

MONO COUNTY, CA 2023 FEDERAL PLATFORM AND PRIORITIES

**APPROVED BY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
February 7, 2023**



MONO COUNTY, CA

2023 FEDERAL PLATFORM AND PRIORITIES

About the County

Mono County, California is a rural county situated between the crest of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and the California/Nevada border. The County boasts just over 2 million acres of pine, juniper, and aspen groves, hundreds of lakes, alpine meadows, streams and rivers, and sage covered high desert, most of which is contained in the Inyo and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests, as well as the John Muir and Ansel Adams Wilderness areas. Indeed, Mono County offers vast scenic and recreational resources, and has unsurpassed access to wilderness and outdoor recreation and adventure.

Mono County has several small towns and charming villages, each with their own scenic beauty, year-round recreational opportunities, natural and historical attractions, and unique characteristics. The County seat is located in Bridgeport and the largest, and only incorporated city in the county, is the Town of Mammoth Lakes. Supporting a population of 13,195 as of the 2020 census, the County's primary economic industries are tourism and recreation.

Mono County's Federal Priorities

Mono County's Federal Platform is based on five general areas focused on protecting the natural beauty of our land, promoting our local and regional economy, and supporting our communities and residents. Our goals are focused on:

- Housing
- Forest Management
- Infrastructure
- Recreation, Tourism, and Local Economy
- Public Safety
- Community Support



Mono County Courthouse
Bridgeport, CA

MONO COUNTY, CA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



From left to right: Supervisor Salcido, Supervisor Gardner, Supervisor Kreitz, Supervisor Duggan, and Supervisor Peters



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HOUSING

Safe and Affordable Housing was determined to be Mono County's highest-ranked priority during the public input process of Strategic Plan development. That Priority found expression in Mono County's 2022-24 Strategic Plan as the objective *Address Shortage of Affordable Housing*. The Board of Supervisors is strongly committed to improving safe workforce housing opportunities in all areas of Mono County.

Housing Diversity

- Support initiatives and programs that provide additional housing opportunities and encourage diversity of housing availability in the County.

Homelessness

- Support programs and funding that help communities accurately identify all homeless or at-risk individuals.
- Support initiatives and policies that appreciate and account for the unique circumstances of rural homelessness issues, in particular in communities with tourism and recreational based economies.

Federal Agency Coordination

- Support initiatives and policies that provide for additional support to rural communities from federal agencies with jurisdiction over housing and development programs including the U.S. Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



FOREST MANAGEMENT

Mono County's Mission Statement expresses the County's determination to protect its unique rural environment. The County recognizes that maintaining a quality of life beyond compare, for its residents and visitors, requires a balance among access, use, and protection of our forest resources and public lands.

Management of Public Lands

- Support measures to sustain our federal lands including those managed by the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service.
- Support funding for federal lands management agencies and programs.

Forest Protection and Resiliency

- Support initiatives and policies that promote wildfire resiliency, mitigation, and protection.
- Support legislation and funding for comprehensive wildfire prevention and forest health programs on public lands.
- Support legislation and programs that help forest communities address recreation management, water quality, and forest management issues.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Reliable and resilient infrastructure is a cornerstone to Mono County's mission of supporting our communities and growing our local and regional economy. To this end, the County prioritizes investment in the improvement and modernization of our transportation, water, and communications infrastructure in a strategic manner.

Airports

- Support programs and funding that enhance operations, infrastructure maintenance, and facility development at the County's airports.
- Support programs and funding that promote and expand the use of the County's airports for military assistance and emergency services.

Wastewater Infrastructure

- Support programs and funding that provide for the improvement and development of wastewater treatment infrastructure to the County's communities, businesses, residents, and visitors.

Drinking Water Infrastructure

- Support programs and funding that provide for reliable and clean drinking water for the County's communities, businesses, residents, and visitors.
- Support programs and funding that provide for water conservation and water supply resiliency activities and projects.

Transportation Infrastructure

- Support programs and funding for local road and regional transportation projects throughout the County, including planning and project readiness activities, that support community needs and promote public safety.
- Support programs and funding for streetscape infrastructure, beautification projects, and parking access that promote business development and economic growth.
- Support programs and funding that provide transportation and transit access to federal lands and recreational opportunities.
- Support programs and funding for the installation and deployment of electric vehicle infrastructure.



PUBLIC SAFETY

Ensuring the safety and security of our residents and visitors is one of the top priorities for Mono County. However, the diverse terrain of our lands and the remote nature of our communities can present challenges for our public safety, fire response, and emergency service personnel. The County's goal is to facilitate cross-jurisdictional activities deployed through innovative programs to best serve our public and best support our first responders.

Public Safety and Emergency Services

- Support programs and funding for public safety and emergency service activities including search and rescue activities and 911 dispatch operations.
- Support programs and funding for public safety and emergency service communications infrastructure, vehicles, ambulances, and equipment.
- Support programs and funding for public safety and emergency service facilities including a for the county jail and emergency service stations.
- Support initiatives and policies that promote coordination of public safety and emergency service activities with federal land management agencies.

Disaster Preparedness

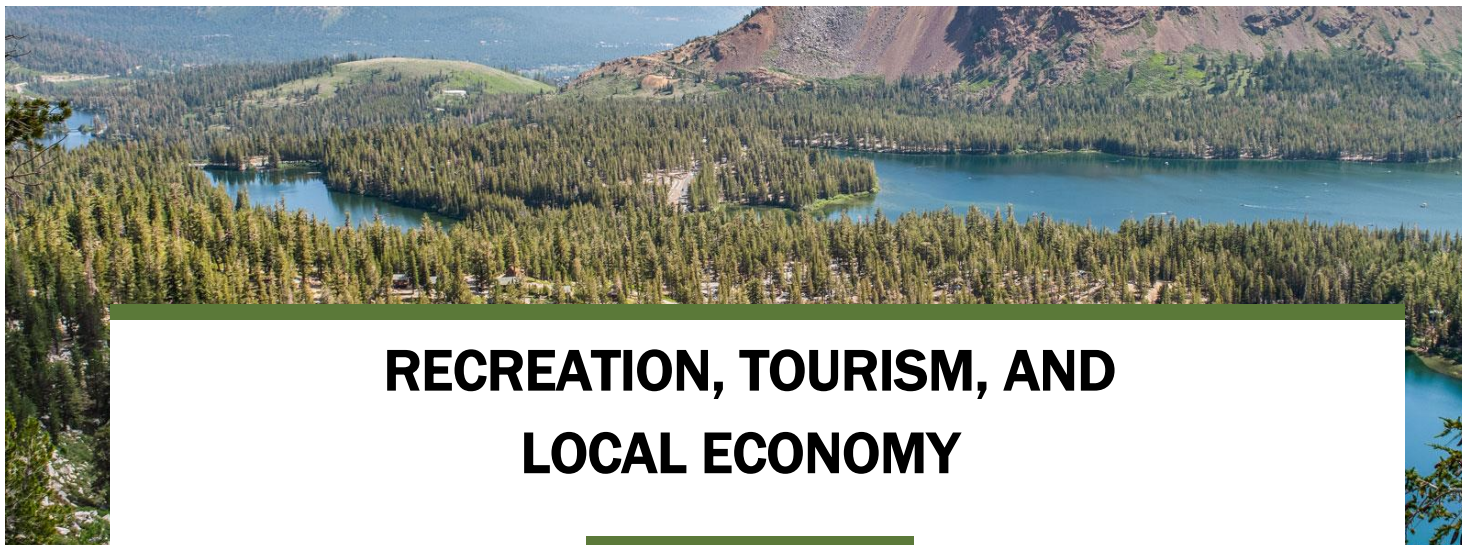
- Support programs and funding for projects that support emergency and disaster preparedness, response, and management.
- Support initiatives and policies that provide for mass care and sheltering activities during disasters, evacuations, or emergency events.

Fire Protection

- Support programs and funding for fire protection activities and equipment including fire stations and access to water supply.
- Support programs and funding for fire fighting personnel training, safety, and staffing.

Cybersecurity

- Support programs and funding that provide for cybersecurity and redundancy equipment and infrastructure.



RECREATION, TOURISM, AND LOCAL ECONOMY

Ninety-four percent of the land in Mono County is publicly owned, with the majority of the land under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Forest Service. Mono County strives to provide economic development solutions that not only support existing businesses and industries, but also address the lack of flexibility and development potential due to land restrictions.

Economic Development Planning

- Support funding and programs that support comprehensive economic development strategies and planning.
- Support initiatives and policies that provide for employee recruitment and training activities.

Recreation on Federal Lands

- Support initiatives and policies that help maintain and promote recreational visitation of the region's National Parks, including Yosemite National Park.
- Support initiatives and policies that strengthen recreational opportunities on public lands, including those under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.
- Support initiatives and policies that help protect and strengthen native and hatched fish populations.

Local Businesses

- Support initiatives and policies that provide assistance to local businesses reliant on the recreational and tourism industries, including promoting off-season business development alternatives.
- Support programs and funding that support the development of childcare facilities, training, and staffing for business owners and employees.
- Support initiatives and policies that strengthen small business and entrepreneur opportunities and ventures.
- Support programs and funding that provide communication infrastructure, including broadband and cellular services, to rural communities and businesses.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Mono County's vision statement is, "**Outstanding community services; Quality of life beyond compare.**" This objective is evident in the County's programmatic and financial dedication to human and physical infrastructure, including outreach to all areas of a sprawling, rural county home to all demographic and economic strata.

Health and Well Being

- Support programs and funding that expand access to emergency services, community health clinics, and hospitals, including through the use of innovative services such as mobile vans and transportation programs.
- Support programs and funding that provide access to and build awareness of substance abuse, mental health, and other behavioral health issues.

Community and Public Facilities

- Support programs and funding for the construction of and programming for community facilities such as museums, libraries, community centers, and animal shelters.
- Support programs and funding for election activities and infrastructure and public records management.
- Support programs and funding that provide opportunities for community outreach and engagement activities that promote healthy lifestyles, access to public services, and overall community well-being.

Tribal Communities

- Support initiatives and policies that promote collaborative partnerships between local agencies and tribal entities.
- Support policies and federal actions that strengthen the County's tribes.
- Support federal recognition for the Mono Lake Kutzadika Tribe.

OUR MISSION

**To support all our communities by
delivering superior services while
protecting our unique rural
environment.**

OUR VISION

**Outstanding Community Services
Quality of Life Beyond Compare**

OUR VALUES

**Collaboration
Integrity
Innovation
Outstanding Customer Service**



County of Mono, CA

2023-24 Legislative Platform

General Principles



The Mono County Board of Supervisors supports the general principles set forth below. County staff will apply these guidelines in evaluating State and Federal legislation, as well as executive and regulatory actions. It is the Board's objective to implement these guidelines.

To support the County's service to the community, the County should:

- Support legislative, regulatory or other policy efforts that protect and/or enhance local government revenues, maximize the County's access to state and federal funding sources, including pandemic support and relief programs, and/or increase local funding flexibility;
- Oppose any effort to balance the State budget through the taking of local government resources;
- Support legislation that protects the County's quality of life and diverse natural resources, while preserving the essence and historic values of the County;
- Support legislation that provides tax and funding formulas for the equitable distribution of state and federal monies while opposing attempts to decrease, restrict, or eliminate County revenue sources;
- Support legislation and budget action which provides additional and continued funding for local road infrastructure, including complete street features;
- Oppose legislative and administrative actions which would create unfunded mandates and/or preempt local decision-making authority;
- Support legislation that realigns governmental services in such a manner as to improve the delivery of services and make government more accountable to the people;
- Support the promotion of tourism, recreation, sustainable fisheries, filming, and a diversified local economy in the Eastern Sierra to achieve strong economic growth and prosperity;
- Continue to support legislation that honors our veterans for their service to our country;
- Support efforts that further the strategic directions outlined in the County's Strategic Plan;
- Engage on any proposals to repeal or additionally alter the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which provides Mono County citizens the ability to obtain affordable health care;
- Support efforts to combat climate change;
- Support legislation that seeks to address the insufficient quantity and quality of homes affordable to our residents; and
- Support legislation that addresses the burgeoning substance use disorder crisis and increases access to Medication Assisted Treatment.
- Support measures that increase resources for disaster response initiatives requiring county involvement.
- Support legislation that waives the local share of cost of all emergency response and disaster recovery activities.
- Support funding for counties to provide for higher demands on critical recovery services.
- Support local, regional, state, and federal initiatives and legislation that advance efforts to dismantle systemic racism and reduce inequity.

Legislative Platform

1) Support Funding/Program Preservation

Support legislative, regulatory, and budget efforts that protect and/or enhance local government revenues, maximize the County's access to federal funding sources, and/or increase local funding flexibility. Oppose legislative and administrative actions that would create federal unfunded mandates and/or preempt local decision-making authority. Strongly encourage Congress and the President to commit to negotiate successfully so as to avoid any future Federal Government shutdowns.

a) **Support Sustainable Funding for Secure Rural Schools**

Support legislation that creates a sustainable revenue stream for Secure Rural Schools, such as the Forest Management for Rural Sustainability Act.

b) **Support the full funding of all Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)**

Support legislation and budget efforts that continue to maximize the PILT revenue to counties and continue full funding of PILT without restrictions beyond the current authorization.

c) **Support full federal funding for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development (RD) Programs**

Support funding for community development programs and affordable housing such as the Section 502 Direct Loan Program and the necessary program staff to implement these programs.

d) **Support full and expanded federal funding for Housing and Economic Development programs**

Support the highest possible funding level for key federal housing and economic development programs, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the HOME Investment Partnership Program, and the reduction from 50% to 25% of the private activity bond cap.

e) **Support continued rural broadband deployment and communications improvements through local, State, and Federal policy advocacy, infrastructure projects, and grant programs**

Having appropriate policy at the local, State, and Federal levels is imperative to ensure adequate communications connectivity, which is a critical part of public safety and economic development. Because Mono County has dedicated resources to improve access to high-quality broadband in our communities and as a result of the completion of the Digital 395 project, roughly 90% of our households have access to Gigabit internet.

Unfortunately, several Mono County communities and residents still face barriers to connectivity as there is inadequate infrastructure to support basic Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) telephone service, including cellular phone service, let-alone high-speed Internet. In order to improve the landscape, the County should advocate for:

- i) Policies, regulations, and enforcement around providers delivering basic POTS services to all locations desiring this service;
- ii) Appropriate and effective definitions of ‘broadband’ which recognize the importance of technology and dependence on the internet for public safety and economic development;
- iii) Legislation and associated programs that provide funding for broadband infrastructure projects and adoption/education efforts; programs and efforts that move to improve the accuracy of metrics used to represent the current state of broadband in Mono County.
- iv) Legislation supporting digital equity, including, but not limited to the creation of affordable broadband for all.

f) **Support legislation that promotes, protects, or facilitates the sustainability of our local agriculture**

Mono County agriculture is an important local economic driver, provides jobs, puts food on the table and contributes to the open-space landscape that draws visitors.

g) **Support Economic Development resources**

- i) Support legislation and federal programs that provide access to small business capital for local business development through the Small Business Administration, Small Business Development Corporation and other government loan and financial programs.
- ii) Support legislation and federal programs that promote locally-based business retention and expansion, as well as create an environment conducive to new business attraction.
- iii) Support initiatives to attract commercial filming opportunities to the region: in particular, budgetary allocations that increase capacity for processing special use permits on the Inyo and Humboldt Toiyabe National Forests.
- iv) Support bills, initiatives, and programs that strengthen the tourism and recreation economy, with a focus on sustainable practices.

h) **Disaster Response**

Support measures that increase resources for disaster response initiatives requiring county involvement.

2) **Natural Resources, Public Lands, and Agriculture**

Support legislation that promotes agriculture and that protects the County’s quality of life, its diverse natural resources, and preserves the essence and history of the County, along with legislation that provides adequate funding for stewardship of our public lands.

a) **Support sustainable funding for federal public lands**

Support measures to sustain our federal lands. Closure or underfunding of these lands

managed by the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service would result in a significant negative impact to our county as tourism and recreation are our economic drivers.

- b) **Support legislation and funding to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities on public lands**
- c) **Support special designations**
Support special use designations for public lands such as National Scenic Areas, Wild & Scenic Rivers, Wilderness, National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, when demonstrated conservation values and public support warrant such designations.
- d) **Oppose public lands disposal**
Oppose the large-scale sale, transfer or "disposal" of public lands except for strategic, widely supported transfers or exchanges for management and boundary adjustments with demonstrated public benefit, for example community expansion in support of affordable housing.
- e) **Support wildfire funding and fuels reduction**
Support immediate enactment of legislation to change the method of funding wildfire suppression on National Forests by providing access to funding outside of the statutory discretionary limits for emergency purposes and for investment in additional resources for forest management/fuels reduction to mitigate wildfire risk to communities and increase forest health.
- f) **Support Wildfire Prevention and Forest Health**
Support legislation and funding for comprehensive wildfire prevention and forest health programs on public lands.
- g) **Support regulatory relief for Mill City Cabin Tract funding**
Support administrative and legislative solutions for funding and/or regulatory relief for the cleanup of contaminated soils at the Mill City recreation residence tract on the Inyo National Forest in Mammoth Lakes.
- h) **Support land management directives**
Support Mono County's tourism and recreation economy by ensuring funding, programs, and management directives for federal land agencies (including the Land & Water Conservation Fund) that facilitate the planning, building, and maintenance of infrastructure for sustainable recreation, travel, and commercial film permitting on public lands.
- i) **Support sustainable fishing**
Support federal initiatives and / or funding of efforts towards enhancement of Mono County's fish population, including sustainable fishing, ongoing fish stocking, education for proper catch and release practices, protection of spawning waterways, and support of the stocking of diploid trout in allowable waters.
- j) **Support the control of invasive species**

Support control and mitigation for the spread of invasive species to protect, conserve, and restore public and private lands.

k) Support biomass project development

Support legislation that encourages the US Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to continue actively promoting and assisting with biomass project development.

l) Support alternative energy

- i) Support local efforts to develop renewable, distributed energy sources including but not limited to environmentally and appropriately scaled biomass, solar, and wind, while ensuring projects and their supporting infrastructure (i.e., transmission lines, pipes lines, towers, service roads) does not degrade the County's quality of life, natural or visual resources, water or essence and history.
- ii) Continue to support geothermal power production that is environmentally sustainable and doesn't negatively affect local domestic water supplies.

m) Support Devils Postpile National Monument legislative requests

Support legislation to authorize a boundary adjustment request, and to designate a portion of the Middle Fork San Joaquin River as Wild & Scenic, as described in Devils Postpile National Monuments 2015 Management Plan.

n) Support endangered species conservation

Support a balanced approach to the implementation of endangered species regulation with impacts to the rural economy and communities of Mono County. Mono County is fortunate to have a rich natural heritage that should be conserved, and it supports the need to protect and recover imperiled species. These conservation measures should be specifically tailored to the threats and circumstances in the Eastern Sierra and Mono County, and must be weighed and balanced against impacts to the fragile tourism and recreation-based rural economy and local communities. Every effort must be made to protect private property rights and avoid detrimental impacts to county residents.

o) Support sage grouse conservation

Mono County appreciates the strong support of the multi-party, collaborative Bi-State conservation effort, including several federal agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service (Inyo National Forest and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest), and U.S. Geological Survey. The coalition includes technical and scientific support, legislative and policy support, and funding to ensure conservation commitments are met and honored by federal agencies. Ultimately, continuation of the collaborative partnership requires the federal agencies to remain stalwart in their commitments with the flexibility to address new issues, such as the management of water by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) in Long Valley, and adequate budgets to support a positive conservation outcome. If the bird is listed, the result could be an additional regulatory burden with devastating impacts to Mono County's agricultural and recreational activity-based economy.

p) Support legislation to avoid landfilling of waste originating on Federal Land

Develop policies and programs that successfully re-use, recycle and transform resources

that originate on USFS, BLM, and DOD lands. Support policies that reduce the impacts of Federally generated waste on local jurisdictions' waste management systems, and/or support policies that enhance local systems to effectively manage Federally-generated waste.

3) **Public Safety and Criminal Justice**

a) **Support full funding of Byrne Justice Assistance Grants**

Support the preservation of funding levels for existing safety programs such as the Byrne Justice Grant (Byrne/JAG) Program and oppose efforts to reduce or divert funding away from these programs.

b) **Support continued funding of FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program**

Support continued funding to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire-related hazards by providing direct financial assistance to eligible fire departments, nonaffiliated Emergency Medical Services organizations, and State Fire Training Academies. This funding is for critically needed resources to equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operations efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience.

c) **Support legislation that resolves the conflict federal statutes have with legalization of recreational cannabis use in California**

This includes removing cannabis as a schedule 1 drug and providing cannabis businesses with access to business banking services by changing federal banking access laws. Barring a legislative solution by Congress, the County supports reinstatement of the concepts stated in the past Justice Department memorandums allowing for commercial cannabis activities to operate free and clear of federal enforcement interference so long as the County has a robust regulatory framework in place.

d) **Urge common-sense gun safety legislation.**

e) **Support sustainable Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) funding for airport safety related projects on public and private property on or near our airports.**

4) **Transportation and Infrastructure**

a) **Ensure that federal transportation formulas support rural road infrastructure**

Mono County relies on the network of state highways and locally maintained roads to link residents to essential services. Transportation funding formulas should provide funding protections or guarantees for California's rural transportation system and reflect that rural counties lack viable means to fund larger projects that provide statewide benefit. We must advocate for formulas that distribute federal funds to support local transportation priorities.

b) **Support efforts to protect the Highway Trust Fund**

Support efforts protecting the Highway Trust Fund and programs that provide funding for local roads, bridges, and transit initiatives including pedestrian and bicycle systems, and other multi-modal transportation programs.

c) **Provide funding that maintains and enhances regional access across Federal Lands and National Parks**

Mono County supports budget policy and legislation that maintains, enhances, and extends the operational season of roads crossing federal lands and National Parks that provide access to communities, federal lands, national parks and monuments.

d) **Support Yosemite Area Regional Transportation and Eastern Sierra Transit Authority funding**

Support efforts to seek sustainable funding for regional public transportation to Yosemite National Park, other National Parks in our region, and other public lands destinations throughout the Eastern Sierra.

e) **Support the resurgence of the Scenic Byway program**

Mono County completed a Scenic Byway Corridor Plan through a federal grant, then shelved the plan because the Scenic Byway program was not funded. The program has been re-established, and continuity of funding is needed for jurisdictions to dust off inactive plans, program their implementation into the workflow again, and being making an impact.

5) **Health and Human Services**

a) **Public Health Crises**

Support and advocate for any legislative or budgetary action, including stimulus money and direct funding for counties, related to the response, recovery and/ or economic impacts of public health crises during both the emergency itself and the recovery phase.

b) **Disaster Response**

Support measures that increase resources for disaster response initiatives requiring county involvement.

c) **Support Cost-Neutral Federal Mandates**

Support full funding to ensure that federal mandates are cost-neutral to the County and pursue revisions to streamline the process for local government.

d) **Oppose legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA)**

Work to preserve and expand the number of citizens currently receiving health insurance. Oppose efforts to reduce benefits and block grants or other actions that would shift the current federal/state cost and responsibility to the states and counties.

e) **Ensure that Affordable Care Act (ACA) funding is maintained for local governments**

Support the Prevention and Public Health Fund of the ACA, the nation's first dedicated mandatory funding stream for public health and prevention activities, which supports Mono County health care services to underserved residents.

f) **Medi-Cal Funding**

Support all efforts to adequately fund the federal Medicaid program. Similarly, oppose

all efforts to block grant, cap or otherwise reduce federal and state funding to support this critical safety net program.

- g) **Administration of the Medi-Cal program**
Fully fund county costs for County administration of the Medi-Cal program.
- h) **Managed Care Medi-Cal**
Advocate for a Medi-Cal Managed Care model that generates high healthcare quality scores, increases primary care capacity, improves coordination of care, and conducts outreach to enroll uninsured populations.
- i) **Oppose other eligibility changes, including but not limited to elimination of retroactive benefits or grace periods for eligibility pending verifications.**
- j) **Oppose turning Medicaid over to States**
Oppose efforts to turn Medicaid (Medi-Cal in California) over to the states with less federal funding.
- k) **Support full funding of programs that provide health insurance to children.**
- l) **Support funding of Veterans benefits**
Support provision and funding for current benefits and health care programs for Veterans.
- m) **Support Women's Rights to Health**
Health care is key to women's well-being and economic stability. Support provisions that make sure new health care law works for women.
- n) **Support Child Welfare**
 - i) **Federal Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018**
Advocate for full federal and state funding of the Federal Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-123) enacted to reform the federal foster care system.
 - ii) Support efforts to reform child welfare financing, including expanding the types of prevention activities eligible for the IV-E foster care financial match.
 - iii) Support a provision allowing for "skyping" with non-minor youth in the extended foster care program when the youth is attending college or living in another state or out of country as an alternative to monthly, in-person visits.
 - iv) Support increased federal funding for services and income support needed by parents seeking to reunify with their children in foster care.
 - v) Support increased federal financial support for programs that assist foster youth in the transition to self-sufficiency, including post- emancipation assistance such as secondary education, job training, and access to health care.
 - vi) Support retaining the entitlement nature of the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance programs and eliminate outdated rules that base the child's eligibility for funds on parental income and circumstances.
 - vii) Support legislation that would provide tax credits to companies that hire current

or former foster youth.

viii) Support increased federal funding to respond to the service needs of youth who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

ix) Support working families and reduce childhood poverty through legislation to retain and expand the Earned Income Tax Credit.

o) Support legislation to combat human trafficking

Support legislation that will develop or enhance programs and services to combat the negative impact that human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children has on victims and support efforts to provide additional tools, resources, and funding to help counties address this growing problem.

p) Support the enhancement of childcare and development

Support measures that enhance the overall quality, affordability, capacity, accessibility, and safety of childcare and development programs. Specifically, support legislation and budget action that would:

i) Ensure continuity of childcare for children and families.

ii) Preserve, protect and increase funding for subsidized and other government-funded childcare.

iii) Waive family fees, increase vouchers, and establish "crisis factor" stipends

q) Immigration Reform

i) Support immigration reform efforts that would create pathways to full and equal citizenship.

ii) Oppose immigration reform efforts that would restrict the rights of immigrants or break up families, or that would focus on a mass deportation of undocumented immigrants.

r) Oppose Legal Immigrant Benefit Changes

i) Oppose any efforts to include non-cash benefits in the definition of 'public charge'.

ii) Oppose any efforts to further restrict legal immigrants' access to federal benefits.

s) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Reauthorization

i) Support increased federal support for TANF/CalWORKS subsidized employment programs.

ii) Support more flexible work participation requirement measures to give credit for client engagement and for work activities not meeting the current thresholds.

iii) Support the ability of states to provide and receive federal support for vocational education and career technical training for longer than 12 months.

t) **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**

- i) Oppose proposed rules to limit eligibility, reduce benefits and/or limit state and county flexibility in administering the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/CalFresh).
- ii) Oppose efforts to block grant or otherwise limit the federal contribution to SNAP/CalFresh.
- iii) Oppose federal mandates to require states to increase SNAP/CalFresh work requirements.
- iv) Support a thorough review and updates to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) to more accurately account for the cost of food, dietary needs, purchasing patterns and regional differences in food costs, housing and medical care, which affect the purchasing power of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.
- v) Support increased nutritional supplementation efforts at the state and federal levels, including increased aid, longer terms of aid, and increased access for those in need.
- vi) Support extending Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents work requirement waivers for as many counties and sub-county regions as possible.
- vii) Support further collaboration with the federal government and national partners to increase outreach and enrollment for SNAP/CalFresh, especially in underserved populations such as students, former foster youth, non-English-speaking populations and seniors.
- viii) Support provisions to further streamline and simplify federal requirements for SNAP/CalFresh recipients to enhance enrollment and retention.
- ix) Support additional flexibility for states to align SNAP/CalFresh eligibility and processes with state TANF/CalWORKS programs.
- x) Support efforts to improve timeliness of data provided by the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) to states for use in administering SNAP/CalFresh.

u) **Support Adult and Disability Services**

Support legislation that would provide adequate funding such as state-only funded programs, programs authorized under the Older Americans Act, a return to full funding for Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) programs and increases to the SSBG allocation to keep up with inflation and population growth.

v) **Support Homelessness Legislation**

Support federal homelessness legislation funding an array of services to individuals and families at risk of or who are experiencing homelessness.