



Board Meeting

April 16, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Zoom Link: <https://fresnoeoc.zoom.us/j/82962018557>

Meeting ID: 82962018557#

1-669-900-6833



BOARD MEETING AGENDA

April 16, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

- | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Pledge of Allegiance to be led by Linda Hayes | Action | Presenter |
| 2. ROLL CALL

A. Roll Call - Page 3 | | |
| 3. APPROVAL OF MARCH 24, 2021 MINUTES

A. March 24, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes - Page 4 | Approve | |
| 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS
(This is an opportunity for the members of the public to address the Board on any matter related to the Commission that is not listed on the Agenda.) | | |
| 5. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA
(The Board may add an item to the agenda if, upon a two-thirds vote, the Board finds that there is a need for immediate action on the matter and the need came to the attention of the Board after the posting of this agenda.) | | |
| 6. POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST
(Any Board Member who has a potential conflict of interest may now identify the item and recuse themselves from discussing and voting on the matter.) (FPPC §87105) | | |
| 7. TRANSFORMING AND INSPIRING

A. Head Start 0 to 5 | Information | Pineda/Davis |
| 8. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

A. Legislative Report - Page 7 | Information | Jonasson |
| 9. SUMMARY OF GRANT TRACKER

A. Summary of Grant Tracker – January 1 to March 31, 2021 - Page 10 | Information | McVey |
| 10. HEAD START ANNUAL TRAINING | Information | Pineda/Davis |
| 11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

A. CEO Report - Page 14 | Information | Reyes |
| 12. NEXT MEETING:
Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 6:00p.m. | | |
| 13. ADJOURNMENT | | |



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ROLL CALL 2021

Commissioner	Term Expiration	Target Area or Appointing/Nominating Org.	1/27	2/24	3/24	4/16	5/26	6/23	9/22	10/27	11/17	12/15
ARAMBULA, AMY	Dec 2022	31st Assembly District	P	P	P							
AVILA, ED	Dec 2022	Juvenile Court	P	P	P							
BAINES, OLIVER	Dec 2022	16th Congressional District	P	P	P							
BONNER, ALYSIA	Dec. 2022	Target Area F	P	P	P							
BROWN-JENKINS, ZINA	Dec 2022	Head Start CWPC	P	P	P							
CANDLER, LEROY	Dec 2022	NAACP	P	P	P							
COUNTEE, JEROME	Dec 2021	SCCCD	P	O	P							
DE JESUS PEREZ, FELIPE	Dec 2021	Target Area A	P	P	P							
GARABEDIAN, CHARLES	Dec 2021	Board of Supervisors	P	P	P							
HAYES, LINDA R.	Dec 2022	Target Area H	P	P	P							
HURTADO, JEWEL	Dec 2022	Target Area C	P	P	P							
JAIME-MILEHAM, LUPE	Dec 2022	FCSS	P	P	P							
KING BRIAN	Dec 2021	Mayor's Appointment	P	O	P							
LEON, REY	Dec 2022	Target Area B	P	O	O							
MARTINEZ, DANIEL	Dec 2021	Target Area D	P	P	P							
MARTINEZ, JAMES	Dec 2021	Fresno Reel Pride	P	P	P							
McCOY, BARIGYE	Dec 2022	Board of Supervisors	P	P	P							
NICHOLS, LISA	Dec 2021	Target Area E	P	P	P							
REYES, ANDREA	Dec 2022	Economic Development Corporation	P	P	P							
ROBLES, CATHERINE	Dec 2021	Target Area G	P	P	O							
ROBLES, ITZI	Dec 2021	SEFCEDA	P	P	P							
RODGERS, JIMI	Dec 2021	Association of Black Social Workers	P	P	P							
VANG, MAIYER	Dec 2021	Fresno Center for New Americans	P	P	P							
ZARATE, RUBEN	Dec 2021	14th Senatorial District	P	P	P							
Present = X Phone = P												
Absent = O												
Vacant = V Excluded = N/A												

It is the Commissioner's responsibility to check the matrix, verify accuracy and inform the Secretary or designee if any changes are needed.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
March 24, 2021 at 6:00 PM****MINUTES****1. CALL TO ORDER**

Linda Hayes, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:04 P.M.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Amy Arambula, Ed Avila, Oliver Baines, Alysia Bonner, Zina Brown-Jenkins, LeRoy Candler, Jerome Countee, Felipe De Jesus Perez, Charles Garabedian, Linda Hayes, Jewel Hurtado, Lupe Jaime-Mileham, Brian King, Daniel Martinez, James Martinez, Barigye McCoy, Lisa Nichols, Andrea Reyes, Itzi Robles, Jimi Rodgers, Maiyer Vang and Ruben Zarate.

Absent: Rey Leon, Catherine Robles

3. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 24, 2021 MINUTES

A. February 24, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

Public Comment: None heard.

Motion by: Bonner **Second by:** Reyes

Ayes: Amy Arambula, Oliver Baines, Alysia Bonner, LeRoy Candler, Jerome Countee, Felipe De Jesus Perez, Charles Garabedian, Linda Hayes, Jewel Hurtado, Brian King, Daniel Martinez, James Martinez, Barigye McCoy, Lisa Nichols, Andrea Reyes, Itzi Robles, Jimi Rodgers, Maiyer Vang, and Ruben Zarate.

Nayes: None heard.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jim Rodriguez, Chief Financial Officer, announced Rebecca Heinrich is resigning after 19 years as the Financial Officer. Commissioners thanked Heinrich for the years of service and dedication to Fresno EOC.

No action required.

5. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

6. POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Ken Price, Legal Counsel, recommended for Commissioner Brian King to recuse himself due to potential conflict of interest on Item #10 City of Fresno CDBG Resolution.

7. TRANSFORMING AND INSPIRING

Isaiah Green, Advance Peace Program Manager, shared briefly on how the Advance Peace program is helping to reduce gun violence in Fresno County and transforming lives. Green introduced, Leonard Smith, who spoke about his life experiences and how the programs has provided him with the opportunity to help others in the community.

No action required.

8. **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Elizabeth Jonasson, Strategy and Communications Officer introduced Congressman Jim Costa, who provided an update on American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Costa shared the plan will provide relief to local communities to help local government and to help prevent job cuts. To prioritizes vaccination and safely reopening schools, and to support businesses.

Public Comment: None heard.

No action required.

9. **SUMMARY OF GRANT TRACKER**

Kelsey McVey, Planning and Evaluation Manager provided an overview of the 2021 grant activities, results, and outcomes through February 28, 2021.

Public Comment: None heard.

No action required.

10. **ENERGY SERVICES & STREET SAINTS**

Michelle Tutunjian, Chief Operating Officer, requested board approval to submit the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Resolution to the City of Fresno.

Public Comment: None heard.

Motion by: Vang **Second by:** Jaime-Mileham

Ayes: Amy Arambula, Ed Avila, Oliver Baines, Alysia Bonner, Zina Brown-Jenkins, LeRoy Candler, Felipe De Jesus Perez, Charles Garabedian, Linda Hayes, Jewel Hurtado, Lupe Jaime-Mileham, Daniel Martinez, James Martinez, Barigye McCoy, Lisa Nichols, Andrea Reyes, Itzi Robles, Jimi Rodgers, Maiyer Vang, and Ruben Zarate.

Nayes: None heard.

Abstain: Jerome Countee, Brian King

11. **LEGAL COUNSEL UPDATE – BROWN ACT**

The agency Legal Counsel, Kenneth Price, provided a brief update on new social media requirements under the Brown Act (AB 992) that would apply to Fresno EOC, effectively January 1, 2021.

Public Comment: None heard.

No action required.

12. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by: Garabedian **Second by:** Bonner

Ayes: Amy Arambula, Oliver Baines, Alysia Bonner, Zina Brown-Jenkins, LeRoy Candler, Jerome Countee, Felipe De Jesus Perez, Charles Garabedian, Linda Hayes, Jewel Hurtado, Lupe Jaime-Mileham, Brian King, Daniel Martinez, James Martinez, Barigye McCoy, Lisa Nichols, Andrea Reyes, Itzi Robles, Jimi Rodgers, Maiyer Vang, and Ruben Zarate.

Nayes: None heard.

Public Comment: None heard.

13. ADVISORY BOARDS

- A. February 2, 2021 Head Start County Wide Policy Council Minutes
- B. February 9, 2021 SOUL Governing Council Minutes

Motion by: Garabedian **Second by:** Baines

Ayes: Amy Arambula, Oliver Baines, Alysia Bonner, Zina Brown-Jenkins, LeRoy Candler, Jerome Countee, Felipe De Jesus Perez, Charles Garabedian, Linda Hayes, Jewel Hurtado, Lupe Jaime-Mileham, Brian King, Daniel Martinez, James Martinez, Barigye McCoy, Lisa Nichols, Andrea Reyes, Itzi Robles, Jimi Rodgers, Maiyer Vang, and Ruben Zarate.

Nayes: None heard.

Public Comment: None heard.

14. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Emilia Reyes, Chief Executive Officer, provided an update on the Head Start 0 to 5 Funding Opportunity Announcement Application.

Public Comment: None heard.

No action required.

15. COMMISSIONERS COMMENT

Commissioner Garabedian inquired about the possibility of the Local Conservation Corps to collaborate with Camp Fresno in Dinkey Creek Campground to help with maintenance.

Public Comment: None heard.

No action required.

16. NEXT MEETING:

Friday, April 16, 2021 at 4:30p.m.

17. ADJOURNMENT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Date: April 16, 2021	Program: Strategy and Communications
Agenda Item #: 8	Director:
Subject: Legislative Report	Officer: Elizabeth Jonasson

Background

The information presented below is intended to keep the Board apprised of rapidly changing local, state, and national issues relevant to our agency.

Local

The long-anticipated move into the red tier has finally happened for Fresno County, precipitating the reopening of schools and businesses. While the pandemic is still not over, rising vaccination rates have contributed to lessening the infection rates in the county.

Assistance

The City and County of Fresno are starting rental assistance programs with the recently approved federal funds. The funds target landlords who have to agree to certain provisions in order to receive back rent.

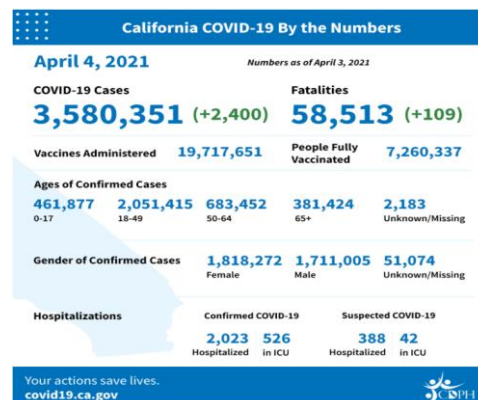
The County of Fresno is also using some of its CDBG funds to provide assistance to eligible utility bills in 6 communities (Fowler, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Reedley, Selma) and unincorporated areas of Fresno County. Fresno EOC is responsible for processing payments up to \$600 per eligible household directly to the utility.

Schools

The majority of Fresno County schools have reopened with limited capacity and abiding by CDC recommendations to ensure the safety of children and staff.

State

The State is expanding vaccine eligibility. Californians 50 years and older can get vaccinated as of April 1, and 16 year-olds and over can start getting vaccines on the 15th.



Federal

The White House on April 1 announced the COVID-19 Community Corps as part of the “We Can Do This” initiative. The purpose of the Corps is to engage local leaders in campaigns to educate and encourage participation in vaccination efforts within their communities. Fresno EOC signed on to this initiative.

Senator Padilla

As part of the Corps Network National Hill Day on March 18, LCC Director Shawn Riggins met with staff from Senator Padilla’s office, including Rebecca Kahn, who handles labor and HHS, and Sarah Swig, who addresses public lands and environmental issues. The call was in support of the proposed Civilian Climate Corps and the request for a potential carve-out for Corps.

Fresno EOC also participated in a press conference with Senator Padilla and Fellow CAP agency CAPK about Fresno EOC’s work during the pandemic, the increased needs of our community, and the potential benefits of the American Rescue Plan.

Congressman Costa

Following the announcement on February 26 regarding the return of congressional earmarks, further guidelines regarding the “Community Project Funding” have been released. Congressman Costa reached out to us to solicit project ideas for his list. We have worked with his office to submit four requests that are in line with the given criteria: USDA inspection kitchen, Gun Violence Reduction, Universal Basic Income for Youth Offenders, Forestry Corps.

Congressman Costa also spent some time on April 1 with our first in-person VAC cohort since the pandemic started. He shared inspirational stories and took questions from participants. The footage was then sent to media outlets.

Budget

While a budget outline was expected by the end of March, the Biden Administration has yet to submit one to congress. Despite the delay, the House Appropriations Committee is still set on completing all FY2022 appropriations bills by the end of July. This budget will be coming amidst major policy and spending proposals that the administration has put forth.

American Jobs Plan

Unveiled on March 31, the \$2.3 trillion dollar infrastructure plan includes funding to repair, replace and enhance our infrastructure, as well as plenty of funds for a range on tangentially related programs spanning transportation, caregiving, manufacturing, housing, schools, amongst other areas. To pay for the investments, the plan proposes tax increases that have already generated opposition from many Republican lawmakers. Some Democrats have criticized the bill for not doing enough to combat climate change. Despite the criticism, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi would like to see the bill passed by July 4.

Since it is expected to not have bipartisan support, it is likely that the legislation will attempt to be passed using the budget reconciliation process, requiring only 51 votes in the Senate. This will further exacerbate the divide between Republicans and Democrats.

The following excerpt from NCAF’s advocacy email details areas of investment included in The American Jobs Plan:

- \$111 billion for **water** infrastructure;
 - \$56 billion in grants, loans to states, tribes, and disadvantaged communities to improve water systems

- \$45 billion to replace all lead water pipes nationwide, including at 400,000 schools and child care facilities
- \$10 billion to monitor and remediate contamination by PFAS—often called “forever chemicals”—and for rural water systems
- \$100 billion to make **broadband access** universal;
 - Includes short-term subsidies for low-income households
 - Includes steps to make pricing more transparent and increase competition, including by prioritizing support for service providers operated by public entities, nonprofits, and cooperatives
- \$100 billion for **workforce development** programs;
 - \$48 billion for workforce development infrastructure and worker protection, including registered apprenticeships for underserved populations
 - \$40 billion for a new program to provide services for workers involuntarily unemployed and for training in high-demand sectors such as clean energy, manufacturing, and caregiving
 - \$12 billion for job training for women, people of color, and formerly incarcerated individuals
- \$400 billion for **caregiving for the elderly and those with disabilities**;
 - Would expand home and community-based services under Medicaid, including to support more pay and benefits for caregivers
- \$213 billion to build and retrofit more than 2 million **affordable homes**;
 - Providing tax credits, formula funding, grants, and rental assistance to expand affordable housing
 - Offering grants to jurisdictions that take steps to eliminate exclusionary zoning and land use policies
 - Investing \$40 billion in public housing infrastructure and \$27 billion in clean energy investments, including funding for the **Weatherization Assistance Program**.

Immigration

Two key immigration bills passed the House on March 18; H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act of 2021, and H.R. 1603, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act. Both bills await Senate approval. With the filibuster still in place, the bills would need 60 votes to move forward, and may have to wait until after the American Jobs Act is voted on.

The first bill would grant a pathway to citizenship for “Dreamers,” Temporary Protected Status recipients, and Deferred Enforced Departure beneficiaries. Several conditions would need to be met before the approximately 4.4 million immigrants that are projected to be eligible would qualify for permanent residence.

The second bill would allow farmworkers and their immediate family to obtain legal status through continued employment in the agricultural sector. It also proposes changes to the H-2A agricultural guest worker program.

WIC Act

One of our legislative priorities, the Wise Investment in our Children Act (WIC Act), was re-introduced with bi-partisan support in both the House and Senate. The WIC ACT would: expand eligibility to age six or the start of kindergarten and extend postpartum eligibility and infant certification periods to two years.



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Date: April 16, 2021	Program: Planning and Evaluation
Agenda Item #: 9	Director: Kelsey McVey
Subject: Summary of Grant Tracker – January 1 to March 31, 2021	Officer: Elizabeth Jonasson

Background

The information presented below is intended to inform the Board of the 2021 grant activities, results, and outcomes through March 31, 2021. A total of 16 grants have been submitted in 2021 and 21 are pending.

Month	# of Grants Submitted	# of Grants Approved	# of Grants Denied	# of Pending Grants	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
January	6	2	0	14	\$46,012,079	\$685,000
February	3	2	0	19	\$1,021,120	\$746,211
March	7	2	1	21	\$10,561,384	\$539,285
TOTAL	16	6	1	21	\$57,594,580	\$1,970,496

Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission
Grant Tracker
Friday, April 16, 2021

FUNDED							
Submitted	Program	Name	Funder	Amount Requested	Board Report Date	Date of Notice	Amount Awarded
11/30/2020	LCC	Prop 68 - CA Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018	CA Conservation Corps	\$489,285	12/1/2020	3/24/2021	\$489,285
Complete development and construction of the second floor of the Vocational Training Building (5,000 sq. ft.), including installation of bathrooms							
10/9/2020	Transit Systems	Charge Up Electric Vehicle Chargers	San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District	\$50,000	10/13/2020	3/8/2021	\$50,000
Fund the installation of 10 new EV chargers. (Competitive – new)							

NOT FUNDED						
Submitted	Program	Name	Funder	Amount Requested	Board Report Date	Date of Notice
2/19/2021	Training & Employment	Job Ready Services	Fresno County Dept of Behavioral Health	\$500,930	3/24/2021	3/25/2021
Provide job readiness services to CalWORKS and Welfare to Work recipients.						

PENDING GRANTS						
Submitted	Program	Name	Funder	Amount Requested	Board Report Date	Expected Date of Notice
2/26/2021	Advance Peace Fresno	Visionary Freedom Fund	Andrus Family Fund	\$44,000	3/24/2021	Prior to 7/1/2021
Fund stipends and emergency resources for Peacekeepers, as well as professional development for staff.						
3/15/2021	Energy Services	Energy Efficiency Grant Program	Energy Upgrade California	\$20,000	3/24/2021	Not specified
Outreach to rural and urban Fresno County residents through direct and indirect methods about energy efficiency benefits and best practices.						
3/5/2021	Energy Services	CDBG	City of Fresno	\$360,000	3/24/2021	4/22/2021
Repair/Replace 25-30 rooftops in SW Fresno and (if needed) replace electrical panels to support solar photovoltaic (PV) systems						
12/11/2020	Food Services	Smart & Final Foundation Donations	Smart & Final Foundation	\$1,000	12/16/2021	Not specified
Kickoff event for rural food express bus.						
3/10/2021	Foster Grandparents	FY 2021 AmeriCorps State and National Grants	Corporation for National and Community Service	\$386,408	3/24/2021	Mid May 2021
68 FGP will assist in public school classrooms, tutor in after school programs-other, tutor and mentor in disabled students program classrooms, assist in Head Start classrooms, early childhood education centers, emergency shelter programs, preschools, and Valley Children's Hospital						

PENDING GRANTS						
Submitted	Program	Name	Funder	Amount Requested	Board Report Date	Expected Date of Notice
9/21/2020	Head Start 0 to 5	Early Head Start Expansion and EHS-Child Care Partnership Grant	Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Head Start	\$944,092	9/30/2020	Prior to 3/4/2021
	Open new EHS center at Clinton and Blythe, serving 16 infants and toddlers, and partner with three Family Child Care Homes to provide wraparound services to an additional 12 infants and toddlers. (Competitive - new)					
1/4/2021	Head Start 0 to 5	Head Start/Early Head Start Communities in California	HHS - Administration of Children & Families - Office of Head Start	\$41,700,206	1/27/2021	June/July 2021
	Reorient early childhood education system in Fresno County to serve 2,138 pregnant women, infants and toddlers aged 0-3 and preschoolers aged 3-5 years, eliminate duplication and siloed services.					
10/30/2020	LCC	Local Corps Prop 84 Grants	California Conservation Corps	\$92,357	10/13/2020	Prior to 7/1/2021
	Capital improvements for LCC facilities including construction of equipment shed. (Noncompetitive - new)					
1/29/2021	LCC	SB-1 Active Transportation Augmentation Program	CA Conservation Corps	\$142,857	2/24/2021	Not specified
	LCC crew will partner with the County Department of Public Works and Planning to trim oleanders along historic Kearney Boulevard train to encourage active modes of transportation such as walking and biking.					
2/17/2021	LCC	Fatherhood Initiative Program	County of Fresno	\$213,000	3/24/2021	Not specified
	Implement the Proving Our Parenting Skills (POPS) Program, targeting expectant and non-custodial fathers/partners of Black mothers in Fresno County and partnering with the West Fresno Family Resource Center.					
3/12/2021	Planning and Evaluation	Prop 68 Statewide Parks Program	California Dept of Parks and Recreation	\$8,500,000	2/24/2021	Aug-21
	Acquisition of the Gateway Ice Center and development of a park on the northwest corner of Clinton and Marks.					
1/29/2021	Sanctuary and Support Services	Prop 64 Public Health & Safety	Board of State and Community Corrections	\$1,100,637	2/24/2021	Prior to 5/1/21
	Hire a licensed psychologist and two substance abuse counselors and 30 internship spots for youth from Fresno and Mendota, monthly youth-focused events in Mendota.					
2/1/2021	Sanctuary and Support Services	Human Trafficking Victim Assistance	Cal OES	\$476,190	2/24/2021	Not specified
	Provide comprehensive services to all survivors of human trafficking through increasing access of direct support services.					
4/12/2021	Sanctuary and Support Services	Rise Up	Public Health Institute	\$40,000	4/16/2021	End of April 2021
	Funding will support the LGBTQ+ Resource Center to host two transgender healthcare conferences to encourage health clinics to learn about appropriate practices to serving transgender individuals.					
4/12/2021	Sanctuary and Support Services	LGBTQ+ COVID-19 Education and Outreach	Equality California	\$7,000	4/16/2021	Not specified
	Funding will support the LGBTQ+ Resource Center to promote COVID-19 education through social media and to host one virtual event discussing COVID-19 and how it impacts the LGBTQ community.					
10/7/2020	Street Saints	Homework Center Proposal	Bank of America	\$60,000	10/13/2020	Not specified
	Establish an afterschool tutoring program at the Hinton Center for up to 90 kids/day, five days/week. (Competitive - new)					

PENDING GRANTS						
Submitted	Program	Name	Funder	Amount Requested	Board Report Date	Expected Date of Notice
10/7/2020	Street Saints	Homework Center Proposal	The Artist Tree	\$60,000	10/13/2020	Not specified
	Establish an afterschool tutoring program at the Hinton Center for up to 90 kids/day, five days/week. (Competitive - new)					
11/13/2020	Street Saints	Youth Services	City of Fresno	\$661,030	12/16/2020	After 12/9/20
	Partnership with Faith in the Valley and Fresno Barrios Unidos to provide paid internships, park clean up and afterschool programming.					
3/5/2021	Street Saints	CDBG	City of Fresno	\$80,000	3/24/2021	4/22/2021
	Offer educational and developmental services for you in 93706 through after-school activities					
3/19/2021	Street Saints	Contract	FUSD Parent University	\$30,000	4/16/2021	Not specified
	Conduct home visits, support "Voices" meetings, Recruit/lead Parent University cohorts, and connect families with Fresno EOC wraparound services					
3/24/2021	Transit Systems	FTA Section 5310 Elderly & Disabled Specialized Transit	Fresno COG	\$1,184,976	4/28/2021	April/May 2021
	Fund the installation of 10 new EV chargers. (Competitive – new)					



April 16, 2021

CEO REPORT

Background

The information presented below is intended to keep the Board apprised of the Chief Executive Officer and staff's community involvement on behalf of the Board.

FRESNO EOC AGENCY WIDE EFFORTS

Commissioners One on One

I am still meeting with commissioners one on one. If you haven't signed up, please contact Elionora Vivanco by email Elionora.Vivanco@fresnoeoc.org

Equity and Inclusion Updates

Over the past month, the Equity and Inclusion team has begun working with programs to align their work in Results-Based Accountability (RBA), which calls for accountability to both grantors and the specific needs of the community. We anticipate this will lead to adjustments in the ways programs operate, collect data, and analyze performance to make sure we have the most significant positive impact on the community.

Equity and Inclusion also held two events. In the first, speaker David Villarino spoke on Cesar Chavez Day. He discussed the importance of the labor movement and how that political thought, action, and analysis apply today. In the wake of several acts of violence against the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, the Equity and Inclusion team held three open dialogue listening sessions for staff. In these sessions, they could express the emotional, social, and mental tolls the continued violence can have and ways to support each other as an organization. We also discussed our responsibility in addressing/responding to these instances of violence.

Head Start 0 to 5 Compliance

Agency win and great news! Head Start is no longer in a corrective action plan and is officially in compliance based on Office of Head Start performance and compliance standards. This is a significant win as it has implications for other programs such as Food Services, Health Services and accounts for over half of our agency staff.

Thanks to our Head Start leadership team, finance team, and Board of Commissioners!

FRESNO EOC Donation update

Cubicles for Foster Grandparents

Green Standards donated two full cubicles for the Foster Grandparents program. These cubicles are for staff as their worksite moves to the Local Conservation Corps. Recently the program has helped seniors get more acquainted with technology, and now grandparents can spend more time reading to Head Start 0 – 5 classrooms over Zoom.

COMMUNITY WIDE EFFORTS

Advance Peace Fresno

Advance Peace Fresno had national training in Las Vegas during the second week of April. We are scheduled to meet with Mayor Jerry Dyer and Council Member Tyler Maxwell to discuss plans with the Advance Peace Fresno program.

We continue to make the news and recruit new change agents (i.e., mentors/life coaches) who greatly expand their worldview while connecting them to social services and job opportunities." One of these "change agents" is Fresno's well-known rapper, Syrup (Roger Brown), who is making an impact on gang members by giving them a channel through which they can express their pain without violence: **Mentions:** [Fresno Bee](#)

Berkeley study reports models like Advance Peace save lives and save taxpayers millions.

Mentions: [Berkeley News](#), [CBS SF Bay Area](#)

AB 1223 is a tax proposed on firearms, ammunition sales. The national affiliate, Advance Peace, is one of the organizations supporting AB 1223. **Mentions:** [Assemblymember Marc Levine Press Release](#)

Community Health Center featured in a new report

The Community Health Center was recently featured in Testing.com's new report as one of the best community-based STD prevention and treatment organizations in Fresno. The report features organizations that are a vital first line of defense in the fight against STDs and HIV/AIDS. They generate awareness and foster social change while providing access to education, testing, and treatment. This report's promotion also includes a national press release featuring the Community Health Center and other resources listed. Click [here](#) to view the report.

COVID-19 Vaccinations

More and more people are being vaccinated every day, and our community's health is improving. Vaccinations are in full swing, and we have had a total of 6,788 vaccinations administered at 25 vaccination events. This month, we have 719 in-process registrations. Anthony Bailey shared his experience receiving his first COVID-19 shot, part one of two of the COVID-19 vaccination. He mentions how easy the process was with the African American Coalition. We hope his story will help motivated others to get vaccinated.

Mentions: [KSEE 24](#)

COVID-19 Equity/Testing Tuesdays

Testing Tuesday is on hold while we are ramping up our vaccination clinics. More to come!

Fresno Road Tax

Our very own Board Chair, Linda Hayes, will be part of the executive committee to determine how much Fresno Road Tax should be, the length of the Measure C extension, and transportation projects. Hayes will be one of the two representatives of community-based organizations. Mentions: [GV Wire](#)

Healthy Harvest/Cosecha Sana

To date, we have received over 1,000 calls, and 97% of those have been for in-home quarantine support or rental assistance. As you know, on February 22, 2021, the Legislature passed Assembly Bill (AB) 85. This bill is an immediate action budget bill that provided an expansion of state funding for counties to offer wraparound services (including financial assistance) to agricultural workers self-isolating in hotels and those who choose to self-isolate or quarantine in their homes. Despite training for the county tracking system still being in progress with DPH, clients' financial assistance will begin the week of April 12. Clients who have tested positive or exposed within 30 days of contacting the agency are eligible.

Mentions: [CalMatters](#)

Heather Brown to Serve on Girl Scouts Board

Our Chief Administrative Officer, Heather Brown, has been asked to sit on the board of Girl Scouts of Central California South.

HerStory Fresno State Forum

I had the opportunity to speak to students about how challenges growing up have led her to be the leader she is today and encouraged young women to work for the community's betterment and pursue leadership opportunities.

Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (Meeting is April 13)

I have been selected to be on the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council. The council's goal is to develop a plan for facilities, programs, placements, services, supervision, and reentry strategies needed to provide appropriate rehabilitation and supervision services for Fresno County juveniles. This plan will support the community's effort to address public safety while also empowering youth and improving the outcomes of those who find themselves in the juvenile justice system. The subcommittee has a vital role in reimagining Fresno County's model of youth justice.

LGBTQ+ Resource Center makes history with Transgender Day of Visibility

The local transgender community received a historic acknowledgment from Fresno City Council on Thursday with a Transgender Day of Visibility proclamation to occur in Fresno every year on April 8. Our LGBTQ+ Resource Center, Trans-e-Motion, spearheaded this effort, and Councilmember Esmeralda Soria, the proclamation serves as a statement that Fresno is committed to improving the lives of the LGBTQ+ community. Mentions: [Hanford Sentinel](#)

Local Conservation Corps recruitment

ABC30 featured our Local Conservation Corps. Michael Novoa, corpsmember, and Patrick Turner from Training and Employment Services shared how LCC prepares youth for various career paths. Mentions: [ABC30](#)

Mayor's Fresno Recovery Committee (Meeting is April 14)

I am serving on the Mayor's Fresno Recovery Committee. This committee is an advisory panel intended to help jump-start Fresno's economy to ensure residents and businesses can safely return to life as before the pandemic within the parameters of community health and safety outlined by the State of California. The committee is to think of long-term ways to build the economy and ensure recovery for the next 12 months and beyond.

Partnering with Fresno Housing Authority

We are continuing our partnership with the Housing Authority under HUD's Choice Neighborhood designation in the California Avenue Neighborhood of Southwest Fresno. Fresno Housing and Fresno EOC will work alongside residents and community partners to build a strategy for development and investment within the neighborhood, addressing the need for quality housing, neighborhood revitalization, and a comprehensive strategy providing equitable opportunities for all. Mentions: [The Business Journal](#)

Rural Food Express Bus Art Contest

The art contest turned out to be a success with 135 entries from kids throughout Fresno County. After the winners are selected, we will reveal their artwork at a press conference. We will release more details soon.

Transit Systems in the News

You might have noticed our Transit Systems is in the news for the last few months for providing transportation for participants to receive COVID-19 vaccinations. Recently hundreds of cars lined up at a new vaccine center at Fresno City College. Fresno EOC's Transit Systems Program offered free shuttle services to and from the site for those unable to drive to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Mentions: [ABC30](#)

U.S. Senator Alex Padilla Discussion

U.S. Senator Alex Padilla hosted a discussion with Fresno EOC and Community Action Partnership of Kern to discuss the American Rescue Plan's impact on children and families in the Central Valley. The plan provides urgent COVID-19 relief – including direct checks for struggling families, increased Child Tax Credit benefits, and funding for nutrition assistance, housing, and homelessness. Mentions: [The Sun](#)

VAC hosts CEO and Congressman Jim Costa

I had the opportunity to share my story about finding courage and putting my fear aside with VAC participants. Earlier this month, Congressman Jim Costa also had an uplifting message for those in the cohort. Costa shared his support for job training opportunities in the Central Valley and discussed President Biden's American Jobs Plan.



Thank You to Our Partners

With our initiatives, we are making progress in discovering service gaps, and with everyone's help, we will continue to listen and lift unheard voices in our community. By working together, we can continue the fight against injustice and poverty.