

NEWS

May 28, 2021

For Immediate Release

2021-23 Recommended Budget: A “Stronger and More Resilient” San Mateo County

**COVID-19 recovery efforts, equity and safety-net services focus of
\$6.3 billion two-year spending plan**

Redwood City – County Manager Mike Callagy today unveiled a \$6.3 billion two-year spending plan that focuses on safety-net services and helping the community respond to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“This budget reflects funding and expenditures for our ongoing efforts against COVID-19 and recovery programs to help our residents, small businesses, and community organizations weather the continued uncertainty,” Callagy said. “The bottom line is that we will emerge as a stronger and more resilient community for the future.”

Unveiling the spending plan is the first step in a weeks-long process. The Board of Supervisors will consider the blueprint at a series of public hearings beginning June 21, 2021.

The [Recommended Budget](#) adds a net of 26 positions, primarily in health services in the first year of the two-year plan for a total of 5,642 positions. No additional positions are recommended in FY 2022-23.

“Stable Condition”

Overall, San Mateo County is emerging from the pandemic “in a stable condition” as the impact on the local economy and County finances was not as great as anticipated a year ago, Callagy said. (San Mateo County’s unemployment rate, for instance, [rose to 11.4 percent in April 2020](#) as pandemic lock-downs shuttered sections of the economy; the rate [fell to 4.8 percent in April 2021](#) – the second lowest in the state behind Marin.)

While job losses have declined, the overall impact on the economy is an open question: the restaurant and retail industries are only starting to come back while passenger traffic at San Francisco International Airport – a major economic engine for the county through tourism and trade – is not expected to return to pre-pandemic levels for several years.

“While we have many reasons to be optimistic as we emerge from the pandemic, this budget also reflects the need for restraint and caution, even as we make investments to build a stronger foundation for recovery,” Callagy said.

The Recommended Budget provides the Board with a strong foundation with the flexibility to continue to respond to the pandemic.

Priorities in Recommended Budget:

➤ Accelerate efforts to end homelessness by providing funds [to operate three hotels](#) purchased during the pandemic, two to provide intensive services for persons experiencing homelessness and one for long-term housing for vulnerable seniors. Funds are also proposed for remodeling and improving facilities at the Safe Harbor and Maple Street shelters.

“The COVID-19 pandemic, and the acute risks it poses to those currently or at risk of experiencing homelessness, quickly made it clear that we must act decisively to end homelessness within our community,” Callagy said.

➤ Raise early-learning reading scores and improve school attendance with \$16.2 million over two years in [Measure K funds](#) to continue the successes of [The Big Lift](#), a partnership with schools, libraries and community partners.

➤ Help the county’s most vulnerable residents by providing funds to replace the aging Cordilleras mental health facility [with a new campus](#) that will provide state-of-the-art care for adults with a severe mental illness.

➤ Enhance the quality of life for all with major upgrades to Coyote Point, Memorial and Flood parks and continue to convert the 56-acre [Tunitas Creek beach property](#) into the newest County park.

➤ Pursue social equity in services and internal practices with the hiring of a new chief equity officer in the County Manager’s Office to coordinate countywide efforts to develop and implement policies and programs to advance equity.

Use of Funds	2021-22 May Recommended	Percent of Total	2022-23 May Recommended	Percent of Total
Administration and Fiscal Serv	768,683,344	23.0%	591,006,350	19.9%
Community Services	776,595,762	23.2%	632,249,928	21.2%
Criminal Justice	497,872,752	14.9%	495,310,450	16.6%
Health	1,009,264,410	30.2%	972,484,440	32.7%
Social Services	293,008,297	8.8%	285,123,255	9.6%
Total Requirements	3,345,424,565	100.00%	2,976,174,423	100.00%

Use of Funds	2021-22 Recommended	Percent of Total	2022-23 Recommended	Percent of Total
Admin & Fiscal	\$768,683,344	23.0%	\$591,006,350	19.9%
Community Services	\$776,595,762	23.2%	\$632,249,928	21.2%
Criminal Justice	\$497,872,752	14.9%	\$495,310,450	16.6%
Health	\$1,009,264,410	30.2%	\$972,484,440	32.7%
Social Services	\$293,008,297	8.8%	\$285,123,255	9.6%
Total Requirements	\$3,345,424,565	100.0%	\$2,976,174,423	100.0%

Use of Funds	2021-22 May Recommended	Percent of Total	2022-23 May Recommended	Percent of Total
Administration and Fiscal Serv	768,683,344	23.0%	591,006,350	19.9%
Community Services	776,595,762	23.2%	632,249,928	21.2%
Criminal Justice	497,872,752	14.9%	495,310,450	16.6%
Health	1,009,264,410	30.2%	972,484,440	32.7%
Social Services	293,008,297	8.8%	285,123,255	9.6%
Total Requirements	3,345,424,565	100.00%	2,976,174,423	100.00%

