towards the strategies and project support of additional Stanislaus 2030 initiatives. Stanislaus 2030 began developing as its own entity with Stanislaus Community Foundation as its fiscal agent. As a result, Stanislaus County executed an agreement with Stanislaus Community Foundation for further research and detailed plans in order to effectively implement the Manufacturing Industry-to-Talent Exchange, Childcare Expansion, and Small Business Supports strategies that were identified in the Investment Blueprint.

Performance Report

The initial Stanislaus Community Foundation (SCF) agreement was completed successfully and has provided an Investment Blueprint for projects to be completed with SLFRF as well as additional potential future projects for the County and other community stakeholders, as explained further in the Use of Funds section above. As a result, Stanislaus County moved forward with two contracts, one with SCF and one with Stanislaus Business Alliance, for the advancement of four initiatives.

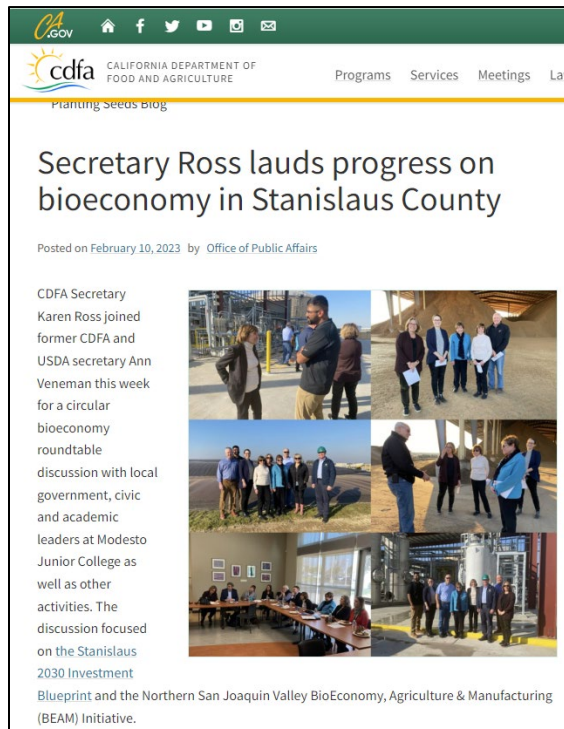
Stanislaus Business Alliance officially launched BEAM Circular as a project of the organization and filed as d.b.a. BEAM Circular so that the new hub entity could begin operations. BEAM Circular began with the acquisition of a full time Executive Director and has since grown to include a full team of knowledgeable and innovative individuals dedicated to planning, partnership development and facilitation, and deployment of the industry hub's activities, including community engagement, in service of overall advancement of the BEAM Initiative.



As part of its efforts, BEAM Circular has facilitated the launch of a growing partnership network of cross-sector institutions dedicated to regional sector and innovation ecosystem development. This partner coalition, called the Circular Bioeconomy Innovation Collaborative (“CBIO Collaborative”), is co-led by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and University of California, Merced. It is overseen by a leadership council including 30 cross-sector institutions representing local and state government, community institutions, industry, and academia. With BEAM Circular’s coordination, CBIO Collaborative has launched working groups focused on a) Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Community Impact; b) Use-Inspired Research & Development;

c) Translation of Innovation into Practice; and d) Workforce Development. Over 56 individuals from diverse backgrounds have been engaged in these Working Groups to date and are collaborating to develop long-term programs and opportunities for the region that will advance high-impact innovations that deliver inclusive economic opportunities to local communities.

CBIO Collaborative was awarded a \$1 million National Science Foundation (NSF) Regional Innovation Engine Development Award from the NSF to support its strategic planning phase, which will result in the production of a \$160 million proposal for a Type 2 NSF Regional Innovation Engines grant. BEAM Circular has already been able to secure over \$1.5 million in private and philanthropic investments and an additional \$3.6 million Economic Development



Pilot Grant from the State of California, which will support pilot projects across the BEAM Initiative portfolio including innovation voucher program, supply chain technical assistance, startup competition and accelerator, feedstock research, workforce development programs, and community engagement activities. These activities will strengthen the community's ability to attract and grow businesses that expand access to quality jobs. With the additional secured funds, BEAM Circular has already begun the process of providing grants to higher education schools in the area to address the gaps in the education-to-workforce pipeline and to Biology and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) organizations to launch early career exposure programs focusing on the underserved student populations.

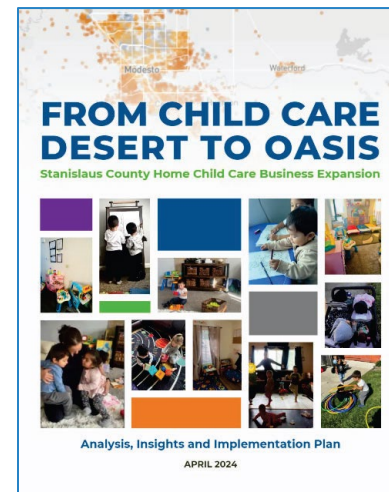
BEAM Circular took part in the work that led to the designation of the North San Joaquin Valley, in which Stanislaus County resides, as a Bioeconomy Development Opportunity (BDO) Zone with a rating of 'AA'. From Ecostrat and the BioEconomy Development Opportunity Zone Initiative, BioEconomy Development (BD) Zones are areas where biomass feedstock readiness can be certified as "high availability and low risk" and BDO Zones are BD Zones that overlap with existing federal Opportunity Zones and can therefore qualify for powerful Opportunity Zone tax incentives. A BDO Zone rating is an internationally recognized standards-based technical risk assessment of biomass feedstock, supply chain, and infrastructure risk with respect to the development potential of new biofuel, renewable chemical, biogas, and bioproduct plants. Investment grade ratings attract biobased developers, investors, and new bio-based manufacturing plants to the areas where they are most likely to succeed and create jobs. The study for the North San Joaquin Valley focused on the waste from tree crops in the region, including woody biomass (dead trees and orchards). The certification will help attract job-creating projects that use this wood

in more sustainable ways than the current practice of agricultural burning. Creating more sustainable options for these waste streams will have an important positive impact on the health of vulnerable local communities and outdoor workers, such as farmworkers, who are the most heavily burdened by heavy levels of pollution in our region. More information on the County's 'AA' BDO Zone designation can be found here: [BDOZone | North San Joaquin Valley, California Issued 'AA' BDO Zone Rating for Tree Nut Biomass - BDOZone](#).

It is anticipated that the County will continue their partnership with BEAM Circular, through a new agreement in early Fiscal Year 2025, in advancement of cross-cutting initiatives, improving access to innovation, building capital connections, bioeconomy infrastructure development, and improvements in talent development.

While BEAM Circular focuses on the BioIndustrial Manufacturing strategy, the Stanislaus 2030 intermediary, through Stanislaus Community Foundation, has been focusing on developing project plans for the remaining strategies identified in the Investment Blueprint. Stanislaus 2030 executed and managed contracts related to Manufacturing Industry-to-Talent Exchange (Talent Development strategy), Childcare Expansion (Non-Skill Barriers to Jobs & Training strategy), and Small Business Supports (Entrepreneurship and Small Business Dynamism strategy). The Stanislaus 2030 intermediary organized cross-sector workgroups for the three strategies and conducted landscape analysis of (1) workforce development/education providers' programs and key training offerings relating to manufacturing sector (2) childcare availability in Stanislaus County, including licensed care supply and demand gaps by County geographies and (3) existing small business supports in Stanislaus County, including inventory and scale of services offered by local providers.

The term Landscape Analysis refers to a process to identify inventory of partners, programs and services offered, document possible areas of redundant services and program, and define opportunities to realign, consolidate, scale, or eliminate certain services or programs. The landscape analyses included stakeholder interviews and surveys with small business owners, employers, and employees. Using the landscape analyses and additional assessments of the funding environment for the three initiatives, Stanislaus 2030 was able to provide well informed and data driven investment recommendations and implementation plans for each of the initiatives. Those reports can be found here: <https://www.stanislaus2030.com/dataandreports>.



Through the landscape analyses and in partnership with Nurture, Stanislaus 2030 identified Stanislaus County as a childcare desert where there are five children for every licensed childcare space. The lack of childcare access prohibits parents, especially mothers, from working and therefore providing for their families. Most parents cannot afford the cost of care and childcare workers don't generally earn a living wage. In response, Stanislaus 2030

identified home childcare entrepreneurship as solution, as it would allow childcare workers to earn more and increase the number of childcare slots. Stanislaus 2030 contracted with Nurture to initiate a pilot project to facilitate the licensure process for individuals interested in becoming licensed childcare workers. The in-home childcare expansion program provided entrepreneurs with technical support and expertise in navigating the licensure process and a small grant to provide for licensing and start-up expenses. The intent of the pilot program was to test the viability and impact and its potential to scale, in order to provide data and make a recommendation to the County.

As the pilot program developed, Stanislaus 2030 and Nurture were able to shift and adapt where they saw a need or opportunity. Initially, more English speakers were registering for the in-home childcare expansion program where there was a higher need identified for Spanish speakers. Outreach shifted and the registration for Spanish speakers increased significantly.



Personal testimony from graduates was particularly effective with Spanish speakers. Stanislaus 2030 and Nurture also identified that awareness of the state funded childcare subsidies was lacking and they quickly began to promote the availability. Now, part of the implementation recommendation includes partnerships that will increase the enrollment in the subsidy programs. Access to subsidies will reduce the out-of-pocket expense for childcare for families and increase the wages of childcare workers. Overall, the program was more successful than anticipated. As of June 3,

2024, 43 individuals have completed the coursework required by the program, 28 individuals have been licensed, and 25 entrepreneurs are in business, creating 200 permanent licensed spaces to date. The County plans to contract, through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), with First 5 Stanislaus, a County organization, for the expansion of the program in early Fiscal Year 2025.

The investment recommendations and implementation plans also provided the County with tangible goals and projects in the advancement of the Manufacturing Industry-to-Talent Exchange and Small Business Supports. The County plans to contract, through a MOU, with County department Workforce Development to provide grants and technical assistance to local education and workforce institutions for the alignment and advancement of strategies identified in the Talent Development report and to provide grants and technical assistance to small businesses and organizations that assist small businesses for the advancement of strategies identified in the Small Business Plan report. In addition, the County plans to extend its contract with Stanislaus Community Foundation for the project support of the three initiatives and the evaluation of the programs. All contracts and MOUs related to Stanislaus 2030 strategies are expected to be executed in early Fiscal Year 2025.

Both BEAM Circular and Stanislaus 2030 have worked endlessly to bring state and national attention and support to the County's work towards supporting its most vulnerable population through better jobs and better job access.

On March 28, 2023, the Board approved an investment of \$1 million of ARPA funds to support the expansion of the National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP). The NFJP is authorized under Section 167 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and provides grants to community-based organizations and public agencies to assist migrant and seasonal farmworkers. Central Valley Opportunity Center (CVOC) is the local grantee for this program. The \$1 million in funding was awarded to CVOC to extend the program to include farmworkers and their family members who currently do not qualify for the program. Approximately 50% of current applicants for CVOC services do not qualify for the program based on maximum wage thresholds established by federal regulation. Farmworkers in California earn more than



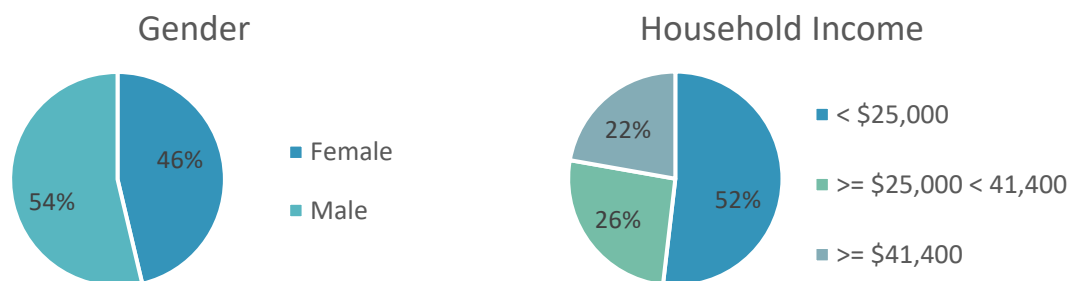
Stanislaus 2030 Executive Director Amanda Hughes sharing child care report with Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis on March 13, 2024



farmworkers in most other states, and therefore the federal wage standards have the effect of disqualifying California farmworkers who would otherwise benefit from CVOC services. The funding also allows individuals who are still in the process of completing the citizenship process, which can take over 10 years to complete, to access the NFJP services. The funding will allow at least 100 farmworkers and family members, who would otherwise not qualify, access to free job training and job search/preparedness skills.

To date, the extended NFJP run by CVOC has assisted 54 individuals. 34 individuals have received vocational certifications and 22 individuals have found employment or higher-wage employment. 100% of the participants of the NFJP expansion were Hispanic, and 78% reported household incomes of under \$41,400.

Participant Demographics



Crows Landing Industrial Business Park

Funding amount: \$12,000,000

Identification number: CLIBP

Project Expenditure Category: 5.13 – Drinking water: Source

Project Overview

The Crows Landing Industrial Business Park, as described in the Use of Funds above, is set to become a vibrant, regional employment and business center. The water and sewer infrastructure approved by the Board to be funded with ARPA funds will benefit the Crows Landing Community and the County as a whole.

On April 16, 2024, the Board of Supervisors approved the declaration of an emergency to drill a new well for the Crows Landing Community Services District (CLCSD), pursuant to California Public Contract Code section 1102. Without the emergency declaration, the start of construction would be extended into the summer months where there would be extreme risk to the operation of the Crows Landing Community's water supply system.

Performance Report

Plans and Specifications for the Well No. 4 replacement were created, permission to enter the CLCSD properties has been obtained, and the required environmental Notice of Exemption has been filed. A permit for the new well and demolition of the existing well has been approved. The project was advertised for bidding for contractors and bids were opened on April 26, 2024. The lowest bid was accepted and awarded. A pre-construction meeting has been held with the construction contractor and contractor submittal reviews have been completed. The new well drilling is scheduled to begin on July 8, 2024 and should be completed in the fall of 2024.





Number of
affordable
housing units
preserved or
developed: 36

Community Development Corporation (CDC)

Funding amount: \$5,000,000

Identification number: S.E.P., Inc.

Project Expenditure Category: 2.15 – Long-Term Housing Security: Affordable Housing

Project Overview

On October 26, 2021, the Board of Supervisors authorized the Chief Executive Officer to execute a \$5 million agreement with STEP to provide services to disproportionately impacted communities in Stanislaus County. The agreement allows STEP to utilize the funds to establish the CDC, run its two Core Initiatives, and meet specific objectives and target goals. The five main objectives are:

1. Facilitate the development of innovative and cost-effective housing projects, such as accessory dwelling units (ADUs), tiny home villages, transitional housing, non-profit housing development projects, workforce housing, and other unique housing models.
2. Identify available properties and lots to maximize current land-use, facilitate the construction of cost-effective housing projects, and the preservation of existing units in distressed communities.
3. Connect low- to moderate-income households and other disproportionately impacted community members to access resources, capital, and financial products for the purchase or lease of affordable housing options.

4. Catalyze partners and/or provide financial literacy, educative services, and technical training as a basic component of affordable housing and sustainability to program beneficiaries, to empower families to improve their financial health and accumulate wealth.
5. Provide economic and resource development services to individuals and businesses, particularly those in at-risk and/or minority-owned categories, including access to capital, resources, and technical assistance.

While Objectives and Target Goals represent the fundamental intention of the agreement, the Proposed Activities may change over time and do not represent an exhaustive list of activities. The County recognizes the housing and financial landscape is always changing and understands and supports the need for STEP to have flexibility and versatility in meeting the Objectives and Target Goals of the agreement.

Use of Evidence

Described in the “Use of Evidence” section of this report.

Performance Report

STEP utilized project development funds for the purchase, development, and operation of property at 112 James Street in Modesto, CA. The James St. project is a seven unit, newly



constructed complex that provides permanent supportive housing for Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) clients who are at risk or experiencing homelessness. The units have been fully occupied as of December 2022 and began with housing 18 BHRS and extremely low-income clients.

In addition, STEP partnered with the Stanislaus Regional Housing Authority to purchase a property at 6764 & 6768 Walker Lane in Hughson, CA. The Walker Point project is a 20-unit multi-family complex that provides permanent supportive housing for community members who are at-risk for or are experiencing homelessness in Stanislaus County, including voucher holders of Stanislaus County BHRS. The property houses between 19 and 25 at-risk community members in immediate need of affordable housing.



A nine-unit Micro-Home Village dedicated for permanent housing for families at risk of homelessness was developed through a partnership between STEP and Free Will Baptist Church. The Village is located on the church grounds on 221 E. Orangeburg Ave. in Modesto, CA. Ribbon cutting and move in is expected to occur in August 2024. The village will be able to house up to 40 individuals.

STEP developed an ADU to house a Hispanic low-income couple and helped develop and permit another ADU within an existing garage to house an extremely low-income adult who struggles with mental illness. Converting the garage into an ADU allows for both personal space and proximity for the individual and caregivers.

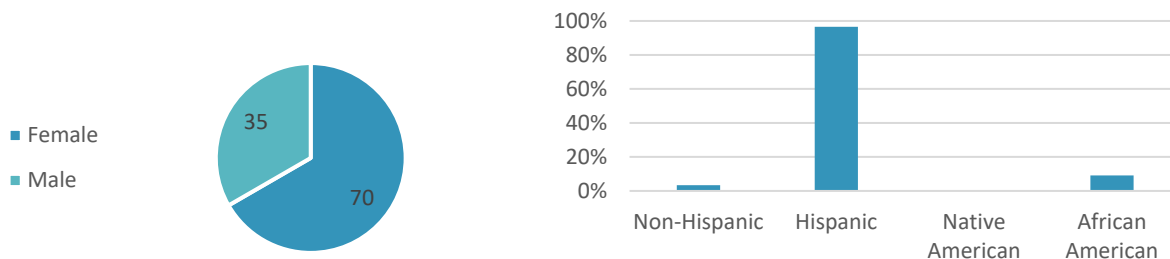
There are another 30 or more housing units in various stages of the planning and development phase.

STEP created the Micro-Business Development Hub (MBDH) cohort that serves Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) entrepreneurs throughout the County. The cohorts were initially planned as annual six-months long cohorts with an additional six-month mentorship following the cohort. With the growing success of the cohorts, STEP has now planned three two-months long cohorts in calendar year 2024. The MBDH provides the space for micro-business entrepreneurs in Stanislaus County to come together to learn from business experts, share their entrepreneurship experiences with each other, and build community. Launched January 2022, the MBDH modules include:

- Business Strategy
- Financial Planning and Business Funding
- Marketing and Business Communication
- QuickBooks

There have now been four English Cohorts with 8 to 20 participants each time and three Spanish Cohorts with 12 to 26 participants each time. In addition to the subject modules noted above, participants are connected to culturally relevant resources for business development.

Participant Demographics



As a result of the MBDH, STEP launched a Micro Business Hub Pitch Contest in August 2022. After completing the Microbusiness Development Hub cohort, participants that were advanced enough (had a business plan with financial analysis, etc.) to prepare a solid pitch were able to compete for a cash prize. The participants pitched their business to a panel who then selected the winner. Participants from Patterson, Riverbank, Turlock, Modesto, and Ceres participated in the first pitch competition. Having documented it as a success, the second annual Micro Business Hub Pitch Contest was held in August 2023. The contest is expected to continue annually.

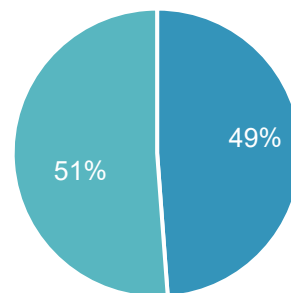
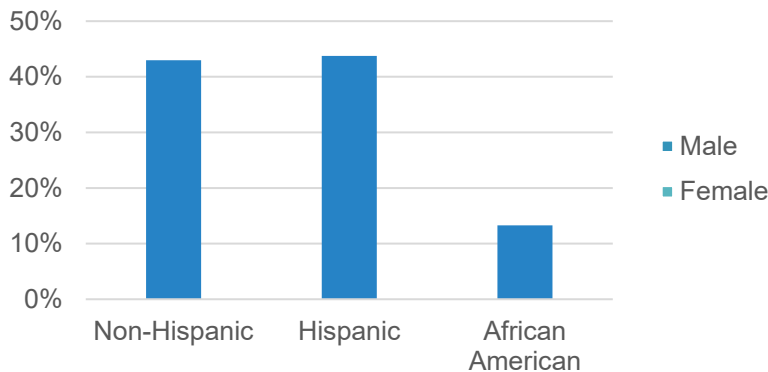
'Chef Mason' wins big at latest county pitch contest



Turlock Journal Highlight

The County, in partnership with Stanislaus Equity Partners, provided \$560,660 in grants to small businesses in Stanislaus County that had been affected by COVID-19 and did not receive funding from the CA Relief Grant Program. Grants in the amount of \$2,500 will be distributed throughout Stanislaus County. The Microbusiness COVID-19 Relief Grant (MBCRG) was administered through STEP. A total of 127 applications were received.

Applicant Demographics



In order to publicize the program, STEP distributed flyers in all areas of the County, presented at various Chamber of Commerce events throughout the County, and set up information tables at the Business Funding Expo in Turlock, CA and the business resource fair "Bridging the Gap" in Ceres, CA. The program ended on June 30, 2023, with a total of 46 awarded grants and \$115,000 distributed.

Urban Pockets & Communities Public Outreach Project

Funding amount: \$55,800,000

Identification number: NBS (Infrastructure)

Project Expenditure Category: 3.4 – Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Project Overview

On February 15, 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved a public outreach strategy to support the development of a priority list for expenditure of the \$50 million allocated for investment in county islands and county communities. On September 20, 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved the list of county islands and county communities that were chosen to receive funding for much needed infrastructure. On March 28, 2023, the Board of Supervisors allocated another \$5.8 million in support of the infrastructure projects.

Performance Report

Stanislaus County contracted with NBS to perform public outreach regarding the \$50 million allocated for investment in county islands and county communities. A survey was developed in both English and Spanish to assist in soliciting comments and feedback from the residents, landowners, and stakeholders in the 53 unincorporated urban pockets and communities to determine how and where to allocate the available funding.

NBS created a website on civicmic.com along with a Facebook page, as a resource for the community throughout the process. In developing the outreach program, a multilingual factsheet was created in both English and Spanish to explain ARPA funds potential use, along with how community priorities would be documented through the survey and participation in community workshops. Both the flyer and survey were posted to the website, shared via social media, and distributed throughout the public. Additionally, the survey was mailed out to the stakeholders.

The following in-person workshops were held the week of June 7 through June 13, 2022:

- June 7
 - Harvest Hall
- June 8
 - Oakdale Event Center
 - Harvest Hall
- June 9
 - Harvest Hall
 - King-Kennedy Center
- June 13
 - Modesto Scout Service Center
 - Denair's Board Room



Sofia Landis, Project Engineer
Michael Baker International

The following virtual workshops were held to accommodate those unable to attend in-person workshops:

- June 15 (Spanish Workshop)
- June 20 (English Workshop)

A report was completed and presented to the Board of Supervisors on August 16, 2022. The report produced the following major takeaways:

- A clear majority of citizens in most neighborhoods, with a few exceptions, are not happy with the street lighting quality and quantity.
- Most residents do not have proximity access to adequate biking and walking paths.
- Most residents do not want the County to spend all of the ARPA funding on fixing the sewer systems.
- About 75% of residents support funding small infrastructure projects in many neighborhoods.
- Nearly 80% of residents support spreading the funding throughout the region.
- A slight majority of residents support funding large infrastructure projects in a few disadvantaged neighborhoods.

As a result of the report, the diverse need for infrastructure improvements within each Supervisorial District, and the public comment received, County staff recommended focusing on distributing the funding amongst the five Districts in Stanislaus County. Understanding the critical need to consider geographic and equitable distribution of the ARPA infrastructure funds, the recommendation was based on an equitable distribution of funding based on the estimated total project costs which have been adjusted for inflation.

The following is an overview of the total estimated infrastructure costs, broken down by District, including the total number of acres and parcels to be improved that was presented to the Board:

	Total Cost	% of Total Cost	Acres	% of Total Acres	Parcels	% Total of Parcels
District 1	\$79,513,468	11%	930	12%	1263	7%
District 2	\$66,707,012	9%	997	13%	1921	11%
District 3	\$149,785,749	21%	2211	28%	6245	36%
District 4	\$172,520,849	24%	1387	18%	2835	16%
District 5	\$238,580,704	34%	2271	29%	4937	29%
Total	\$707,107,782	100%	7796	100%	17201	100%

*Percentages are rounded.

The Board approved the following Funding Distribution Methodology on August 16, 2022:

	Total Cost Analysis		
	Total Cost	% of Total Cost	Funding based on % of Total Cost
District 1	\$79,513,468	11%	\$ 5,622,443.28
District 2	\$66,707,012	9%	\$ 4,716,891.38
District 3	\$149,785,749	21%	\$ 10,591,436.89
District 4	\$172,520,849	24%	\$ 12,199,048.96
District 5	\$238,580,704	34%	\$ 16,870,179.49
Total	\$707,107,782	100%	\$ 50,000,000.00

*Percentages are rounded.

On September 20, 2022, the Board approved the following projects and funding breakdown, listed by District:

	Community	Cost of Full Improvements (Rounded)	Parcels	Acres	Allocated ARPA Funds (Rounded)
1	<i>Riverbank – Topeka/Santa Fe</i>	\$8,150,000	37	23	\$5,600,000
2	<i>Turlock – Kenwood/Starr</i>	\$5,270,000	52	16	\$4,700,000
3	<i>Modesto – Riverdale Park Tract</i>	\$13,660,000	206	52	\$10,600,000
4	<i>Modesto – Colorado/Rouse</i>	\$23,440,000	382	154	\$10,000,000
4	<i>Ceres - Herndon</i>	\$26,590,000	362	259	\$2,200,000
5	<i>Modesto – Bret Harte</i>	\$58,090,000	1200	351	\$10,000,000
5	<i>Modesto – Parklawn</i>	\$25,800,000	330	90	\$6,900,000

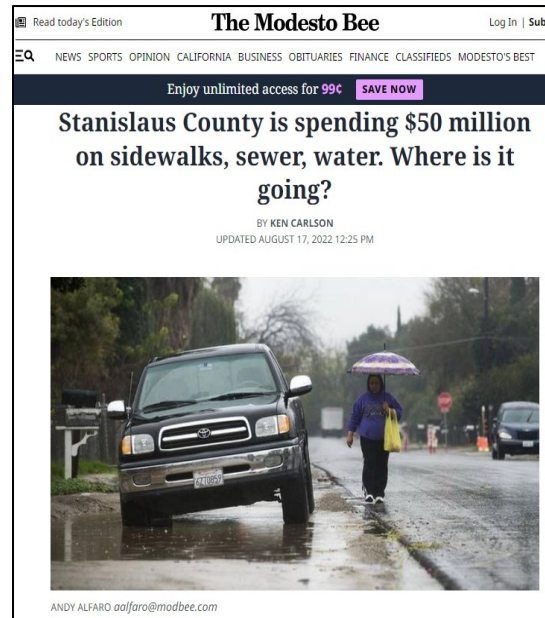
Four of the seven chosen communities fall under a Qualified Census Tract. All of the seven communities are considered historically marginalized and house low-income families.

The project areas were selected primarily based on the need for sewer and their disadvantaged classification, as classified by the State Department of Water Resources. Some of the projects also have the ability to leverage other funding and, therefore, produce a more efficient use of SLFRF funding. The chosen projects respond to a need to achieve an adequate minimum level of basic infrastructure for households in undeveloped areas of the County. The minimum level

of basic infrastructure to which the projects are designed are the levels required by the cities for full annexation of these urban pockets. The infrastructure needed for full annexation are storm drain facilities, water lines, sanitary sewer facilities, sidewalks, streetlights, and roads. While roads are needed for full annexation, they are not included in the projects.

On October 18, 2022, the Board approved contracts for engineering and environmental clearance consulting services to begin the planning and design phase. On June 6, 2023, the Board approved subsequent increases to those contracts.

On March 28, 2023, the Board approved updated strategies for the use of ARPA funds for approved strategic priorities. The updated strategies increased the funding strategy for Community Infrastructure from \$50 million to \$55.8 million. On February 27, 2024, the Board approved the recommendation of dividing the additional \$5.8 million equally among the five Supervisorial Districts. Below is the updated ARPA funds distribution per District:



Distribution of ARPA Funds per District					
District	Total Cost (July 2022)	% of Total Cost	Funding Based on % of Total Cost	\$5.8 Million Distribution	Total Per District
1	\$ 79,513,468	11%	\$ 5,622,443	\$1,160,000	\$ 6,782,443
2	\$ 66,707,012	9%	\$ 4,716,891	\$1,160,000	\$ 5,878,891
3	\$149,785,749	21%	\$10,591,437	\$1,160,000	\$11,751,437
4	\$172,520,849	24%	\$12,199,049	\$1,160,000	\$13,359,049
5	\$238,580,704	34%	\$16,870,179	\$1,160,000	\$18,030,179
Total	\$707,107,782	100%	\$50,000,000	\$5,800,000	\$55,800,000

*Percentages are rounded.

With a goal of ultimately annexing the Communities, the Public Works department has been meeting with Cities to understand the expectations they each have for communities seeking annexation. While each project will run on its own schedule, the current expectation for all projects is to complete the design and planning phase and be able to contract with construction firms by late 2024, break ground in early 2025, and complete all projects by December 2026.

Benefit Navigation Services

Funding amount: \$5,208,250

Identification number: CSA

Project Expenditure Category: 2.19 – Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefit Navigators

Project Overview

On March 1, 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved the award of agreements by the Community Services Agency (CSA) for the provision of navigation and case management services to Aspiranet, Center for Human Services, Sierra Vista Child and Family Services, and Stanislaus Multi-Cultural Health Coalition West Modesto/King Kennedy Collaborative. The agreements provide funding to the contractors to provide the following services:

- Provide navigation and case management services in order to remove barriers preventing individuals and families from applying for, enrolling in and/or accessing recovery support services.
- Provide culturally based and familiar outreach and engagement, education and resource/referral on COVID-19 prevention and recovery support services.

While each of the Benefit Navigation vendors have their own form of outreach, they are active in distributing flyers, attending local outreach events, partnering with local businesses, and/or promoting their services on social media. Utility companies are now aware of the programs available through the Community Based Organizations (CBO) and often refer families for assistance themselves.

This project is currently scheduled to run through December 31, 2024, but the County anticipates extending the project through December 31, 2026.

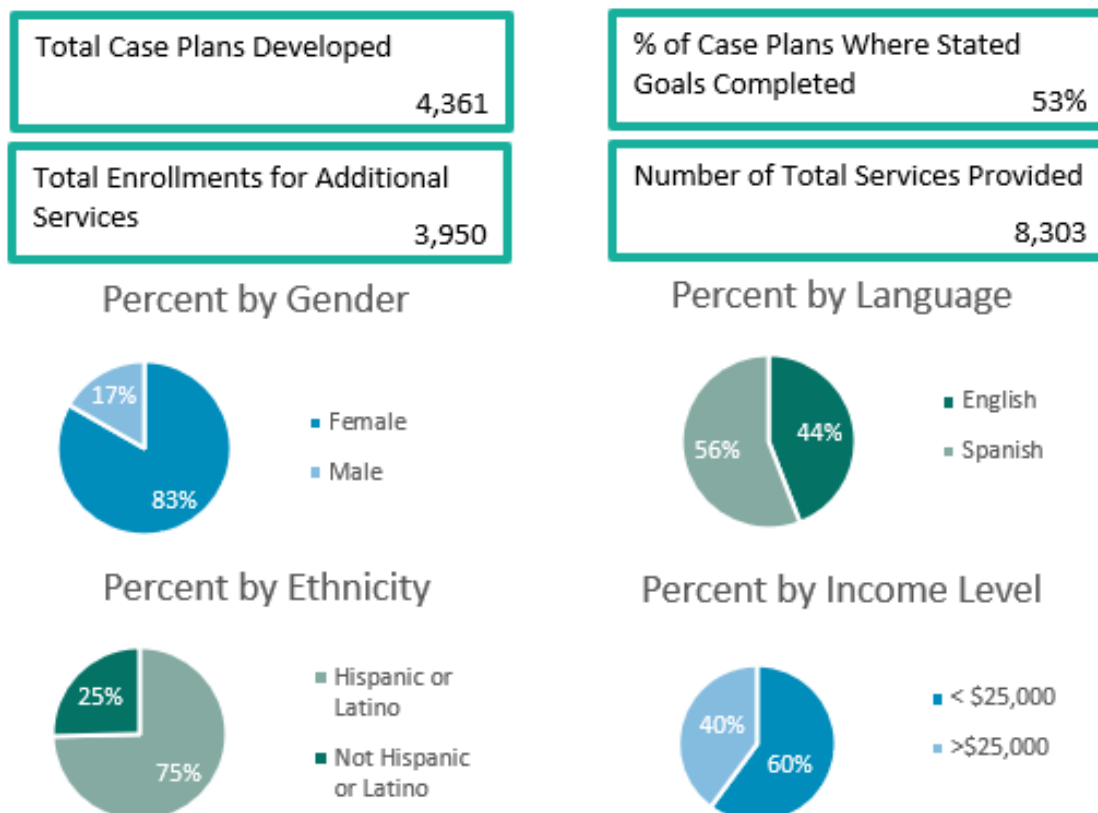
On February 28, 2023, the Board of Supervisors approved an additional \$208,250 to be used as local match for the California Department of Community Services and Development Farmworker Resource Center Grant which was made available to help support the expansion or creation of Farmworkers Resource Centers. The grant awarded the County \$833,000. On March 28, 2023, the Board of Supervisors granted CSA authority to execute an agreement with Central Valley Opportunity Center (CVOC) for the operation of the grant. CVOC had existing Farmworker Resource Centers and this funding will help expand those services.

Use of Evidence

Contractors are required to submit periodic reporting that helps to evaluate whether practices are reaching their intended purpose and recipients of the services are better off in accessing available resources.

Performance Report

Although each CBO contracted for case management and benefit navigation services has a different approach, they are all successful in aiding the most vulnerable community members. Center for Human Services provides Diversity Equity and Inclusion training to their staff to ensure all clients are served respectfully and equally. The CBOs' ARPA Navigators have provided clients with 8,303 services ranging from application submissions for public assistance to enrollments in educational programs. 60% of clients report their annual income to be less than \$25,000. Since the program implementation, ARPA navigators have developed over 4,000 case plans. Case plans are specific guides, curated for each client's needs and goals. Almost half of the case plans have been completed. Some case plans are still in progress while others have been abandoned. Case plans are multistep and can span over long periods of time. Below are figures related to the program and the demographics served.



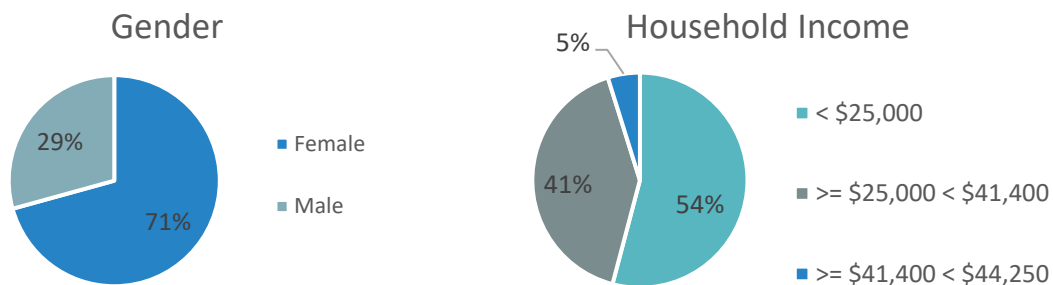
The most common assistance requested by clients has been Food and Nutrition Programs followed closely by Housing Stability Support (rent/mortgage and utilities assistance). West Modesto Community Collaborative has partnered with Second Harvest of the Greater Valley to improve accessibility to food resources.

On December 20, 2022, the Board of Supervisor's authorized the Community Services Agency (CSA) to apply for the California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) Farmworker Resource Center Grant. On January 12, 2023, CSA was notified of the award for the Farmworker Resource Center Grant for Region 1 recommending to contract with CVOC to fulfill the grant deliverables. CVOC was uniquely positioned to execute the intent of the grant because they currently operate Farmworker Resource Centers (FRC) in Stanislaus County and are the local grantee with the U.S. Department of Labor for the National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP). These programmatic capabilities, along with their extensive experience in serving the farmworker community gives them an exclusive advantage with this grant's execution. On February 28, 2023, CSA received approval by the Board to accept the CSD Farmworker Resource Center Grant with the plan to return to the Board to receive approval of the CVOC agreement to support the grant and the related activities.

On March 28, 2023, the Board of Supervisors approved the use of \$208,250 of ARPA funds as local match to the State grant of \$833,000. The Board also approved a contract with CVOC for execution of the \$1,041,250 grant. The grant program ran from April 1, 2023 – May 15, 2024. CVOC agreed to market available FRC and other community services to farmworker residents, recruit and enroll eligible participants, provide education and employment preparation services, and provide supportive services or connect farmworkers to community providers for assistance.

In total, the FRC program assisted 560 individuals and provided almost 4,000 services to those individuals. Services included employment assistance, legal services and education, education services such as computer and English courses, financial literacy services, emergency supportive services, and referrals to health and human services. 100% of the participants were Hispanic and 95% reported household incomes below \$41,400.

Participant Demographics



Success Stories – Words from Vendors

A 23-year-old woman moved to Modesto from out-of-state. She visited a drop-in Family Resource Center run by Sierra Vista and was instantly connected to multiple resources available in Stanislaus County. She received assistance in creating a resume and applying for jobs. The woman visited again a few weeks later to announce that she had found employment and utilized other community resources.

A family of four, two parents and two young children, received tremendous support from a Family Resource Center run by Aspiranet. The family had been living in temporary shelters for several months due to the economic challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite their best efforts, they had faced numerous obstacles in finding an affordable and permanent home. The ARPA navigator was able to assist in the families search for affordable housing. The ARPA navigator assisted in completing applications and navigating the housing assistance programs available to them. They were also able to connect the family with local housing rights organizations to ensure the family understood their rights and the resources available to them. With the combined efforts of CBO and the determined family, the family was able to secure a comfortable and affordable home. The family now has a stable foundation from which they can rebuild and thrive.



A mother contacted a Family Resource Center run by Sierra Vista in distress. Her teenage son was exhibiting troubling behavior, and she didn't know how or where to get help. Law enforcement had already been involved twice, once to respond to aggressive behavior by the son and another time when the son ran away from home. The ARPA navigator connected the mother to parenting classes, the son to teen services and a housing facility for runaway/homeless teens, and the two to family counseling. At a follow-up, the woman confirmed that she and her son were receiving mental health services and other supportive services. Although there is still progress to be made, the mother and son both stated they felt more calm and less overwhelmed and were working on their issues.

A woman with a pending divorce was desperate for assistance for her and her three children. She is responsible for the children's care and their father was refusing to contribute financially for his children. The mother had lost her job and couldn't pay their utilities or transportations. She feared that meals would be the next necessity she couldn't provide for her family. Their sudden loss of necessities was beginning to impact the children's mental health.

She found a West Modesto Community Collaborative flyer at a restaurant and went to visit. The CBO was able to provide immediate help with food, utilities, and transportation. The ARPA navigator helped create a resume, apply for jobs, and connect the woman with a hiring agency. The woman was determined to find employment. So, although she didn't have access to a computer or internet at home, she visited the CBO, where she was able to borrow a laptop, constantly. After three months, she was able to secure a job at a reputable radiology center with excellent pay and benefits.