



Fwd: Public Comment: \$5M Long COVID Line-Item to Prevent \$3B in Losses (CF 25-0600)

1 message

Office of the City Clerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>

Thu, May 1, 2025 at 4:51 PM

To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>, Clerk - CityClerk <CityClerk@lacity.org>

angel.enith@gmail.com

----- Forwarded message -----

From: 'angel' via Clerk - CityClerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>

Date: Wed, Apr 30, 2025 at 5:19 PM

Subject: Public Comment: \$5M Long COVID Line-Item to Prevent \$3B in Losses (CF 25-0600)

To: <katy.yaroslavsky@lacity.org>, <CityClerk@lacity.org>, <Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org>

Cc: <Councilmember.Blumenfield@lacity.org>, <heather.hutt@lacity.org>, <councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org>, <councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org>, <DOD.Contact@lacity.org>, <controller.mejia@lacity.org>

Dear Budget and Finance Committee Members,

Please accept this email as my official public comment for inclusion in the record for Council File 25-0600 regarding the Fiscal Year 2025–26 City of Los Angeles Budget.

In the face of a \$1 billion budget shortfall, it is essential to act strategically. I urge you to reverse the proposed \$1.075 million cut to the Department on Disability and to allocate a \$5 million Long COVID Response line-item as a critical fiscal stabilization and cost-containment measure.

Key facts:

- \$1.075 million cut to the Department on Disability proposed
- \$5 million requested dedicated for Long COVID case management, benefits navigation, public outreach, prevention, and more
- \$3 billion in projected five-year economic losses if Long COVID is ignored¹
- \$5 million investment now is less than 0.2% of projected losses over the next five years
- 268,000 Angelenos living with Long COVID (and growing)²
- Over 20× the number impacted when the City first funded AIDS services³

By Harvard economists estimations, Long COVID will cost Los Angeles over \$3 billion in five years¹. Globally, Long COVID is already costing more than \$1 trillion per year⁴, and U.S. losses exceeded \$152.6 billion in 2024 alone⁵. Without intervention, these costs will continue to rise and directly undermine the City's tax base and services.

For comparison, during the AIDS crisis, Los Angeles began allocating dedicated funding in 1987, and by 1990 independently invested from its general fund—even though annual AIDS diagnoses in the County peaked at roughly 4,000 cases in 1992. Today, over 267,000 adults in Los Angeles are living with Long COVID, which is more than twenty times the peak impact of AIDS. Targeted investment at scale is again urgently needed.

A \$5 million starter investment today would stabilize residents, reverse critical service cuts, prevent escalating liabilities, and position Los Angeles to leverage future State and Federal pandemic recovery funds. This small, targeted investment today is a cost-saving, revenue-protecting action for the City's future. It strengthens our workforce, protects public health infrastructure, and positions Los Angeles to leverage additional State and Federal recovery funding. And, it's the right thing to do.

Investing now is responsible governance. Thank you for your leadership and for considering this critical measure.

Respectfully,

[Your Name]

[Neighborhood or ZIP Code]

References:

- ¹ Cutler, D. (2022). The Economic Impact of Long COVID. Harvard Kennedy School.
- ² CDC Household Pulse Survey. (September 2024). Long COVID Prevalence Estimates.
- ³ Los Angeles Times. (1990). City Council Approves Funds for AIDS Prevention.
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Office of the City Clerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>
To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Thu, May 1, 2025 at 4:29 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kaia Smith** <kaiarose.smith@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, May 1, 2025 at 4:26 PM

Subject: Public Comment: \$5M Long Covid Line-Item to Prevent \$3B in Losses (CF 25-0600)

To: <katy.yaroslavsky@lacity.org>, <CityClerk@lacity.org>, <Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org>

Cc: <Councilmember.Blumenfield@lacity.org>, <heather.hutt@lacity.org>, <councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org>, <councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org>, <DOD.Contact@lacity.org>, <controller.mejia@lacity.org>

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The City of Los Angeles already has the infrastructure to carry this reasonable solution. The \$5 million can be applied through existing departments already serving disabled, high-risk, and under-resourced Angelenos:

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- Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department (LA Civil Rights) – Include Long Covid in anti-discrimination enforcement and equity monitoring. Ensure the City upholds disability rights and reduces racial, economic, and language-based barriers to care.
- Emergency Management Department – Ensure emergency planning includes homebound and chronically ill residents, with continuity of care, accessible alerts, and targeted resource delivery during public health or climate events.

- Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD) – Launch a workforce reintegration initiative for Long Covid, offering job protections, retraining, and income recovery; modeled on LA RISE and focused on communities hardest hit by employment loss.

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Kaia Smith
90026 resident

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Office of the City Clerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>
To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Thu, May 1, 2025 at 1:24 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Paul Narvaez** <thefilmarchivist@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, May 1, 2025 at 12:55 PM

Subject: Public Comment: \$5M Long Covid Line-Item to Prevent \$3B in Losses (CF 25-0600)

To: <katy.yaroslavsky@lacity.org>, <CityClerk@lacity.org>, <Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org>

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Dear Budget and Finance Committee Members,

As a person who's fiancée has been battling with the effects of Long Covid for years, enough to make it extremely difficult to work as well as sidetracked our life plans, please accept this email as my official public comment for inclusion in the record for Council File 25-0600 regarding the Fiscal Year 2025–26 City of Los Angeles Budget.

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Office of the City Clerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>
To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Thu, May 1, 2025 at 11:04 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Julie Rodriguez** <julesr1343@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, May 1, 2025 at 11:03 AM

Subject: Public Comment: \$5M Long Covid Line-Item to Prevent \$3B in Losses (CF 25-0600)

To: <katy.yaroslavsky@lacity.org>, <CityClerk@lacity.org>, <Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org>

Cc: <Councilmember.Blumenfield@lacity.org>, <heather.hutt@lacity.org>, <councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org>, <councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org>, <DOD.Contact@lacity.org>, <controller.mejia@lacity.org>

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Respectfully,
Julie Rodriguez
90019

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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

DRUG POLICY ALLIANCE

P.O. Box 862128 · Los Angeles, CA 90086
213.226.6421 · california@drugpolicy.org

drugpolicy.org

DRUG POLICY ALLIANCE.

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.

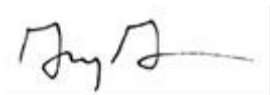
The proposed cuts will not only undermine community health but also their safety. Pulling funding away from HIV prevention and harm reduction capacity will eliminate opportunities to learn and share information about best practices and emerging trends on drugs and drug use. Community-based harm reduction 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

DRUG POLICY ALLIANCE

P.O. Box 862128 • Los Angeles, CA 90086
213.226.6421 • california@drugpolicy.org

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Office of the City Clerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>
To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Thu, May 1, 2025 at 9:48 AM

caitiebarton@icloud.com

----- Forwarded message -----

From: 'Caitlin Barton' via Clerk - CityClerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>

Date: Thu, May 1, 2025 at 9:08 AM

Subject: Public Comment: \$5M Long Covid Line-Item to Prevent \$3B in Losses (CF 25-0600)

To: <katy.yaroslavsky@lacity.org>, <CityClerk@lacity.org>, <Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org>

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Respectfully,
Caitlin Barton
95355

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Sent from my iPhone



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Office of the City Clerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>
To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Thu, May 1, 2025 at 9:47 AM

kssymphony@gmail.com

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From: **'K Symphony' via Clerk - CityClerk** <cityclerk@lacity.org>
Date: Thu, May 1, 2025 at 9:09 AM
Subject: Public Comment: \$5M Long Covid Line-Item to Prevent \$3B in Losses (CF 25-0600)
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By Harvard economists estimations, Long Covid will cost Los Angeles over \$3 billion in five years¹. Globally, Long Covid is already costing more than \$1 trillion per year⁴, and U.S. losses exceeded \$152.6 billion in 2024 alone⁵. Without intervention, these costs will continue to rise and directly undermine the City's tax base and services.

For comparison, during the AIDS crisis, Los Angeles began allocating dedicated funding in 1987, and by 1990 independently invested from its general fund—even though annual AIDS diagnoses in the County peaked at roughly 4,000 cases in 1992. Today, over 267,000 adults in Los Angeles are living with Long Covid, which is more than twenty times the peak impact of AIDS. Targeted investment at scale is again urgently needed.

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Investing now is responsible governance. Thank you for your leadership and for considering this critical measure.

Respectfully,
Melody Caspari
of California

References:

¹ Cutler, D. (2022). The Economic Impact of Long Covid. Harvard Kennedy School.

² CDC Household Pulse Survey. (September 2024). Long Covid Prevalence Estimates.

³ Los Angeles Times. (1990). City Council Approves Funds for AIDS Prevention.

⁴ Nature Medicine. (2024). Global Economic Cost of Long Covid Estimated at \$1 Trillion Annually.

⁵ Economist Impact. (2024). Incomplete Picture: Understanding the Burden of Long Covid.

Sent from my iPhone



Fwd: Public Comment: \$5M Long Covid Line-Item to Prevent \$3B in Losses (CF 25-0600)

1 message

Office of the City Clerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>
To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Thu, May 1, 2025 at 9:35 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **elle seibert** <elle@thepidgincoop.com>
Date: Thu, May 1, 2025 at 8:57 AM
Subject: Public Comment: \$5M Long Covid Line-Item to Prevent \$3B in Losses (CF 25-0600)
To: <katy.yaroslavsky@lacity.org>, <CityClerk@lacity.org>, <Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org>
Cc: <Councilmember.Blumenfield@lacity.org>, <heather.hutt@lacity.org>, <councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org>, <councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org>, <DOD.Contact@lacity.org>, <controller.mejia@lacity.org>

Dear Budget and Finance Committee Members,

Please accept this email as my official public comment for inclusion in the record for Council File 25-0600 regarding the Fiscal Year 2025–26 City of Los Angeles Budget.

In the face of a \$1 billion budget shortfall, it is essential to act strategically. I urge you to reverse the proposed \$1.075 million cut to the Department on Disability and to allocate a \$5 million Long Covid Response line-item to fund interdepartmental efforts (anchored by the Department on Disability) as a critical fiscal stabilization and cost-containment measure.

Key facts:

- \$1.075 million cut to the Department on Disability proposed
- \$5 million requested dedicated for Long Covid case management, benefits navigation, public outreach, prevention, and more
- \$3 billion in projected five-year economic losses if Long Covid is ignored¹
- \$5 million investment now is less than 0.2% of projected losses over the next five years
- 268,000 Angelenos living with Long Covid (and growing)²
- Over 20× the number impacted when the City first funded AIDS services³

The City of Los Angeles already has the infrastructure to carry this work. The \$5 million can be applied through existing departments already serving disabled, high-risk, and under-resourced Angelenos:

- Department on Disability – Create a Long Covid Services Coordinator modeled on the AIDS Coordinator’s Office to support education, benefits navigation, durable medical equipment access, and disability inclusion, especially for multiply marginalized residents.
- General City Purposes Fund – Support multilingual, culturally relevant public health campaigns and flexible mini-grants for Long Covid awareness, care navigation, and peer-informed support rooted in trusted organizations.
- Community Investment for Families Department (CIFD) – Expand programs for families facing housing instability, caregiving strain, and pediatric Long Covid through CIFD’s existing resilience and early childhood initiatives.
- Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department (LA Civil Rights) – Include Long Covid in anti-discrimination enforcement and equity monitoring. Ensure the City upholds disability rights and reduces racial, economic, and language-based barriers to care.
- Emergency Management Department – Ensure emergency planning includes homebound and chronically ill residents, with continuity of care, accessible alerts, and targeted resource delivery during public health or climate events.

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Respectfully,
Elle Seibert
90026

References:

¹ Cutler, D. (2022). The Economic Impact of Long Covid. Harvard Kennedy School.

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Sent from my iPhone



Fwd: Public Comment: \$5M Long Covid Line-Item to Prevent \$3B in Losses (CF 25-0600)

2 messages

Office of the City Clerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>
To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Thu, May 1, 2025 at 7:15 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jessica** <jessicaemapple@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, May 1, 2025 at 7:08 AM
Subject: Public Comment: \$5M Long Covid Line-Item to Prevent \$3B in Losses (CF 25-0600)
To: <katy.yaroslavsky@lacity.org>, <CityClerk@lacity.org>, <Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org>
Cc: <Councilmember.Blumenfield@lacity.org>, <heather.hutt@lacity.org>, <councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org>, <councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org>, <DOD.Contact@lacity.org>, <controller.mejia@lacity.org>

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Respectfully,
Jessica Maple
Texas

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² CDC Household Pulse Survey. (September 2024). Long Covid Prevalence Estimates.

³ Los Angeles Times. (1990). City Council Approves Funds for AIDS Prevention.

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Office of the City Clerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>
To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Thu, May 1, 2025 at 7:34 AM

[Quoted text hidden]