Economic Stability

Why This Matters

Financial stability plays a key role in the health and well-being of community members. Across the four counties, more than one in four households are not economically self-sufficient. The high costs of housing, food, health care, and education makes it difficult for many people to meet their basic needs.

Key Data Highlights

- Large differences in educational outcomes and income by race and ethnicity
- Greater gender pay gaps in three of the four counties vs. California
- Rising homelessness and overcrowding in the Bay Area
- Black, Hispanic/Latino, and Native American populations more likely to be rent-burdened

Community Voice

CHNA participants highlighted the following:

- Wages have not kept pace with rising costs, leading to economic strain
- People feel forced to work multiple jobs or cut back on essentials
- Food insecurity seems to have stayed high since the COVID-19 pandemic
- People experiencing greater instability due to unaffordable housing
- Concern for individuals on fixed incomes
- People desire more equitable opportunities in education, jobs, and housing

At a Glance:
Barriers to Economic Stability

High housing costs

Limited access to financial aid, job training

Many needing food support

Overcrowded living conditions

LONG-TERM GOAL

Reduce economic instability among community members to support improved health.

Our Approach

A. Investments & Grants

- Support social services addressing housing, food, and financial instability
- Fund homelessness prevention and intervention approaches
- Expand capacity of and access to healthy food access programs (e.g., food banks)

B. Institutional Systems & Practices

- Enhance case management and care coordination that connects people to housing and other support
- Promote CalFresh and WIC enrollment
- Improve hospital screening, referral, and follow-up for health-related social needs
- Foster workforce development and job training initiatives
- Support implementation of policies that prioritize purchasing locally and from small businesses

C. Advocacy & Community Engagement

- Participate in local housing and homelessness collaboratives
- Support local initiatives focused on household income support

From Insight to Action

Insight:
People face impossible choices between basic needs.

Action:
Fund housing stability programs and connect people to food assistance.

How Our Strategies Reflect an Anchor-Inspired Approach

- Align institutional resources to support community needs, removing barriers and promoting equity in compliance with state and federal law.
- Shift everyday business practices to foster communities' economic vitality.
- Take an integrated approach to address contributing factors to differing health outcomes in the community.

What We Aim to Achieve

- Increased use of available services and benefits
- Improved housing and food security for vulnerable people
- Greater financial stability for community members
- Reduced economic disparities and poverty