

Item # 12
12-14-21

SEIU 521

How does Fresno County rate on public services?

Promoting Equity **F**

- Households of color make less money than White households in Fresno County, Asian households make 8% less, Latino households make 36% less, and Black households make 52% less.
- The child poverty rate for Latino children is 2.5X higher than the rate for White children. The child poverty rate for Black children is more than triple the rate for White children.

Protecting its children **F**

- Ranks 57th out of 58 Counties in child poverty rates
- Infant mortality is 50% higher than the state average (Fresno African American infant mortality is 200% higher)
- The HS graduation rate in Fresno is 4% lower than the state average & communities of color experience lower graduation rates vs. the general population

Protecting its Elderly and Disabled **F**

- Home health care (IHSS) applications are reviewed at a slower pace than comparable counties in CA.
- Over 4-years, social workers experienced a turnover rate of 107%

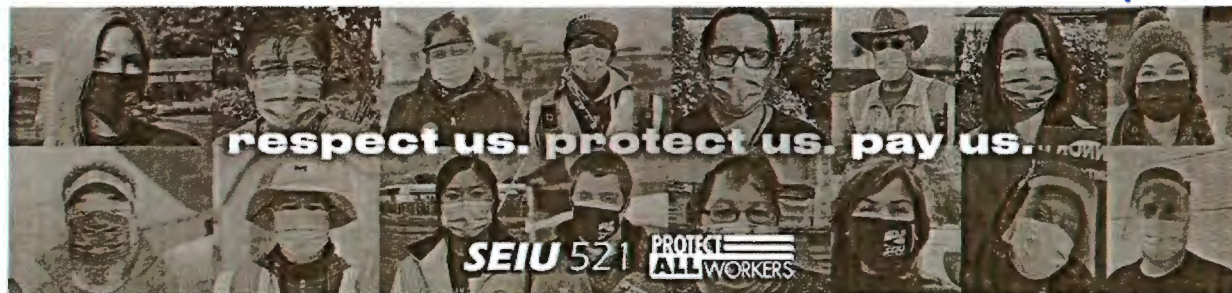
Access to a Doctor, Food and Shelter **F**

- Fresno residents experience high food insecurity at 14.7% vs the state avg of 10.2%
- Fresno county discharged patients are less likely (44%) than state average (57%) to receive Mental Health Services Fresno community members struggling with mental health often receive inadequate treatment. The number of patients with a mental health diagnosis re-hospitalized in Fresno County hospital is 2x the state rate
- Eligibility workers face a 106% retention rate over 4 years

Education and Prevention **F**

- Fresno County ranks 46th out of 58 counties for teenage pregnancies
- The teen birth rate in Fresno is 70% higher than the state average
- STI rate in Fresno is 23% higher than the state average. Fresno county has the 6th highest rate for chlamydia and 9th highest for gonorrhea.

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Excluding ARPA Investments For Essential Workers Is Disingenuous

The child welfare crisis within the County of Fresno is not singular. Departments across the County that serve as safety-nets continue experiencing alarming turnover rates and inadequate staffing - all amidst a critical recovery from the pandemic. The County's inability to fill vacancies and retain workers is a direct result of ranking year in and year out near the bottom of wage comparisons to neighboring counties. Now, as Fresno County is set to receive more than \$194 million in federal relief funding as part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), they have chosen to exclude community taxpayers from supporting the use of relief funds to invest in essential workers that serve our community.

We, the undersigned county residents and constituents, urge the Fresno County Board of Supervisors to immediately revise their ARPA community survey to include **the ONE eligible use of funds outlined by the Federal Government that was excluded as noted on the Fresno County website: "#4 - Provide premium pay for essential workers,** offering additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors". This deliberate exclusion from the County's official survey response options is unacceptable and disrespectful to the front line essential workers who this same board has often referred to as 'heroes'. County governments across the Central Valley and State of California have taken the steps to put forth investments for essential workers using ARPA funds to address turnover and improve access to services. Fresno County can and must do their part to support the rising need for care our community deserves.

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