

---

**Fw: REAL Coalition Solidarity Letter Calling to Protect Affordability, Equity, and Community Stability in the FY 26-27 Budget**

---

**From** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Date** Thu 4/23/2026 3:08 PM  
**To** Agendadesk <[REDACTED]>

 1 attachment (153 KB)  
Solidarity Sign On Letter Protect Affordability FY27 San José Budget (1).pdf;

[REDACTED]

**Office of the City Clerk | City of San José**  
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Jose, CA 95113  
Main: 408-535-1260  
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

---

**From:** City Clerk <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 23, 2026 8:10 AM  
**To:** Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Fw: REAL Coalition Solidarity Letter Calling to Protect Affordability, Equity and Community Stability in the FY 26-27 Budget

**Office of the City Clerk | City of San José**  
200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Jose, CA 95113  
Main: 408-535-1260  
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

---

**From:** Gianella Ordonez <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 22, 2026 5:59 PM  
**To:** The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]> District2

< [redacted] District3 < [redacted] Tordillos, Anthony  
< [redacted] District4 < [redacted] District5 < [redacted]  
District 6 < [redacted] District7 < [redacted] District8 < [redacted]  
District9 < [redacted] District 10 < [redacted]  
Cc: Kolander, Grace < [redacted] Fleming, Jonathan < [redacted]  
Hughes, Scott < [redacted] Mauro, Joseph < [redacted] Gomez, David A  
< [redacted] Solivan, Erik < [redacted] Maguire, Jennifer  
< [redacted] Treseler, Dominic < [redacted] Moreno, Brisa  
< [redacted] Nguyen, Lam < [redacted] Wang, Justin  
< [redacted] Lester, Elise < [redacted] Fruen, Joseph  
< [redacted] Zarate, Sarah < [redacted] Caines, Stephen  
< [redacted] Yamamoto, KiyomiH < [redacted] Ramirez, Lucas  
< [redacted] Flores Shelton, Andrea < [redacted] Lee, Lynn  
< [redacted] Matt King < [redacted] Schembri, Jennifer  
< [redacted] Shannon, Jim < [redacted]  
[redacted] Laveroni, Kyle < [redacted] Gvatua, Alexander  
< [redacted] Adera, Teddy < [redacted] City Clerk  
< [redacted] Policy Team < [redacted]

**Subject:** REAL Coalition Solidarity Letter Calling to Protect Affordability, Equity, and Community Stability in the FY 26-27 Budget

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

Some people who received this message don't often get email [redacted]  
[redacted] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor Mahan, Vice Mayor Foley, Councilmembers, and City Staff,

Please see the attached **REAL Coalition Solidarity Letter** calling to protect affordability, equity, and community stability in the FY26-27 budget, signed by **65 community-based nonprofit organizations** and community leaders.

We look forward to your discussion on this topic.

Best,

**Gianella Ordoñez** | Policy + Advocacy Associate

**Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits**

[redacted] | [svcfn.org](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#)

Pronouns: she/her/hers

**Registration** is open for SVCN's inaugural Nonprofit Convergence conference!



*This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the system manager. This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute, or copy this e-mail.*

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

April 22, 2026

San José City Council  
San José City Hall  
200 E. Santa Clara St.  
San José, CA 95113  
*Sent via electronic mail*

## **Protect Affordability, Equity, and Community Stability in the FY 2026–27 San José Budget**

Dear Mayor Mahan, Vice Mayor Foley, and Members of the San José City Council:

We, the undersigned 65 organizations and community leaders, write in solidarity to urge the City of San José to protect and strengthen the programs and services that help residents remain housed, safe, and economically stable during the FY 2026–27 budget process.

### **Affordability Context**

We recognize that this is a difficult budget year. We also recognize that budget decisions are not neutral. In a city facing deep affordability challenges, cuts to prevention, stabilization, and community-based services will fall hardest on those already carrying the greatest burdens, particularly Black residents, Latino residents, immigrant communities, older adults and people with disabilities, low-income families, and residents in historically underinvested neighborhoods.

As the City navigates a challenging fiscal year, our broad coalition has worked to advance key priorities. The City Council's vote on the March Budget Message marked important progress, such as moving forward Working Families Housing, an innovative approach to financing new homes. At the same time, we urge the Council to consider and act on additional community priorities in the coming months.

**San José residents continue to make one thing clear: affordability is the defining challenge facing our city.** At a time when families are struggling with housing costs, childcare costs, economic insecurity, and fear of displacement, the City must do more – not less – to protect the community supports that prevent crises and preserve stability.

### **Coalition Priorities**

We therefore urge the City Council to prioritize the following investments and protections in the FY 2026–27 budget:

#### **1. Fund an eviction representation pilot linked to displacement risk.**

The City should fund a modest pilot that provides legal representation to tenants facing displacement. There are several strong approaches the City could take in designing this pilot. One option is to prioritize tenants in buildings with serious code enforcement issues or other indicators of high housing instability. Another option is to target the pilot geographically, focusing on census tracts with elevated eviction rates, high concentrations of renter households, and demonstrated displacement risk, consistent with recent analysis of eviction patterns in San José.

A geographically targeted approach would also advance the City’s racial equity goals. Available data shows that eviction filings are disproportionately concentrated in neighborhoods with higher shares of Black and Latino residents, meaning that targeted legal support would help address longstanding disparities in housing stability and reduce disproportionate harm to communities most impacted by displacement.

Another option is to provide legal services packaged with rent assistance to assist those in arrears on rent; this model was tested by the Law Foundation, the City of San José, and Santa Clara County, and found successful during the federal “sequester” cuts in 2013.

Moreover, fully staffing Code Enforcement and improving cost-recovery strategies in the code enforcement context could supplement other one-time revenue sources to fund a pilot.

**2. Preserve youth empowerment, violence prevention, and intervention services—including nonprofit programs such as BEST.**

Community-based youth and violence prevention programs are essential public safety infrastructure. San José should preserve and strengthen these programs, not reduce them, especially in neighborhoods where young people and families rely on trusted nonprofit providers for stability, mentorship, and support. Although intervention services are critically important, it is also important that early prevention services are also supported.

**3. Sustain \$1 million for immigrant protection services and ensure the Mayor fulfills his pledge to raise an additional \$500,000 from philanthropy.**

Know-Your-Rights education, legal services, and Rapid Response Network support are essential to the safety and stability of immigrant families at this moment. These services should be fully funded and expanded through the promised philanthropic match.

**4. Fully fund the Child and Youth Services Master Plan demonstration sites through FY27 by maintaining the \$1 million funding for the Santee and Mayfair/Poco Way pilot projects.**

If San José is serious about advancing child and youth well-being, it must ensure that the demonstration sites move forward with full funding. These sites represent an important opportunity to invest in upstream family support and neighborhood stability. Both sites are on their way to create a cradle to career support system for children, youth, and their families; defunding the projects will destabilize current nonprofit investments, disrupt community engagement with youth and families, and jeopardize potential national partnerships.

**5. Continue to supplement community-based TRUST services as the County faces another shortfall.**

Community-based crisis response works. TRUST connects residents experiencing behavioral health crises to appropriate care without relying solely on police or emergency room response. TRUST was developed in response to community demands – particularly from the Black community and youth leaders in the wake of the murder of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter movement – as part of a

community-driven effort to reimagine public safety in San José. The City previously provided a modest contribution to support this model in partnership with the County; we urge the City to continue and strengthen that commitment, particularly as County resources tighten. Rolling back or underfunding TRUST would undermine the City's commitments to that community-led process and erode the goal of building safer, more equitable responses to crises.

#### **6. Do not cut older adult services again this year.**

Older adult nutrition, legal assistance, wellness, and isolation-prevention services are critical to helping older adults remain healthy, housed, and connected. Cutting these services again would deepen instability for older adults, particularly those with disabilities who are uniquely vulnerable to displacement and hardship.

#### **Critical Considerations**

Broadly, we urge the Council to make budget choices that reflect the values of equity, prevention, and community stability. San José should not balance its budget on the backs of immigrant families, young people, older adults, tenants at risk of displacement, or residents experiencing crisis. The City must protect the programs that keep people housed, connected, and safe.

Consistent with these values, we strongly oppose proposals to charge fees to unhoused residents living in interim shelters. Requiring extremely low-income residents to pay for shelter is inconsistent with the goal of stabilization and risks making it harder for people to save money, regain footing, and transition into permanent housing.

We appreciate that the Mayor's March Budget Message appeared to continue the Measure E set-aside for homelessness prevention assistance that helps households at risk of eviction or homelessness remain housed. That prevention funding is important and should be protected.

The City should explore additional revenue strategies and the strategic use of one-time funds and reserves to avoid reductions in services that serve the most vulnerable residents of our community that would be caused by avoidable and

harmful layoffs and cuts to nonprofit services. The City can and should position itself to best serve the entire community by prioritizing stability and protecting essential services.

### **Broad Community Alignment**

Over the past several months, a broad set of community organizations and coalitions have put forward thoughtful, community-informed proposals related to the City’s budget and affordability priorities. These include, but are not limited to, the REAL Coalition’s STAY in San José framework, proposals from the organizations of the Sí Se Puede Collective, the Immigrant Protection and Empowerment Network (IPEN), Working Partnerships USA and the broader Labor community, SIREN, SV@Home and the housing advocacy community, the Save Our Seniors “SOS” Coalition, and Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ San José). While these efforts reflect different areas of focus, they consistently point in the same direction: San José must prioritize affordability, prevent displacement, and invest in community stability.

Thank you for your leadership and your consideration. We look forward to continuing to work together toward a San José where all residents can stay, belong, and thrive.

Sincerely,

Sarita Kohli  
**AACI**

Deryk Clark  
**Advent Group Ministries**

Milan Balinton  
**African American Community Service Agency**

Almaz Negash  
**African Diaspora Network**

Sheri Burns  
**Aging Services Collaborative of Santa Clara County**

Jeremy Barousse  
**Amigos de Guadalupe Center for Justice and Empowerment**

Richard Konda  
**Asian Law Alliance**

Mary Cheryl B. Gloner  
**Asian Women Empowered**

Loren Gissible  
**Gardner Health Services**

Elisa Koff-Ginsborg  
**Behavioral Health Community  
Association (BHCA)**

Veronica Goei  
**Grail Family Services**

Josh Selo  
**Bill Wilson Center**

Chuck Cantrell  
**Havensafe**

Jahmal Williams  
**Black Leadership Kitchen Cabinet**

Wesley Saver  
**HealthRIGHT 360**

Alex Shoor  
**Catalyze SV**

Gail Anne Osmer  
**Hands 4Helping**

Don Taylor  
**Catholic Charities of Santa Clara  
County**

Ron Gonzales  
**Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley**

Lauren Salciccia  
**Child Advocates of Silicon Valley**

Aila Malik  
**Hope Services**

Gini Bossenbroek  
**Connection is Key**

Teresa Gomez  
**Indian Health Center of Santa Clara  
Valley**

Lori Ramos Chavez  
**ConXion to Community**

Susan Frazer  
**Jewish Family Services of Silicon  
Valley**

André Chapman  
**Fostering Promise**

Rose Mukhar  
**Justice at Last**

Nicole Arriaga  
**Fresh Lifelines for Youth**

Joy Murrieta  
**Kids in Common**

Eunice Chun  
**Korean American Community  
Services**

Gabby Chavez-Lopez  
**Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley**

Darcie Green  
**Latinas Contra Cancer**

Brittany Alvarez  
**Latino Education Advancement  
Foundation (LEAF)**

Cynthia Chagolla  
**Law Foundation of Silicon Valley**

Angelica Cortez  
**LEAD Filipino**

Anjee-Helstrup-Alvarez  
**MACLA/Movimiento de Arte y  
Cultura Latino Americana**

Usha Srinivasan  
**Mosaic America**

Colsaria Henderson  
**Next Door Solutions to Domestic  
Violence**

Eva Terrazas  
**Pacific Clinics**

Dontae Lartigue  
**Razing the Bar**

Poncho Guevara  
**Sacred Heart Community Service**

Mary Helen Doherty  
**Sacred Heart Housing Action  
Committee**

Dorsey Moore  
**San Jose Conservation Corps**

Wisa Uemura  
**San Jose Taiko**

Louis Powell  
**Santa Maria Urban Ministry**

Leslie Bacho  
**Second Harvest of Silicon Valley**

Kimberly Woo  
**Services, Immigrant Rights and  
Education Network (SIREN)**

Kyra Kazantzis  
**Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits**

Sheri Burns  
**Silicon Valley Independent Living  
Center**

Michael Dao  
**SJSU Human Rights Institute**

Sandy Perry  
**South Bay Community Land Trust**

Vicky Martin  
**South County Community Services**

Shawn Gerth  
**Veggielution**

Regina Celestin Williams  
**SV@Home**

Philip Nguyen  
**Vietnamese American Roundtable**

Carlos Rosario  
**The Santa Clara County Black  
Lawyers Association**

Cassandra Magana  
**West Valley Community Services**

Vicki Harrison  
**Santa Clara County Showing Up for  
Racial Justice**

Jen Masuda  
**Yu-Ai Kai Japantown Community  
Senior Center**

Yvonne Maxwell  
**Ujima Adult and Family Services**

Adriana Caldera Boroffice  
**YWCA Golden Gate Silicon Valley**

### **About the REAL Coalition**

The Race Equity Action Leadership (REAL) Coalition is an alliance of more than 50 nonprofit organizational members, along with many additional nonprofit partners, community advocates, and grassroots leaders. REAL is committed to dismantling white supremacy culture and systemic racism, using our positional power to advance movement goals, and facilitating the voice of community in government decision-making. We are also committed to learning, advocacy, and organizing while building power in authentic community solidarity.

**Fw: DO NOT permit the city staff to spend our tax dollar studying "what other jurisdictions do" to tax homeowners for free child care for low income**

---

**From** Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

**Date** Fri 5/1/2026 1:01 PM

**To** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

### Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas

City of San José | Office of the City Clerk

200 East Santa Clara St. – Tower 14th Fl.

San José, CA 95113-1905

Phone 408.535.1260 | Fax 408.292.6207

[rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov)

*\*Memos, items, and attachments must be submitted to [rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov) before 12PM on the Thursday before the intended Rules meeting\* Holidays may impact this schedule; revised deadlines will be noticed as applicable.*

---

**From:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

**Sent:** Friday, May 1, 2026 1:00 PM

**To:** Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

**Subject:** Fw: DO NOT permit the city staff to spend our tax dollar studying "what other jurisdictions do" to tax homeowners for free child care for low income

### Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14<sup>th</sup> Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

Main: 408-535-1260

Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

---

**From:** Ruth Callahan [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, May 1, 2026 12:53 PM

**To:** CAO Main <cao.main@sanjoseca.gov>; Webmaster Manager <webmaster.manager@sanjoseca.gov>; Foley, Pam <Pam.Foley@sanjoseca.gov>; Campos, Pamela <Pamela.Campos@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

**Subject:** DO NOT permit the city staff to spend our tax dollar studying "what other jurisdictions do" to tax homeowners for free child care for low income

[External Email. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

The total amount of taxpayer dollars allocated toward the welfare of children and youth in Santa Clara County is **\$1.33 billion** for the 2025–2026 fiscal year. This represents a **2.8% increase** from the previous year, even as the county navigates significant federal funding cuts.

While child care is a major component of this "Children's Budget," it is primarily distributed through several distinct channels rather than a single "free child care" line item.

### **1. CalWORKs Child Care (The Primary Subsidy)**

The largest portion of child care funding for low-income residents comes through the **CalWORKs** program.

- **Total Funding:** The county receives over **\$63 million** specifically for CalWORKs
- **Purpose:** This provides cash assistance and child care services for approximately **6,100 families** to support employment and self-sufficiency goals.
- **Taxpayer Source:** This is a mix of federal and state funds, though the county provides a "net cost" contribution from local property taxes and general funds to maintain these services.

### **2. The \$1.33 Billion "Children's Budget"**

The broader \$1.33 billion allocation covers a wide spectrum of "safety net" programs. For the 2025–26 fiscal year, the funding is broken down by source:

- **Total County Spending:** \$1.33 Billion
- **Net County Cost (Local Taxpayer Dollars):** **\$298.9 million** (a 14.1% increase in local spending compared to the prior year to backfill federal cuts).
- **State & Federal Contribution:** Approximately **\$1.026 billion**.

### **3. Recent Local Infrastructure Grants**

Beyond direct subsidies, the County Board of Supervisors has authorized specific local taxpayer spending to expand the child care market:

- **Childcare Expansion Grants:** In early 2025, the county held press conferences regarding infrastructure grants designed to add physical spaces in local centers (e.g., adding 20 spaces and 5 teachers in Willow Glen).
- **The Federal "Freeze" Impact:** **County officials, including Supervisor Susan Ellenberg, have noted that California is currently facing a \$5 billion freeze in federal Child Care and Development Funds. Santa Clara County is currently attempting to shift local revenue to ensure these programs do not collapse.**

Ruth A Callahan

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.