

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 04, 2025**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 12

SUBJECT: EXPLORING OPTIONS FOR ESTABLISHING A SAFETY NET BRIDGE PROGRAM TO ADDRESS ANTICIPATED GAPS IN SERVICES FOR RESIDENTS DISENROLLED FROM BENEFIT PROGRAMS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

Shifts in federal policy, including the implementation of H.R. 1, have created new barriers for residents seeking access to social safety net services. Revised Medi-Cal and CalFresh eligibility requirements will put thousands of San Diego County residents at risk of losing vital services. To mitigate these gaps, the County of San Diego (County) should seek innovative strategies to provide continuity of essential services for vulnerable groups.

To address these challenges, the County must find a way to expand healthcare access for residents without health coverage, strengthen food access for individuals and families experiencing food insecurity, develop strategies to reconnect residents with vital benefits and provide ongoing support to maintain eligibility.

The County Live Well Centers are community hubs where residents can access health and social services in one convenient location. These facilities are uniquely positioned to meet the needs of individuals who have lost coverage or face barriers to accessing services. Leveraging Live Well Centers or other County infrastructure and resources as sites for expanded clinical partnerships, volunteer-driven services, and community food justice initiatives will allow the County to integrate health, food, and social services in an efficient and equitable manner.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

VICE-CHAIR MONICA MONTGOMERY STEPPE

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to:
 - a. Explore partnership opportunities between County-operated clinics at one or more of the County's Live Well Centers or other County locations and local healthcare providers to provide no-cost primary care medical services co-located with access to additional social services, as a Transitional Access Clinic.
 - b. Explore opportunities for County Medical Care Services to expand Continuing Medical Education (CME) to develop community health education opportunities for local medical professionals, and to leverage volunteers to staff a community clinic through accredited clinical hours.
 - c. Identify and pursue grant opportunities to support new primary care clinical operations as Transitional Access Clinics at one or more of the County's Live Well Centers or other identified locations, including funding streams that can sustain the administrative, physical and information technology infrastructure necessary to support volunteer-driven clinical operations.
 - d. Explore opportunities for the County to provide same-day access to prescription medication free-of-charge, including identifying operational or funding mechanisms needed to support implementation.

2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to explore recommendations from the Office of Sustainability and Environmental Justice’s Food Justice Community Action Plan including, but not limited to:
 - a. Expanding partnerships across public, private, and community sectors to strengthen and innovate local food security efforts.
 - b. Engage with edible food recovery programs to enhance or increase efforts, including partnering with local grocers, restaurants, and other fresh food providers to secure donations consistent with SB 1383 requirements.
 - c. Developing cold storage capacity in coordination with the Transitional Access Clinics to enable same-day access to fresh food.
3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to report back to the Board of Supervisors in 45 days, including:
 - a. Preliminary feasibility results of the above recommendations, including an analysis of the one-time and ongoing costs and proposed funding source(s) needed to implement those recommendations;
 - b. An analysis of how the County of San Diego can collect and analyze data on who accesses the Safety Net Bridge services, including but not limited to:
 - i. Individuals who have lost public benefits; and
 - ii. Individuals who would have qualified for benefits but never applied due to H.R.1 implementation.
4. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to return back to the Board of Supervisors with an action plan including one-time and ongoing costs and proposed funding source(s) necessary to implement the actions that are evaluated to be feasible in 90 days.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Residents who are most at risk of losing Medi-Cal coverage are disproportionately low-income households, immigrants, and people of color. This action advances equity by prioritizing services for residents who have lost benefits or lack the ability to pay for care, communities most impacted by food insecurity, and populations historically underserved by the health system. By expanding access through a Safety Net Bridge Program, the County of San Diego will strengthen supports for residents most affected by cuts to safety-net programs.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

This action supports the County’s sustainability goals of economic stability and local resilience by reducing reliance on uncompensated emergency care and expanding access to preventative care while also reducing food waste through recovery and distribution.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for the actions requested in these recommendations to explore and report back to the Board are included in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Operational Plan based on existing staff time in the Health and Human Services Agency, Department of General Services, and the Land Use and Environment Group based on various funding sources. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

There may be future resources required to implement the actions that are evaluated to be feasible. At this time, there is no funding source budgeted to support implementation of these actions. When staff returns to the Board as directed in Recommendation 4, the action plan will include proposed costs and funding source(s) for Board consideration, if reallocation of funding from existing County programming is required.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Aguirre, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Aguirre, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe

NOES: Desmond

State of California)
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed
by Andrew Potter