

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2026**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 27**

**SUBJECT: RETURN BACK ON OPTIONS FOR ESTABLISHING A SAFETY NET BRIDGE PROGRAM TO ADDRESS ANTICIPATED GAPS IN SERVICES FOR RESIDENTS DISENROLLED FROM BENEFIT PROGRAMS AND AUTHORIZE IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING FOR A SAFETY NET BRIDGE PROGRAM PILOT (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

On November 4, 2025 (12), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the Chief Administrative Officer to explore opportunities to establish a Safety Net Bridge program. This program would provide no-cost primary care medical services co-located with social services, same-day access to prescription medication free-of-charge, and same-day access to fresh food to address anticipated gaps in services due to barriers created by shifts in federal policy.

In partnership with the Board office that initiated this action, County of San Diego (County) staff assessed the anticipated impacts of new eligibility requirements, analyzed existing County and community resources, gathered extensive community input, and developed six potential options to support residents disenrolled from benefit programs. This work builds on a broader County strategy focused on proactive customer service, advocacy, technology solutions, workforce readiness, and strong community partnerships. The results of the assessment are included in the Safety Net Bridge Feasibility Analysis Report (Attachment A).

Today's action requests the Board receive the Safety Net Bridge Feasibility Analysis Report. In addition, today's action authorizes staff to develop and refine a proposed pilot in one or more of the identified high-need areas as outlined in the Implementation Plan in the Safety Net Bridge Feasibility Analysis Report and return to the Board within 180 days with the pilot proposal for approvals and authorizations needed to implement. These actions align with a larger, coordinated County strategy to strengthen the safety net and assist eligible persons to access health care and resources amidst State and federal policy changes. Subsequent Board action would be needed to implement any of the Safety Net Bridge options proposed.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Receive the Safety Net Bridge Feasibility Analysis Report.
2. Authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to develop an Implementation Plan based on the Safety Net Bridge Feasibility Analysis Report to develop a pilot in one or more ZIP Codes identified as high-need areas where Medi-Cal disenrollment is most likely, and return to the Board within 180 days for any authorization and appropriations needed for pilot implementation.

**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. The Safety Net Bridge Feasibility Analysis describes options to expand access to critical health care resources and strengthen social service supports for residents, which are anticipated to be directly impacted by changes in federal and State policy.

### **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 primary care while also reducing food waste through recovery and distribution.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 associated with today's recommendation. There may be future fiscal impacts based on the implementation of the options described in the Safety Net Bridge Feasibility Analysis Report. Any such recommendations would be brought to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors for consideration and approval at a subsequent date. There is no change to net general fund costs and no additional staff years.

### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

### **ACTION:**

Noting for the record this item was heard on March 25, 2026; ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Aguirre, the Board of Supervisors took the following actions:

1. Received the Safety Net Bridge Feasibility Analysis Report.
2. Authorized the Chief Administrative Officer to move forward with the develop an Implementation Plan included in based on the Safety Net Bridge Feasibility Analysis Report to develop a pilot in one or more ZIP Codes identified as high-need areas where Medi-Cal disenrollment is most likely, and return to the Board within 180 days for any authorization and appropriations needed for pilot implementation.
3. Directed the Chief Administrative Officer, in coordination with the Office of Sustainability and Environmental Justice, to report back within 45 days on implementation plans and cost estimates for the food access component of the Safety Net Bridge Program.

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

ABSENT: Anderson

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