



County Wins 9 National Achievement Awards

Alameda County won nine Achievement Awards in the 2019 **National Association of Counties (NACo)** awards program, earning national distinction for innovative programs that are helping to serve residents more efficiently, address community health challenges and enhance government transparency. The nine award-winning programs were:

- The **eSAR7 Online Application** crafted by the **Information Technology Department (ITD)** and **Social Services Agency (SSA)**, which allows residents to file reports online for food benefits and financial assistance.
- The **Ballot Request Tracking System** developed by **ITD** and the **Registrar of Voters (ROV)**, which tracks and processes Early Voting ballots requested prior to Election Day.
- The **Asthma Start Initiative** led by the **Health Care Services Agency (Public Health Department)** and the **Community Development Agency (Healthy Homes Program)**. Through in-home environmental assessments, education and home remediation, the program is effectively addressing uncontrolled pediatric asthma in Alameda County.
- The **Unaccompanied Immigrant Youth Cross Sector Initiative**, led by the **Health Care Services Agency**, which addresses the health and mental health needs of Unaccompanied Immigrant Youth who have come to Alameda County after fleeing violence in their home countries.
- **Hackathons for Community Engagement and Public Information**. The County, led by **ITD** and the **County Administrator's Office**, hosts internal and external hackathons to tap the best ideas of employees and residents for improving local government services.
- **Real Estate Fraud Protection Program**, led by the **District Attorney's Office**, which prevents unscrupulous individuals from preying on elderly and financially at-risk homeowners.
- The **Public Data Program** led by the **Probation Department**, which provides public demographic data about the probation population online.
- **Reducing Out-of-Home Placements and Racial Disparities in Juvenile Justice**, an effort led by the **Probation Department** that has helped reduce out-of-home placements, particularly of black and Latino youth.
- **Eliminating Adult Criminal Justice Fees**, an effort led by the **Probation Department** that made Alameda County one of the first counties in the State to eliminate what some call "crippling" fees imposed on individuals in the criminal justice system.

Inside This Issue

County Wins 9 National Awards	1
Alameda County Fair	2
CASA Fundraiser	2
Work Begins on FY 2019-20 Alameda County Budget	3
Celebrating Law Month	3
Innovative Partnership Brings Affordable Homes to Oakland	4
AC Boost Supports Home Ownership	5
Building Support for Affordable Housing	5

Alameda County Fair in Pleasanton June 14– July 7

You can almost smell the corndogs and cotton candy wafting through the warm summer air; Alameda County Fair returns June 14-July 7 with exciting new attractions, a big fireworks show and, of course, the world's best fair food.

The Fair will open with the "Last Ride" of its popular Cattle Drive down main street at 10:30am on Friday, June 14. This will be the final event where real-life cowboys and cowgirls drive a massive herd of cattle through downtown Pleasanton.

Fair entertainers will also be a part of the procession and local shops will once again give out free admission tickets good for any one day of the Fair's opening weekend, while supplies last. The Fair is also offering free admission until 3pm on opening day.

The 2019 Big O Tires Concert Series once again rolls out some of music's biggest names including Vince Neil of Mötley Crüe, Trace Adkins, Ashanti, Loverboy, Gin Blossoms, Sheila E., Norteño superstar Ramon Ayala with opening artist Yolanda Del Rio, plus many more. Ticket prices vary by show and section and always include Fair admission.

Tickets and season passes can be purchased on the Alameda County Fair [website](#). See your Agency/Department head to inquire about the availability of employee discount tickets.



Alameda County CASA Fundraiser: Have a Great Time While Supporting Local Foster Youth

The Alameda County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program is holding its annual fundraiser on May 23 to help expand the reach of CASA, a nonprofit that supports foster youth in our county by matching them with court appointed volunteers who advocate for services and provide support and mentoring.

The Space to Shine for Foster Youth fundraiser is being held on Thursday, May 23, 2019 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Chabot Space & Science Center* in Oakland. Registration, ticket sales and information about Sponsorship opportunities and raffle prizes can be found at <https://www.casaofalamedacounty.org/>.

Alameda County CASA is dedicated to providing quality advocates for foster children that have experienced significant trauma and instability.

Alameda County is home to the largest number of foster children in the San Francisco Bay Area (approximately 1,500). These children have faced childhood abuse, neglect, and/or abandonment, sometimes followed by years of instability as they are moved from one foster care placement to another and to multiple new schools.

Due to the high number of children in the dependency (foster care) system, Alameda County CASA has been unable to provide advocates for all youth who need them. CASA volunteers provide critical support that helps local foster youth feel a sense of consistency and stability, even at times when key areas of their lives are unsettled.

Because they are court-appointed, CASA volunteers have the unique responsibility to report directly to the Court about the child's needs and best interests. There is an ongoing push for Alameda County CASA to serve more children who are in need of a voice. There are currently over 1,200 children waiting to receive an advocate and new referrals come in on a regular basis. Additional funding will help Alameda County CASA to meet the growing need to assist foster youth in our communities.

Work Begins to Finalize FY 2019-20 Alameda County Budget

The County's Fiscal Year 2019-20 budget process is in full swing, and County leaders are finalizing plans to serve residents over the coming year while paying heed to the County's financial constraints.

County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi will present a Proposed FY 2019-20 County Budget to the Board of Supervisors in early June, with budget hearings to take place in the following weeks to aid in the creation of a Final Budget by June 30.

The County Administrator's Office is projecting a \$60.4 million funding gap for the coming fiscal year. County agency/department heads have been hard at work in recent weeks to determine their contributions to the budget-balancing process. The projected funding gap is less than last year's figure of \$65.9 million, but it is still significant.

The County continues to benefit from a relatively strong economy and robust housing market. But signs of a looming economic downturn are plentiful – making it extremely important for the County to maintain a prudent fiscal approach to prepare for tougher times ahead.

Law Month 2019: Celebrating Free Speech, a Free Press and the Rule of Law

The Board of Supervisors declared May as Law Month in Alameda County and urged the community "to foster an appreciation of the rule of law through education and discussion about everyday application of the hallmarks of our democracy – freedom of speech and freedom of the press." The celebration of Law Month in May is an annual tradition in Alameda County, an occasion the Board uses to acknowledge our country's long heritage of justice, liberty and equality under the law. This year, the Board marked the occasion by inviting several Alameda County Superior Court judges to its May 7th meeting to receive a proclamation and discuss this year's theme: "Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society." Judge Colin Bowen, far right in picture at left below, told the Board that the event continued a "rich tradition in Alameda County of celebrating the importance of the legal process in preserving justice and the freedoms that all Americans share." The Board also was joined by students from high schools across the County (pictured at right) who participated in this year's annual Countywide Mock Trial Competition.



Treasurer-Tax Collector Takes Part in Partnership Bringing Affordable Homes to Oakland



Alameda County Treasurer-Tax Collector Henry “Hank” C. Levy joined other local leaders in May to celebrate the completion of a new single-family home that was developed through the innovative “Oakland Roots” pilot program, which is converting previously abandoned, tax-defaulted properties in Oakland into affordable owner-occupied and rental housing.

“It gives me great personal satisfaction and pride in how our Department can make a concrete material improvement in people’s lives,” Levy said at a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the first completed “Oakland Roots” home in East Oakland.

“Oakland Roots” is made possible through a creative partnership involving Hello Housing, the City of Oakland, the Alameda County Treasurer-Tax Collector and affordable housing developer Presidio Realty Advisors. The pilot project will result in construction of 24 three- and four-bedroom homes on properties in west and east Oakland, as well as two multi-family rental housing properties.

Taking part in the ribbon-cutting ceremony was Aurora Barajas, an Oakland public school teacher and single mom who purchased the single-story home on Auseon Avenue. “My family is so happy that a program like this exists in Oakland, the city I grew up and have worked in schools for the past 16 years,” she said. “Without this option we may not have had an opportunity to become homeowners in the community that we love due to rising home costs.”

Levy said he is thrilled to know “Oakland Roots” will be helping dozens more families move into homes they otherwise could not afford. The alliance that came together that made this program happen was remarkable, and there is no reason why this can’t be duplicated many times over,” he said.



AC Boost Supports Home Ownership

On March 20th, the Board of Supervisors announced the launch of **AC Boost**, a \$50 million countywide down payment assistance loan program funded by the County's 2016 Measure A1 Housing Bond.

The program offers shared equity loans of up to \$150,000 to first-time homebuyers who live or work in Alameda County, and those who have been displaced from the County due to the region's housing crisis. The program is administered by Hello Housing, a local affordable housing nonprofit organization, on behalf of the Alameda County Department of Housing and Community Development.

AC Boost represents the Board's latest commitment of funds from Measure A1, the \$580 million countywide Housing Bond passed by over 73% of the voters in November 2016. Measure A1 is a cornerstone of Alameda County's strategy to expand affordable housing as a key step toward reaching the **Vision 2026 Goal of eliminating homelessness** across the County.

AC Boost demonstrates a crucial investment by Alameda County in home ownership, widely considered the primary long-term strategy for building household wealth, which is in turn one of the strongest determinants of health. Benefits of home ownership for individual households include resilience against displacement pressures, the ability to build wealth in the form of home equity, the stabilization of housing and related costs, the pride of ownership, and access to economic opportunities that extend to future generations. At a community level, affordable home ownership has been shown to promote better health and education outcomes, civic engagement, and neighborhood stabilization.

In addition to AC Boost, Measure A1 is funding two other home ownership programs: the \$25 million Homeownership Housing Development Program to assist the development and long-term affordability of home ownership housing for low-income households; and the \$45 million Housing Preservation Loan Program to help seniors, people with disabilities, and other low-income homeowners remain safely in their homes. Measure A1 is also funding \$460 million in rental housing programs for vulnerable populations.

New Partnership to Promote Affordable Housing

Alameda County is launching a new effort to assist faith-based and community-based organizations to help address the region's affordable housing crisis. The County, Local Initiatives Support Corporation and the San Francisco Foundation rolled out a \$1 million program in April that is designed to help local faith-based organizations and area nonprofits expand their development expertise. Through this effort, groups that own property and want to consider using those properties for affordable housing can learn key strategies for moving these projects move forward.

The County earmarked \$750,000 in local funding for this effort, and the San Francisco Foundation (SFF) provided an additional \$250,000 in support. The Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), a long-time community development intermediary whose Bay Area investments top \$734 million, will manage the outreach, education and technical assistance associated with the program.

"The faith community and other community-based organizations are well-positioned to help because they are so closely connected to residents," County Supervisor Nate Miley said. "We want to help them translate their deep mission and commitment into clear and direct action on affordable housing."

The program is critical given the region's dire housing challenges. Recent research finds that rents in 95 percent of Bay Area neighborhoods are beyond the means of a family with two minimum-wage earners.

Workshops and other training opportunities are being held for local organizations interested in learning more about affordable housing development. The efforts aim to help local organizations make informed decisions about future opportunities, as well as providing more intensive technical assistance for up to 10 selected organizations in an upcoming second phase of the program. Learn more at <https://tinyurl.com/y6cfyc4n>.

Alameda County Board of Supervisors

Richard Valle, President, District 2; Keith Carson, Vice President, District 5; Scott Haggerty, District 1; Wilma Chan, District 3; Nate Miley, District 4

County Administrator

Susan S. Muranishi

Editor: Guy Ashley guy.ashley@acgov.org