

# Federal Economic Stimulus in San Bernardino County: Hope or Failure?



Voice of California Coalition  
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[www.voiceofcalifornia.org](http://www.voiceofcalifornia.org)

## Table of Contents

About Us .....	3
ARRA Funding.....	4
California Recovery .....	5
San Bernardino County .....	6
Median Income, Unemployment and Poverty .....	6
ARRA in San Bernardino County .....	7
Disparities.....	7
Employment Sectors .....	7
Workforce.....	8
Health and Human Services .....	9
Distribution of funds .....	9
People of Color.....	9
HIV/AIDS.....	10
Environmental Protection.....	11
County Comparison.....	12
Summary .....	13



## About Us

With the passing of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) in 2009, the Open Society Institute (OSI) awarded grants to several non-profit, non-partisan, coalitions throughout the nation. The goal of these statewide coalitions were to research the best and worst practices in the distribution of ARRA funding in their states, its effect in communities of color, and empower local communities seeking transparency.

*Voice of California* was amongst three coalitions awarded grants through OSI within the state. More so, *Voice of California* is the most diverse coalition in the nation, with the partnership of California Alliance, Equality California, Mobilize the Immigrant Vote and the PowerPAC Foundation.

*Our mission is to research the distribution of stimulus funding in hard hot counties throughout the state of California and advocate for equitable distribution. We work with leaders to empower their communities through job creation, local accountability and statewide government transparency.*

As four different organizations, we have united through core integral *values*:

- Equitable distribution of funds and resources
- Government accountability & transparency
- Private – public partnerships
- Job creation & sustainability
- Equality & Dignity

For more information on each partner, please visit [www.voiceofcalifornia.org](http://www.voiceofcalifornia.org)

## ARRA Funding

On Feb. 13, 2009, at the urging of President Obama, Congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was a “bailout” for Main Street as a direct response to the recession affecting many families. By December of 2008, American families had seen the worst recession since the great depression. With unemployment rates skyrocketing, jobs dwindling, and the housing crisis, ARRA had three immediate goals:<sup>1</sup>



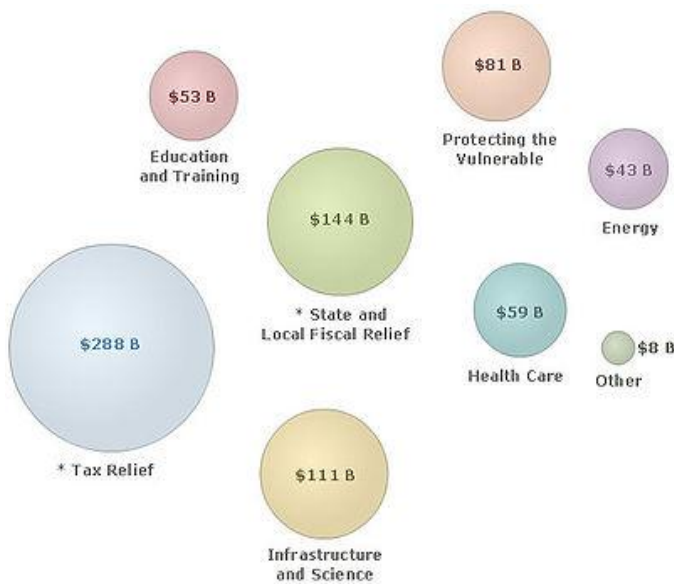
- Create new jobs and save existing ones
- Spur economic activity and invest in long-term growth
- Foster unprecedented levels of accountability and transparency in government spending

*The \$787 Billion for ARRA stimulus was divided into short and long term benefits.*

The short term benefits provide \$288 billion in tax cuts, increasing federal funding for education and health care, state and local relief, and expanding unemployment benefits. Approximately \$499 billion are currently allocated for programs administered by the federal government, state governments, local governments and private organizations, including “shovel ready” projects in the transportation, and energy sectors.

ARRA targets infrastructure development and enhancement through grants and loans. For instance, ARRA invests in the domestic renewable energy industry and the weatherization of over 1 million private homes across the nation.

Long term project funding includes medical research and the study of medical treatment. ARRA funding was dispersed through several sectors, but mainly through higher education institutions, private and public foundations and hospitals that were capable of extensive research.



Oversight: At the national level, ARRA funds are overseen by federal agencies, such as the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Agriculture amongst others. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) frequently publishes a guide for federal agencies on how ARRA funds should be disbursed. Moreover, the Council of Economic Advisers (CEA) reports to the President and Congress, outlining the impact of the Recovery Act on the overall economy.

<sup>1</sup> Recovery.gov, “About. The Act.” Internet: [http://www.recovery.gov/About/Pages/The\\_Act.aspx](http://www.recovery.gov/About/Pages/The_Act.aspx). Accessed, January 2010.

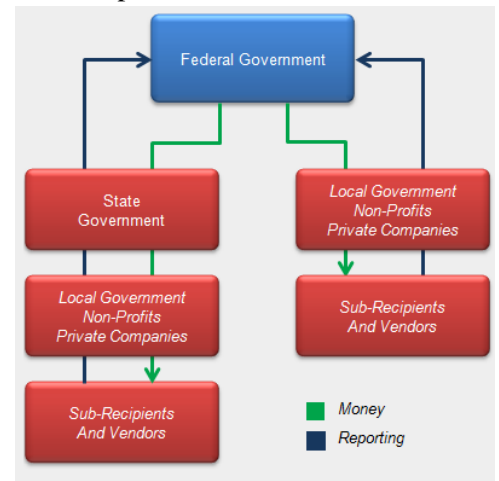
## California Recovery

Since 2006, California has experienced an unprecedented downward economic spiral. However, the historical economic downfall began in 1978 with the passage of Proposition 13, which limited the state's ability to change tax law, thus reduced a relatively stable revenue source, property tax. Before 1978, the state's income rested more equally on different sources of revenue. With the passing of Prop. 13 the state's revenue became income dependent, with personal income tax accountable for 49% of the General Fund. This left California particularly vulnerable to recession and economic fluctuations. Moreover, sales taxes have increased to 8.25%, the highest sales tax in the nation. Prop 13 left a financial void that has been increasingly difficult to overcome.<sup>2,3</sup>

The state's vulnerability coupled with the recession led to massive budget deficits. As the state budget was cut again in 2009-2010, many public social services suffered, propelling a decrease in services and loss of jobs. While California faced a \$40 billion deficit, the federal stimulus proved crucial, almost immediately saving and/or creating jobs throughout the state. However, the federal aid to jump start the state economy did not prevent the state from a budgetary shortfall in the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

In perspective, the estimated ARRA funding for California is \$55 billion, which is equivalent to nearly 50 percent of the entire state budget (not including federal funds). California's share of the Recovery Act funding is also larger than the annual General Fund budgets of all but two states (Texas and New York).<sup>4</sup>

ARRA funds are distributed in a twofold method. Either funds are disbursed directly from Federal agencies to recipients, or are funneled through state agencies. The recipients are then to report directly to the agencies (federal or state) with information regarding their usage of funds. Reporting consists of notifying where the projects are located (geographically), how many jobs were created/saved, and how much of the funding has been received and used. Federal reporting documents can be found at [www.federalreporting.gov](http://www.federalreporting.gov).



The State of California utilizes the [www.recovery.ca.gov](http://www.recovery.ca.gov) portal as transparency tool for constituents to track funding in their counties. As of January, the reporting can also be viewed by Congressional Districts. Unfortunately, the site is only a great tool for tracking funding but has limited reported information. For example, reporting small businesses receiving any grants/loans do not state whether or not they are minority owned, as the state reporting does not ask these types of questions. In addition, reports do not ask if new hires are local or if the particular position was outsourced to another state, amongst other questions. Thus, vital information to economically empower local communities is limited or nonexistent. The Governor's Recovery Taskforce office spearheads the reporting and transparency process. **They could, if pressured, change the reporting guidelines to display this information.**

The office of the Recovery Inspector General works with community partners throughout the state to *Deter, Detect and Disclose* any misuse or fraud of stimulus funding in the state. In addition, the Recovery Inspector General issues reports on non disbursement and lax oversight to the Governor. If community leaders identify misuse of funding, it is encouraged to contact the Inspector General's office.

<http://www.inspectorgeneral.ca.gov>

<sup>2</sup> California Budget Project "California's Tax System" February 2009

<sup>3</sup> Public Policy Institute of California "California Budget" July 2009

<sup>4</sup> California Recovery. ARRA Overview. Internet: <http://www.recovery.ca.gov/html/about/recoveryactoverview.shtml>. Accessed March 2010

## San Bernardino County

San Bernardino has the fifth largest population, 1,709,434 in California; and it is the largest land use county in California and the U.S. covering 20,052 square miles according to the California Department of Finance.<sup>5</sup> Despite the county's vast size, 80% of its land is under the federal government jurisdiction, leaving 8.8% for residential purposes.<sup>6</sup> Twenty four incorporated cities, and fifty nine unincorporated communities form this vast county. San Bernardino's ethnic demographics include:

- White Non-Hispanic 44.0%
- Hispanic 39.2%
- Other race 20.8%
- Black 9.1%
- Two or more races 5.0%
- American Indian 2.2%
- Filipino 1.5%
- Chinese 0.7%
- Other Asian 0.7%
- Vietnamese 0.6%

### *Median Income, Unemployment and Poverty*

San Bernardino County is one of the hardest hit counties in the state of California. The San Bernardino-Riverside region has the nation's 5th worst foreclosure rate.<sup>7</sup> The median household income in San Bernardino County is \$56,575, while 14.6% of its population lives beneath the California poverty level. The poverty levels are consistent among communities of color with a cumulative rate at 54.7%, versus 22.8% for White Non-Hispanic residents.<sup>8</sup> Food stamp caseloads have increased by 50% over the past year and traffic to the county's employment resource centers has increased by over 400%. The county is projecting a decrease in property tax intake by at least 6%; In addition, city governments and schools are facing budgetary problems because of the reduction in sales taxes and state funding.<sup>9</sup>

Undoubtedly, an unemployment rate of 14.9%<sup>10</sup> in San Bernardino County, compared to the state's rate of 12.3%, has more than contributed to the alarming poverty figures aforementioned.<sup>11</sup> San Bernardino has several growing employment sectors that due to the recession have come to a complete halt, contributing higher unemployment rates to an already devastated county.

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<sup>5</sup> Census Fact Fiinder. Available at:

[http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ACSSAFFacts?\\_event=ChangeGeoContext&geo\\_id=05000US06071&\\_geoContext=&\\_street=&\\_county=san+bernardino&\\_cityTown=san+bernardino&\\_state=&\\_zip=&\\_lang=en&\\_sse=on&ActiveGeoDiv=&\\_useEV=&pctxt=fph&pgsl=010&\\_submenuId=factsheet\\_1&ds\\_name=ACS\\_2008\\_3YR\\_SAFF&\\_ci\\_nbr=null&q\\_r\\_name=null&reg=null%3Anull&\\_keyword=&\\_industry=](http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ACSSAFFacts?_event=ChangeGeoContext&geo_id=05000US06071&_geoContext=&_street=&_county=san+bernardino&_cityTown=san+bernardino&_state=&_zip=&_lang=en&_sse=on&ActiveGeoDiv=&_useEV=&pctxt=fph&pgsl=010&_submenuId=factsheet_1&ds_name=ACS_2008_3YR_SAFF&_ci_nbr=null&q_r_name=null&reg=null%3Anull&_keyword=&_industry=)

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.sbcounty.gov/iUploads/CAO/Feature/Content/ComIndicatorsReport10Rev.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> www.RealtyTrac.com accessed May 2009

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.city-data.com/county/San\\_Bernardino\\_County-CA.html](http://www.city-data.com/county/San_Bernardino_County-CA.html)

<sup>9</sup> Morgan, Adam "A Snapshot of the Impact of the Recession on Large, Urban Counties" NACO April 2009

[http://www.naco.org/UrbanTemplate.cfm?Section=lucc\\_library&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=30709](http://www.naco.org/UrbanTemplate.cfm?Section=lucc_library&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=30709)

<sup>10</sup> As of January, 2010 according to the US Department of Labor Statistics; skyrocketing from 13.1% in December 2009.

<sup>11</sup> [http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?\\_bm=y&-geo\\_id=05000US06071&-qr\\_name=ACS\\_2008\\_3YR\\_G00\\_DP3YR3&-ds\\_name=ACS\\_2008\\_3YR\\_G00\\_-&-lang=en&-redoLog=false&-\\_sse=on](http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?_bm=y&-geo_id=05000US06071&-qr_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G00_DP3YR3&-ds_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G00_-&-lang=en&-redoLog=false&-_sse=on)

## ARRA in San Bernardino County

San Bernardino County is one of the hardest hit counties in the state of California. The San Bernardino-Riverside region has the nation's 5th worst foreclosure rate.<sup>12</sup> In January 2010 the unemployment rate was a staggering 14.9%, up 120% from 2008. In response, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) dispersed \$936 million into the county, including \$374 million for transportation infrastructure and \$328 million for education. This moderate investment by the federal government will work to diminish the impact of the recession in San Bernardino; however, without proper oversight these funds may not reach the most impacted communities and sectors.

### Disparities

The state can, and should, improve its distribution of funds to ensure that disadvantaged neighborhoods receive much needed help. Over the past decade San Bernardino saw record growth propelled primarily through its housing sector, which made the county particularly vulnerable to the subprime mortgage crisis. However, the ARRA investment is not significant enough to address the impact of the recession. For example, San Bernardino received on average **\$386 per person** of ARRA funds, and their neighboring county of Riverside received only **\$266 per person**, as compared to Los Angeles County, smaller in size and with a lower unemployment rate, who received an average of **\$576, per person**. This puts tremendous economic strain on the San Bernardino-Riverside metro area and its residents.

Looking even closer, neighborhoods hardest hit by foreclosures received some of the lowest funding totals. For example, zip code 92337, located in Fontana, has a foreclosure rate of 2.12%, almost quadruples the California rate and **received no ARRA funds**. Zip Code 92392, located in Victorville, has the highest foreclosure rate in the county and received less than 0.2% of funds. In contrast, zip code 92315, located in Big Bear, has a foreclosure rate of 0.49% and received \$4 million dollars. This disproportionate allocation demonstrates the need for oversight and transparency.

### Employment Sectors

San Bernardino is known for its working class population; workers are, for the most part divided into few employment sectors such as construction, trade, and accommodation services. The construction industry, the main industry in San Bernardino County, lost a crushing 25.4% of its employment in the Inland Empire in 2009.<sup>13</sup>

Trade and accommodations make up 35% of the employment sector, while government jobs and health and human services follow. However, in recent years, the fastest growing sectors are projected to be Leisure and Hospitality (+25%), Accommodation and Food Services (+24%), Education Services, Health

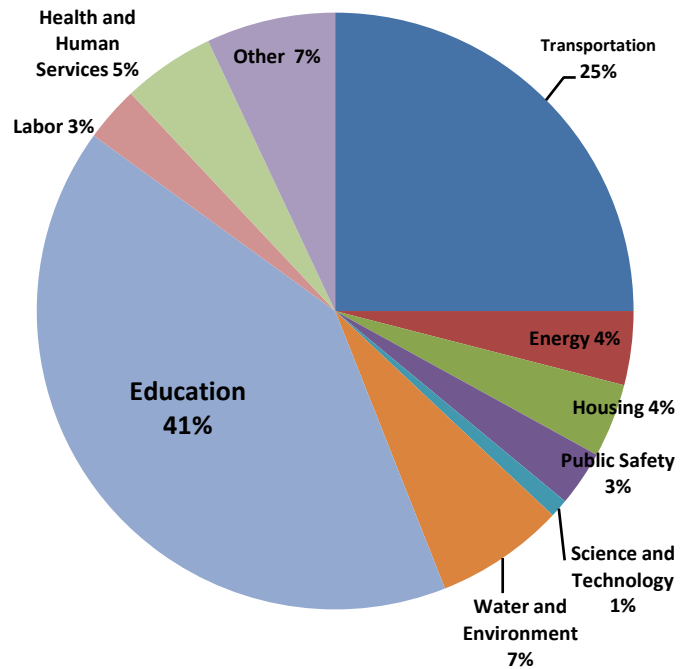


Figure 1: ARRA Distribution in San Bernardino County

<sup>12</sup> www.RealtyTrac.com accessed May 2009

<sup>13</sup> Cho, Rebecca "IE Economy Won't Bounce Back Until Late 2011" [http://www.dailybulletin.com/ci\\_15096489](http://www.dailybulletin.com/ci_15096489) May 15, 2010

Care and Social Assistance (+23%), Administrative and Support, Waste Management and Remediation Services (+22%), Professional and Business Services (+22%), Other Services (+21%) and Local Government (+20%).<sup>14</sup>

The economy has transitioned from a military, agricultural and steel base to small businesses, professional services and construction. In addition, the energy sector in San Bernardino is emerging as the strongest market in the field and throughout California. Experts in the field consider San Bernardino to be ideal for solar energy manufacturing due to the climate and sea level. The emerging markets and demographic shifts make San Bernardino unique in perspective of ARRA funding. Funding that could have ultimately aided economically devastated sectors, assisted with the growing energy market, and sustained job creation in a hard hit county.

### *Workforce*

California should concentrate on providing decent paying jobs and job training that will provide long term security for residents. In San Bernardino, only \$21 million were spent on workforce development, representing 2% of total funds to the county. With the low per capita investment at \$386 per person, coupled with the heavy losses sustained in the housing market, the county desperately needs a deep and sustained investment in the job market to improve conditions for working families; however the funding levels have failed to meet the need. The largest grant, of \$18 million, was allocated to the County of San Bernardino, through the Federal Workforce Investment Act, funding 90 jobs. This grant supported case managers and program support staff, which assist unemployed workers assesses their labor market skills, and connect with the work readiness and occupational skills training needed to assure success in the job market. In addition, the County partnered with Barstow Community College's Security Officers Training Academy and the *Colton-Redlands-Yucaipa* Regional Occupational Program to provide job training to unemployed workers and at-risk youth. The San Bernardino Employment & Training Agency (SBETA) also received funding for job training and placement totaling \$3 million and funding 38 jobs for case managers and support staff. These workers will connect unemployed residents to work readiness and occupational skills training needed to assure success in the current and future job markets. This investment is an important step but will ultimately have a limited impact in returning the 119,000 unemployed residents to work.

Even with underfunding in the county, there are a few remarkable projects that will positively impact communities in San Bernardino and the region which include a grant from the Department of Energy. The County of San Bernardino received almost \$10 million for a project titled, J.B. Hunt LNG Project: Made in America, that will deploy approximately 262 Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) trucks and construct two fuel stations to disperse LNG fuel to San Bernardino and South Gate fleet yards. This project is extremely important to communities in San Bernardino and Los Angeles County, especially poor communities of color impacted by the Southern California trucking industry. The project will eliminate approximately 2.9 tons of diesel particulate emissions from a large fleet of trucks which operate in low-income and minority communities that suffer from disproportionate impacts from diesel emissions, including higher rates of cancer, low birth weight and asthma. Moreover, it will serve as a model for other commercial heavy-duty trucking companies on how to successfully implement advanced technology alternative fuel programs in large commercial fleet operations. In the region it will reduce more than 15.5 million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions per year.

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<sup>14</sup> California Employment Development Department, Projections of Employment by Industry and Occupation ([www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/?pageid=145](http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/?pageid=145))

## Health and Human Services

As of March 2010, San Bernardino County had received \$38 million in ARRA Health and Human Services (HHS) funds. This funding served to increase access and quality health care services, propel job creation, preservation, and training to regional and local constituents.

### *Distribution of funds*

San Bernardino County received ARRA dollars in several categories within Health and Human Services. Recovery Act funds support a variety of projects, such as the Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP) funding for Medicaid/Medical services, food stamp benefits, elderly nutrition services, the Women Infant Children (WIC) program and assisted employment for persons with disabilities. The distribution of funds in San Bernardino illustrates the county's priorities for health and economic empowerment. SEE Figure 2.

The majority of ARRA HHS funds, \$32 million, were disbursed to Child Care Development Program (CCDP). The second highest amount of funding, \$4 million went to Community Service Block Grants to increase low-income families' self-sufficiency through a variety of state-level benefits. Community Health Centers received the third highest funding amount of \$926,000. The remaining funds were distributed to school lunch and elderly nutrition programs, lead safety, scholarships, and emergency food banks.

### *People of Color*

San Bernardino has the third highest proportion of residents living in poverty in the state at 14.6%. With a higher proportion of residents receiving public assistance income (4%) than the state's proportion of 3%,<sup>15</sup> the need for health and human services has increased since December of 2008. Simultaneously, Medi-Cal has increased 10%, food stamps increased 27%, and CalWORKS rose 18%.<sup>16</sup>

The highest poverty rates are centered in the city of San Bernardino, which consequently also has the highest percentage of people of color. Zip code 92401 has the highest poverty rate of 37.8% with 60% people of color, yet only received \$807,000 for community health clinics, which is only 2% of total ARRA HHS funding. Zip code 92410 with the second highest poverty rate of 33.4% has 63% people of color. This area received \$355,000 for school lunch programs, less than 1% of total ARRA HHS funding.

The \$32 million funding childcare support programs, indirectly, help pave the way for families to seek and access job opportunities; by distributing funding to local agencies such as the YMCA of the East Valley and San Bernardino County of Education, working class families can be enticed to have their child(ren) taken care at low cost or cost-free. Child Care Development Programs (CCDP) also improves

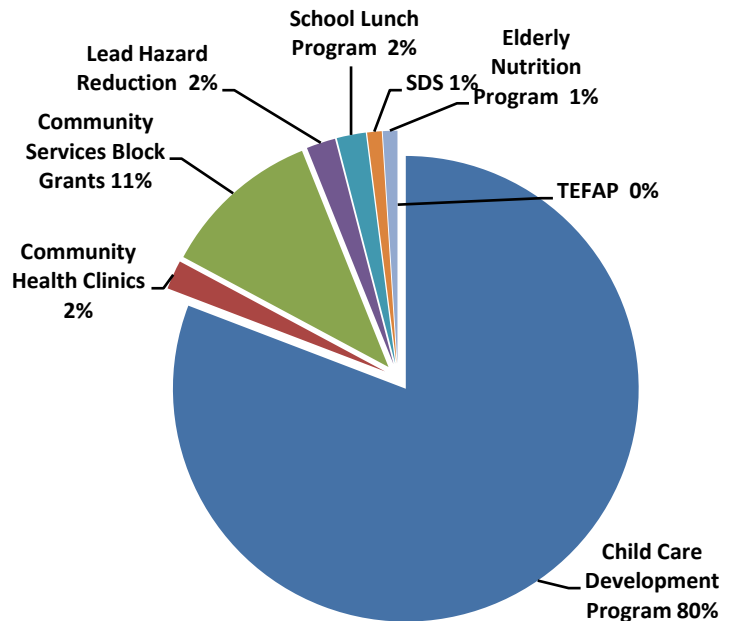


Figure 2: HHS Distribution

<sup>15</sup> Community Indicators Report 2010. San Bernardino County Public Health.

<sup>16</sup> Community Indicators Report 2010. San Bernardino County Public Health.

the quality of childcare by providing teacher instruction and evaluation activities for those who received ARRA funding. Connecting childcare agencies to working class families can effectively place parents back into the labor sector, but still more funding is needed to eliminate families on waiting lists.

### *HIV/AIDS*

San Bernardino County has the fifth largest number of HIV reports and eighth largest number of AIDS cases in the State of California. In 2008, 41% of these cases were people of color. The highest cases of people living with AIDS, for the most part centered in East San Bernardino County, belong to African Americans at nearly 250 per 100,000.<sup>17</sup> Forty percent of all female AIDS cases were African American.<sup>18</sup> Despite the county's efforts in decreasing the number of AIDS incidence cases, AIDS prevalence continues to increase, indicating the need for on-going AIDS supportive services. However, no clinics received stimulus funding for these vital services.

In San Bernardino County, HIV/AIDS health services are primarily provided by community hospitals and smaller clinics. Of the two clinics that received ARRA HHS monies, none of them received HIV/AIDS-specific funding. Unfortunately, because these clinics are not classified as Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), they were not eligible to receive stimulus funding. Reaching FQHC status is attained by meeting specific requirements under the Health Resources and Services Administration, such as: providing comprehensive services for designated medically underserved populations; have a core management and medical staff necessary to deliver these services; and having a governing board composed of at least 51% consumers to oversee operations. Usually, these requirements can only be obtained by hospitals or clinics with readily available resources. Being that so few FQHCs exist in the area, ARRA monies could not only provide increased HIV support for the two clinics that received funding, but also build or sustain community partnerships between clinics, health advocacy agencies, and community hospitals to improve the quality of health care in more isolated people of color communities of San Bernardino County. Furthermore, ARRA funds could have supported initiatives that would provide seed funding to clinics that are close to achieving FQHC status.

Currently, there are no readily available HIV/AIDS ethnicity statistics for San Bernardino County alone. Research revealed data encompassing both Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, collectively named the Inland Empire. Funding through the Ryan White program allows for data collection and reporting for portions or Transitional Grant Areas (TGA) of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. Overall, this region shows that African Americans have the highest prevalence rate for both HIV (nearly 200 per 100,000) and AIDS (nearly 250 per 100,000). However, different regional service areas show that HIV/AIDS disproportionately affects other ethnic groups.

The West San Bernardino region of the Inland Empire shows Latinos with the highest rate of 25% of all people living with HIV/AIDS, which surpasses African Americans. The Eastern and Desert regions of San Bernardino show a higher percentage of African Americans, at 35% and 10% respectively. Since we understand the value of analyzing HIV/AIDS statistics for San Bernardino County alone, we have requested data from the County Department of Public Health. Once we receive the data, the community guide will be updated.

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<sup>17</sup> Gardner, Aaron. Epidemiology of HIV/AIDS Riverside/San Bernardino Transitional Grant Area. Riverside County Department of Public Health. [http://www.rivcohealthdata.org/downloads/reports/HIV\\_AIDS/TGA\\_HIV\\_AIDS\\_Epidemiology.pdf](http://www.rivcohealthdata.org/downloads/reports/HIV_AIDS/TGA_HIV_AIDS_Epidemiology.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> Steinberg, Jim. AIDS Epidemic has subsided but experts say rates among African Americans heterosexual women is disturbing. San Bernardino Sun. 07 Mar 2010. [http://findarticles.com/p/news-articles/sun-the-san-bernardino-calif/mi\\_8068/is\\_20100521/aids-epidemic-subsided-experts-rates/ai\\_n53742329/](http://findarticles.com/p/news-articles/sun-the-san-bernardino-calif/mi_8068/is_20100521/aids-epidemic-subsided-experts-rates/ai_n53742329/)

## Environmental Protection

San Bernardino County has been battling dangerous contaminated drinking water systems since its discovery in 1999. Perchlorate, a by-product of rocket fuel, was found in the groundwater of the Rialto-Colton basins. This in turn has affected agricultural crops; contaminated lettuce has been found to have 100 times more perchlorate than groundwater. The negative health effect of low concentrations of perchlorate can lead to attention deficit disorder, learning disabilities, and decreased IQ in children. High concentrations can lead to thyroid cancer and harm the immune system.

Since groundwater constitutes nearly 80% of the drinking supply in the Inland Empire, residents have been forced to pay a 15% perchlorate surcharge to fund water treatment and pursue legal action towards the responsible parties. Moreover, residents need to pay higher taxes to receive water from resources outside the county, which tend to be more expensive. Consequently, poorer communities who can't afford these additional costs are forced to drink contaminated water.

Water systems with the highest levels of perchlorate contamination are Redlands, Rialto, and the city of San Bernardino. Rialto is ground zero, with perchlorate levels as high as 10,000 parts per billion. In comparison, as of January 2009, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) states safe levels to be at 15 parts per billion. Meanwhile, West San Bernardino, with a predominately Latino and African American population, has the highest amount of perchlorate contamination where the maximum level of perchlorate is at 820 parts per billion. The cities of Rialto and San Bernardino are disproportionately affected by the toxicity and the high impact of poverty, the need for ARRA funding to expand support in perchlorate decontamination is high.

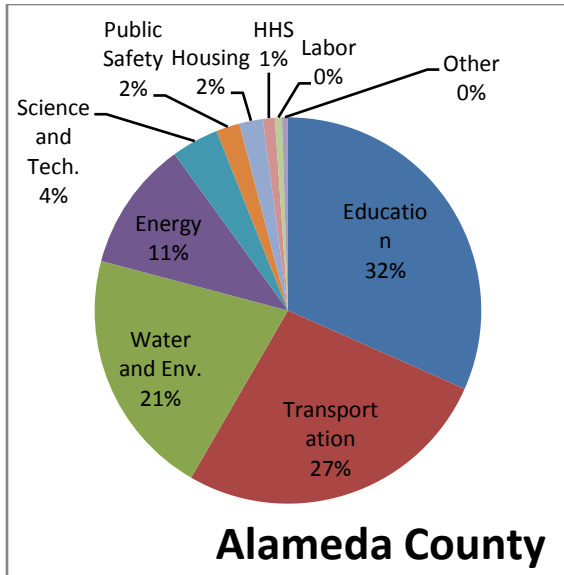
Efforts to clean up the contamination have been at a standstill. Although the City of Rialto and the West Valley Water District (WVWD) jointly applied for Proposition 84 funds. California electorate passed Proposition 84 in 2006 to fund projects relating to safe drinking water, water quality and supply, flood control, waterway and natural resource protection, water pollution and contamination control, state and local park improvements, public access to natural resources, and water conservation efforts.<sup>19</sup> The Rialto city council dropped their partnership with the WVWD fearing that it would sell treated water to cities at huge cost. Despite the WVWD's denial of these charges, this conflict has put a halt on water cleanup. The WVWD would have to forfeit these funds should the city of Rialto break ground without the WVWD.

Since Prop 84 grants would not cover the total costs of the project, ARRA could have provided the necessary funds to overcome these current bureaucratic challenges and begin immediate cleanup of the contaminated water. California was awarded \$1.12 billion towards Water and Environment projects, of which San Bernardino received \$101million. Compared to other projects in the county, only 7% of total funds were appropriated to Water and Environment projects; the majority of projects were distributed to improve water and sewer systems, increase fire prevention projects for private lands, and trail restoration. Despite dedicating \$64 million for county water systems, none of them immediately target the water pollution crisis that affects low-income, communities of color in San Bernardino County, specifically in the cities of San Bernardino and Rialto. Consequently, San Bernardino received very little funding, and Rialto received none. In contrast, water infrastructure and clean-up projects are underway for the Chino Basin, with 40% people of color and a 3.4% poverty rate.

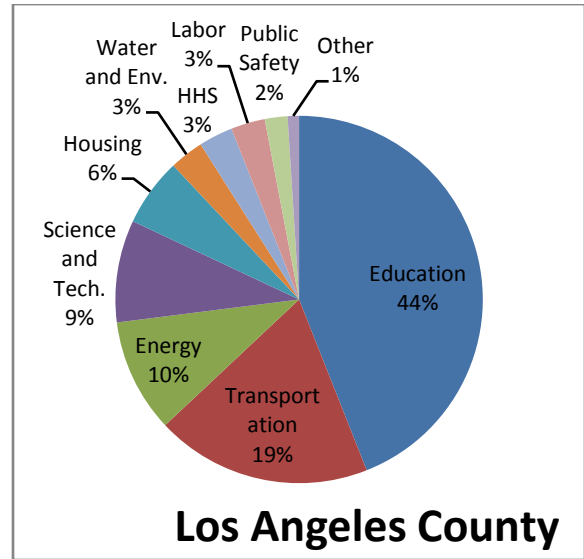
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<sup>19</sup> [http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/1008/files/prop\\_84\\_text.pdf](http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/1008/files/prop_84_text.pdf)

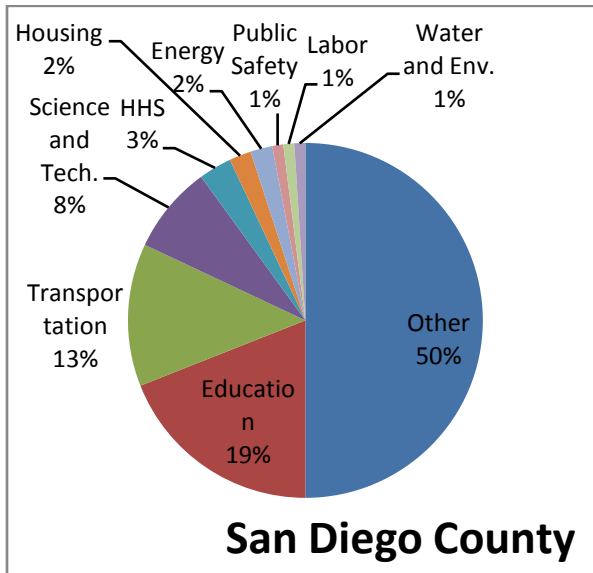
# County Comparison



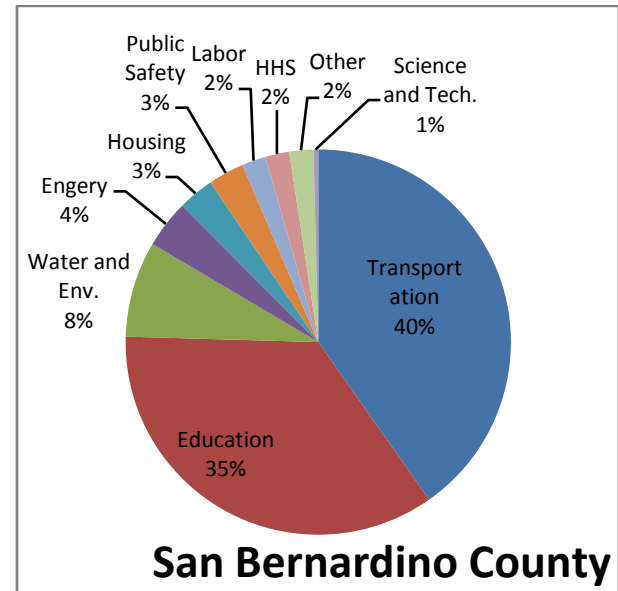
*Alameda* Total Population: 1,457,169  
 Metro Unemployment Rate: 11.4%  
 Foreclosure Rate: 1 in every 235  
 Total Funding: \$2.75 Billion



*Los Angeles* Total Population: 9,832,137  
 Metro Unemployment Rate: 12.3%  
 Foreclosure: 1 in every 232  
 Total Funding: \$5.68 Billion



*San Diego* Total Population: 3,001,072  
 Metro Unemployment Rate: 10.4%  
 Foreclosure Rate: 1 in every 215  
 Total Funding: \$1.44 Billion



*San Bernardino* Total Population: 1,999,753  
 Metro Unemployment: 14.2%  
 Foreclosure Rate: 1 in every 116  
 Total Funding: \$936 Million

## Summary

### *Problem:*

With California's state budget in deficit over the last ten years, ARRA funds have created opportunities to stimulate local and statewide economies. Communities of color, immigrants and LGBT individuals are struggling to obtain a better quality of life in their neighborhoods. Health and Human services are consistently being cut or terminated, and shovel ready projects in these neighborhoods have been placed on the backburner. Moreover, the distribution of ARRA is oblivious to the needs of hard hit communities suffering through budget cuts and increasing foreclosures. This problem stems from 1) the local government entities not applying for stimulus funding, or not enough stimulus funding, and 2) local businesses not applying for grants or, more often than not, being under-awarded.

### *Solution:*

The California Recovery Taskforce can and should ensure that ARRA funds are disbursed in the neighborhoods most devastated by the economic recession. By comparing foreclosure rates, unemployment rates and poverty levels to project and granting opportunities in the area, the California Recovery Taskforce and the Federal Recovery Taskforce can equitably distribute ARRA funding; thus, nurturing communities in need and ensure quality of life, job training, employment and economic stimulation throughout the regions. In addition, local legislators can and should ensure that funds are kept within the state, ensuring job creation and economic stimulation throughout the state.

### *Ask:*

Equitable distributions of federal funds are needed to improve the quality of life of all residents. California must, immediately, seek a method to distribute ARRA funds to communities most in need. The California Recovery Taskforce must develop a transparent process in the distribution of ARRA funding, inclusive of community input, and draft better report backs from grantees, capturing minority statistics.

### *Action:*

Not only has the state failed to provide targeted funding throughout the state, the lack of transparency has limited the ability of citizens to hold them accountable. Now is the time to demand equity, accountability and transparency. **Call** your local legislators and the California Recovery Task Force demanding equitable distribution and transparency of funds. Interested in being a voice of and for California? **Meet** with your community leadership and local grantees to seek public-private partnerships.

**Join** the Voice of California for updates and actions.

### *Values*

- Grantee transparency and accountability
- Equitable distribution of funds
- Job creation
- State and Federal Taskforce transparency in report backs

[www.voiceofcalifornia.org](http://www.voiceofcalifornia.org)

[www.vozdecalfornia.org](http://www.vozdecalfornia.org)