



August 25, 2025

San Diego County Board of Supervisors

1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: Support for Sustainable Fiscal Planning Subcommittee Proposal and Unlocking the County Reserves

Dear Chair Lawson-Remer and Members of the Board,

On behalf of the San Diego Hunger Coalition, I am writing to express our strong support for the proposal to establish an Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Sustainable Fiscal Planning and the Board Letter to Unlock County Reserves, brought forward by Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer and Supervisor Monica Montgomery-Steppe.

Nutrition insecurity in San Diego County has surged back to pandemic-era levels, with **26% of the population now facing hunger**, according to our data. As more families struggle to make ends meet, food assistance is becoming harder to access—and for many, too risky to seek.

SNAP remains San Diego's most powerful anti-hunger tool, currently supporting **400,000 residents and providing over 16.7 million meals each month**. But proposed federal changes in the Reconciliation Budget could remove **67,000 people** from the program, eliminating **\$12.4 million in monthly benefits** and stripping **\$264 million annually** from our local economy. This would increase the monthly meal gap by **2.7 million meals**, a level of need far beyond the capacity of the charitable food sector.

San Diego County is already experiencing the destabilizing effects of unprecedented state and federal disinvestment. Cuts to Medicaid, housing, Medi-Cal, SNAP, and other services—combined with unfunded mandates—threaten the County's ability to meet urgent community needs.

That is why we support the establishment of the Sustainable Fiscal Planning Subcommittee to:

- Safeguard essential services;
- Explore equitable, sustainable local financing solutions;
- **Identify and protect vulnerable residents** from preventable harm; and
- Maintain the County's strong financial standing and long-term investments.

We also strongly support unlocking a portion of the County's reserves to stabilize critical services. By updating how reserves are calculated, this policy will free up approximately **\$300 million**, without creating additional public debt. These public dollars are a vital tool to cushion families from harm and to ensure children, seniors, immigrants, and people with disabilities continue receiving essential support.

The crisis we face is urgent, but solvable. San Diego's nonprofit community continues to demonstrate resilience and coordination, but we cannot do it alone. The County has an opportunity—and a responsibility—to use its fiscal tools wisely, to plan sustainably, and to protect the health and well-being of its residents.

SAN DIEGO
**HUNGER
COALITION**



We urge the Board to move forward on both proposals and thank you for your leadership during this pivotal moment. The choices made today will determine whether San Diego's families can weather this crisis with dignity and security.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Alondra Alvarado'.

Alondra Alvarado
President & CEO
San Diego Hunger Coalition