

The Bay Area Recovery Dollars Tracker, analysis, and recommendations were produced in partnership with the San Francisco Foundation and an advisory group of advocacy organizations from across the region. The following are quotes from representatives of those organizations.

"This is a once in a generation moment to help right past wrongs and invest in Black communities and housing. Black communities have faced massive displacement and severe disparities in stable housing, caused by generations of exclusionary policies, including redlining, predatory lending, and state-sanctioned housing discrimination. This dashboard makes clear that critical housing investments to increase homeownership and reduce rent burdens within the Black community will benefit our entire Bay Area community."

Melissa Jones, Executive Director, Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative

"The safest and healthiest communities have the most resources: affordable housing, access to childcare, and protections for working people. Community must be at the center of the decision-making process, not an afterthought when determining how to prioritize and implement investments. Bay Area city and county leaders must ensure their budget decisions are guided and informed by community priorities and partnerships. It's the only way to shape a vibrant future for everyone who lives in the Bay Area."

Omar Carrera, Chief Executive Officer, Canal Alliance

"Child care is essential for strong, thriving families, and just communities. During the pandemic, state and local governments gave grants to child care providers so they could care for children and support our economic recovery. We need these funds to continue to fix the policy decisions that have created inequities for generations. We have the opportunity to create a more seamless support system for children from birth to preschool and beyond. All of us deserve the chance to realize our potential."

Karina Laigo, Staff Attorney, Child Care Law Center

"Child care providers stayed open during the pandemic and are still open now. We stayed open so everyone else could go to work, risking our own health. All providers need support to do the essential work we do. It's true a lot of businesses suffered, but without child care, no one could have worked at all. We need to be at the decision making table."

Benu Chhabra, Family Child Care Provider

"While ARPA dollars served as a downpayment allowing local governments to respond swiftly to the pandemic, Bay Area counties must now build on promising ARPA-funded programs. Contra

Costa County has the opportunity to join Sonoma, South San Francisco, and Richmond counties that used their ARPA dollars to fund equitable programs, such as cash support including guaranteed income pilots. These are the kind of programs all counties need to set us up for a better tomorrow where nobody is left out or left behind.”

Mariana Moore, Senior Director of Ensuring Opportunity Campaign, Contra Costa Budget Justice Coalition

“The findings of the Bay Area Recovery Dollars Tracker illustrate our region’s urgent need for permanent, lasting housing investments targeted to Black communities and communities of color. In San Francisco, we need to invest in long-term solutions like social housing – a publicly developed, maintained, and owned housing option that makes it easier for Californians to live where they work, where they’re from, and where they feel safest and most supported, no matter how much money they make.”

Oraiu Amoni, Workers Rights Program Director, Jobs with Justice San Francisco

“In San Jose, nearly half of our children live in households that do not make enough money for the most basic necessities, and this initial investment of COVID recovery dollars shown in the dashboard is a necessary down payment on the equitable recovery we need. To sustain the impact of these initial investments, our city decision makers must allocate our \$1.5 billion budget towards long-term, targeted investments that center working families, such as creating good, family sustaining jobs and tackling our \$70 million wage theft issue head on.”

Louise Auerhahn, Director of Economic & Workforce Policy, Working Partnerships USA

"We have seen how some places have used their ARPA dollars to support low-income communities of color, and these resources have been a crucial lifeline for many. Now, elected officials have the opportunity to address deep-seated inequities in our region through permanent, targeted investments to improve the lives and well-being of low-income communities of color."

Chris Schildt, Director of Housing Justice, Urban Habitat