

December 23, 2020

Honorable Board of Supervisors
221 Oak St # 536,
Oakland, CA 94612

Via Electronic Request

Re: Budget Request to Address the Devastating Effects of COVID-19 in East Oakland Communities

Dear Alameda County Board of Supervisors,

We are the Resilient Fruitvale Collaborative, an alliance of 15 community-based organizations (CBOs) in East Oakland working towards healthy, sustainable and resilient communities. We applaud your recent decision to sustain the COVID-19 response until March 2021. Given the gravity of the situation we ask that you allocate \$70,000,000 to address the destructive impact the pandemic has had in three zip codes in the county¹ (94601, 94621, and 94603). We respectfully ask that you consider our request and engage other funding partners where appropriate.

In response to the pandemic, the requested funds are essential for the following:

- Continuing first responder efforts towards 1.) health and wellness services, 2.) emergency economic relief/development, and 3.) outreach and education;
- Covering unfunded costs associated with our organization's significant contributions to preserve public health for Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), low-income, essential workers and immigrant communities; and
- Funding real economic and health recovery for our communities over the next several years.

The following budgetary requests reflect the confluence of urgent crises and needs caused by this pandemic on Alameda County's most vulnerable populations:

- 1) an unprecedented health crisis that requires immediate action which disproportionately impacts low-income communities, essential workers, women and BIPOC. These three zip codes (94601, 94621, and 94603) have more than double positivity test rate and a higher proportional death rate for those infected by COVID-19 in Alameda County.
- 2) the systemic inequities and economic vulnerability of low-income families concentrated in East Oakland. The pandemic exasperated these challenges; and

¹ Martichoux, A. (2020, August 11). 3 Oakland zip codes have worse COVID-19 case rates than Florida and Georgia. Retrieved December 23, 2020, from <https://abc7news.com/oakland-coronavirus-cases-covid-alameda-county-dashboard-fruitvale/6363967/>

- 3) the high concentration of low wage essential workers and families concentrated in these three zip codes that are earning insufficient wages to survive and are putting themselves and their families' health at risk.

The Resilient Fruitvale collaborative proposes a partnership with the County that leverages our respective organization's strengths in meeting the County's COVID-19 response goals. It is in the best interest of the County to partner with our collaborative to not only mitigate the health and economic effects of the pandemic, but also to thoughtfully plan for equitable economic recovery for our communities.

COVID-19 has had a severe and catastrophic impact in the communities of East Oakland, with COVID-positivity rates that continue to rise faster than other parts of Alameda County. The Latino community, and Mayan population in particular, are testing positive at significantly higher rates and the Black community continues to have the highest number of deaths per 100,000 individuals. To date, Fruitvale has 7,513 cases, with local testing sites documenting positivity rates of 30% at La Clinica de la Raza and 19% for Fruitvale, compared to 6% for Alameda County overall.² Our communities in the 94601, 94621, and 94603 zip codes account for more than **19 percent** of total cases in Alameda County while all of East Oakland accounts for 10 percent of the County's population.³ Furthermore, staff anticipate these positivity rates will continue to rise after the Christmas holiday, despite Shelter in Place orders and public health education efforts.

As noted above, the positivity rate is disproportionately impacting the Latino community who make up the largest ethnic majority population in Fruitvale. Of the 36,000 cases reported in the County as of 12/13/2020, **46% of positive cases were Hispanic or Latino**⁴. Similarly, the Black community, which makes up 13.3% of the Fruitvale population, has **nearly twice as many deaths per 100,000 individuals as the overall population**⁵.

Fruitvale and East Oakland residents were facing disproportionate hardship due to historical and systemic racism and inequality, making them acutely vulnerable. For years, more than half of Fruitvale households had incomes less than \$50,000, making it hard to save for the future. In fact, less than 35% of Fruitvale residents report that they have a savings account⁶. 43% of our households have families with children and 1 in 5 families receive food stamps. As a result, even a short-term disruption in income places additional risks of housing displacement, malnutrition, and additional mental health trauma to our children already in challenging environments. COVID-19 has accentuated these inequities, deepening a divide that already existed.

²Alameda County Public Health Department. (2020, December). COVID-19 Data. Retrieved December 23, 2020, from <https://covid-19.acgov.org/data>

³ Census Bureau. (2020, March 30). American Community Survey Data. Retrieved December 23, 2020, from <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data.html>

⁴ Alameda County Public Health Department

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Census Bureau

Fruitvale and East Oakland residents are essential workers and immigrants and relief efforts for them must be prioritized in order to preserve the local economy. According to the American Communities Survey, the top five occupations of residents in the Fruitvale area are in the following sectors: Health Care & Social Assistance, Retail Trade, Education Services, Manufacturing, and Accommodation & Food Services. All of these sectors have been identified as “essential” and “critical infrastructure” according to the state of California. Among individuals seeking testing at Resilient Fruitvale’s *Sanando Juntos* event on September 26-27, over 30% of individuals reported continuing to work more than 10 hours per week outside the home, with the number rising to 39% among Latinos and 45% among Mam Mayan community members.

Budget Request: In order to meet this unprecedented hardship for East Oakland residents, Resilient Fruitvale Collaborative requests \$70,000,000. This request is based on our collective experience serving over 500,000 people since March 2020. The proposed services and outcomes include the following:

Purpose	Outcomes	Amount
Heath and Wellness Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 102,000 (mobile and stationary) COVID-19 tests including funding for staffing and operations management to support our vaccination efforts ● 15,000 other health and wellness services, including mental health 	\$34,421,586
Food Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 80,000 individuals/families (food deliveries and food banks) 	\$15,701,941
Emergency Economic Relief/Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 500 local businesses and grassroot efforts ● 12,000 families/individuals (culturally competent outreach and education strategy targeting East Oakland residents) 	\$16,721,624

Outreach and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reach and educate 30,000 hard-to-reach people collective in East Oakland 	\$2,557,805
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TOTAL: \$70,000,000

This budget includes resources for unfunded services and costs that our organizations have borne in support of the public health crisis.

In response to this combination of circumstances and the rising COVID case load that continues to place a severe strain on our public health system in East Oakland, Resilient Fruitvale has emerged as the first line of defense. We are the organizations that are on the ground, every day. Our communities turn to us in their time of need. We are not only community advocates, but are trusted partners and contractors to the City, County, State and Federal government in delivering high-quality, culturally relevant, and targeted care and services to the hardest-to-reach populations, who are the most at risk. Our preventive efforts are helping to reduce the fiscal burden and the health toll destabilizing our community. Collectively, we have an average of half a century of experience empowering, supporting and building strong communities in the County's most vulnerable residents.

Resilient Fruitvale is a strategic asset for the County, made up of a diverse set of 15 organizations. Many members are long-time contractors of Alameda County and the collaborative couples the strength of these agencies with other grassroots and hyperlocal organizations, preventing nonprofit displacement. Supporting our collaborative will also alleviate a significant administrative burden from Alameda County staff, freeing up valuable County capacity to focus on other pandemic response efforts.

Resilient Fruitvale has and will continue to be a proactive ally to Alameda County against COVID-19. In the new year, we request the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this matter further. Giuliana Martinez will act as our point of contact to arrange a meeting. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Aaron Ortiz, CEO
La Familia

Andrew Park, Executive Director
Trybe

Alicia Contreras, Executive Director
Spanish Speaking Citizens Foundation

Chris Iglesias, CEO
The Unity Council

Claudia Arroyo, Executive Director
Prospera

Dr. Cesar Cruz, Co-Founder
Homies Empowerment

Fr. Antonio Galindo Carreon, Pastor
St Elizabeth Parish

Gabriela Galicia, Executive Director
Street Level Health Project

George Galvis, Executive Director
CURYJ

Holly Alonso, Executive Director
Peralta Hacienda

Jane Garcia, CEO
La Clínica de la Raza

Madeleine Bair, Founding Director
El Timpano

Martin Waukazoo, CEO
Native American Health Center

Theresa Gonzales, Executive Director
Centro Legal de la Raza

Zack Norris, Executive Director
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights