



# County of Humboldt

Fiscal Year 2022-23

## Budget In Brief



Proposed  
June 28, 2022

Board of  
Supervisors



Rex Bohn  
1st District



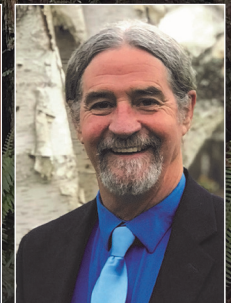
Michelle Bushnell  
2nd District



Mike Wilson  
3rd District,



Virginia Bass  
4th District, Chair



Steve Madrone  
5th District,  
Vice Chair

# A Message from County Administrative Officer Elishia Hayes

Dear Board Members and Residents,

Welcome to Humboldt County's proposed Fiscal Year 2022-23 budget. I want to express my gratitude to our employees, community partners, members of the public and your Board for the work and guidance you have provided to create the vision for the year ahead. As Humboldt County's new County Administrative Officer, I am humbled by the confidence you have placed in me to provide organizational leadership and coordination to help achieve that vision.

The coming year serves as an incredible opportunity to strengthen our economy, improve our community's health and infrastructure by taking advantage of unprecedented state and federal funding. Internally, we will get our financial books in order and reinvigorate our workforce. Fiscal Year 2022-23 will build on the work of the past and allow us to take bold steps into our collective future.

The proposed budget before you today totals \$570.50 million, including \$13.2 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, which places the county in the position to withstand adversity. The county received two tranches totaling \$26.3 million in ARPA funds over the last two years. Projects allocated ARPA funds include \$4.8 million for childcare subsidies and loans, \$1.5 million for affordable housing, and \$3.3 million for road repair and improvements. Other projects anticipated to receive ARPA funding include broadband expansion, supplemental funding for Measure Z requests, additional funding to ensure public safety programs are adequately staffed, support for small businesses, non-profits, special districts and other community economic support.

The new budget is 12.2% larger than last year's, primarily because of increased wages, ARPA Funding, planning projects and mental health services. The balance of our General Reserves, or rainy day fund, is \$9.7million. We continue to work on building this to account for 16% of our General Fund revenues, as recommended by best practices. We will continue to deliver vital services, using funds responsibly for health and social services, housing, economic recovery and growth, public safety, and land use.

For years, Humboldt County has experienced challenges recruiting and retaining employees and this year your Board took bold action to increase wages by 7.5% for most employees, and more than 15% for the majority of public safety staff. Our staff are our most vital resource and this action makes the county more competitive around the region and state and will help us attract top talent to serve our residents.

The county continues to experience challenges determining fund balance, completing prior single audits, interest apportionments, bank reconciliations and other mandatory reporting. These are significant issues, which have led to our office for the first time in more than two decades recommending that your Board hold off on adopting a budget until the fall. This will allow additional time to complete the above tasks and give us a better understanding of where our finances stand heading into the new fiscal year.

I would like to thank county departments for their efforts during the budget process to develop a comprehensive financial and management strategy. Their guidance and input were critical in the development of the budget. In closing, I look forward to what the future holds for Humboldt County. Our community and county staff are creative and resilient. I know we will find innovative ways to approach the challenges we face together and continue to provide the residents of Humboldt County with essential services.



Elishia Hayes  
County Administrative Officer



## Mission Statement:

The County of Humboldt, through the dedication and excellence of its employees, is committed to meeting the needs and addressing concerns of the community and enhancing the quality of life.

# Economic Lift

## Economic Development Response to COVID-19

Thanks to successful advocacy efforts from Senator Alex Padilla and Congressman Jared Huffman, two important projects in Humboldt County were directly authorized by Congress to receive a total of \$5.2 million as part of the federal government's Fiscal Year 2022 budget. The funding, called Community Project Funding, was authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Act and will be used to replace the Hammond Trail Bridge and implement "Project Rebound," which is a post-COVID update to the county's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

The Board of Supervisors established, and regularly updates, a Strategic Framework which includes economic development efforts aimed at improving the livelihoods of Humboldt County residents. This framework includes county led efforts which support businesses, workforce development, and the creation of private-sector jobs.

Through the strategic framework, Project Rebound is a direct economic development response to the pandemic and is intended to position Humboldt County's economy to thrive in a post-COVID environment. Project Rebound was awarded \$218,000 in direct federal budget allocation funds. This is first time that Humboldt County has ever received this type of funding for economic development.

This funding will be used to update the CEDS, which is a plan that helps guide local economic development efforts and serves as a requirement for the county to be eligible for certain federal grants. Humboldt County produces a new CEDS every five years, and in partnership with local shareholders, the most recent CEDS was completed in 2018. The effects of COVID-19 and its impact on local businesses and the local workforce is expected to alter the current economic strategy. As such, modifications and revisions need to be made to the current CEDS.

Project Rebound will support research and studies to aid the CEDS which will focus on creating new economic development strategies that emphasize economic recovery, self-sufficiency, and equity.

This process will also be supported by the Prosperity Network CEDS Committee who will assist staff with the outreach efforts to rebuild the CEDS to meet the current needs of the community.



### Economic Development Targets of Opportunity:

- Diversified Health Care, Child Care
- Specialty Food, Flowers & Beverages
- Building and Systems Construction
- Management Innovation Services
- Niche Manufacturing & Alternative Agriculture
- Investment Support Services
- Forest Products, Sustainable/Renewable Energy
- Tourism, Arts and Culture

The Board of Supervisors wishes to promote an organizational environment in which staff and department heads are encouraged to explore innovative ways to align the county with current external realities, and who are on the lookout for opportunities to improve our organization and the community.



# Strategic Framework

The Strategic Framework acts as staff's guide from the Board of Supervisors for all County work



1

Enforce laws and regulations to protect residents

2

Provide for and maintain infrastructure

3

Encourage new local enterprise

4

Create opportunities for improved safety and health

5

Protect vulnerable populations

6

Support business and workforce development and creation of private-sector jobs

7

Strengthen climate change resiliency

## Priorities for New Initiatives

### Provide our core services:

#### Match service availability with residents' needs

- Provide community-appropriate levels of service
- Support self-reliance of residents
- Streamline permit processes
- Retain existing and facilitate new living-wage private sector jobs and housing

#### Safeguard the public trust

- Manage resources to ensure sustainability of services
- Invest in county employees
- Invite civic engagement and awareness of available services

### Make proactive decisions:

#### Partner to promote quality services

- Foster transparent, accessible, welcoming and user-friendly services
- Facilitate the establishment of local revenue sources to address local needs
- Seek outside funding sources to benefit Humboldt County needs
- Facilitate public/private partnerships to solve problems
- Build inter-jurisdictional and regional cooperation

#### Be an effective and influential voice for our community at the regional, state and federal levels

- Advance local interests in natural resource discussions
- Engage in discussions of our regional economic future
- Engage new partners

# Budget Process

County budgets are important documents, but their meaning can be difficult for residents to decipher. This is intended to provide a high-level overview of the budget, in plain terms. Giving a better idea of where public funds are being spent and a picture of the issues facing our community.

## BUDGET PREPARATION

Departments receive input from the community and the Board about priorities for the new fiscal year.

The CAO verifies department requests, compiles them into a cohesive county budget and presents a recommendation to the Board.

## BUDGET REVIEW

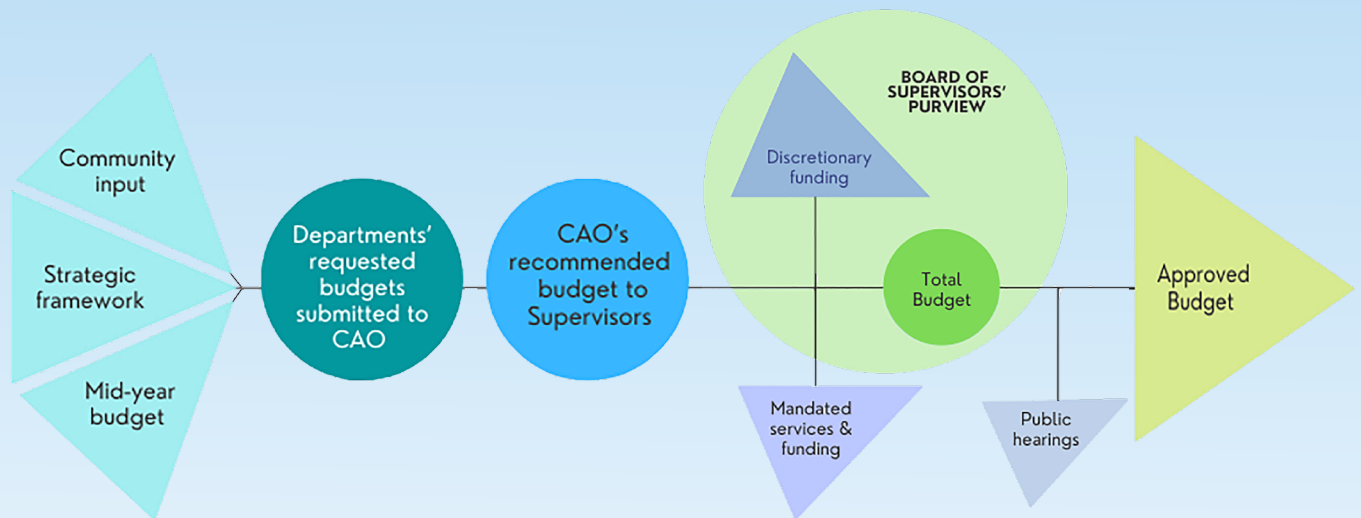
The Board is obligated to use roughly two-thirds of the budget on state and federally funded programs.

General Fund monies are under the discretion of the Board and are allocated based on the Strategic Framework, and any other specific guidelines set by the Board.

Upon presentation to the Board, the public has an opportunity to provide feedback.

## BUDGET ADOPTION

Budget scheduled for approval at a fall 2022 Board meeting.



### January

Review Strategic Framework

### Feb-March

Mid-year budget report  
Community budget meetings\*

### April

Departments' budgets due to CAO

### May

Finish department presentations to Board

### June

CAO presents proposed budget to Board  
Budget public hearings  
Board approves Budget



# Total Budget: \$5741.39M

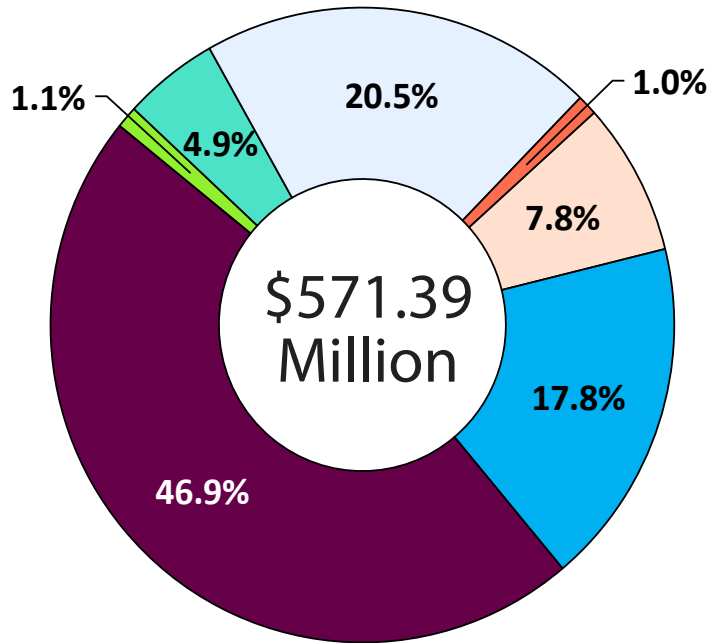
Other Financing Uses: \$88.36M

Nearly half of the County's budget each year is spent on Health & Human Services. This includes vital services like CalFresh, the State's supplemental nutrition assistance program for low-income families, and Medi-Cal, which is California's health care system. Public Works projects like road repairs and bridge maintenance also make up a significant portion of spending each year.

## Expenditures by Service

- Law & Justice  
\$99.3M
- Health & Human Services  
\$267M
- Library & Agriculture  
\$6.37M
- Planning & Building  
\$28.79M
- Public Works  
\$121.28M
- Transfers & Contingencies  
\$5.01M
- Governance  
\$43.62M

## Expenditures



Other Financing Uses - \$88.36 Million

**7.8%**

Redevelopment\*

## Property Tax Distribution

Where do your property tax dollars go?

**1.9%**

County Library

**7.4%**

Special Districts

**62.2%**

Schools

**2.2%**

Roads

**2.3%**

Cities

**16.1%**

County General Fund

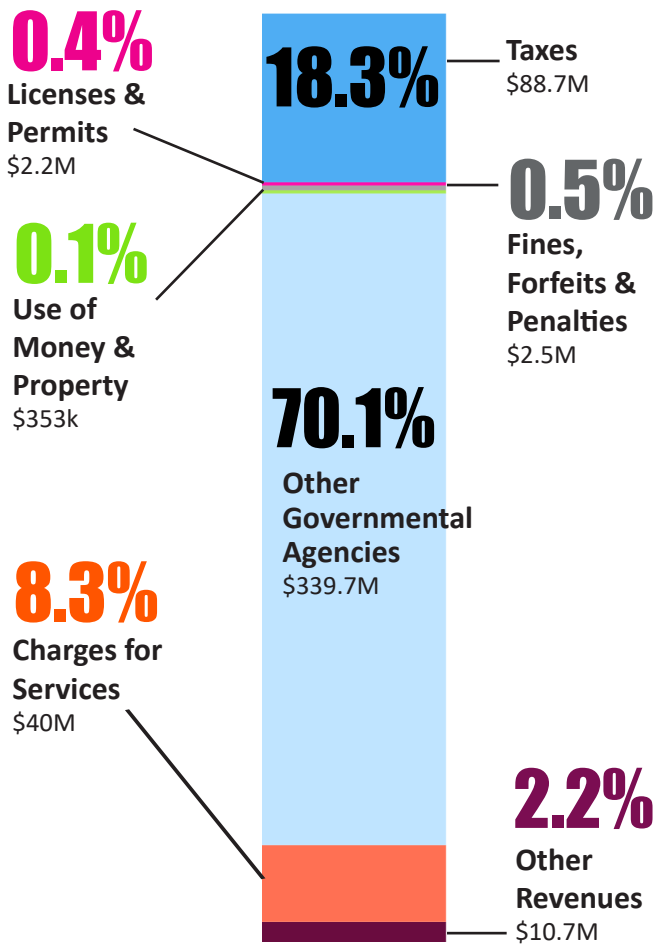
\*Redevelopment agencies have been dissolved. This funding is to pay for the debt of those agencies.

# Revenues: \$486.95M

Other Financing Sources: \$172.79M

Total expenditures are projected to exceed revenues in FY 2022-23. To make up the difference, the county will use \$11.7 million in General Fund fund balance, or money left over from the prior year, and \$160 million from other sources such as transfers from various trust funds.

Revenue by Source



## 4 Key Visions for 2022-23

This year the Board will seek to enhance our core services by:

- 1 Emphasizing Healthy and Safe Communities
- 2 Supporting a Healthy Environment with Robust Infrastructure
- 3 Encouraging a Resilient and Thriving Economy
- 4 Improving County Government Operations



### Personnel Allocation

**2,482.51** Funded positions, an increase of 27.84 funded positions over prior year adopted allocations

**41%** Of all expenses are personnel costs

**10.6%** Increase in costs from FY 2021-22



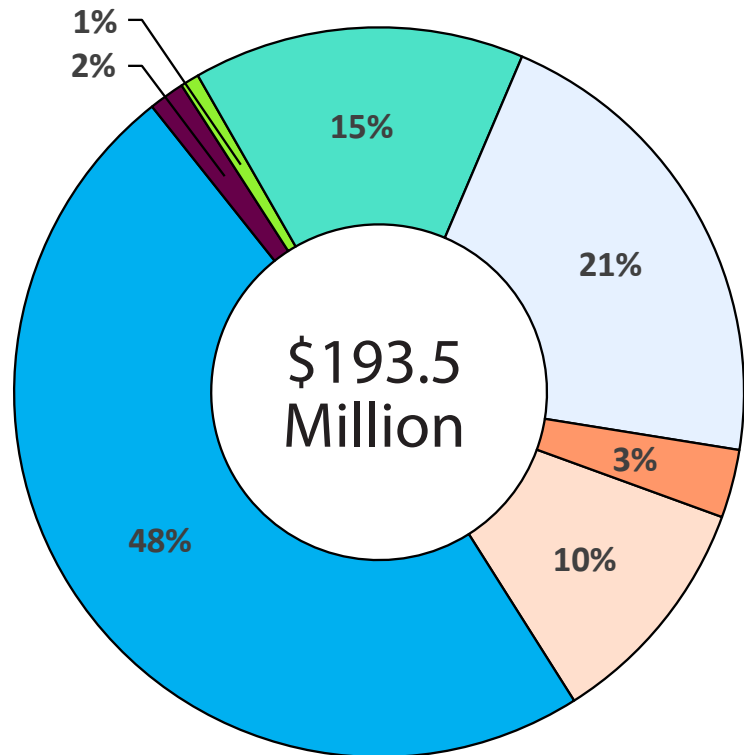
# General Fund: \$193.5M

Much of the revenue that comes into the General Fund is not tied to a specific activity and can be spent on local needs, which can change from year to year. In Humboldt, roughly half of those dollars are spent on law and justice services, such as the Sheriff, District Attorney, Public Defender, Probation and Child Support Services.

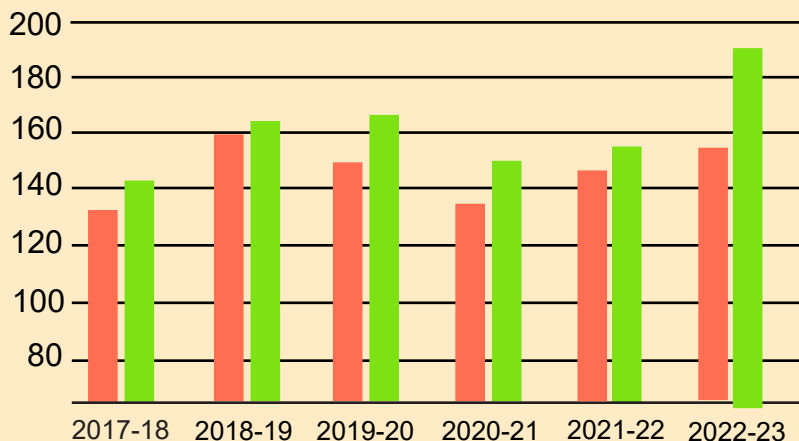
## General Fund Expenditures

- Law & Justice  
\$92.5M
- Health & Human Services  
\$6.5M
- Library & Agriculture  
\$1.6M
- Planning & Building  
\$28.5M
- Public Works  
\$40.5M
- Transfers & Contingencies  
\$3.2M
- Governance  
\$20.7M

## Expenditures



Other Financing Uses - \$12.8 Million



## General Fund Past Trends

The General Fund will depend on fund balance left over from prior year to finance activities in future fiscal years.

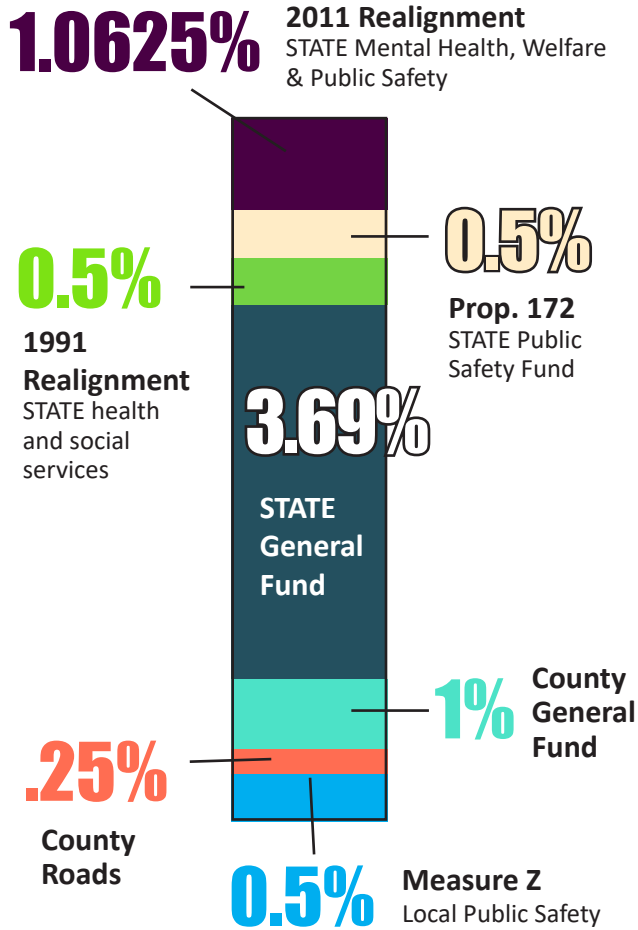
- Revenues
- Expenditures

# Revenues: \$154.85M

Other Revenue Sources (Uses): \$51.5M

## Sales Tax: Where Does It Go?

The sales tax rate in the unincorporated areas of Humboldt County is 7.75%. Of that amount, 7.25% is imposed at the state level, and 0.5% is local.



## Additional Funding

Departments requested additional funding from the General Fund for one-time expenses (\$14 million) and ongoing costs (\$766K) as follows:

### One-Time Costs

- \$63K State and federal advocacy to support county projects
- \$3.2M 28 Sheriff's Office positions
- \$65K Animal Shelter roof replacement
- \$535K Roof replacement for Correctional Facility
- \$1.3M 14 Corrections Officer positions
- \$30K ADA upgrade to janitor closet
- \$250K Replace Correctional Facility fire suppression system
- \$51K Agricultural Commission salaries and benefits
- \$15K 4-H Youth Development Program
- \$31K UC Cooperative Extension salaries and benefits
- \$770K SOAR, EIFD, CalForest Works, CEDS programs and staff
- \$171K Headwaters Fund administrative expenses
- \$270K County Counsel insurance, fees and benefits increases
- \$154K Brownfield cleanup and equipment for Public Works
- \$500K Nuisance abatement for Code Enforcement
- \$600K Advance Planning outsourcing
- \$379K Behavioral Health's "Laura's Law" Pilot Program
- \$5K MMAC FY 2022-23 Budget Support
- \$113K Scotia Community Services District salaries
- \$17.4K Janitorial supplies for Building Maintenance
- \$5.5K Orick Fire abandoned siren removal
- \$264.8K Public Defender salaries and benefits
- \$71.8K Conflict Counsel salaries and benefits
- \$270K Clark Complex building upgrades

### Ongoing Costs

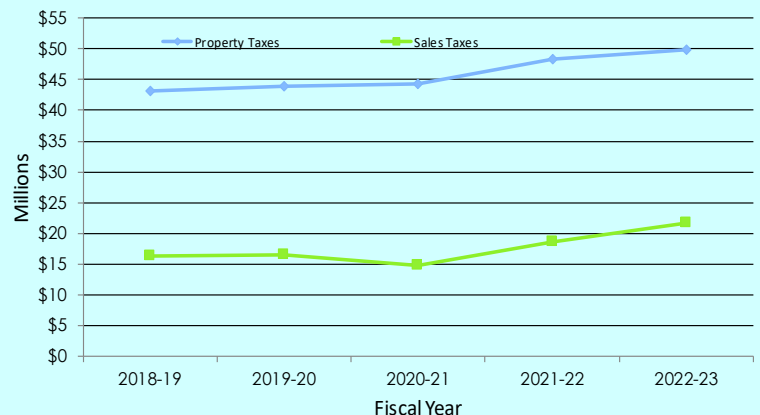
- \$258K Assessor's Office appraisal and assessment staff
- \$3.5K Arcata Veterans Hall utilities
- \$6.3K Fortuna Veterans Hall utilities



## Property and Sales Tax Revenue

At this point in time and based on current information, property tax revenues are estimated to grow at 2.9% while sales tax is projected to increase 16.1% compared to FY 2021-22 adopted budget.

Total revenue for both is estimated at \$71.5 million. The sales tax includes Measure Z revenue. This information will be refined as the fiscal year progresses.





# Local Revenue & Reserves

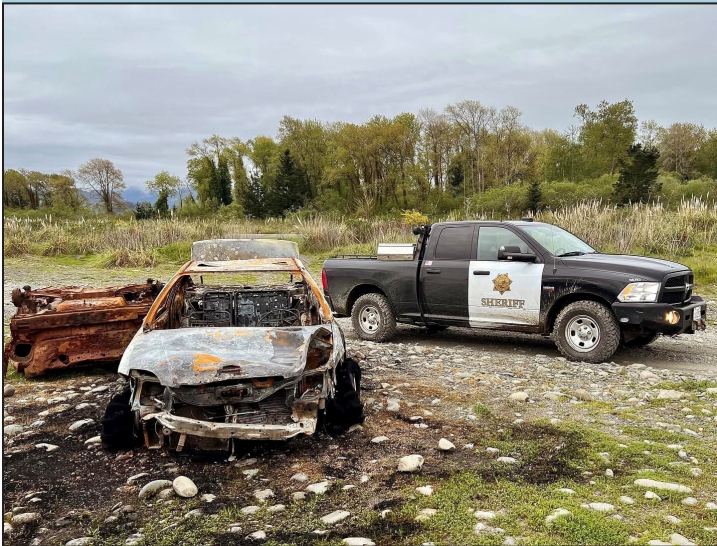
Two ballot measures were placed on the June 7, 2022 ballot which, if passed, will generate additional local revenue to be spent on local priorities.

## Measure J - Hotel Tax

The Board of Supervisors placed a general tax measure on the ballot to change the county's Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) rate from 10 to 12% rate and adding overnight recreational vehicle parks/private campgrounds to the tax. The TOT is paid only by hotel/lodging guests and is used to maintain vital county services. As a General Purpose Measure, Measure J funds are included in the county's general fund, which supports services that benefit all residents and visitors who travel to Humboldt County. This measure will generate approximately \$3,080,000 annually.

## Measure J Supports:

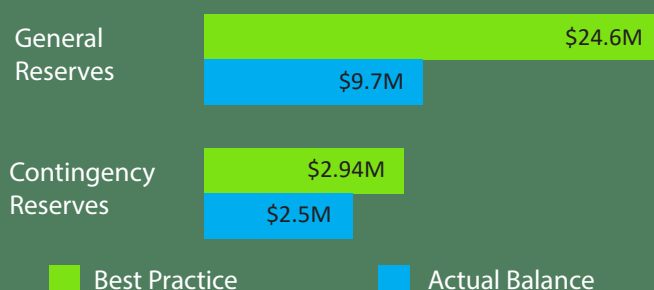
- 911 Emergency Response Times
- Rural Fire Protection and Ambulance Service
- Crime Investigation and Prosecution
- Job Creation Programs
- Local Tourism, Arts & Culture
- Maintenance of Parks, Playgrounds & Trails
- Housing Programs



## Measure K - Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Program Renewal

Measure K is the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Program Renewal Measure. State law requires county voters to renew its modest, annual registration fee that's used to remove and dispose of abandoned vehicles every 10 years. On June 7, voters had the option to renew the ordinance at the rate of \$1 per vehicle and \$2 for certain commercial vehicles, generating approximately \$160,000 annually. By law, funds from this measure can only be used to remove and dispose of abandoned vehicles in Humboldt County.

## Reserves: Best Practices vs. Actual Balance



General Reserves is a rainy-day fund to be used in cases of financial hardship or emergency. Finance officers recommend maintaining a balance of 10 to 16 percent of General Fund Revenues in this fund. For Humboldt, that would equal at least \$24.6 million. The Board revised its General Reserve policy to add 10 percent of cannabis tax revenues to reserves per year.

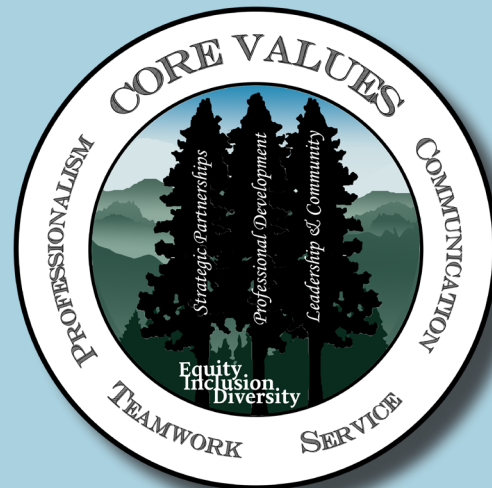
Contingency Reserves is funding set aside in a yearly budget to be used for unforeseen circumstances. Recommended levels for this fund are between 2-3 percent of discretionary General Fund revenues, or \$1.67 million.

# Inclusive Workplace

Over the last year, the county has taken many steps to make the workplace more inclusive and respond to the needs of an increasingly diverse workforce. Specifically, the county completed its inaugural diversity, equity, and inclusion assessment with evaluated measures related to career development, the employee experience, the diversity climate, and leadership. This work was informed by a comprehensive research design that included 818 survey responses, several formal focus groups, many informal discussions and interactions, and interviews with 14 department heads and all members of the Board of Supervisors.

Positive outcomes include operational definitions of diversity, equity, and inclusion, a robust understanding of leadership priorities, a deeper understanding of the employee experience, and actions that can be taken to make our workplace more inclusive.

Additionally, the Office of Human Resources conducted several review sessions with staff to present assessment results and engage in discussions.



This work was expanded through the creation of a diversity, equity and inclusion team responsible for making specific recommendations to address the cultural needs of the agency and institutionalize diversity, equity, and inclusion in our workplace.

In the coming year, the county will continue to take specific actions in support of creating an equitable and inclusive workplace that better serves an increasingly diverse community.

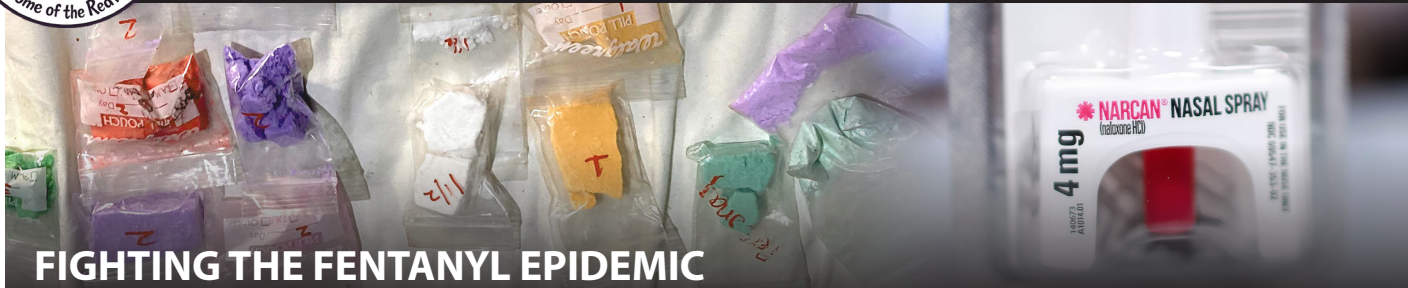
The county recognizes the changing community and operational landscape and is excited by the opportunity to create an environment that nurtures belongingness while ensuring appropriate levels of service are provided to the community.

## 2022-23 Actions for Supporting an Equitable & Inclusive Workplace

- Creation of a Racial Equity Manager in the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)
- Integrate Diversity & Inclusion into the Strategic Framework
- Introduce Formal Diversity Education Opportunities
- The Office of Human Resources creation of a Diversity Framework
- Implementation of Racial Equity Strategic Plan in DHHS
- Develop Strategic Partnerships with Public Agencies & Community Organizations
- Introduce Employee Activities related to Diversity & Inclusion and Professional Development



# Challenges



## FIGHTING THE FENTANYL EPIDEMIC

Like many counties across the state, Humboldt has seen a substantial increase in illicit Fentanyl distribution, possession and overdose cases, including an alarming number of overdose deaths. In 2020, the Humboldt County Coroner's Office investigated nine Fentanyl related deaths; in 2021, that number swelled to 34 - accounting for almost 10% of all deaths recorded by the Humboldt County Coroner's Office for the year. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid and a Schedule II narcotic that is approximately 100 times more potent than morphine and 50 times more potent than heroin.

"What we are seeing currently are products that contain larger doses of Fentanyl, especially in pill form," Sergeant Matt Tomlin with Humboldt County Drug Task Force said. "Fentanyl is being transported to Humboldt County in a raw form and is used by dealers as a cutting agent to produce more product."

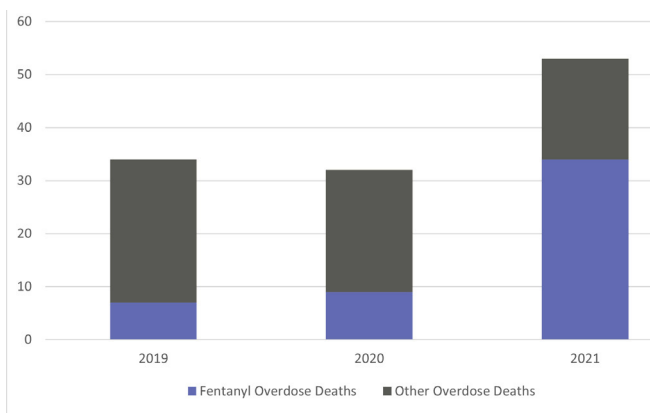
In 2021, Humboldt County Drug Task Force Agents seized over 13 pounds of Fentanyl. In comparison, agents seized just 3 grams of Fentanyl in 2020 and three Fentanyl patches in 2019. Fentanyl is often added to heroin and other drugs to increase their potency, however, because the quantity of Fentanyl added to drugs is unknown to the user, accidental overdoses are becoming much more common.

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, a lethal dose of Fentanyl consists of two milligrams, equal in size to a few grains of salt. The DEA's Fentanyl Signature Profiling Program found that 26 percent of illicit Fentanyl pills examined in 2019 contained potentially lethal doses of Fentanyl. Counterfeit pills can be difficult to distinguish from legitimate medications and are often marketed as M30s, Perc30s, Blues, or Mexican Oxy.

"One of my biggest concerns is that our teenagers and young adults are taking pills from these dealers that are laced with Fentanyl," Sheriff William Honsal said. "The chances of overdose is very high." Fentanyl dealers and distributors appeal to youth by disguising Fentanyl with many colors (blue, orange, purple, and others). They also use social media such as Snapchat, Facebook, and Instagram to reach children and young people. Not only is Fentanyl found in pill form, deputies are also increasingly finding Fentanyl in powder form which, if improperly handled, can be absorbed through the skin or accidentally inhaled. Due to the rising threat of Fentanyl exposure, Sheriff's deputies have been equipped with NARCAN®, a nasal spray designed to rapidly reverse opioid overdose.

### An Overdose Emergency

The below graph depicts the growing trend of Fentanyl related overdose deaths as compared to all other overdose deaths between 2019-2021.



### DRUG TASK FORCE

The Humboldt County Drug Task Force (HCDF) is a multi-agency narcotics task force whose mission is to disrupt or dismantle mid-to-upper-level drug trafficking organizations. The HCDF is operationally run under the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office. Each participating law enforcement agency is responsible for supplying a task force agent to HCDF.

**84 Arrests**      **\$956,975 U.S. Currency Seized**  
**90 Firearms Seized**      **162 Search Warrants Served**



### Illegal Drugs Seized in 2021

28.16 lb	Methamphetamine
13.95 lb	Fentanyl
12.39 lb	Heroin
10.6 lb	Prescription Narcotic Pills
8.1 lb	MDMA
335 g	Anabolic Steroids
134 g	Psilocybin Mushrooms
132 g	Cocaine
43 g	Acid

# Resourcefulness

## PROGRESS DESPITE A PANDEMIC

### A year of improvements in the face of restrictions

Though the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on our community, county staff quickly adapted to comply with restrictions. As the county entered into a second year of mandatory masking and canceled in-person meetings, county staff turned to innovative solutions to maintain accessibility and ensure sustainability of services.

#### HomeWav Video Visitation

In spring of 2021, the Correctional Facility went live with HomeWav, a video visitation system available to residents in all of the facility's dorms. The new system allows them to visit with friends and family without the in-person risk of spreading COVID-19.



#### Clerk-Recorder Self-Service Web

The public can view official record documents and record map index search from 1979 to present, purchase and print non-certified copies of documents and maps from April 1999 to present, begin the process to apply for a marriage license, and view the County Clerk Filings Index (non-judicial only). The index is similar to a library card catalogue; it is a guide to the information contained within the documents referenced.

#### “Library at Your Door”

The Humboldt Library Foundation reached its goal to raise over \$50,000 to kick-start a new home delivery program “Library at Your Door.” The program will serve library cardholders who have difficulty accessing the library. The funds will be used to purchase a customized cargo van to deliver books and materials to the doorstep of some of Humboldt County’s most vulnerable residents. The home delivery program is expected to launch later this year. Services will launch in Eureka, Fortuna, and Arcata and expand to other communities in the future. Library patrons will be able to use existing reservation systems to request home delivery.



### Humboldt COVID-19 Case Statistics as of June 8, 2022

**346,889** PCR Tests Run

**18,775** Confirmed (PCR) Cases

**3,607** Probable (antigen) Cases

**572** Hospitalizations

**147** Deaths

#### Online Access

Pay fees, fines and taxes, register or view documents, or look up department information by utilizing the county’s ever-expanding online services. Some of the services now online include but are not limited to:

- Register, renew, and pay for dog licenses
- Agricultural certificates & registrations
- Child Support payments
- Public Health Clinic services, laboratory services, Vital Statistics fee payments
- DHHS payments for CalFresh, CalWORKs and General Relief programs
- Environmental Health payments for Consumer Protection Program, Food Program, Hazardous Materials, Land Use Program and Local Enforcement Agency
- Juvenile restitution fines, fees, victim restitution, and reimbursement payments owed to the county
- Library fines and donation payments
- Property tax payments, or view tax bills associated with properties
- Payment of court fines for the Superior Court of California, outstanding fees due to the county associated with court cases, victim restitution, and other delinquent fees owed to various county departments
- Purchase of generators from the Sheriff’s Office

#### Online Crime Reporting & Crime Tips

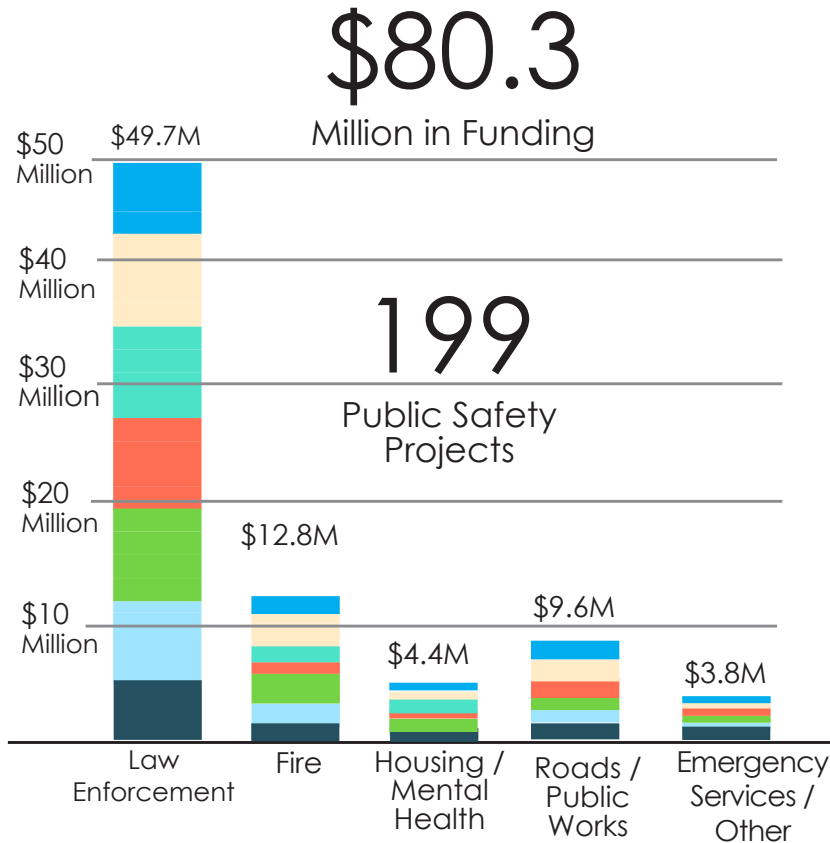
Using the online citizen police report system allows residents to submit a report to the Humboldt County Sheriff’s Office immediately and print a copy of the report for free. The online tip form was created to allow the community to submit crime tips to our Problem Oriented Policing program.



# Measure Z

Measure Z is a half-cent local sales tax passed by voters in 2014 and renewed in 2018. Funds from Measure Z are intended for public safety and essential services. This funding has allowed more than 70 personnel to be added at the county, as well as city governments and local non-profits. Volunteer fire departments have received necessary equipment, including fire engines, breathing apparatuses and industry standard protective clothing that would not have been possible otherwise.

## Public Safety Projects Funded in First 7 Years of Measure Z



With the funding K'ima:w Medical Center receives from Measure Z, Hoopa Ambulance is able to maintain fully staffed coverage with life support equipment for the Willow Creek area.



**K'ima:w Medical Center**  
Funding provides EMT ambulance coverage for Willow Creek and rural Eastern Humboldt County



During the COVID-19 Pandemic, we have seen an increase in requests for our Parent Project and Loving Solutions classes. Parents who have completed the program have reported positive changes in their home and increased school attendance.

**City of Arcata Police Department**  
Project is funding for 1 School Resource Officer and 2 Juvenile Diversion Counselors



## Measure Z Spending by Category & Year

Category	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22
Law Enforcement	\$3.5M	\$6.3M	\$7.9M	\$7.9M	\$9.4M	\$7.8M	\$9.5M
Fire	\$2.2M	\$2.1M	\$1.3M	\$1.1M	\$2.4M	\$2.1M	\$2.3M
Housing / Mental Health	\$223k	\$399k	\$896k	\$863k	\$773k	\$835k	\$770k
Roads	\$1.6M	\$2.9M	\$1.8M	\$1.3M	\$773k	\$599k	\$1.2M
Em. Svcs/ Other	\$285k	\$554k	\$659k	\$421k	\$685k	\$573k	\$834k
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8.1M</b>	<b>\$13.1M</b>	<b>\$12.6M</b>	<b>\$11.8M</b>	<b>\$14M</b>	<b>\$11.9M</b>	<b>\$14.6M</b>

\*Graph indicates funds allocated

# Public Safety

## Measure Z Night Coverage

Prior to the passage of Measure Z, deputies were unable to provide 24-hour law enforcement services to our Southern and Northern Humboldt areas. During that time, the night shift consisted of 6 deputies patrolling the entire county in 12 hour shifts. With funding from Measure Z, continued by Measure O, we now have 24-hour coverage in all areas which includes 13 deputies working the night shift.

## Filled Positions

- 34 Patrol Deputies (Including Supervisors)
- 5 Community Service Officers
- 2 Support Staff
- 5 Emergency Communications Dispatchers

## HCSO deputies outfitted with cellphone-based body worn cameras

The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office announced the launch of their Deputy Sheriff Body Worn Camera Program, funded in part by Measure Z revenue. Every deputy sheriff working in a public setting is now equipped with a body worn camera allowing them to capture interactions with the public and properly document essential evidence. But these aren't your typical body worn cameras - they're smartphones. While traditional body worn cameras like the ones currently used inside the county's correctional facility require officers to manually upload footage and charge at a central docking station, the cellphone-based technology provides more flexibility to accommodate the county's remote areas and multiple sheriff's substations. "Because we serve a rural county and not all deputies have the same headquarters, it's essential that our deputies are able to use these cameras and have all the video uploaded instantaneously through a cell signal," Humboldt County Sheriff William Honsal said. In parts of the county without cell signal, the videos are saved on the device and uploaded automatically when service is restored.

"These cameras will be utilized by every deputy sheriff on every contact, whether it's an investigation, a traffic stop, a domestic violence incident- they're going to be recording everything," Sheriff Honsal said. "So, this will enhance our ability to capture evidence and statements, and also provide a level of transparency to the public." Though the cameras will capture every incident, to protect the privacy of the individuals the videos will only become available to the public in some cases as applicable by state law. "The videos that we capture on our body worn cameras are used for official purposes only," Sheriff Honsal said. "There are only very few circumstances that these become a matter of public record. Otherwise, the videos will be used as evidence and sent to the District Attorney's Office, or will be used for internal investigations and training."



It has become the industry standard to have body worn cameras for all law enforcement contacts and I think it's just really necessary now for law enforcement. So, we are very thankful for Measure Z to be able to afford this program.

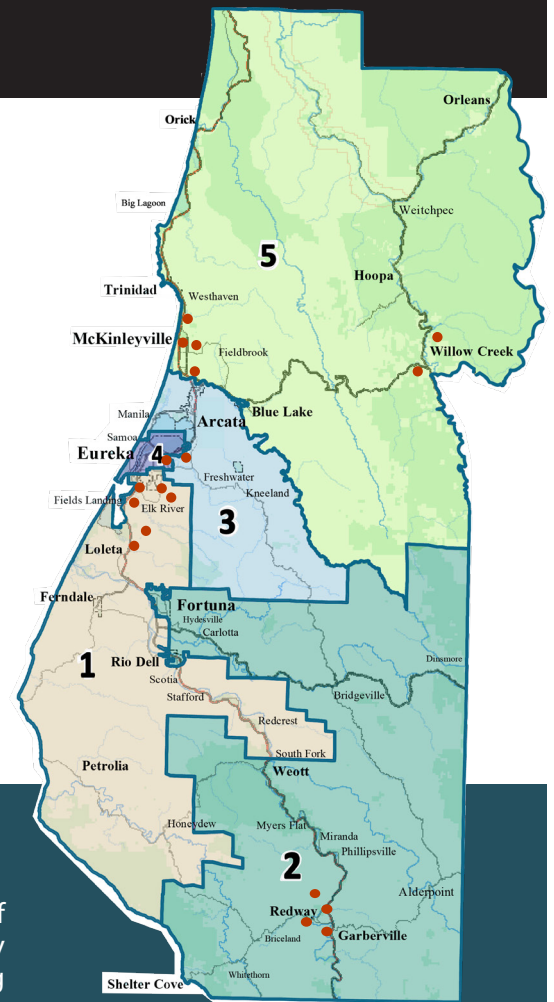
**Sheriff William Honsal**

Funding provides body-worn cameras

Equipped with Body Worn Cameras



In addition to the development and availability of the new technology making the program more feasible, Sheriff Honsal says the program also would have not been possible without Measure Z funding.





# Bright Ideas

Scan the QR code below to visit the Unsolved Cases Database.



## Humboldt County Sheriff's New Online Unsolved Cases Database Seeks to Spark New Leads in Cases Gone Cold

In August of 2021, the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office launched a new online database of unsolved missing persons and suspected homicide cases. The Unsolved Cases Database features information regarding 57 unsolved missing persons and suspected homicide cases dating back to the 1950's held by the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office. The database includes victim photos and information, case summaries, and an interactive map plotting the general location of each case. In addition to the new database, Sheriff Honsal created a new Cold Case Unit within the Major Crimes Division and appointed two deputy sheriffs to exclusively review these unsolved cases for new leads. "Our Cold Case Unit deputies have been in contact with friends and family of the victims in these cases and are working to develop new leads and suspect information," Sheriff Honsal says. "But we can't do this without the public's help and that's why this new database is crucial. We hope seeing the faces of these victims and reading the summaries of their cases will help jog a memory or some information that might lead to a resolution. We urge the community to review the database and contact us if you have information to share about any of these cases," Sheriff Honsal says. "Even information that may seem insignificant can lead to the next big break on a case."

## Programs-Based Corrections

COVID-19 has continued to impact the Programs Division by preventing volunteers from meeting with inmates in person. As the COVID restrictions have continued, all volunteer programs are being facilitated through Zoom. Zoom programs are available five days a week and currently offer Meditation, AA meetings, NA meetings, and religious programs from multiple denominations. Additionally, new this year, the Programs Division now offers a six-week Zoom theatre class with staff from Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre, a weekly watercolor art class, an interactive journaling class, and a book club.

<b>22</b> Jail-Based Competency Treatment Graduates	<b>131</b> Inmates Enrolled in College Courses	<b>465</b> Successful Course Enrollments	<b>8,082</b> Total Class Hours Completed
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## Rehabilitation Through Art

It started with an idea: a mural to brighten up an area of the Humboldt County Correctional Facility that nearly all inmates visit during their stay - where inmates come and sit down when they are waiting to be seen for medical treatments. After getting approval from Administrative staff, Deputy Samantha Sintic put out a call for artwork samples to those residing in the facility. Inmates interested in the project were asked to submit a rough draft drawing that featured an ocean theme. Despite never before doing a painting or an artwork to this scale, HCCF Inmate Jackson Parrott was selected and accepted the challenge. In total, the mural took him about four months to complete. For Parrott the opportunity meant something to look forward to while serving his time. With a lot of blank walls in the facility, Deputy Sintic says staff are open to the idea of another mural contest in the future, seeing it as an opportunity to reduce recidivism and help those impacted by the justice system develop skills to use after release. "It makes them feel like they have something to offer," Deputy Sintic said. "It keeps them out of trouble and on the right path, so hopefully when they get out they can continue to push with what their talents are and bring some good and beauty to the community."



## Recreational Access Improvements



The County of Humboldt is proposing to install a 5-foot-wide polyester mat along the beach access corridor at the northern parking lot of Clam Beach County Park to enable individuals with mobility challenges to travel to the beach. Two public meetings were held to view examples of the mat and discuss compatibility issues. The mat would be placed as a series of removable and adjustable segments to reduce environmental and aesthetic impact and to provide more flexibility for adjustment in response to changing conditions. The product is also designed to allow horses and emergency vehicles to cross and travel. The proposed beach access mat at Clam Beach County Park is part of the County of Humboldt's efforts to provide recreational access for all visitors to the greatest possible extent and to bring all county-owned and leased facilities into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

# Innovation

## Next Step Program, Business Reopening Video Earn Statewide Honors

Demonstrating some of the most innovative statewide programs, the County of Humboldt was again recognized as a recipient of this year's California State Association of Counties' (CSAC) Challenge Awards. The county's Next Step Program and Interactive Video for Certifying Business Reopening both received Challenge Awards.

CSAC annually honors best practices in county governments in California. This year, CSAC received a record 433 entries with 52 programs from 22 counties being honored throughout California. An independent panel of judges with expertise in county programs selected the award recipients.

### **Probation Department: The Next Step Program**

The Humboldt County Probation Department's The Next Step Program earned the Challenge Award for Administration of Justice and Public Safety. The program reduces crime by addressing individuals impacted by the justice system's essential needs for food and shelter through a housing first model immediately upon release from incarceration.

The Probation Department thought outside the box by creating and playing an active role in a residential program tailored to the individuals they serve. They considered one of the most difficult needs to overcome – homelessness – and sought a partnership with a community partner with expertise in that area. To be released from prison knowing food, shelter and services are awaiting them greatly increases the likelihood that individuals under parole supervision will report to probation rather than following alternative pathways to meet their needs. The success of each client results not only in reduced crime but their healthier lifestyle means less strain on county services.

"We are honored to be recognized by CSAC as Humboldt County is fortunate to have such great partnerships with organizations like the Arcata House Partnership," said Humboldt County Chief Probation Officer Shaun Brenneman. "They are truly dedicated to making our community a better place."

### **County Administrative Office - Economic Development: Certifying Business Reopening Video**

The Economic Development Division was awarded the 2021 Rural Disaster/Emergency Response Challenge Award for creating an interactive online video certification process to support and educate local businesses on the ever-changing state and local COVID-19 guidelines. This program supported over 700 local businesses prior to full business reopening. In partnership with the Humboldt County Emergency Operations Center and Joint Information Center, Economic Development staff conducted video interviews with local businesses, co-located industry guidance on the Division's website and created an online exam and web-based attestation/certification "re-opening" process for business owners. This program was innovative as it utilized web-based learning, eliminated the need for a paper reopening certification process, reduced the demand for information on public agencies, and leveraged relationships in the local business community, which helped build trust in the business community through participation from other local businesses.

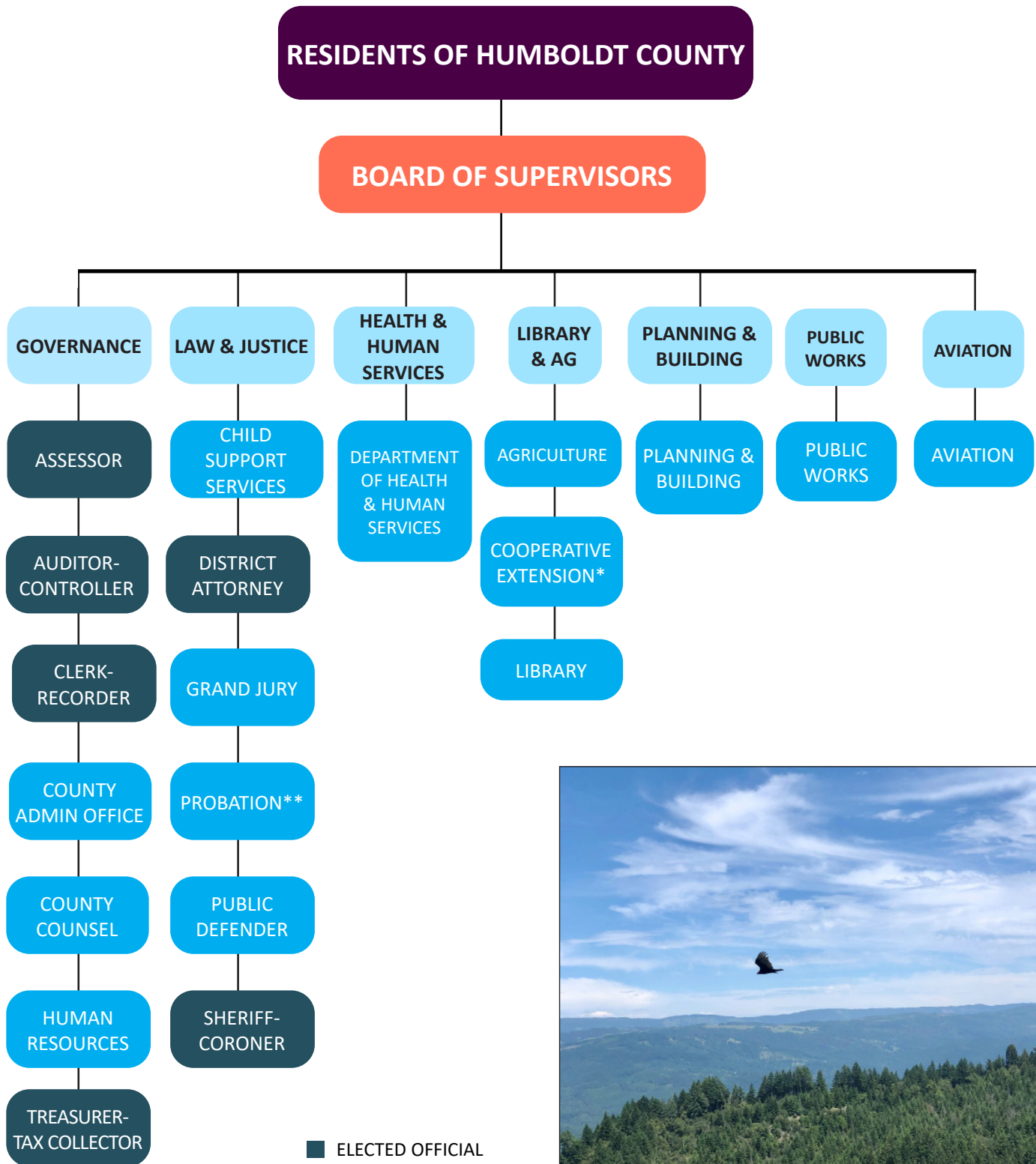
"This award reflects the hard work of the CAO's Office of Economic Development staff and our community partners who strive each day to provide our business community with critical economic development support," said Scott Adair, Director of Economic Development for the County of Humboldt. "Our staff was excited to hear of this recognition and receipt of this award further fuels our agency's enthusiasm to foster economic prosperity for our community in the upcoming new year.

For more information about the winning entries and the CSAC Challenge Awards, visit the CSAC website.





# County Organizational Chart



■ ELECTED OFFICIAL  
 \*\* DEPARTMENT HEAD APPOINTED BY COURTS



# Staying Involved

## Online at Humboldt.gov

- Sign up for the county's NewsFlash and Calendar updates
- Weigh in on county issues on the Open Humboldt discussion forum
- Follow us on social media to connect with us and with your neighbors

## In Person

- Watch and make public comment at a Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesdays. Meetings begin at 9 am.
- Participate the budget hearings in October

## Photography Credits

A3	Trinidad	Cati Gallardo
A4	Apple Buds	Shannon Adair
A7	Sunset on Bald Hills	Lisa Wilhelmi-Perkins
A9	Edge Of the World	Cati Gallardo
A10	Abandoned Vehicle	Sheriff's Office
A11	Marsh Trail with Poppies	Cati Gallardo
A12	Drug Task Force	Sheriff's Office
A13	Library At Your Door	Library Staff
A15	Body Worn Cameras	Sheriff's Office
A16	Mural	Sheriff's Office
A16	Beach Accessibility Mat	CAO's Office
A18	Edge of the World	Cati Gallardo
A20	Community Forest	Cati Gallardo



HUMBOLDT COUNTY  
CALIFORNIA

