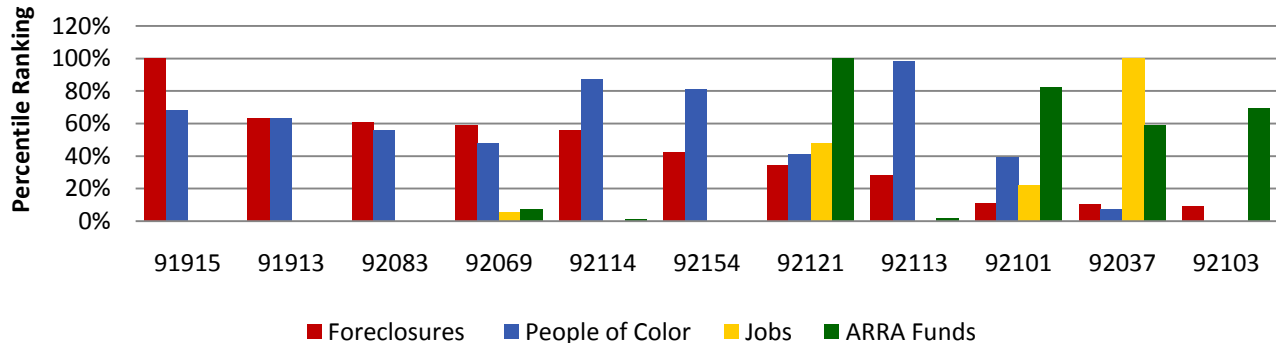


# San Diego County Case Study

**San Diego County** continues to struggle through the current recession. **The unemployment rate in San Diego stands at 10.6%, up 112% from 2008.**<sup>i</sup> The housing market has bottomed out with **foreclosures increasing by 353%.**<sup>ii</sup> Tourism, once a staple of the economy, decreased an estimated 12%.<sup>iii</sup> Moreover, hunger continues to rapidly increase, with emergency food program usage up 16% in 2009.<sup>iv</sup>

In response, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) poured \$1.2 billion into the county, including \$365 million for education.<sup>v</sup> This investment is designed to fight the effects of the recession. In order to understand the impact of ARRA in the San Diego region, it is critical to detail how the funds were distributed to date, and who may be benefitting most from the millions of dollars invested in the region. Research shows that neighborhoods with the highest foreclosure rates may be receiving some of the lowest total ARRA funds and ARRA jobs locally.

## Sampling of San Diego Zip Codes Foreclosure, People of Color, and ARRA Funding



**Figure 1: Methodology** All Categories are based on a percentage ranking. The Highest value constitutes 100% and lowest 0%.<sup>vi vii</sup>

### Disparities

The state can, and should, improve distribution of funds to ensure that disadvantaged neighborhoods receive targeted help. Neighborhoods in Chula Vista and Vista (zip codes 91915, 91913 and 92083), where foreclosures are high and there are high concentrations of people of color, received little to no ARRA funds or jobs associated with these funds. Zip code 91915, a middle class predominately Latino community, has the highest foreclosure rate in the county and only received \$281,000. These disproportionate funding levels will result in the failure to support communities most in need.

**Neighborhoods in Chula Vista and Vista, where help is sorely needed, do not show any targeted ARRA funds or jobs associated with funding.**

**“ARRA provides an opportunity to improve local hiring and state distribution of funds to local communities in need of economic help.”**

**Grantee Profile # 1: General Atomics** was awarded over \$79 Million in funding for new technology. Thus far they have not participated in local hiring nor partnered with community job placement agencies to address local unemployment. However representatives are interested in working on this.

**Grantee Profile # 2:** *San Diego Workforce Partnership* Inc. in zip code 92105 was granted \$24 million and not only created jobs for case managers, they assisted the unemployed to find work and receive training.

## Workforce

California must concentrate on providing decent paying jobs and job training. Such jobs will create and sustain economic recovery across the state and bolster recovery to families. For example in zip code 92037, several biotech and research institutions received grants totaling \$67 million and creating 134 well paying jobs, but none of those monies were put towards job training. In contrast, San Diego Workforce Partnership Inc. in zip code 92105, was granted \$24 million and not only create jobs for case managers, they assisted unemployed community members in finding work and receive training.

Transportation and Green jobs are also crucial to workforce development and economic recovery. Throughout the state of California, an estimated \$4.6 billion flowed into the 'green economy,' however the state needs to ensure that funds and jobs are staying in California. For example, Sapphire Energy Inc., based in zip code 92121, received \$50 million from the department of Energy to create a new bio fuel, however, Sapphire Energy has created zero jobs in the region and are currently building a plant in southern New Mexico.<sup>viii</sup>

In San Diego, ARRA funneled \$315 million into the region for transportation projects, however, there is currently no transportation job training in the region. ARRA has funded innovative ideas and crucial infrastructure projects; on the other hand, the state should target opportunities to those in need and continue to create access for the poor and unemployed.

## Accountability

There are a number of decision-makers we need to hold accountable:

- Private vendors that can provide local and high paying jobs to communities in need.
- Local government that decide on what funds to apply for and where funds are spent within our schools, health programs and social services.
- State departments that decide on where funds should be targeted and the timing of release of dollars.

These are decision points where your voice can have an impact.

Not only has the state failed to provide targeted funding equitably, the lack of good data limits the ability of citizens to hold leaders accountable. Research shows missing and incomplete data throughout each report distributed by the Governor's "Recovery.ca.gov" task force; a problem the Governor's task force must rectify. In addition they need to ensure they are collecting ethnicity, gender, zip code and wage level data for jobs created or we can never know the real impact of such funding. You can make a difference by getting involved. For info on what you can do contact us at [info@voiceofcalifornia.org](mailto:info@voiceofcalifornia.org) or call us at 213.489.3776

*The Voice of California is a coalition of California Alliance, Equality California, Mobilize the Immigrant Vote, and the PowerPAC Foundation. Convening in 2010, The Voice of California Coalition strives to educate communities in California about the impacts and opportunities of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.*

## **ACCOUNTABILITY • TRANSPARENCY • EQUITY**

<sup>i</sup> California Employment Development Department at [www.edd.ca.gov](http://www.edd.ca.gov)

<sup>ii</sup> <http://legacy.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20080123-9999-1n23default.html>

<sup>iii</sup> <http://www.kpbs.org/news/2010/mar/17/sour-economy-drops-san-diego-tourism-dollars/>

<sup>iv</sup> <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2009/nov/14/food-banks-see-big-increase-in-first-timers/>

<sup>v</sup> Recovery California Task Force at [www.recovery.ca.gov](http://www.recovery.ca.gov)

<sup>vi</sup> Data from: California Recovery Task Force at [www.recovery.ca.gov](http://www.recovery.ca.gov), Department of Housing and Urban Development [www.HUD.gov](http://www.HUD.gov), San Diego Association of Governments [www.sandag.org](http://www.sandag.org)

<sup>vii</sup> Foreclosures calculated comparing Foreclosure data supplied by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to Total Housing Units per zip code, data supplied by San Diego Association of Governments

<sup>viii</sup> <http://www.sapphireenergy.com/sapphire-renewable-energy/>