

MAYOR SAM LICCARDO

Community Healing and Economic Recovery for San José

Vision

As we emerge from the pandemic, San José will become a global model for resilience, compassion, and equitable recovery as America's great multicultural success story.

Short Term Strategy: Focus on Expanding Support, Work, and Opportunity for Neighbors in Need

1. Focus relief resources on families and individuals unable to access federal and state assistance, including the undocumented, unhoused, and long-term unemployed members of our community.
2. Create a jobs program for young adults and displaced workers that provides immediate employment and pay for tasks that will boost our community's resilience to our multiple crises, eg., providing child care to families of essential workers, clearing defensible space for homes near wildfire exposure, planting street trees to reduce urban island effect, etc.
3. Facilitate entry for more young adults from low-income neighborhoods to enter the building trades, particularly the higher-paying trades, to boost job opportunities, expand our housing construction force, and reduce regional barriers to housing construction. This may include government-funded expansions of existing programs, or creation of new programs.
4. Connect tech and other high-growth employers to nontraditional talent (i.e, those without college degrees) particularly through partnerships with community colleges and non-profits.
5. Expand opportunities for youth of color and living in low-income families, through expansion of (a) San José Aspires to reduce financial and related barriers to college, (b) San Jose Works to provide jobs and supportive services to teens in gang-impacted communities.
6. Prioritize immigrant and displaced workers for existing programs, such as Work2Future.
7. Support a philanthropy-led effort to create a credit facility for immigrant-led small businesses needing capital access for hiring and rebuilding.
8. Expand work-first assistance programs for unhoused residents, through San Jose Bridge.
9. Continue expansion of digital inclusion efforts, with the goal of reaching 300,000 East San Jose residents with free broadband, and eliminating the digital divide for every student in San Jose schools by the end of 2022.

Long Term Strategy: Embrace the Work of the Silicon Valley Recovery Roundtable

Last year, I convened a group of 59 leaders from the higher education, labor, non-profit, and business communities to advise on the region's recovery. Over the course of 100 days this group researched, conducted community focus groups, and consulted with subject-matter experts, to identify the following priorities, each with detailed recommendations, and grounded in equity:

1. Strengthen financial stability for needy individuals and small businesses
2. Drive job creation and support displaced workers to promote economic recovery
3. Stabilize families and accelerate affordable housing production
4. Reimagine neighborhood business districts
5. Create next-generation transportation
6. Expand digital inclusion for individuals and small businesses

<https://siliconvalleystrong.org/roundtable/>