

STIMULUS CASE STUDY: ALAMEDA COUNTY

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Alameda Quick Facts

Population:
1.5 million

Unemployment Rate:
11.9%

Poverty Rate:
11.4%

Median Household Income:
\$66,430

Immigration Rate:
31.7% or 463,650

Undocumented Residents:
6% or 88,000

White (non-Latino):
37%

Latino:
22%

Asian:
25%

Black:
13%

Other:
4%

HHS Stimulus Quick Facts

Amount Awarded:
\$16M

Number of Projects:
41

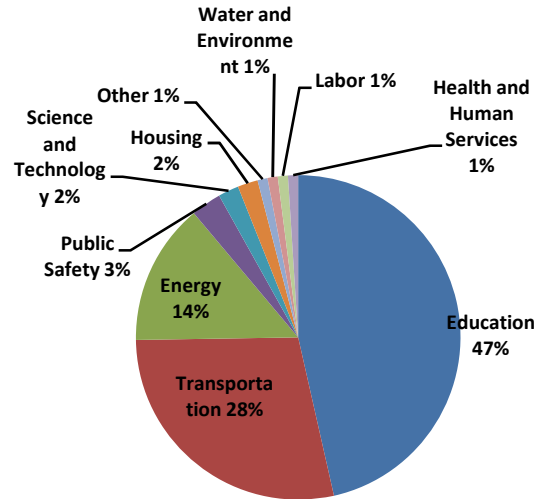
Jobs Created or Retained:
38.86

For more information visit:
voiceofcalifornia.org
or vozdecalfornia.org

Fact Sheet was prepared by
The California Stimulus Oversight Coalition

The 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) serves as a safety net for comprehensive health care services throughout the nation. By allocating \$141B federal dollars specifically to Health and Human Services, it illustrates a commitment to improving health outcomes and building economic sustainability.¹ California was awarded \$7B in stimulus funds for Health and Human Services,² of which Alameda received \$16M. **Compared to services in the county, the state appropriated only 1% of total funds to Health and Human Services, a vital social and workforce sector in society.**³

Community health centers (CHC) are the primary source of health care for underserved populations, such as people of color and LGBTQ communities. CHCs in Alameda struggle to keep their doors open due to the state's devastating cuts to Medi-Cal (\$129.4M)⁴ and HIV/AIDS (\$80.1M).⁵ Massive unemployment intensifies the pressure on CHCs attempting to meet the escalating demand for low-cost or free health care. HHS stimulus grants relieve this tension by expanding hours or services, lowering fees, renovating facilities, updating equipment, expanding health information technology (HIT), or opening new sites.⁶ Stimulus dollars could, if equitably distributed, provide short and long-term sustainability for CHCs in communities of color.



ALAMEDA COUNTY DISTRIBUTION

SAMPLE OF ARRA CHC FUNDING



Alameda County demonstrates a high capacity and need for jobs in the health care field. Health Care and Social Assistants make up the second highest field of employment in Alameda.⁷ Poor communities of color could have benefited the most from ARRA funded jobs. Despite receiving a total of \$3M in funds for increased health services, Oakland zip codes 94607, 94606, and 94612 received zero job opportunities.

In contrast, zip code 94566 with the lowest percentile poverty and people of color rates has the highest percentage of funding and jobs created or saved through ARRA.

With a poverty rate of 15.3%, the city of Oakland demonstrates an urgent need for health and human services.⁸ Oakland zip code 94607, with a high concentration of African Americans (51%) and Asian Pacific Islanders (27%), exhibits a poverty rate percentile of 100%. Serving this high poverty area, two clinics West Oakland Health Center and Asian Health Services, received funding but created only 4.31 jobs combined.⁹

Alarmingly, the Native American Health Center (zip code 94601) with a poverty percentile ranking of 74%, received no ARRA CHC funding.¹⁰

Alameda County has the second highest rate of AIDS cases in the Bay Area. With 13.0 cases per 100,000, Alameda County is in dire need of expanded HIV/AIDS testing and counseling programs.¹² Currently, the African American community continues to have the highest rate of AIDS cases; more so, 54% - 65% of new cases are centered in the city of Oakland.¹³ Yet, no CHCs received stimulus support towards HIV/AIDS prevention and education services. The only ARRA funded HIV/AIDS research program came from Science and Technology to Kaiser Foundation Hospitals in zip code 94612. Designed to study different models of improving HIV therapy adherence, this project received \$244K and created .60 research jobs.¹⁴

Footnotes:

1. Federal Health and Human Services Agency Recovery Website. <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/overview/index.html>
2. Ibid.
3. California Recovery Website. <http://www.recovery.ca.gov/html/funding/stimulus%20map/stimulusmap.shtml>
4. Health Access California. <http://www.health-access.org/files>
5. National AIDS Treatment Advocacy Project. http://www.natap.org/2009/newsUpdates/060409_01.htm
6. Federal Health and Human Services Agency Recovery Website <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/hrsa/healthcentergrants.html>

7. California Employment Series.
8. American FactFinder. <http://factfinder.census.gov>
9. California Recovery Website. <http://www.recovery.ca.gov/html/funding/stimulus%20map/stimulusmap.shtml>
10. Ibid
12. Life and Death from Unnatural Causes Report, 2008. http://www.acphd.org/AXBYCZ/Admin/DataReports/00_2008_full_report.pdf
13. Lowe, Shauntel. "HIV/AIDS Crisis Still a State of Emergency in Alameda County." *Oakland Tribute*. 04 Feb 2009. <http://allnurses.com/health-medicine-news/hiv-aids-crisis-367764.html>
14. Federal Recovery Website.