

San Diego Newsline

Downtown San Diego news — the budget, public safety, business, and the civic life of America's Finest City

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COUNTY

County Expands Public Access to Financial Source Data



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The County is expanding public access to the raw data behind its finances and daily operations, giving residents a clearer view of how taxpayer dollars are actually spent as part of its commitment to transparency.

New fiscal year source data showing how the County spends money after a budget is adopted is now available on the County's Budget website . The site already offers charts, maps, summaries and drill-downs that help people explore spending by department, program and year. It also includes key budget documents, the adopted budget, change letters, interactive visualizations and historical information so residents can track trends across multiple fiscal years and understand how the annual budget comes together.

The new update adds unprocessed data from the 2024-25 fiscal year, the most recently closed year. Because this information comes directly from County source systems, people can see planned, committed, spent and received amounts exactly as departments recorded them.

By opening this level of detail, the County strengthens transparency and supports a clearer understanding of how budget decisions develop. Researchers, analysts, reporters, community groups, civic-tech developers and data-savvy residents can now explore spending patterns and better see how investments connect to community needs.

The County's commitment to

data-driven financial stewardship and meaningful public participation depends on giving people access to the information they need. The release of the source data adds to a growing collection of County datasets that support public understanding, including information on health, safety, demographics, consumer confidence, housing and more . Together, these resources help residents, community organizations and researchers participate more fully in discussions about policy, investments and community priorities.

The County of San Diego is committed to strong fiscal stewardship, long-term financial stability and responsible management of public resources that reflect community priorities. Through careful planning, transparent practices, community engagement and ongoing monitoring, the County works to ensure that taxpayer dollars are used effectively and in direct support of services that improve quality of life. Maintaining balanced budgets, building prudent reserves and investing in programs and infrastructure help the County meet today's needs, prepare for future challenges and respond effectively to emergencies, all informed by the communities we serve.

County of San Diego news release · Aug 3, 2026

COUNTY

County Closes Three Parks in August to Protect Hikers from Heat

Three County parks will close for the month of August as temperatures peak, an annual safety measure aimed at

protecting residents during what is often the hottest time of the year.

El Capitan Preserve near Lakeside, Hellhole Canyon Preserve in Valley Center and Mt. Gower Preserve in Ramona will be closed through August.

Agua Caliente County Park and Vallecito County Park, which are in or near the Anza-Borrego Desert, remain closed for the summer after shutting down Memorial Day weekend. They will reopen Labor Day weekend.

Beyond heat-related safety, the seasonal closures allow Parks and Recreation to complete maintenance projects such as trail restoration.

Parks officials urge anyone hiking this summer to take extra precautions as dangerous health conditions persist.

Choose trails suited to your fitness level and opt for safer routes if temperatures are high.

Stay hydrated before, during and after your hike.

Check the weather and understand the terrain.

Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return. Don't rely solely on your cell phone.

Bring food, water, extra sunscreen, a flashlight, first-aid kit, multipurpose tool and a whistle.

Carry at least one liter for every two to three miles, and even more water for longer or strenuous hikes.

Choose non-perishable items to eat like dried fruit, energy bars, trail mix, peanut butter, canned tuna, whole grain crackers or jerky.

Dress in layers of breathable, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.

Wear sturdy boots that protect against hot ground and provide grip.

Follow posted safety rules and bring a printed trail map.

Experts recommend leaving dogs at home when you go hiking in the heat.

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DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY

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County Closes Three Parks in August to Protect Hikers from Heat

Pets overheat easily, and hot pavement can burn paws. If you bring your dog, carry plenty of water and avoid hot surfaces.

Never leave a dog in the car on an 85-degree or higher day. Interior temperatures can reach 102 degrees in 10 minutes and up to 120 degrees even with the windows down an inch or two.

With extreme heat expected in the coming days, the County shared some additional tips on how to stay safe in the heat .

For additional information on County Parks, visit sdparcs.org .

County of San Diego news release · Jul 30, 2026

COUNTY County to Hold Update on Resource and Reentry Hub Pilot

The County’s Office of Community Safety will host a one-hour virtual meeting at 2 p.m. on Thursday, August 13 to share the latest on the County of San Diego’s Resource and Reentry Hub pilot.

The Resource and Reentry Hub support people involved in the justice system, especially those returning from jail. The Hub offers a single place to access coordinated, person-centered services that help people stabilize, find support and move forward.

During the meeting, County staff will outline recent progress, explain how the Hub model is developing, and discuss upcoming the next steps.

“Our work on the Resource and Reentry Hub continues to be guided by the voices of justice-involved individuals and the community,” said Dante Dautz, Director of Prevention, Diversion, and Reentry with the County’s Office of Community Safety.

“Their input is shaping a model that meets the many needs of people returning from custody. We’re committed to building a support system that reflects the community it serves.”

The County has held multiple community listening sessions to help guide the Hub’s design and will continue to share updates as new phases roll out.

The County of San Diego works to create safe, healthy, and thriving communities for all residents. Through a broad range of programs and services, the County promotes community well-being, advances equity, and

partners with residents to build a better future. Community members can learn more about Alternative to Incarceration efforts and how to get involved .

County of San Diego news release · Aug 5, 2026

COUNTY Child Support Awareness Month Kicks Off with Free Backpacks, School Supplies and Community Resources

Back to school season should feel exciting—not financially stressful. As rising school supply costs continue to strain family budgets, County Child Support Services is stepping up during Child Support Awareness Month to support local families.

More than 1,100 free backpacks filled with school supplies will be distributed, at the department’s annual Super Saturday event, while supplies last.

Parents accompanied by their children are invited to join this community celebration.

Date: Saturday, August 8 Time: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Location: Child Support Services Central Office, 3666 Kearny Villa Road, San Diego

Families attending Super Saturday can connect with County departments and community organizations offering services and resources, including:

Employment services from County Human Resources

Education, training and college savings information from San Diego Community College District and 529 ScholarShare

Child support legal assistance from the Family Law Facilitator

Document assistance from the Consulate General of Mexico

Childcare, housing and other basic needs support from County Self-Sufficiency Services and other community-based organizations

High school diploma from the County Library

New fatherhood initiative information from Child Support Services

Young adult resources from Child Support Services

Full list of departments and organizations participating

The backpack giveaway is made possible through generous contributions from DCSS, Sheriff’s Office, County Fire, and local businesses.

For families unable to attend Super Saturday, County Child Support Services remains ready to help. Contact San Diego Child Support Services to connect with

programs, resources and staff.

County of San Diego news release · Aug 3, 2026

COUNTY Fourth Case of Human West Nile Virus Has County Health Officials Urging Caution

A fourth county resident has tested positive for West Nile virus, prompting County public health officials to urge steps to prevent mosquito bites and drain standing water.

Four San Diegans have contracted the virus since June, with symptom onset or positive tests occurring between June 5 to July 14, 2026. No local deaths have been reported this year. One of the recent cases required several days of hospitalization, another had mild symptoms that did not require hospitalization, and two were detected through blood-donation screening. One of the cases was acquired locally.

West Nile virus mainly affects birds, but mosquitoes can spread it to people after biting an infected bird. Increases in infected mosquitoes and birds often lead to more human cases.

In 2025 there were no human cases in San Diego County, but health officials saw an uptick in infected mosquitoes and dead birds . Last year, 34 dead birds and 182 mosquito batches tested positive for West Nile virus. So far in 2026, the virus has been detected in 23 dead birds and 10 mosquito batches. Similar increases are being seen across California and neighboring states.

Most people who get West Nile virus experience no symptoms or mild illness such as headache, fever, nausea, fatigue, skin rash or swollen glands. In rare cases, it can cause severe illness or death. In October 2024, an elderly County resident with a compromised immune system died of West Nile Virus encephalitis.

Mosquitoes can live near people — in backyards and even indoors. Some types of mosquitoes can also spread other diseases like chikungunya, dengue, and Zika, but only if they bite someone who is already infected.

Dump or drain anything that holds water, like plant saucers, clogged gutters, buckets, toys, old tires, and wheelbarrows.

Cover rain barrel openings or use mosquito dunks.

Request free mosquito-eating fish for ponds, fountains or unused swimming pools.

Use repellents with DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon

eucalyptus or IR3535.

Make sure window and door screens are in good shape. Repair as soon as possible when they are not.

Report increased mosquito activity, green or unmaintained swimming pools or dead birds (crows, ravens, jays, hawks, owls) to County Vector Control.

Call (858) 694-2888 or email vector@sdcounty.ca.gov.

To learn more, visit the County’s “ Fight the Bite” website.

County of San Diego news release · Aug 4, 2026

COUNTY Library High School Students Celebrate Graduation

The County held its seventh Library High School graduation ceremony to celebrate the accomplishments of 37 new graduates. Each received their high school diploma during a cap and gown ceremony at Cuyamaca College in El Cajon.

Life circumstances sometimes prevent students from graduating high school with their classmates. Library High School allows students to work around their job or family schedules to study at their own pace to complete their high school education.

Since its inception in 2016, the free online program has allowed 335 County residents to earn their high school diplomas, opening doors to new opportunities and brighter futures. There are 189 students currently enrolled in the program.

The Library High School program is open to County residents 19 years and older. Courses can be completed in as little as five months or up to 18 months.

The program is made possible through the support of the San Diego County and California State Libraries.

For more information, sdcl.org/libraryhighschool .

County of San Diego news release · Jul 31, 2026

COUNTY Youth Transition Campus Helps Students Build Skills and Succeed in School

County Probation and the San Diego County Office of Education are partnering to help justice-involved youth build stronger futures. At the Youth Transition Campus and East Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility, students earn a full high school education and can take online college courses that help them stay on track academically.

Beyond core classes, students can choose Career Technical Education (CTE)

Courts · Transit · Public safety

courses that teach practical, real-world job skills. These programs give youth tools they can use when they return to their communities and prepare them for the workforce.

Division Chief Mike Whatley says the goal is simple: give students transferable skills that set them up for success.

The Youth Transition Campus offers five hands-on CTE programs taught by working professionals:

Culinary Arts: Students learn cooking skills and gain experience running a student coffee cart.

Horticulture: With guidance from a Master Gardener, students grow, maintain, and harvest fruits and vegetables in an outdoor garden.

Graphic Arts: Youth explore digital design and create real products like t-shirts and posters.

Virtual Auto Tech : Students practice vehicle maintenance and repair using virtual tools and hands-on learning with County Fleet mechanics.

Building and Trades: Youth receive introductory training in electrical work, plumbing, framing and demolition.

These programs support rehabilitation by building confidence, teamwork, and positive workplace habits. Some students discover talents they didn’t know they had, while others expand on interests they already enjoy. One student shared that the graphic arts class is opening doors he didn’t think were possible.

The County Office of Education designs each program’s curriculum, allowing students to earn certifications and school credit that helps them move forward.

San Diego County Probation promotes community safety and positive change through evidence-based supervision and rehabilitation programs for youth and adults. The San Diego County Office of Education provides essential academic and support services across the region, helping ensure every student has access to a high-quality education.

County of San Diego news release · Jul 31, 2026

COUNTY Two New Affordable Housing Milestones Celebrated in Fallbrook

Fallbrook marked two major steps forward in affordable housing with the grand opening of Mirasol Meadows and the groundbreaking for Brookview Senior Villas.

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DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY (CONTINUED)

Courts · Transit · Public safety

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Two New Affordable Housing Milestones Celebrated in Fallbrook

Mirasol Meadows is a new 53-unit apartment building on East Alvarado Street serving low- to extremely low-income older adults earning 30% to 50% of the area median income. The three-story community includes 49 one-bedroom apartments and five two-bedroom units. Six homes are reserved for people with serious mental illness who have experienced homelessness.

Residents have access to services that support aging in place, including mental health care through the county’s Behavioral Health Services . Apartments feature adaptable layouts, air conditioning, private balconies and energy-efficient appliances such as electric ranges, refrigerators and dishwashers. The property includes an on-site laundry room, shared community spaces and walking paths that connect to nearby shops, restaurants and public transit.

Developed by the San Diego Community Housing

Corporation through public-private partnerships, Mirasol Meadows includes a \$6.1 million County investment and 53 project-based vouchers.

Fallbrook also broke ground on Brookview Senior Villas on West Fig Street. The future 61-unit affordable community will serve adults 62 and older earning 20% to 40% of the area median income.

The three-story property will include 56 one-bedroom units and five two-bedroom units, all designed to support residents with mobility

needs. When construction is complete, Brookview Senior Villas will provide residents access to a 2,000-square-foot open space, shaded walking paths, patios, a community garden and a bocce ball court.

Brookview Senior Villas is being developed by the San Diego Community Housing Corporation and National CORE , supported by a \$7.9 million county investment and 60 project-based vouchers.

Since 2017, the County has invested more than \$330 million in affordable housing

through efforts such as using excess County land and loans through the Innovative Housing Trust Fund. These investments have created over 3,900 new homes, with another nearly 2,200 on the way.

Explore the County’s interactive dashboard for data on the County’s affordable housing inventory, along with the Housing for All Hub for services, resources, and property information through its Affordable Housing Map.

County of San Diego news release · Jul 31, 2026

BUSINESS

San Diego commerce & the regional economy



Illustration

BUSINESS

Member Spotlight: Soloquent

35% of B2B sales reps leave every year, jumping to 42% at small companies

Each departure can cost \$85,000 or more when factoring in recruiting, onboarding, training, lost revenue, and the toll on team morale

Best-in-class companies keep turnover below 20% , achieved through smarter hiring, stronger training, and better sales management

The good news? This is a solvable problem.

Soloquent Inc. helps small and mid-sized businesses stop the revolving door and start growing revenue predictably. The company works directly with sales leaders and business owners to tackle the primary root causes of turnover and stalled growth through proven skill development programs and hands-on management mentoring.

Higher return on their sales investments

Stronger, more confident sales and management teams

Soloquent’s core program is built on the Amazon best-selling book P3 Selling™: The Essentials of B2B Sales Success , a complete, modern

playbook for B2B selling that equips sales professionals with the skills they need to win and gives managers a clear framework to lead their teams effectively.

Soloquent’s goal is to serve as a trusted advisor , committed to reducing costs and helping grow sales revenue businesses can count on.

Greg Nutter, President Winner: “Best B2B Book of All Time”

www.soloquent.com
https://soloquent.com/p3-selling-workshop

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Jul 24, 2026

BUSINESS

TJRV Update: Advancing the Conversation & We Need Your Input

The Chamber continues to elevate transboundary pollution as a regional priority on both sides of the border.

Earlier this month, Vice President of International and Public Affairs Kenia Zamarripa participated on a discussion hosted by the San Diego World Affairs Council to explore the impacts of transboundary pollution, current response efforts, and next steps. The Chamber also met with the North America Development Bank, the U.S. Consulate, industry leaders from Tijuana, and officials from the Mexican section of

the IBWC to discuss opportunities to further strengthen collaboration in mitigating the transboundary pollution.

The County of San Diego’s Office of Economic Development and Government Affairs continues to advance an economic impact study on the Tijuana River Valley transboundary pollution crisis. The survey should take between 5-20 minutes to complete depending on the track (business, resident, visitor, or organization).

This study is expected to be finalized and presented to the Board of Supervisors in October.

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Jul 23, 2026

AROUND CALIFORNIA

Statewide news

CALIFORNIA

California Medicaid Expansion Sees 62% Improper Enrollees, Federal Taxpayers Foot \$10.4 Billion Bill

A new study estimates that 3.1 million people in the state’s ACA Medicaid expansion were likely ineligible in 2024.

California’s Medicaid expansion program under the Affordable Care Act continues to enroll large numbers of people who do not qualify under federal guidelines, according to a new analysis from the Paragon Health Institute.

The report found that 62 percent of the state’s expansion enrollees, or about 3.1 million individuals, were probably ineligible last year. This improper enrollment cost federal taxpayers \$10.4 billion in 2024.

Nationwide, the study estimated that 46 percent of the 20.2 million people in the Medicaid expansion, roughly 9.2 million, did not meet eligibility rules. That figure marked an 88 percent jump from the 4.9 million improper enrollees identified in 2019.

The analysis, written by adjunct scholar Liam Sigaud, compared survey data on eligible non-elderly adults with incomes at or below 138 percent of the federal poverty level against actual enrollment records. It used a central assumption that 70 percent of qualified individuals would participate.

Even with a more cautious estimate assuming full participation among those who qualify, the national total of ineligible enrollees stood at 5.2 million.

California’s improper enrollment rate far exceeded those in most other states.

New York followed with around 1.01 million ineligible participants, while Louisiana, Oregon and Washington also showed high numbers.

The share of improper enrollments increased in 31 of the 32 states that had expanded Medicaid before 2019. Expansion enrollment remained roughly 21 percent above pre-pandemic levels into mid-2025, even after traditional Medicaid numbers returned closer to normal levels.

Several factors contributed to the surge in ineligible cases. The COVID-19 continuous coverage policy prevented standard eligibility checks from 2020 through 2023. After the pandemic, many states conducted incomplete reviews of who still qualified.

Financial incentives also matter. The federal government covers 90 percent of

costs for expansion enrollees compared with roughly 60 percent for traditional Medicaid. This structure gives states less reason to carefully verify applications and can lead to placing people in the wrong coverage category.

Ineligible participants include those with incomes above the limit, non-citizens who fail immigration or residency tests, and others barred from any form of Medicaid. Past federal audits in California and elsewhere have shown high error rates that match the latest estimates.

States saved money through these misclassifications. The report said they kept an estimated \$6.8 billion nationally in 2024, including about \$2.5 billion in California, while the federal government bore the full net expense.

The findings come as Congress reviews oversight of the program.

The Paragon report suggests several fixes. These include setting the same federal matching rate for all Medicaid categories, improving real-time income checks, ending automatic renewals without review, and increasing independent audits of eligibility.

The data highlight ongoing problems with the ACA expansion approach, in which generous federal funding meets state-level administration that has not always maintained strict controls.

For federal taxpayers, the California numbers represent the price of covering millions who did not meet the rules.

San Diego Newsline · Based on reporting by California Globe · Aug 3, 2026

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AWARENESS MONTH: YOUR MONEY AT WORK

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

COMMENTARY

Opinion — the views of the writers named, not news reporting

ABOUT THIS PAPER	City Hall, the Gaslamp	waterfront — and the county	and our standards at
San Diego Newsline covers	Quarter, East Village, Little	around it. Every item names	sandiegonewsline.com.
downtown San Diego first —	Italy, Barrio Logan and the	its source; read the originals	

SAN DIEGO NEWSLINE

The news, every day.

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