The Community Budget Alliance (CBA) is a coalition of community, labor, and faith-based organizations united to ensure that San Diego’s budget reflects the needs of all San Diegans. Our coalition advocates for a City budget that equitably invests public dollars and combats systemic racism, discrimination and income inequality, by prioritizing communities and neighborhoods with the greatest need. We believe the budget should be created through collaboration between elected officials and community members. We envision a San Diego where budgets and the budget processes are transparent, accessible, and give communities decision-making power to ensure government responsibility and accountability.

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the existing inequities in household income, employment security, access to services, workplace safety, and housing. Previous policy decisions have created systems where low-wage workers, immigrants, communities of color, as well as unsheltered and incarcerated individuals, are being hit hardest by the pandemic. San Diego should not “return to normal.” Instead, we must rebuild stronger by addressing inequities and ensuring a high quality of life for all our communities. By redefining public safety, improving environmental health, increasing housing access, securing workers’ rights, and ensuring equitable access to services, San Diego can become a city that works better for everyone.
San Diego residents deserve a system that protects the dignity of Black, Indigenous, and people of color through investment in community-based initiatives and divestment from the system of policing and incarceration. The City should reimagine public safety and redirect ineffectively allocated police funds, such as the Street Gang Unit ($10.4 million), Gang Intervention Unit ($6.4 million), and Overtime ($38.1 million) budgets, to invest in alternatives to policing.

**BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES:**

1. **Divest from the police and invest in communities.**
   a. Establish financial support for the Independent Commission on Police Practices to ensure community oversight and accountability of the San Diego Police Department. Allocate $1,069,000 to support 7 FTEs and an independent legal counsel.¹
   b. Reallocate police funding to secure support for all CBA budget priorities.²
   c. Diversify and strengthen City alternatives to police, such as community investments, non-law enforcement first responders, and decriminalization of low-level offenses that historically and currently contribute to issues such as racial profiling, police violence, and criminalization of Black and Brown communities.
   d. Establish a grant program for Community Based Organizations promoting trauma-informed responses to local emergencies, de-escalation and harm reduction techniques, for situations including, but not limited to:
      i. Public Health Crises
      ii. People Experiencing Homelessness
      iii. Mental Health Crises
      iv. Intimate Partner Violence
      v. Community Violence
      vi. Substance Use
      vii. Natural Disasters

   *Cost Estimate: No additional revenue required—redirection of existing police budget funds.*

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¹ Rounded estimate. Cost estimates are based on the Independent Budget Analyst's (IBA) analysis.
² Additional relocation requests to come after additional SDPD budget analysis.
Create robust community youth and young adult violence prevention programs in eight neighborhoods located in San Diego: City Heights, Barrio Logan, Memorial, Mt. Hope, Oceanview, Lincoln Park, Encanto, and Skyline. Each program should:

a. Hire credible messengers from within the community to outreach and recruit youth.
b. Offer evidence based violence prevention programs such as Anger Replacement Therapy and other cognitive behavioral programs.
c. Provide opportunities for program participants to travel inside the U.S. and abroad to learn about shared struggles and successful violence intervention and prevention programs.
d. Offer certified MFT counseling and mental health services.
e. Provide positive youth development activities including boxing, martial arts, weightlifting, computer labs.
f. Offer job training programs which lead to stackable, portable industry recognized certifications.
g. Manage a 24-hour crisis line to dispatch credible messengers to immediately work with families who are victims of violence to prevent the spread of violence during traumatic occurrences.
h. Hire violence prevention program case managers to work with the entire family, identifying needs within the home to strengthen and promote resiliency using trauma informed care.
i. Offer paid internships, job placement, union preparation and assistance with long term occupational goals for participating youth.

Cost Estimate: $8,000,000
*No additional revenue required—redirection of existing police budget funds.

Create a Transitional Age Unit within the Neighborhood Justice Unit that provides age-appropriate responses, support, and accountability mechanisms to secure pathways to success for young people, rather than a pipeline to prison.

a. Ensure all staff/adults working with or in contact with young individuals within the system are trained in trauma-informed care and have youth-adult partnership training (developed in partnership with system-experienced youth).
b. Conduct trauma-informed youth-adult partnership training for staff within the City Attorney’s Office designed and conducted by system-impacted youth and in coordination with adult allies and partners.
c. Hire a Youth Justice Coordinator, who is a social worker or person trained in youth development to review cases and determine the best options for youth development.
d. Hire a Restorative Justice Coordinator at the City Attorney’s office to provide recommendations and guidance on what restorative practices should be deployed.
e. Create a culturally responsive justice system with expert-led healing circles for transitional aged youth led by external community organizations.
f. Pay youth co-facilitators.
g. Eliminate the $150 administrative fee for all youth, including transitional age youth, accepted into the Community Justice Initiative (CJI).

Cost Estimate: No additional revenue required—redirection of $350,000 of existing police budget funds.
4 Create a task force to develop a Redefining Public Safety Action Plan to develop and implement alternatives to policing. This plan will serve as a blueprint for the City of San Diego to begin creating systemic change for our region by addressing racial injustice and redefining public safety in our communities.

a. Partner with individuals impacted by police violence and BIPOC-led community groups, prioritizing and centering Black-led groups. Participating individuals and groups should be compensated for contributions to the action plan.
b. Include non-police City officials (elected and career) and the Independent Budget Analyst’s office in the plan development process to ensure active support and implementation across City programs.

Cost Estimate: Unknown

5 Pass and implement the PrOTECT (Preventing Overpolicing Through Equitable Community Treatment) ordinance to address invasive policing practices used disproportionately to search and interrogate people with disabilities and Black, Latinx, and LGBTQ people. PrOTECT will require San Diego police to have probable cause to stop and search.

Cost Estimate: No fiscal impact

All San Diego residents have a right to housing that is affordable, high quality, stable, and located in a healthy environment. Housing is not a commodity—it is a necessary foundation for healthy, safe, and thriving families and individuals. Given that half of San Diego residents are renters, the City must ensure housing is livable, secure, and affordable while protecting tenants’ rights for all residents, regardless of immigration status. The City should also combat rising homelessness and housing insecurity by prioritizing families and communities through rental assistance, tenants rights education, and ensuring housing affordability.

**TENANTS' RIGHTS**

**BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES:**

1. **Immediately invest an additional $50,000,000 in rental assistance for all San Diegans, regardless of immigration status.** As eviction protections granted to tenants by the state in AB3088 are set to expire in February 2021, this investment is critical to staving off a wave of evictions during a public health crisis.

   a. Invest future federal emergency assistance, similar to the CARES Act funding, in rental relief to low-income tenants.

   **Cost Estimate: $50,000,000**

2. **Allocate $5,000,000 annually for CBOs to conduct housing education, counseling, and outreach to tenants and landlords in every community and in languages with over 3% representation in San Diego to ensure all residents are aware of new policies affecting their tenant and housing rights.**

   **Cost Estimate: $5,000,000**

3. **Commission a Nexus study to analyze the costs and feasibility of establishing a rent registry with an associated registry fee. Revenue generated from the rent registry fee should be specifically allocated to support a tenant board, maintenance of the rent registry, and local rent control measures to enforce AB1482.**

   **Cost Estimate: $60,000**

   *Rental Business Tax revenue can support this outreach effort.*

4. **Commission a feasibility study on the implementation of a vacancy tax and short term vacation rental tax. Revenue generated from these taxes levied on practices that contribute to the unaffordability of San Diego’s housing should not go into the City's general fund, but be set aside in a special fund for rental assistance, legal services for tenants, and tenant outreach.**

   **Cost Estimate: $60,000**

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4. Cost estimate calculated by allocating a one-time payment of $2,000 to 25,000 families in the City of San Diego.
5. Cost estimate calculated by consulting partner CBOs.
6. Cost estimate calculated from range provided by Keyser Marston Associates. Cost varies from $45,000-$75,000 depending on study type and elements to be included.
7. Cost estimate based on Nexus Study estimate.
Local land use, energy, transit, and climate action decisions have clear and direct impacts on San Diego residents, making the City’s commitment to environmental justice increasingly critical. These decisions influence residents’ access to green space, job centers, and exposure to environmental risks. Further, communities most burdened by climate change tend to be low-income communities and communities of color. The City must actively engage these community members in decisions regarding neighborhood land use and climate initiatives to develop equitable policies and budget allocations.

San Diego has the opportunity to be a leader in the equitable distribution of local clean energy to create a better climate and fight the worst impacts of climate change and climate injustice. Through prioritizing community environmental health and the quality of life for all residents, San Diego can be a city where everyone enjoys a healthier environment free of toxic waste, with clean air and access to energy-efficient and diverse mobility options.

**BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES:**

1. **Ensure the four City of San Diego representatives on the MTS board prioritize transit riders in the MTS budget.** Given the City of San Diego is the largest city served by the local transit agency, transit riders and working families deserve proactive investment and support.

   a. Create Youth Opportunity Passes (YOP), which are no-cost transit passes for youth 24 and under, to increase access to educational and work-related opportunities for youth in San Diego. Youth Opportunity Passes invest in equity, increased opportunities, and a sustainable future for San Diego.

   **Cost Estimate:** $41,000,000 either from City budget or MTS budget.8

   *Funding for Youth Opportunity Passes could come from reallocating existing MTS budgets and the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program.

   b. Prioritize transit investments, support transit riders, and hold MTS accountable.

      i. Transfer fare evasion charges from criminal court to civil court.
      ii. Guarantee that MTS does not cut services or routes in transit-dependent communities.
      iii. Prioritize electric buses in transit-dependent communities.
      iv. Ensure access to bathrooms and appropriate amenities near bus stops (e.g., shelters, shade).

   **Cost Estimate:** Unknown

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2. Advance park development in communities of concern:
   a. Begin a community-led design process for Emerald Hills Park in District 4 with FY2020 approved funding.
   b. Create a Capital Improvement Project and allocate $120,000 for the General Development Plan process for Boston Avenue Linear Park in District 8.
   c. Create a Capital Improvement Project and allocate $50,000 for a General Development Plan process for Berardini Field at 4008 Federal Blvd. in District 9.
   d. Create a Capital Improvement Project and allocate $350,000 to update the Chollas Creek Watershed Regional Park Masterplan.
   e. Create a Capital Improvement Project and allocate $130,000 for an Engineering Design Study/General Development Plan for Castana Street Natural Park in District 4.
   f. Create a Capital Improvement Project and allocate $100,000 for the General Development Plan process for Kelly Street Neighborhood Park in District 7.

   Cost Estimate: $750,000

3. Certify the Updated Climate Plan includes creating local green jobs, increasing access to low-cost and efficient transit, and securing clean energy provision. It must establish a long-range plan to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045 in line with California requirements, focus and prioritize projects in Communities of Concern, and develop metrics to allow for accountability in meeting plan requirements. Fund the following positions to ensure the CAP is implemented equitably:

   a. Allocate $55,000 to hire a full-time grant writer for the City of San Diego Sustainability Department.
   b. Allocate $75,000 to hire a full-time transportation planner to support and lead CAP implementation.

   Cost Estimate: $130,000

4. Enforce the City’s Truck Route Ordinance by allocating $100,000 to construct street-calming infrastructure on Beardsley Street (from Logan Avenue to Harbor Drive) and Boston Avenue (from 28th Street to 32nd Street). Infrastructure investments are needed to reduce pollution, increase residents’ safety, and physically keep trucks off residential streets and away from schools and medical facilities.

   Cost Estimate: $100,000

5. Allocate $75,000 to ensure meaningful community engagement (per SB1000 requirements) on the City’s General Plan, Environmental Justice (EJ) Element. City staff should work with the community to develop a robust public outreach plan.

   Cost Estimate: $75,000

6. Establish a clear, consistent, and low-cost/no-cost event permitting process for nonprofit and community-based organizations hosting activities and group events within City Parks and Recreation to increase park access for low-income communities and communities of color. This process should be separate from the existing process for for-profit concessionaires.

   Cost Estimate: No additional revenue required.

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9 Rounded estimate. Cost estimate derived from City of San Diego Administrative Aide II salary ($54,766) and median Transportation Planner salary ($74,402). Source: City of San Diego Job Descriptions
We envision a City where all workers are valued and where institutions and government can be trusted to have workers’ best interests at heart. Support and outreach to protect workers from wage theft, retaliation, misclassification, and rights violations, are paramount to promoting an economy that works for everyone.

**BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES:**

1. **Provide income wage replacement or direct cash aid to workers excluded from state and federal benefits to address inequities due to benefit exclusion despite tax contributions and because of the disproportionately adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on immigrant communities.**

   *Cost Estimate: Varies—dependent on adopted aid model, payout amount, frequency, and eligibility criteria.*

2. **Align existing City programs to create an Office of Labor Standards Enforcement (OLSE) to uplift health and safety labor standards, effectively enforce labor laws, and protect workers and citizens. Programs such as the Minimum Wage Program, Earned Sick Days Program, Living Wage Program, Labor Compliance Program, and the Equal Opportunity Contracting Program can be combined to create the office. Fast-track hiring for the office to achieve full staffing of all budgeted positions.**

   *Cost Estimate: No additional revenue required—redirection of existing program funds.*

3. **Create a targeted and local hire City jobs program for underserved and underemployed populations to provide an alternative pathway to Civil Service careers outside of the City’s traditional path.**

   *Cost Estimate: No additional revenue required.*
Prioritize economic equity for BIPOC small businesses and provide economic relief for small businesses in low- to moderate-income (LMI) communities.

a. Allocate an additional $4,000,000 to the existing Small Business Relief Fund, specifically for BIPOC small businesses in LMI communities.
   i. Minimum requirements for these small businesses, home-based businesses, and street vendors to receive funds should include:
      1. Business must be located in the City of San Diego.
      2. Employ no more than 10 employees. Businesses targeted for program inclusion should include home-based businesses, street-vendors, and businesses with no payroll employees.
      3. Hold a City of San Diego Business Tax Certificate, application of certificate, or valid business/permit document for service in the City of San Diego.
      4. Documentation demonstrating loss of income or economic hardship due to COVID-19 (dated on or after March 1, 2020)
      5. Has experienced a decline in revenue or services due to COVID-19.
      6. Business must pay workers the City’s Living Wage as determined in the Living Wage Ordinance.
      7. Businesses receiving funds agree to practice High Road Employer principles.
   ii. Offer multiple languages in the Small Business Relief Fund electronic portal.
   iii. Eliminate the following question topics in the relief grant:
      1. Business Owner Documentation (Social Security and/or ITIN).
      2. Previous business owner misdemeanor, felony, and/or bankruptcy (personal or business) charges.

b. Create a $3,000,000 San Diego Promise Zone Equity Investment Fund, to economically revitalize the small business community and support the San Diego Promise Zone region’s housing crisis. Ensure any portion of this fund that is directly deployed to the community is overseen by a Community Advisory Board consisting of CBO’s, BID’S, and Economic Activity partners in the San Diego Promise Zone.
   i. Continuously replenish 50% of the set cap amount for the Equity Investment Fund quarterly.

c. Waive small business permit fees for all businesses making less than $25,000 in business income per tax year.

Cost Estimate: $7,000,000
The City is responsible for serving the needs of all of its communities. Community members deserve the right to transparent processes; this right should be secured by prioritizing community education and engagement for all San Diegans. Our diverse local communities include individuals of varying ages, socioeconomic levels, languages, and working status. These community members must be included and able to engage in local governance decisions and processes.

**BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES:**

1. **Allocate $1,000,000 to create a Youth Environmental/Recreation Corps program within the City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department that provides funding for community organizations supporting youth employment and scholarship opportunities that prioritize opportunity youth and youth eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).** Program investments can include:
   - a. Youth employment in community food gardens, wildlife protection efforts, and urban biodiversity initiatives.
   - b. Scholarship funding for youth tutoring, sports, and after-school programs.
   - c. Hire youth ambassadors to disseminate information about youth programs, services, resources, and scholarships.

   *Cost Estimate: $1,000,000*

   "Funding for the Youth Environmental/Recreation Corps program can come from some state, federal, and private grant programs."

2. **Create an Office of Child & Youth Success to invest in family and youth health, wellness, and safety.** Allocate $350,000 to support the hiring and creation of a new Executive Director and facilitate the community design process for the office’s first year. This new office would enable the City to marshal resources and leverage intergovernmental and community partnerships to make sure that those who are born, grow up, come of age and choose to raise a family in San Diego can thrive. The City should facilitate a community-led design process to shape the programs and services offered by the Office of Child & Youth Success, which could include the following:
   - a. Establish a node for collaboration among the San Diego Unified School District, San Diego Community College District, San Diego Public Library, and San Diego Parks and Recreation to expedite City support for school district priorities and leverage joint use of taxpayer resources managed by the City and school districts.
   - b. Ensure that the City is competitive for federal and state funding opportunities for children, youth, and their families with entities such as the National League of Cities.
   - c. Facilitate changes in policies and benefits to make San Diego an exemplar family-friendly employer.
   - d. Drive changes in long-term bottom-line metrics of child, youth, and family success, such as increased childcare availability, quality, and affordability; reduced family housing insecurity; reduced child poverty; increased food security; increased youth employment; increased college matriculation and graduation; and increased female labor force participation.

   *Cost Estimate: $350,000*
Expand the Office of Immigrant Affairs to ensure residents can access, understand, and engage in public decision-making by allocating $150,000 to language access initiatives for city council meetings, publications, and community participation efforts.

a. Conduct a city-wide, district-by-district linguistic diversity study to guide City hiring practices and outreach efforts.
b. Translate city agendas, public communications, and press releases into multiple languages and provide subtitles for City Council meetings on Webcast/City TV to improve access to government events, communications, and services.
c. Hire youth ambassadors to disseminate information about youth programs, services, resources, and scholarships.
d. Support an ongoing $50,000 allocation (approved in FY 2021) to Community Planning Groups to expand language access and community participation in San Diego.

Cost Estimate: $150,000

Ensure Black, Indigenous, and POC community involvement around input and dialogue for the Office of Race & Equity (ORE):

a. Coordinate a minimum of two listening sessions in each City Council district for a community-led design process with allocated office funding to ensure accessibility to these sessions for BIPOC constituents. Council offices must schedule all sessions 2-3 weeks before creating the offices’ strategic plan in FY 2022 and use them to shape ORE priorities.
b. Implement a participatory budget model for the Community Equity Fund.

Cost Estimate: No additional revenue required.

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10 Rounded estimate. Cost estimate calculated using the median San Diego market rate salary for interpreters (assuming 2 FTE hires) and $50,000 Community Planning Group Allocation.
ACLU of San Diego and Imperial Counties
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 127
(AFSCME Local 127)
Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE) Alliance San Diego
Center on Policy Initiatives (CPI)
City Heights Community Development Corporation
Emerald Hills Neighborhood Council
Employee Rights Center (ERC)
Environmental Health Coalition (EHC)
Interfaith Worker Justice of San Diego County (IWJ-SD)
Logan Heights Community Development Corporation
Mid-City CAN
Muslim American Society
Outdoor Outreach
Parent Voices
Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans (PANA)
Pillars of the Community
Planned Parenthood Action Fund of the Pacific Southwest
San Diego 350
San Diego Building & Construction Trades Council
Tenants United
The San Diego LGBT Community Center
United Domestic Workers of America/AFSCME Local 3930 (UDW)
Youth Will