

# District 5 Spring Newsletter Release Date: June 20, 2013



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The Fifth District includes the cities of Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville and Piedmont; the West Oakland, North Oakland and Rockridge communities and portions of the Grand Lake, Manzanita, Dimond District and Fruitvale neighborhoods.

# Supervisor's Message

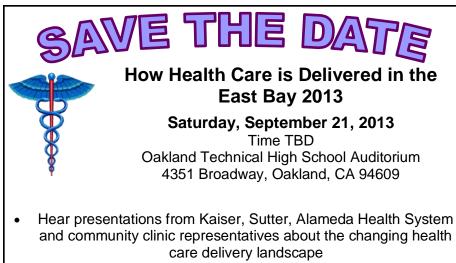
Dear Friends,

Greetings! So far, 2013 has been a year of both challenges and successes. The Alameda County Budget Committee, which I chair, started the budget process in January with a series of open budget workgroup meetings for County departments, community-based organizations and labor organizations. Although the economy has improved, the County is still faced with a \$80.2 million budget deficit. We have been closely tracking the state's proposals for implementing health care reform, which will have a profound impact on the 100,000 residents projected to remain uninsured in Alameda County after all enrollment is exhausted. On June 15, the California Legislature passed a budget that includes a take-back of county health care dollars that may result in tens of millions of dollars in lost funding for our Health Care Services Agency. Lastly, in April at Berkeley High School, the County hosted a tremendously successful Alameda County Apps Challenge, the second in a series of hackathons designed to engage residents in creating mobile and software apps for the common good.

I hope you find the information in this newsletter timely and helpful for you, your family and the people you serve. Please stay in touch by emailing dist5@acgov.org or calling (510) 272-6695.

Sincerely Yours,

#### **Supervisor Keith Carson**



• Learn about health care reform and how it will impact you! For more information, please call (510) 272-6695



# Covered California: How will it Affect You?

You have probably heard about Obamacare, or the Affordable Care Act, the landmark 2010 law that overhauls the nation's health insurance laws and requires most people over 18 to be covered starting January 1, 2014.

But what does the law mean for you and your family? When can you sign up? Will it be affordable?

The State of California has set up a website to answer questions about Covered California, the health insurance marketplace where legal residents can buy insurance that guarantees coverage even if you get sick or have pre-existing conditions.

California is the first state in the nation to enact legislation under the Affordable Care Act and recently announced the 13 health insurance plans that will provide coverage to California residents. Here in Alameda County, residents can choose between

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For more information visit:

http://www.acgov.org/board/district5/



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# **County and State Budget Update**

As employment rates, home prices and consumer spending have brightened in 2013, the County and other local governments are still facing double digit budget deficits. Although smaller than in previous years, Alameda County faces a \$80.2 million funding gap in fiscal year 2013-14.

Alameda County's Proposed Budget for 2013-14 was presented to the Board on Tuesday, June 11, 2013 and includes appropriations of \$2.25 billion in General Fund spending based upon the "Maintenance of Effort" (MOE), or the amount of money it would take to maintain the County's current programs. The revenue flowing into the County falls short at \$2.17 billion, which accounts for the funding gap.

The County General Fund receives more than half of its revenue from federal and state sources, which means that we are at the mercy of decisions made in Sacramento and Washington.

#### **County Budget Hearing Schedule**

All hearings take place in the Board Chambers,

1221 Oak St., Oakland, CA 94612, 5th Floor

Tuesday, June 11, 12:00 noon	Presentation of Proposed Budget
Tuesday, June 25, 1:30 pm	Opening Comments Health Care Public Assistance
Wednesday, June 26, 1:30 pm	Public Protection General Government Other Issues/ Final Adjustments
Thursday, June 27, 11:00 am	Final Deliberations
Friday, June 28, 1:00 pm	Final Budget Adoption

The federal government's automatic trigger cuts, also called "sequestration," are already impacting Alameda County, with an estimated \$7.1 million net revenue loss projected to hit County programs. For example, Alameda County will lose 309 Head Start slots and cuts to the Older Americans Act could result in fewer meal deliveries, home visits and adult day care hours.

At the State level, the budget passed by the Legislature includes a plan for the implementation of health care reform (see article on p. 3) that will likely result in a \$32-\$45 million loss in County health care funds in 2013-14.

The budget outlook is not all doom and gloom. After five years of concessions from our community partners, the Proposed Budget provides cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for many of our community-based organizations (CBOs). The Proposed Budget includes over \$507 million for services provided by 260 CBOs, many with multiple contracts with the County.

The County's property assessment roll increased by 2.1 percent in 2012-13 and the Assessor's preliminary estimate of the assessed value of land and improvements has increased to approximately 4 percent.

To close the budget gap, County staff have proposed reductions in the following program areas:

Program Area	Net County Cost Reductions (\$ mil- lions)
General Government	\$19.9
Health Care	\$25.5
Public Assistance	\$16.7
Public Protection	\$18.1
Total	\$80.2

This year, the Proposed Budget includes a recommendation to set aside \$12.0 million in a special designation account for mid-year budget balancing. The

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# Got code?

The second **Alameda County Apps Challenge** was hosted at Berkeley High School on Saturday, April 27, 2013. More than 120 participants cre-

Above: The Grand Prize Winners. Left: a team of young women from Albany High collaborate. Below: two Berkeley High students present their app, which won an Honorable Mention.



ated 20 software apps and app concepts, competing for \$3000 in prize money. The winners (pictured above) created **Green by Me**, a map-based app that allows users to search for and check in at selected green businesses



and earn badges for doing so. Second place went to **Where to Dump It**, which uses Google maps to display disposal locations, and allows users to filter the map by types of hazardous waste like batteries, paint, and solvents. Third place was awarded to the creators

# State must protect local safety net in health care reform implementation

An earlier version of this article appeared as an Op-Ed in the Oakland Tribune on May 22, 2013

In just a few months, California will start to enroll millions of previously uninsured residents under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Much uncertainty remains as the 58 counties of the most populous state in the nation take on the monumental task of reaching out to a new population.

County decision makers and employees see first-hand how this historic law will impact our whole community: working families, business owners and the uninsured.

By January 2014, uninsured residents must enroll in an expanded Medi-Cal program or purchase private insurance through California's new insurance marketplace, "Covered California." Non-profit and forprofit health systems will compete for these new customers, who come with added revenue streams.

According to the California Healthcare Foundation, 7.1 million Californians under the age of 65 were uninsured in 2011.

Even with the expansion of coverage, 3 to 4 million Californians will remain uninsured in 2019, according to a study by UC Berkeley and UCLA. If they get sick, these individuals will utilize services at public institutions like Highland Hospital, which served 82,060 emergency room patients in 2011-12.

The State Budget package passed by the Legislature in mid-June outlines the framework for a state-wide implementation of the expansion of health insurance coverage, an approach Alameda County supports.

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of **Home School**, an app designed to help parents make a more educated decision when buying a house.

For more information about the winning apps and concepts, visit <u>http://code.acgov.org/</u>.

To view the more than 100 open data sets used at the hackathon, visit <u>http://data.acgov.org</u>.



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Alameda Alliance for Health, Anthem Blue Cross, Blue Shield California, and Kaiser. The enrollment period will last from October 2013 to March 31, 2014, with coverage starting on January 1, 2014.

If you don't sign up for coverage by January 1, 2014, the IRS will start penalizing you on your federal income taxes.

Covered California will be open for individuals who don't have insurance through their employer and don't qualify for other government programs, as well as small businesses. If you are already on MediCal, MediCare, HealthPAC (Alameda County's program for low income residents) or insurance through your employer, you don't need to do anything new. If you currently pay more than 9.5% of household income for insurance premiums, you may be eligible for subsidies if you apply for coverage through Covered California.

Purchasing insurance through Covered California is designed to be easier than finding a plan yourself

Category	Percentage of expenses paid by health plan	Percentage of expenses paid by individual
Platinum	90%	10%
Gold	80%	20%
Silver	70%	30%
Bronze	60%	40%

because the exchange allows you to directly compare plans, similar to a travel website like Orbitz. Covered California is also the only place you will be able to use tax credits or subsidies from the federal government to reduce your health care costs.

The plans offered through Covered California must provide Essential Health Benefits guaranteed by the Affordable Care Act. These services include regular doctor's visits, hospitalization, emergency care, maternity care, pediatrics, prescriptions, medical tests, mental health care, mammograms and colonoscopies.

Covered California will offer four simple plan levels: Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze. As shown in the



#### Albany

Tuesday, August 6, 2013, 6 PM-8 PM

http://www.albanyca.org/index.aspx?page=903

#### Berkeley

Check <u>http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/Home.aspx</u> for updates

#### Emeryville

Check http://www.ci.emeryville.ca.us/ for updates.

#### Oakland

Tuesday, August 6, 2013 7 PM-9 PM

http://www2.oaklandnet.com/nno

table, the consumer pays a higher premium for the higher metal levels but less in co-pays and other costs when using medical care. For the lower levels, the consumer pays a lower premium but higher costs when utilizing care.

Costs depend upon family size, household income and eligibility for subsidies. For example, a 40-year old single mother of three earning \$35,000 per year could pay as much as \$8,784 per year without assistance. With the federal subsidy, she could pay as little as \$1,368 annually, or about \$114 per month. Covered California's website includes a cost calculator that allows consumers to estimate the costs of coverage before signing up.

For more information, visit <u>http://coveredca.com</u> or call 888-975-1142.



# East Bay Economic Outlook, May 2013

At a packed meeting at Berkeley City College on May 28, 2013, the East Bay Economic Development Alliance presented the findings from the East Bay Economic Outlook, May 2013, a report prepared every year by Beacon Economics.

Although the East Bay suffered high unemployment and significant dips in housing prices during the recession, the report forecasts a positive economic outlook in the coming years.

Recent employment rates in the region show modest but steady increases, with total household employment increasing 2.5% from March 2012 to March 2013. The unemployment rate plummeted from 9.4% to 7.7% in the same period, slightly better than the statewide average.

The construction sector has seen a huge rebound, with a 9.9% rise in employment from March 2012 to March 2013. Other growth industries include Administrative Support and Leisure & Hospitality, the Professional sector (scientific, research and technical jobs), and Educational Services. Financial Activities and the Information sector have declined. So has Manufacturing, but the uptick in construction activity is expected to result in a growth of 1.9% in manufacturing in 2013.

Following a few years of stagnation, home prices have finally started to climb. From the fourth quarter of 2011 to the fourth quarter of 2012, median existing home prices in Alameda County increased by 16.8%, while median new home prices increased by 31.9%. Because interest rates on mortgages remain so low, homes are very affordable, at 34.5% of income compared with a whopping 93% of income at the height of the housing bubble.

As a hotbed of innovation, the Bay Area depends upon venture capital funding to fuel cutting-edge research and development. The overall Bay Area region experienced a drop in venture capital funding in 2012, with the East Bay impacted the most dramatically with 37.1% reductions. Industrial Energy and clean tech firms, staples of the East Bay innovation economy, were especially hard hit. The Biotechnology sector, however, excelled with a 52.8% boost from 2011 to 2012. According to Beacon, this sector is expected to grow by over 13% from 2012 to 2017.

The Special Report on the East Bay Workforce, prepared by BW Research Partners, Inc., assessed the East Bay's workforce development systems by examining the relationship between the region's employers, educational institutions and available labor force.

The report showed that the East Bay was hard hit by the recession: the region has experienced larger proportional job losses from 2007 to 2012 than San Francisco, Silicon Valley or California overall. The recession also increased the gap in employment between communities with high levels of educational attainment and communities with barriers to accessing education.

Industry clusters that provide high wages, such as Life Sciences; Information and Communications Technologies; and Energy are expected to grow between 2012 and 2017. Those industries demand a workforce with at least a four-year college degree in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), thus highlighting the importance of increased education and training in those areas.

To read the full reports, visit: <u>http://eastbayeda.org/</u> research\_facts\_figures/reports\_studies.htm

#### County and State budget...continued from p. 2

funds would be available if necessary to help mitigate the impacts of potential federal and state cuts and policy changes; unforeseen costs; implementation of the Affordable Care Act; and pending and potential litigation and other risk factors.

For more information about the Alameda County Budget, please visit:

http://acgov.org/government/budgets.htm



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But Governor Brown erroneously claims that counties will realize savings as populations previously under our care transition onto Medi-Cal or private

insurance. Pointing to the \$1.5 billion annually that the State currently passes on to counties for indigent health care and public health, Gov. Brown says the State should not "pay for the same services twice."

Instead, the State's budget dictates that counties use the supposed savings to pay for CalWORKs grants, a human services program that is now administered by the County on behalf of the State.

This proposed "realignment" of human service programs was criticized by the non-partisan State Legislative Analyst's Office for adding "complexity to the already complicated issue of implementing" the expansion of coverage.

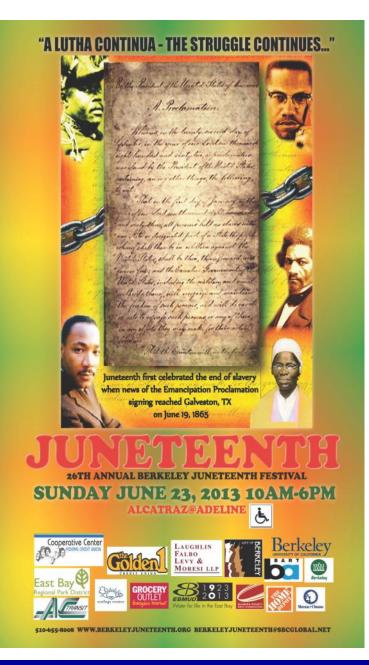
The gaping hole in the Governor's argument? The federal government will provide 100% of the funding for Medi-Cal expansion for the first three years of the program. It is actually the State that will be paid twice.

Under realignment, county health departments statewide would lose an estimated \$300 million in 2013-14, \$900 million in 2014-15 and \$1.3 billion in 2016-17. On the chopping block would be public health prevention programs, preventative care, mental health services, and care for chronic conditions like asthma and diabetes.

It is difficult for Alameda County to predict any actual savings. We do not know how many people will enroll and stay in Medi-Cal, or how many people will buy insurance through Covered California, which will be too expensive for some.

Alameda County has already enrolled 90,000 people in HealthPAC, our program for those who will be eligible for Medi-Cal or Covered California in 2014. Despite those efforts, at least 100,000 people in our county are projected to remain uninsured in 2014.

Behind the numbers are undocumented residents, Medi -Cal eligible individuals who will miss enrollment, and those who can't afford private insurance. People of color and individuals with language barriers will be disproportionately affected. County hospitals and clinics constitute the safety net, the place of last resort for uninsured patients most in need. As California prepares to implement the ACA, the State should not reduce funding to Counties or realign programs until after the three years of full federal funding. In this time of uncertainty, the safety net must remain unharmed so counties can keep our doors open to all who need care.





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# National Black Caucus of State Legislators 8th Annual Promoting Healthy Lifestyles Policy Symposium

# June 7, 2013 at Novartis in Emeryville



Supervisor Carson gave the keynote address at the 8th Annual Promoting Healthy Lifestyles Policy Symposium on June 7, 2013 at the Novartis headquarters in Emeryville. Dozens of State Legislators from around the country gathered to discuss health care trends and best practices. He highlighted the Alameda County Public Health Department's Place Matters Initiative, which investigates social and health inequity in the community.

To find out more about Place Matters, visit: <u>http://www.acphd.org/social-and-health-equity/policy-change/place-matters.aspx</u>

# Terraza Palmera at St. Joseph's

New 62-unit affordable housing community in Oakland's Fruitvale District Disabled applicants are encouraged to apply. <u>Applications deadline: Friday, June 28, 2013</u> Leasing Office: 2647 International Blvd. Oakland, CA 94601 (510) 535-7000 <u>Bridgehousing.com</u>





In Memory of David Glover, Community Leader and Civil Rights Activist, 1952-2013



David Glover was born in St. Louis, Missouri on July 15, 1952. He graduated from Beaumont High School and Howard University with a degree in Journalism. Mr. Glover moved to Oakland, where his sister Angela Glover Blackwell and her husband Dr. Fred Blackwell took up residence. He was hired by the Bay Area Urban League to help people find livable wage employment and in 1982 he became the Executive Director of the Oakland Citizens Committee for Urban Renewal (OCCUR).

During the past 30 years, Mr. Glover led OCCUR in publishing neighborhood profiles and histories of every community in the city. OCCUR is an organization dedicated to improving the lives and conditions of lowincome residents, neighborhoods and communities, particularly in East Oakland. As the Executive Director, Mr. Glover successfully led the organization in building and revitalizing neighborhoods and communities throughout the Oakland and Bay Area region. Mr. Glover's notable successes include spearheading the development of the Eastmont Technology Center, developing the Oakland Equity Policy, and initiating the "A Model Built on Faith" program.

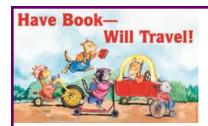
Mr. Glover's tireless efforts to improve the lives and conditions of low-income residents, neighborhoods and communities was nationally recognized and

commended. Mr. Glover was honored with Community Service Awards from the Niagara Democratic Club, and was also recognized by the National Association of Black Planners, the National Council of Negro Women, and the Bay Area Black United Fund. He also received a Profile in Excellence Award from KGO TV, a Leadership Award from the Black Business Listings, and an Outstanding Citizen Resolution from the City of Oakland.

Mr. Glover further distinguished himself through his contributions to our community as the founding Board Member of the Greenlining Institute. He also served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Oakland Advisors, the Stewardship Council, the Oakland Partnership and the Berkeley Law Foundation.

Mr. Glover was acutely aware of the historical contributions made by African Americans who were born and raised in Oakland and the East Bay in the areas of sports, politics, art and music. Mr. Glover had a deep understanding of how the struggles of African Americans in celebrated professions mirrored the fight for justice and equality faced by the greater African American community.

Mr. Glover was called home on May 22, 2013 and he will be remembered for his passion and commitment to improving the quality of life for disadvantaged populations, low income individuals and people of color. Mr. Glover's spirit will continue to live through everyone who he touched.



Join the Alameda County Library Summer Reading Game!

From June 10, 2013 to August 10, 2013, stop by the Albany Library at 1247 Marin Ave. and pick up a gameboard to keep track of the time you spend reading and doing fun activities. Participants get raffle prizes and free books!

Call 510-526-3720 for more information.