

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE**



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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**EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

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**EXECUTIVE OFFICE**  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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March 15, 2023

TO: Supervisor Janice Hahn, Chair  
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis  
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell  
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath  
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

FROM: Celia Zavala   
Executive Officer

SUBJECT: LOS ANGELES COUNTY ROADMAP TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY  
BOARD MOTION (APRIL 28, 2020, AGENDA ITEM 20) – PROSPER LA  
FINAL REPORT (AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022)

On June 29, 2020, the Prosper LA working group first reported on its efforts on the County's Roadmap to Economic Recovery Board Motion (April 28, 2020) as part of the County's reconstitution efforts. Since then, we have issued periodic reports to the Board of Supervisors (Board) highlighting ideas submitted by County employees, businesses, and the public.

As part of the motion, the Board directed the Executive Officer of the Board to work with the Quality and Productivity Commission (QPC), in consultation with the Small Business Commission (SBC), and the Citizens' Economy & Efficiency Commission (EEC), to report back to the Board quarterly on: 1) Creating a working group to encourage innovative ideas from County employees, businesses, and labor partners that could streamline the County's contracting process and encourage strategies to engage and assist businesses; and 2) developing a website and email contact to accept and promote innovative and thoughtful ideas from Department staff, businesses, and the public to streamline contracting, assist businesses, and identify potential cost-savings actions that could be taken by each department.

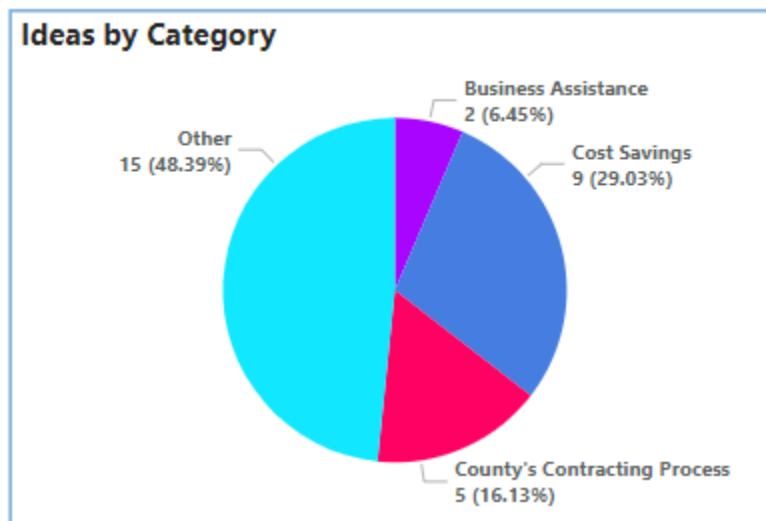
These directives were part of a comprehensive countywide effort, inclusive of partnerships with the community, businesses, and nonprofits, to identify actionable ideas to spur economic recovery and cost savings to the County.

The following are the updates and final report on our efforts since we issued the previous report that covers new ideas received from residents, employees, businesses, etc., during this reporting period for Board and County Departments' consideration. They are ideas to assist businesses, streamline contracting processes, and identify potential cost savings. This effort is part of the County's roadmap to economic recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **PROSPER LA (NEW IDEAS)**

As previously reported, the Prosper LA working group developed a public-facing website (<https://prosperla.lacounty.gov/>) that invites the public, County employees, and other interested stakeholders to submit ideas to streamline contracting, assist businesses, and identify potential cost-savings actions. We created the idea intake form to address these specific topics and categories. The website was launched on June 30, 2020, and continues to receive reportable ideas from County employees and the public.

During the period covered in this report, from December 1, 2021, to December 31, 2022, we received **31** new ideas from both the County workforce and the general public, categorized as follows: Business Assistance (2); Cost Savings (9), Contracting Process (5) and Other (15).



*Table 1: Ideas by Category for the reporting period December 1, 2021, through December 31, 2022. The majority of the ideas (48%) were categorized as Other (e.g., unclaimed property, homelessness, mask mandate, recycling, etc.)*

The idea creators identified themselves as residents (15), businesses (8), County employees (6), nonprofit (1), and other (1). In addition to tracking data by category and type of contact, we are also monitoring responses by location. The 31 ideas originated from locations identified by zip code, including Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, Glendale, Porter Ranch, and Altadena among the top five locations.

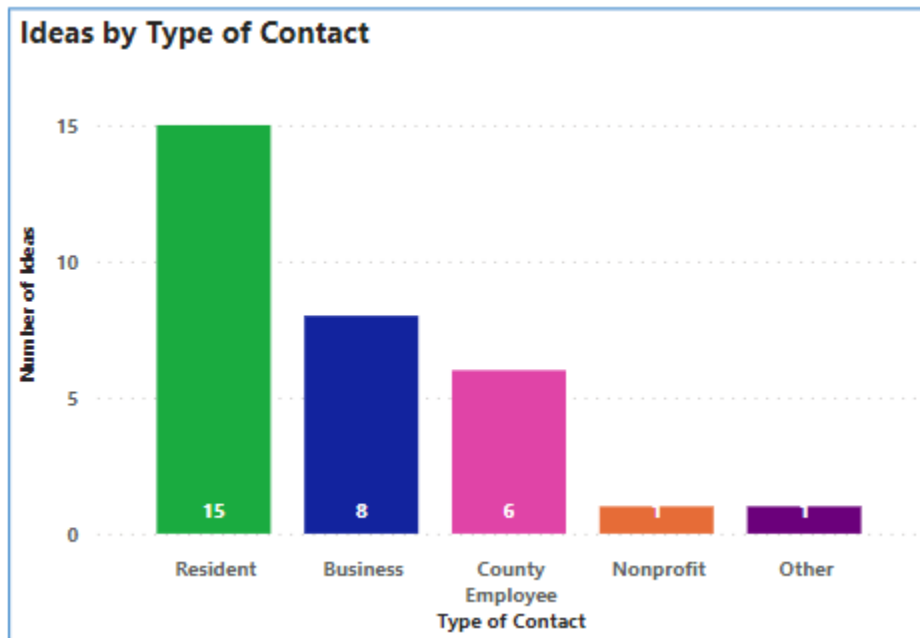


Table 2: Ideas by Type of Contact for reporting period December 1, 2021, through December 31, 2022. County Residents represented approximately 48% (15) of the responders.

Twelve of the 31 ideas included either adequate descriptions of the problems/issues and proposed a solution or provided adequate information to be referred to a County department for further review and evaluation. The 12 ideas are summarized in Table 3 below, along with updates on implementation from relevant departments.

These ideas have been shared with the identified or identifiable County departments for further review, evaluation, and consideration for implementation. The status and departmental responses are also summarized in Table 3 below.

Although some of these ideas fall outside the parameters specific in the Board Motion (i.e., streamline contracting, assist businesses, and identify potential cost-savings actions that could be taken by each department), we included them in this report to ensure transparency and accountability.

Table 3: Prosper LA Ideas - Department Responses

Cost Savings	
Recommendation	Proposed Solution
Countywide Mental Health Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) programs and services are fragmented, costing taxpayers and residents millions annually. In addition, the clinical practice approach to early intervention is the single most significant contributor to mental health stigma, particularly among Native Black American.	Reduction of inefficient PEI processes, procedures, policies, and redundant programs with no ability to scale is essential to lowering costs and transforming the delivery of Health and Human Services.

*Table 3: Prosper LA Ideas - Department Responses (continued)*

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Proposed Solution</b>
<p>Students. The counterproductive competition amongst county contract providers who rely on Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) program funding for personal survival is a deterrent to PEI transformation.</p>	<p>Status: For the past three years, the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) has worked to expand its Prevention footprint. The MHSA 3-Year Program and Expenditure Plan (Plan) for FY 2021-22 through 2023-24 reflects continued efforts in the expansion of prevention services through community platforms that are outside of traditional clinic settings. The Plan outlines prevention programs that have been funded including the Los Angeles County Office of Education, Community School Initiative, Los Angeles Unified School District Trauma and Resilience Informed Early Enrichment Program and the Transforming LA: Incubation Academy.</p> <p>During the COVID-19 crisis, DMH partnered with the California Mental Health Services Authority to support its efforts to expand the reach of mental health community access platforms and campaign efforts using various innovative methods and strategies.</p>
<p>A fixed interest rate bond is not fixed at all because the bond payments are front end loaded with interest, which doubles the cost of a bond.</p>	<p>Use a recommended vendor platform for the rapid elimination of interest debt related to bonds. Estamos Safe Harbor Contigo has copyrighted The Guide to Regulating Interest, which is patent pending. On submission for a bond, the payments are calculated and committed for the term of the bond, however the payment ratios can be adjusted to address the high cost of interest.</p> <p>Status: The Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collector (TTC) already evaluates the amortization structure of bonds for cost effectiveness. However, TTC has additional considerations including the useful life of financed assets, the County's available cash flow to make lease payments and the relative cost to extend the term of capital financing to spread the cost burden on the population as it uses financed facilities.</p>
<p>Many unhoused members of the community that cannot afford housing at the current market price. It costs the County more money than necessary to house these individuals. These individuals and families can only spend \$600 to \$1,000 dollars on rent due to increasing cost of living, transportation, and food.</p>	<p>The County should subsidize housing for individuals and families through a streamlined access (i.e., as it relates to the paperwork and demonstration of need of funds through a notarized letter from landlord) to rental assistance.</p> <p>Status: The idea was referred to the Los Angeles County Development Authority for further review and consideration.</p>

Table 3: Prosper LA Ideas - Department Responses (continued)

<b>County's Contracting Process</b>	
<b><i>Recommendation</i></b>	<b><i>Proposed Solution</i></b>
<p>The Mental Health Service Act contracts are missing the need of targeted, specialized, appropriate mental health treatment for the community. Currently, the Department of Mental Health issues contracts/grants identifying a particular issue to be addressed and releasing the contract to the industry. However, the current mental health service model is failing this consumer. Where would an African American single mother take her thirteen-year-old son exhibiting symptoms of academic failure to thrive, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, father abandonment issues?</p>	<p>A percentage of the contracts and grants should be open to allow the industry professionals to submit proposals focusing on innovative, specialized care meeting the diagnostic needs of our mental health population.</p> <p>Status: The idea was referred to the Department of Mental Health for further review and consideration.</p>
<p>Homeless individuals are under economic strife and a lot of austerity. Housing is much more important than services and needs to be prioritized more than services. There should be more funding allocated to housing than services.</p>	<p>Provide Housing First Solution; build more public housing (i.e., a \$14,000 structure tent dome) that can house hundreds at a time (short term solution). Build the cheapest homes possible by getting the Tiny House prices down to less than \$20,000, work with volunteers to build their own tiny home, eminent domain on housing, etc.</p> <p>Status: The idea was referred to the Los Angeles County Development Authority for further review and consideration.</p>
<b>Other</b>	
<b><i>Recommendation</i></b>	<b><i>Proposed Solution</i></b>
<p>Los Angeles County has the highest homeless population, with the homeless count growing to over 100,000 over time. The County has vacant land from Reclaim LA homes.</p>	<p>The County should partner with US Government to free up vacant federal property as homeless shelters and allow landlords to enter in a Closed Session to lease property to the County to house the homeless as Public Housing and Interim Housing, if needed.</p> <p>Status: The County has employed multiple strategies to increase interim and permanent housing capacity. These efforts include, but are not limited to:            (1) Continuing to partner with the U.S., State, and local governments to identify vacant or underutilized properties to be used for homeless housing. For example, the County purchased Sylmar Armory and converted it to interim housing to serve homeless women. (2) Engaging the private sector to secure project-based and scattered permanent housing sites to achieve a balanced homeless system to allow timely</p>

*Table 3: Prosper LA Ideas - Department Responses (continued)*

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Proposed Solution</b>
	<p>exits from interim housing to permanent housing. For example, LA County is investing in LeaseUp, a countywide initiative, that partners with property managers, owners, and developers to fill their vacancies while helping people at risk of homelessness find and maintain housing. The County also funds and operates the Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool to secure a range of housing options for homeless populations and creates an effective pipeline to move homeless residents quickly through interim housing and into long-term housing. (3) Maximizing the American Rescue Plan Emergency Housing Vouchers, a federal program, which includes tenant-based rental assistance under the Housing Choice Voucher Program. Proactive multi-jurisdictional are underway, including incentives for property owners, to quickly secure housing units for the homeless population.</p>
<p>Recycling millions of plastic pill bottles would be environmentally sound. However, there is no guidance on what to do with empty pill bottles.</p>	<p>The County should recycle millions of plastic pill bottles by setting up receptacles near pharmacies.</p> <p>Status: The idea was referred to the Departments of Public Health and Health Services for further review and consideration.</p>
<p>There is an increasing number of unhoused folks living on the streets throughout the County. There is also an increase in waste stream refuse.</p>	<p>The County should 1) create legislation that prohibits dwelling in un-safe spaces; 2) transport unhoused folks via charters/buses to the new “community campus”; 3) start approving or modifying water use/codes/legislation to allow for onsite wastewater treatment/recycling within a community; and 4) provide jobs for people living on site.</p> <p>Status: The idea was referred to the Chief Executive Office and the Chief Sustainability Office for further review and consideration.</p>
<p>In many countries, the number of crimes, crisis and natural disasters have increased dramatically. The need for fast response becomes essential. However, call response to emergency services after the Covid-19 pandemic decreased. Many employees also quit due the pressure they face. Calling for an emergency has been an issue for the past few years and will only get harder with the next crisis. The need for software with low cost and improved response time efficiency has become a must.</p>	<p>Use First software system for emergency services to improve slow call response time. This software will be linked to every mobile phone-in by creating an application for it. Every emergency services facility will be connected to the programmed application. All the services in the application will contain a face recognition tool and GPS tracker with the specific function that will be designed for every service.</p> <p>Status: The idea was referred to the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department for further review and consideration.</p>

*Table 3: Prosper LA Ideas - Department Responses (continued)*

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Proposed Solution</b>
<p>Per the CDC, approximately 4.5 million people in the United States suffer a dog bite for which they require medical attention every year. These are not feral strays encountered in the street but are "familiar" dogs. To keep their beloved pets, more than one million people are required by law to take an animal education class related to the law they have violated. In many of these cases (unlike traffic school, domestic abuse, or other offences), such classes are non-existent, leading owners to surrender their pets to their local municipality. With Los Angeles County leading the nation in both animal adoptions and dog bites, it should lead the nation in introducing a comprehensive education platform for dog owners and violators of dog bite laws.</p>	<p>The County should develop and offer a classroom-based, Dog Bite Prevention Course that would place pet owners in a traditional learning environment. Classes would be open to all residents of the County and students could be charged fees to support such a program or administration fees as implemented for other County based mandated classes.</p> <p>Status: The idea was referred to the Department of Animal Care and Control for further review and consideration.</p>
<p>Seniors and low-income individuals should be allowed automatic deposits to pay for property taxes month to month.</p>	<p>Allow seniors and low-income property owners to pay property taxes month to month.</p> <p>Status: The idea was referred to the Treasurer and Tax Collector for further review and consideration.</p>

**PROSPER LA PROMOTION**

The working group continues to promote the Prosper LA website and encourage residents, County employees, business owners, and the general public to submit ideas through the website. The QPC also promoted the Prosper LA website at its biennial Department Visits—we completed 10 visits in 2022—and requested that Department Heads notify their workforce of the website. We also continue to share ideas received with Board liaisons and departmental staff, and we publicize Prosper LA with Productivity Managers, Board Liaisons, and Commissioners who promote the website to external organizations and colleagues.

We are grateful for the partnership with and contribution by members of the QPC, SBC, EEC, Department of Consumer and Business Affairs, and the Internal Services Department. We appreciate their valuable insight, expertise, and contributions to the County's overall recovery efforts. This will be the final report in response to the motion; however, we will continue to monitor the Prosper LA website and forward viable ideas to County departments to ensure the ideas received through the Prosper LA website are adequately vetted and considered for further action and possible implementation.

Each Supervisor  
March 15, 2023  
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Additional information on these ideas is available upon request. Please send your inquiries to [idea@prosperla.lacounty.gov](mailto:idea@prosperla.lacounty.gov). If you have any questions, please let me know, or your staff may contact Jackie Guevarra at (213) 974-1361 or [jguevarra@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:jguevarra@bos.lacounty.gov).

CZ:JTG

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