

# Electronic Press Kit

# 2010

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As Voice of California researched the distribution of ARRA funding in San Diego, it found that the San Diego Board of Supervisors failed to apply for TANF-ECF Funding. Such lack of judgment jeopardized the quality of living, jobs and dignity for hundreds of families.

**VOICE OF  
CALIFORNIA**



## Press Release

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

July 15, 2010

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### **COMMUNITY LEADERS SEEK TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY FOR NEXT ROUND OF ARRA AND TANF FUNDS**

SAN DIEGO, CA: Deeply upset by the Board of Supervisors and HHS department's failure to apply for TANF-ECF, community leaders stood together requesting transparency and accountability. Having left their share of \$500 million through TANF-ECF untouched, the board of supervisors has plenty of explaining to do.

Through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 (ARRA), the US Department of Health and Human Services made an additional **\$5 billion** in emergency funding available to be administered through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. This Emergency Contingency Fund (ECF) would help states and counties serve more families seeking employment opportunities and other forms of assistance during the economic downturn. TANF –ECF would have allowed small business to hire more employees; While TANF could have paid for 80% of the employee's salary, the business owners would only pay 20%. Thus, such a decision not only affected the unemployed but also growing economic sectors in the county. San Diego was the only sizeable county to not apply for funds, leaving hundreds of constituencies without a safety net. "It's incomprehensible to me that that a large county hit by the recession, with such problems with foreclosure rates and high unemployment wouldn't avail itself of a program that helps people get off welfare rolls and helps businesses by paying employee salaries," said California Inspector General Laura Chick who oversees the state's spending of Federal Recovery Act dollars.

The Voice of California, a statewide advocacy coalition, found that San Diego's Department of Health and Human Services internally agreed not to seek TANF-ECF funding. The agreement was based upon the current outsourcing of Welfare-to-Work and associated Child Care Stage 1 services. Thus, the county stated they did not have the human capacity to seek such funding. "San Diego County received over \$200 million in corporate welfare. Businesses take care of themselves but why aren't those who we elect into office taking care of us?" stated Monica Leyva, organizing member with Latinos and Latinas in Action (LLEA). Research from the Voice of California revealed that community health clinics (CHCs) and small businesses were underfunded in areas devastated by the recession; ARRA funds should have been better distributed and wisely used by counties with high unemployment and poverty levels. San Diego missed a unique opportunity to put people back to work.

Voice of California, SPIN and LLEA will be hosting meetings with the County Board of Supervisors in the following days to develop steps in community involvement for the next ARRA, JOBS and TANF rounds.

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# **MEDIA**

## VOICE OF SAN DIEGO

### County Said No to Money to Create Local Jobs

San Diego County turned down federal stimulus money to create jobs for out-of-work, low-income residents this year.

Posted: Monday, July 12, 2010 9:25 pm | Updated: 11:39 am, Mon Jul 19, 2010.

By KELLY BENNETT

San Diego County turned down federal stimulus money to create jobs for out-of-work, low-income residents this year, one of a small number of California counties to do so.



Under a program lionized by both conservatives and liberals for its successes around the country, the federal government subsidizes local employers, paying all or some of the wages for welfare recipients placed in jobs. The states and counties set up and run the program.

In California, 47 of the 58 counties receive funds for the program. Statewide, the program has created about 20,000 temporarily subsidized jobs. Los Angeles has been awarded \$62 million in federal funds. Santa Clara, \$9 million. Fresno, \$4.3 million.

San Diego, \$0. The county was the biggest county that didn't take advantage of the funds.

"I was shocked to learn that San Diego did not apply," said Laura Chick, who as inspector general oversees federal stimulus money in California.

"It's incomprehensible to me that that a large county hit by the recession, with such a problem with foreclosure rates and such high unemployment wouldn't avail itself of a program that helps people get off welfare rolls and helps businesses by paying employer salaries," Chick said.

County spokeswoman Lesley Kirk said in a written statement that the county's Health and Human Services Agency did not pursue the funding "due to timing and risk." The agency did not present the program to the Board of Supervisors before making that decision.

But in rejecting the federal funding, the county refused a temporary boost to the local economy and a reprieve for its swelling welfare rolls and 10 percent unemployment rate. The county turned down the chance for a shot in the arm to its overburdened welfare program.

Supervisor Ron Roberts did not know about the county's rejection of the funding until contacted about it for this story. He said he is disappointed with the way the agency handled the decision about a program with the potential to bring so much money to San Diego.

"This should've come to the Board of Supervisors and it shouldn't have been rejected out-of-hand," Roberts said. "I'm working very hard to put people to work, and here was an opportunity to put people to work."

The decision isn't out of character for the county government.

A voiceofsandiego.org special report this year found that San Diego County ranks at or near the bottom among the state's largest counties for providing key social welfare programs. The county has rebelled against state mandates to maintain the programs as the state has frozen funding for them.

Recently the county scaled back its ambitions for its welfare for families program, saying the recession had sapped the opportunities that once made the program a success.

Kirk, the agency spokeswoman, said it was in the middle of a major outsourcing effort for other functions when the money became available, which made the subsidized jobs program impossible to implement simultaneously. Additionally, when the county learned about the grant, state officials were "unable to provide clear and consistent information and instructions about how the funds could be used," she said.

Kirk said the county would have to kick in local dollars to make the program effective. That's a historically unpopular proposition for this group of supervisors.

"There are no known requirements for an agency to seek board action when *not* requesting stimulus funds," Kirk said.

But Chick criticized the agency for not bringing the issue to the supervisors.

"That's the most outrageous thing I've ever heard," she said. "That is a decision for elected leaders to make -- to turn down millions of dollars."

Lawmakers and advocates on both sides of the aisle have lauded the subsidized jobs program in question since its inception last year as one of the only programs that directly does what stimulus programs promise: Creating jobs and infusing money directly into local, struggling economies.

As Chick has spoken to business owners and chambers of commerce around the state about the federal stimulus, she said, often the question comes: "Where's the money?"

"One of the few really concrete positives for small businesses inside the Recovery Act was the subsidized employment," she said.

The federal government reimburses 80 percent of county expenditures for the jobs program. Counties around the state have tried different ways of implementing it, like sponsoring summer jobs or part-time employment.

And they've gotten creative with how to come up with the 20 percent cost-sharing requirement. Some have paired with United Way chapters or chambers of commerce to find willing employers and get the word out.

It's hard to know what the program would hypothetically look like in San Diego, or how much the county would be allocated.

But, for example, the county might be able to find a small business that'd laid off its receptionist, and place there a single mom who lost her job and had to apply for welfare.

The federal government would pay the lion's share of her wage. She'd have a job; the small business would have an employee. It might be enough to get her on her feet and move her off of the welfare rolls. And by the time the money ran out, the business might decide to hire her permanently.

That kind of transition from subsidized to unsubsidized jobs has been happening around the state, said Frank Mecca, executive director of the statewide County Welfare Directors Association.

But it's a daunting program to run because counties must network with employers to get them on board. Some counties were worried about being audited after spending money upfront without a clear picture of all of the rules that would come with the dollars, Mecca said.

"Counties and states who wanted to push the envelope in terms of subsidized employment were asked to kind of build the plane and fly the plane at the same time," Mecca said.

Some counties like L.A. and San Francisco already had established programs. But others still applied to launch new relationships with private employers to give people temporary jobs.

The county's refusal to apply for the funds will be the focus of several meetings and a press conference in San Diego on Thursday led by Voice of California, a nonprofit coalition that has been researching where stimulus funding has been going in the state, especially related to minority and low-income communities.

It's too late for San Diego County to benefit from this round of funding, which was part of a package of programs that federal lawmakers failed to extend recently. Proponents are hopeful it will still be renewed. In the meantime, the expiry means counties like L.A. that had programs are shutting them down to make sure all of their participants get paid and they get reimbursed by the deadline.

Kirk said San Diego County plans to reconsider using the funds if federal lawmakers renew the program in the future.

Chick said by not pushing the subsidized jobs program -- as well as other pieces of emergency aid for the welfare program -- the state will be leaving hundreds of millions of dollars on the table that the federal government had allocated for California's neediest residents. San Diego's refusal to apply for these funds contributes to that, she said.

"Governor Schwarzenegger hired me because he wanted to make sure the (stimulus) money was spent wisely and well," she said. "And that included that he didn't want to see a single dollar being returned or not spent."

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## SAN DIEGO NEWS NETWORK

### Group protests San Diego's failure to secure federal funds

By [Barbara Bry](#), [SDNN](#)  
Thursday, July 15, 2010

Upset about the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and Department of Health and Human Services failure to apply for part of a pool of emergency federal funding that could have brought \$11-to-\$18 million to San Diego, a coalition of community organizations held a press conference on Thursday in front of the County Administration building.

"Our County government rejected a golden opportunity to bring millions of federal dollars to San Diego and create thousands of local jobs," said Jason Everitt, a policy analyst with the Center on Policy Initiatives. "The Supervisors have no one to blame but themselves."

CPI is a nonprofit San Diego think tank that advocates for working people. San Diego is among only 11 of California's 58 counties that did not apply for any of the \$5 billion Federal Emergency Contingency Fund (ECF), a supplement to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, according to CPI.

In a [story in Voice of San Diego](#), Everitt said that San Diego missed out on between \$11 million to \$18 million. Voice of San Diego reported that Los Angeles received \$62 million, Santa Clara received \$9 million, and Fresno received \$4.3 million.

Through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 (ARRA), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services made an additional \$5 billion in emergency funding available to be administered through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. For example, this Emergency Contingency Fund (ECF) could pay 80% of the salary of a new employee in a small business.

"It's incomprehensible to me that a large county hit by the recession, with such problems with foreclosure rates and high unemployment wouldn't avail itself of a program that helps people get off welfare rolls and helps businesses by paying employee salaries," said California Inspector General Laura Chick. Chick oversees state spending of Federal Recovery Act money.

The Voice of California, a statewide advocacy coalition, contends that San Diego's Department of Health and Human Services decided not to seek the TANF-ECF funding because it didn't have the human capacity to do the necessary work. Voice of California and other organizations are hosting meetings with the County Board of Supervisors to insure that the county is ready for

KPBS

## San Diego County Passes On Stimulus Funds, Community Activists Protest

By [Alison St John](#)

Audio Link: <http://www.kpbs.org/news/2010/jul/16/community-activists-protest-sd-county-passing-stim/>

July 16, 2010

The head of San Diego County Health and Human Services says state guidelines on how to use federal stimulus money were so vague that the county could not risk applying for millions in emergency assistance funding.



[Enlarge this image](#)

Photo by Alison St John

Above: Community advocates protest outside a San Diego County Administration building on July 15, 2010. Protesters were reacting to the county's failure to apply for federal emergency assistance funds for welfare families.

Advocates for the poor and unemployed in San Diego gathered to express dismay and outrage that the County passed up millions in federal stimulus money designed to help families on welfare. The [voiceofsandiego.org](http://voiceofsandiego.org) reported San Diego is the largest county in the state not to apply for the funding.

Joni Halpern of the Supportive Parents Information Network (SPIN) said the county missed an opportunity.

"They could have used it in job creation, they could have used it in welfare to work, in case load management, they could have used it in a number of ways - and counties around the state have done that," said Halpern.

Nick Macchione, the director of Health and Human Services, has issued a letter saying the grant opportunity required a significant local match, and state guidelines are unclear.

Ingrid Brinck is with the Advancement Project, a nonprofit that investigates the impact of stimulus money on low income communities. She says other counties have found ways of coming up with the 20 percent of matching funds.

“One of the ways in which counties can cover that 20 percent is by counting the in-kind services of the employer for supervising the employee, for training the employee - they can count that time as part of their local match,” said Brinck.

Counties like Los Angeles and San Francisco have accepted millions in federal emergency assistance funds for welfare families and found thousands of jobs for them.

In his letter Macchione says, “Although other counties may have taken the risk to pursue these funds without the necessary clarity from the State, we did not want to put the County of San Diego and its taxpayers at risk.”

Some of the county supervisors backed their staff’s caution, others expressed disappointment that they weren’t consulted

## VOICE OF SAN DIEGO

# Advocates Protest County's Ignoring of Stimulus

Posted: Thursday, July 15, 2010 3:05 pm | *Updated: 6:42 am, Fri Jul 16, 2010.*

About a dozen advocates for the region's low-income residents gathered at the County Administration Building today to protest the county's [failure to apply](#) for federal stimulus funds that would create local jobs.

The press conference touched on many of the issues we've been looking at this week. One interesting comment came from Wayne Riggs, a pastor from Plymouth Congregational Church in North Park. Riggs was at the county building this morning to stand with the Supportive Parents Information Network, a local support and advocacy group for low-income families.

Riggs said the county's refusal of the federal funds impacts more than just welfare recipients whose jobs could've been created with this money.

It was our money that went to Washington, and the county missed a chance to draw that money back to San Diego to be distributed here, he said.

"Don't just point to the fact that they're ignoring the poor," Riggs said. "But they've ignored the taxpayers of San Diego who deserve a return on their money."

*Update: The county has [released a letter](#) responding to this week's discussion on these stimulus funds.*

-- KELLY BENNETT

## Español / Spanish -

### DIARIO SAN DIEGO

Desaprovechó Condado \$11 mdd en fondos federales  
Por • Alexandra Mendoza

Diario San Diego

San Diego

Jue Jul 15 2010 14:50:17

**Líderes comunitarios protestaron en San Diego el hecho de que la Junta de Supervisores no solicitara fondos federales que hubieran impulsado empleos y apoyado a familias de escasos recursos**

Esta mañana, un grupo de activistas y líderes comunitarios se manifestaron a las afueras del Edificio de Administración del Condado, donde acusaron a la Junta de Supervisores el no solicitar fondos federales que habrían ayudado a familias de escasos recursos.

De acuerdo a una investigación de la coalición estatal Voz de California, el Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de San Diego acordó no aplicar por los fondos del TANF (Asistencia Temporal para Familias Necesitadas) y ECF (Fondo de Contingencia para Emergencias), mismos que oscilaban entre los \$11 y 18 millones de dólares.



Gente de la región mostró su desacuerdo con las decisiones de la Junta de Supervisores  
(Alexandra Mendoza/Diario San Diego)

Manifestantes apuntaron que tal decisión se dio, porque se tuvo el acuerdo de subcontratar programas como Welfare y servicios de Cuidado de Niños Estapa 1.

“La Junta de Supervisores le ha fallado a la comunidad, ellos no aplicaron por estos fondos, lo que hubiera permitido muchos más empleos para personas de esta ciudad”, declaró Ana Grande, integrante de dicha coalición.

"Con la contratación de programas que hicieron se dejaron ir 150 empleos por pagar a 2 ó 3 compañías", añadió.

Ambos fondos se dan a través del Acta de Reinversión y Recuperación de América (ARRA) y de

acuerdo a líderes comunitarios, deberían ser utilizados por condados con altos índices de desempleo, como es el caso de San Diego.

“Es incomprensible que un condado de este tamaño, gravemente afectado por la recesión y con problemas tales como embargos hipotecarios altos y desempleos a un 10%, no se haya acogido un programa que ayuda a la gente de asistencia social y empresas medianas a pagar salarios de los empleados”, dijo en un comunicado la Inspector General de California, Laura Chick, quien supervisa la distribución de los fondos del estímulo económico.

Activistas lamentaron que la decisión ya esté tomada, y dijeron que “aunque ahorita no hay nada que hacer”, exigen a las autoridades tomen consciencia de los problemas que afectan a San Diego.

“Ahorita ‘ya perdimos el tren’ pero lo que queremos es que la Junta de Supervisores, la próxima vez que tenga un fondo de esta magnitud, que abran las puertas a la comunidad, para decidir a donde se destinarán esos fondos”, agregó Ana Grande.

## EL LATINO DE SAN DIEGO



**Viene de portada**

# Condado pierde fondos federales

## Acusan organizaciones sociales; responden líderes del Condado



Los manifestantes, en la explanada del edificio de la Administración del Condado.

**Horacio Rentería**  
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**S**AN DIEGO.- Líderes comunitarios expresaron su "profundo disgusto con la Junta de Supervisores (del Condado de San Diego) y los jefes del departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos al fracasar en la solicitud de fondos de Asistencia Temporal para Familias Necesitadas, TANF".

Durante una manifestación efectuada la mañana del jueves 15 de julio frente al edificio de la administración del Condado de San Diego, indicaron que se dejó de percibir \$500 millones que le corresponden de los 5 mil millones asignados por el gobierno federal, a través del Acta de Reversión y Recuperación de América (ARRA) 2009".

Ana Grande, integrante de Voz de California, indicó que el Condado de San Diego figura entre los 6 de los 58 condados del estado que se encuentran excluidos

de este recurso. "Ello es inaceptable, dijo, cuando más de 150 mil personas se encuentran sin empleo y este dinero habría ayudado a recuperar trabajos perdidos y a generar nuevos".

Joni Halper, de Supportive Parents Information Network (Red de Información de Soporte a Padres) advirtió que lo lamentable de esto es que a los que más daña son a las familias de bajos ingresos, muchos de los cuales son de origen latino y afroamericanos.

La activista entrevistada poco antes de que diera inicio la expresión pública, demandó mayor sensibilidad de los miembros de la junta hacia los que menos tienen, y recordó que fueron elegidos para cumplir con su responsabilidad frente a sus electores (representados).

Mónica Leyva, de la organización comunitaria Latinos y Latinas en Acción, advirtió que el problema es que si los fondos no se reclaman, se corre el riesgo de

perderlos y se ve improbable que se puedan recuperar para el año próximo.

"Este Fondo de Contingencia de Emergencia (EFC) podría ayudar a los estados y condados a servir más familias en busca de oportunidades de empleo y otras formas de asistencia durante la recesión económica. TANF-EFC habría permitido a

las pequeñas empresas contratar más empleados pues el fondo hubiera pagado el 80% de los salarios, mientras que los empresarios sólo hubiesen aportado el 20%", se indicó en un reporte de prensa entregado a los medios de información.

Se indica asimismo que al ser el Condado de San Diego es el único "importante en no solicitar fondos, dejando a cientos de familias necesitadas sin una red de seguridad".

Asimismo fueron fuertes las declaraciones de Laura Chick, supervisora para la distribución de fondos del estado de California que indicó; "para mí es incomprensible que un condado de este tamaño, gravemente afectado por la recesión y con problemas como el alto número de embargos hipotecarios y con una tasa de desempleo anual de hasta 10%, no se haya acogido a un programa que ayuda a las personas que requieren asistencia social, y a empresas medianas a

pagar el salario de empleados".

"No es la realidad", respondió tajante el Condado.

Al ser cuestionado sobre ello, Nick Machionne, director de La Agencia de Servicios Humanos y Salud (HHSA, por sus siglas en inglés), respondió que ésta es una visión que no corresponde a la realidad.

Por medio de un comunicado el funcionario sostuvo que por el contrario a estos argumentos, "el Condado ha recibido \$100 millones en fondos de ARRA, \$55 millones de los cuales fueron recibidos por HHSA para asistir a familias e individuos en necesidad de salud y servicios sociales".

Y añadió: "específicamente \$5.4 millones del fondo están siendo usados para ayudar a las familias de bajos ingresos e individuos desempleados para la colocación en un empleo y otras actividades para ayudar a la gente a conseguir trabajo".

Machionne continuó: "nosotros expresamos preocupaciones a el estado (de California) acerca de las necesidades de empleo de nuestra creciente población en refugios, y el estado incrementó el fondo federal Refugee Employment Services al Condado por \$1.1 millones. Adicionalmente, a través de los programas de bienestar para el trabajo (welfare to work programs) para familias con niños, hemos asistido a 31 mil padres de bajos ingresos con entrenamiento para empleo y colocación sólo durante los últimos doce meses".

Por su parte, la supervisora Dianne Jacobs, afirmó que "el Condado tiene un alto registro de



La supervisora del II Distrito, Dianne Jacobs.

significantes fondos de apoyo o 'grant' en el estado a nivel federal. De hecho, cerca de \$1 billón en programas y servicios de HHSA se apoyan por medio de fondos del estado y federales".

Sin embargo, respecto a por qué no se solicitó el fondo (TANF-EFC), Jacobs continuó, "personal del Condado hizo un juicio calculado sobre si valía la pena o no buscar este fondo en particular, al final se concluyó que la inseguridad en el tiempo y la falta de claridad de la situación del estado ponía en riesgo financiero al Condado y los contribuyentes".

La supervisora Dianne Jacobs anticipó que "estoy segura que el personal considerará aplicar para estos fondos 'grant' en el futuro si le es proporcionada una adecuada información".

Conviene destacar que de acuerdo con una carta enviada a los líderes del congreso federal a principios de este año, la senadora por California, Barbara Boxer, indicó que que con estos fondos, "para el mes de febrero se crearían 15 mil posiciones de trabajo en California".



Nick Machionne, director de HHSA, en una conferencia de prensa junto a la presidenta del Consejo de Supervisores, Pam Slater-Priace

# Ayuda a contribuyentes

## El IRS abre línea telefónica para víctimas del derrame de petróleo en el Golfo

**Servicios El Latino**  
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WASHINGTON — El Servicio de Impuestos Internos (IRS) anunció la apertura de una línea telefónica especial para los contribuyentes afectados por el derrame de petróleo en el Golfo.

Los contribuyentes que tienen preguntas sobre los pagos de la empresa British Petroleum (BP) o que están experimentando dificultades para presentar declaraciones o pagar debido al derrame de petróleo deben comunicarse con la oficina del IRS.

La línea telefónica especial de servicios funcionará en días laborales de las 7 a.m. a 10 p.m. hora local.

En ciertos casos, el IRS puede ayudar a víctimas del derrame de petróleo suspendiendo acciones

de recaudación y auditorías. Los contribuyentes que necesitan esta ayuda deben solicitarla. Otros podrían decidir y continuar haciendo sus pagos porque el interés continuará acumulándose en los saldos, aunque algunas multas se anulen.

Además de posponer acciones de recaudación, el IRS tiene otras maneras para continuar ayudando a los contribuyentes a lidiar con asuntos del derrame de petróleo u otras dificultades económicas, incluyendo:

- Flexibilidad adicional por pagos atrasados en acuerdos de pagos y ofertas de convenio para personas anteriormente en cumplimiento.
- Consideración de los ingresos actuales de un contribuyente y el potencial para ingresos futuros al negociar una oferta de convenio.
- Acelerar el proceso de remover embargos.

- Asistencia del Servicio del Defensor del Contribuyente para aquellos contribuyentes experimentando dificultades económicas y buscando ayuda para resolver problemas tributarios que no se han resuelto a través de vías normales.

**Ayuda Especial en la Costa del Golfo**

Además de la nueva línea telefónica, el IRS condujo un día especial de ayuda el pasado 17 de julio para las víctimas del derrame de petróleo en siete ciudades.

Los contribuyentes y preparadores de impuestos trabajaron directamente con empleados del IRS para resolver asuntos tributarios, incluyendo temas específicos relacionados con el derrame de petróleo.

El IRS continuará ofreciendo el Día de Asisten-

cia en la Costa del Golfo en las siguientes ciudades: Mobile, Alabama; Panama City y Pensacola, Florida; New Orleans, Houma y Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Gulfport, Mississippi, los horarios y locales específicos se anunciarán próximamente.

Para dudas comuníquese a la oficina del IRS al 866-562-5227 (opción 2, para español), para información adicional, incluyendo el trato tributario para los pagos de compensación de BP, vea Preguntas y Respuestas sobre el derrame de petróleo del Golfo en el sitio Web del IRS, IRS.gov.

Se exhorta a los contribuyentes a visitar DisasterAssistance.gov (en español) [http://www.disasterassistance.gov/daip\\_es.portal](http://www.disasterassistance.gov/daip_es.portal) que cuenta con información para víctimas.