

and one for the COVID19 Health and Human Services Recovery Plan. This year, the County proposes to submit six entries:

- County Executive Office: **Broadband Strategic Plan**

The Santa Barbara County Broadband Strategic Plan responds to the regional need for high-speed internet access and was developed in alignment with California's Broadband for All initiative. The County in partnership with the Santa Barbara Association of Governments (SBCAG) and the Broadband Consortium of the Pacific Coast (BCPC), developed this strategic plan to address the gaps in service, provide faster and more reliable service to our residents with the goal of closing the digital divide throughout our County. The plan is currently being implemented and has resulted in a \$1M Broadband planning grant (Local Agency Technical Assistance) through the California Public Utilities Commission.

- General Services: **County Fleet Electrification**

Santa Barbara County has begun the initiative to electrify its vehicle fleet to reduce greenhouse gas and improve air quality in the County. The County has 127 EV Chargers installed at 13 sites, and has plans to add an additional 180 chargers at existing and new locations. These chargers charge the 90 electric vehicles in the County fleet and are also available to County employees and the public. In 2022, the program avoided 246,520 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions and saved over 12,000 gallons of gas, and provided 280 electric miles.

- Public Works: **Isla Vista Pride Block**

Santa Barbara County created an innovative "pride block" to honor the LGBTQ community in Isla Vista which consists of a rainbow design that connects the curb-cuts on each corner in the Isla Vista Community. The design was created in-house. Public Works created the initial design in Adobe Illustrator, and produced the final design in CAD. The ThermLite markings from Geveko are durable, cost-efficient, and provide a long-lasting, high-performing material on roads with normal traffic loads.



- Probation and Sheriff Collaboration: **Alternative Sentencing**

To enhance services within the local criminal justice system, the Sheriff's Office (SBSO) and Probation Department (Probation) bifurcated Alternative Sentencing services to provide an assessment of needs and appropriate referrals to services, resources and treatment, to individuals released from incarceration from the Santa Barbara County Jail (SBCJ) to serve their custody time on electronic monitoring, while maintaining community safety. The Alternative Sentencing Program aims to meet the mission of reducing the jail population. To date, 572 individuals exited, with 95.1% exiting successfully. In total, 433 referrals were made to an extensive list of treatment services.

- **Human Resources: Hablemos Program**

The Hablemos Program grew out of the County's JOIN Race, Equity, and Inclusion Campaign which introduced concepts around race, diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace. This new program developed a Spanish Customer course for employees that provided a forum for employees to practice basic Spanish to improve the attention and services to Spanish-speaking customers, learn to make small talk in conversational Spanish and built a foundational knowledge about Hispanic and Latinx culture. The program also provides an opportunity for employees to expand their capacity to contribute to the organization, grow their talents, and collaborate with internal departments to make a larger impact on the County at large.

- **Human Resources: Regional Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Symposium**

As part of the JOIN Campaign, the DEI Regional Group was formed, which consisted of leaders from the County of Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, the City of Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo. The DEI Regional Group recognized that although they were serving different communities, they were aligned on seeking answers to DEI questions that would benefit all. This call to action to address regional questions led to the launch of the DEI Symposium, which was first launched online in February of 2022. There was a total of 55 participants (leaders, department heads, and managers) representing 11 jurisdictions who engaged in a conversation on how to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion in all regions. The DEI Regional Symposium created a safe space to discuss and learn more about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the workplace.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There is a \$100 entry fee per submittal. The total fee for six submittals is \$600.00.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Broadband Strategic Plan
Attachment B – County Fleet Electrification
Attachment C – Isla Vista Pride Block
Attachment D – Alternative Sentencing
Attachment E – Hablemos Program
Attachment F – Regional Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Symposium

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