

Communication from Public

Name: Jon Bucci

Date Submitted: 05/02/2025 07:58 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: As a 65 year resident of Los Angeles and pet owner, I am writing to urge the City Council Budget Committee to reconsider current/planned cuts facing L.A.'s Animal Services. As I understand it, there may be drastic cuts to Los Angeles Animal Services — a nearly 33% reduction compared to just 5% in citywide cuts overall. In the mayor's proposed budget, there is currently \$5 million in unappropriated funding that the Budget Committee could choose to use to restore funding to L.A. Animal Services this fiscal year. This disproportionate reduction to the department — including \$5 million and the loss of 122 positions — could translate directly to the killing of thousands more pets in the city's shelters, according to the administration's own projections. The cuts will also jeopardize public safety by stretching animal services too thin, as response times to calls about roaming or injured dogs and cats could go from hours to days — endangering both animals and people. And eliminating positions like animal care technicians, veterinary technicians, and other critical staff, on top of potential shelter closures, will put even more pressure on an already overburdened rescue community. Please, pass this note on to the Decision Makers and help do the right thing for our furry friends, who have no voice of their own. Sincerely, Jon Bucci

Communication from Public

Name: Norma Palacios
Date Submitted: 05/02/2025 08:30 AM
Council File No: 25-0600
Comments for Public Posting: Dear Budget and Finance Committee Members, On behalf of the Drug Policy Alliance, please find attached our official public comment for inclusion in the record for Council File 25-0600 expressing our opposition to proposed cuts to the Department on Disability's budget for fiscal year 2025-26, specifically the cuts to the HIV/AIDS prevention work under the AIDS Coordinator's Office. Thank you for your consideration of our position.



April 28, 2025

Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky
Chair, Budget Finance, and Innovation Committee
City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Proposed Budget Cuts to Department on Disability Fiscal Year 2025-2026 - OPPOSE

Dear Councilmember, Yaroslavsky:

On behalf of the Drug Policy Alliance, I write to express our opposition to the Department on Disability's (DOD) proposed budget for fiscal year 2025-26, specifically as it relates to the cuts to the HIV/AIDS prevention work under the AIDS Coordinator's Office (ACO).

The Drug Policy Alliance (DPA) is the leading organization in the U.S. working to enact health-centered approaches to drugs. We support holistic approaches to drugs that prioritize health, equity, social supports and community wellbeing.

This is a time when we must increase, rather than cut services to individuals most at risk of overdose death and health conditions resulting from infectious disease. People struggling with substance use in the city need better connections to appropriate care within their communities that are easy to obtain. Los Angeles must focus on protecting efforts and investing in programs that serve at-risk individuals in the community: more outreach services, drop-in centers, housing stabilization services, drug checking, and other harm reduction programs that provide points of entry to treatment.

The mayor's proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year will significantly reduce key programs aiming to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS and overdose related deaths in the City of Los Angeles. Specifically, the budget proposes a 33 percent total contractual services reduction, including 44 percent cut to HIV/AIDS prevention work. These cuts will put the health and well-being of vulnerable Angelenos at risk.

A reduction in services provided by the AIDS Coordinator's Office will jeopardize the city's effort to connect individuals at risk of acquiring HIV and/or experiencing an overdose to healthcare, housing, and substance use services. These cuts will leave thousands of people, mostly people of color and unhoused, without access to HIV testing and overdose prevention resources such as naloxone contributing to increased overdoses. Drug overdoses remain one of the top five causes of death for the unhoused population in Los Angeles. In 2022 and 2023, there were reportedly 2,139 drug overdose deaths among unhoused individuals in southern LA County, out of those

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1,930 drug overdose deaths occurred in Downtown LA/Skid Row, Westlake/MacArthur Park, and adjacent areas.¹ Without the ACO work the loss of life would certainly be much higher in the future.

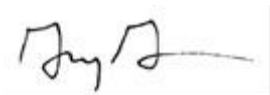
The proposed cuts will not only undermine community health but also their safety. Pulling funding away from HIV prevention and harm reduction capacity will eliminate opportunities to learn and share information about best practices and emerging trends on drugs and drug use. Community-based harm reduction programs are one of the cornerstones to improve the health of people who use drugs and the surrounding community by making sterile syringes accessible to prevent the spread of infectious diseases and facilitating safe disposal of used syringes. ACO-funded syringe service programs safely collected and disposed of over a million syringes in FY 2024.

Reducing contractual services will substantially reduce harm reduction services that facilitate safe disposal of syringes, promote better health for individuals needing support, and create pathways to other needed services.

We urge you to reject the proposed cuts to ACO and work with the Department of Disability to find a viable path to preserve critical HIV/AIDS and overdose prevention related services.

Thank you for considering our position and request.

Sincerely,



Grey Gardner
California State Director
Drug Policy Alliance

¹ "Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Center for Health Impact Evaluation. Mortality Rates and Causes of Death Among People Experiencing Homelessness in Los Angeles County: 2017-2023" Department of Public Health, accessed on April 28 2025, http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/chie/reports/Homeless_Mortality_Report_2025.pdf

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Communication from Public

Name: Kristin Schultz

Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 02:13 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I want to point out that choosing to close animal shelters will greatly increase risk to public health and safety. As a nurse, I want to warn against the onslaught of strays that will be on the streets endangering not only those of us that walk the streets for commerce, but the unhoused population who already face numerous health and personal safety challenges.

Communication from Public

Name: Elianna Friedman

Date Submitted: 05/02/2025 12:50 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Hi All, I am very interested in the city of Los Angeles budget including affordable child care centers continuing to be funded. I am a parent of an amazing 4 year old that has attended Downey Child Care for the past two years. I am greatly concerned that center, and other Los Angeles Recreation and Parks child care centers, will not be operational after the end of this fiscal year. It has come to our attention that the Department of Recreation and Parks has sent a proposed budget to the Mayor requesting funding to operate a reduced number of child care centers for FY 2025/2026. Please please please continue funding for four childcare centers: Joy Picus Preschool Childcare Center (which serves city employees), Ralph M. Parsons Child Care Center and Jim Gilliam Child Care Center were named, while the fourth center is nameless. This funding is life changing for my family and many others. Thank you, Elianna