

Our Community, Our County, Our Future



Let's fix our housing, child care, and healthcare crises in Santa Clara County.

“OUR COMMUNITY, OUR COUNTY, OUR FUTURE”

Coalition for the Future of Santa Clara County

In the 10 years since the end of the great recession, Santa Clara County's most vulnerable residents have fallen further behind. One-third of Bay Area residents — nearly 2 million people — struggle to make ends meet [1]. As local political debates suggest, many residents struggle to afford the costs of housing, transportation, child care, food and healthcare in this strong economy, and that number has risen dramatically in the past 10 years.

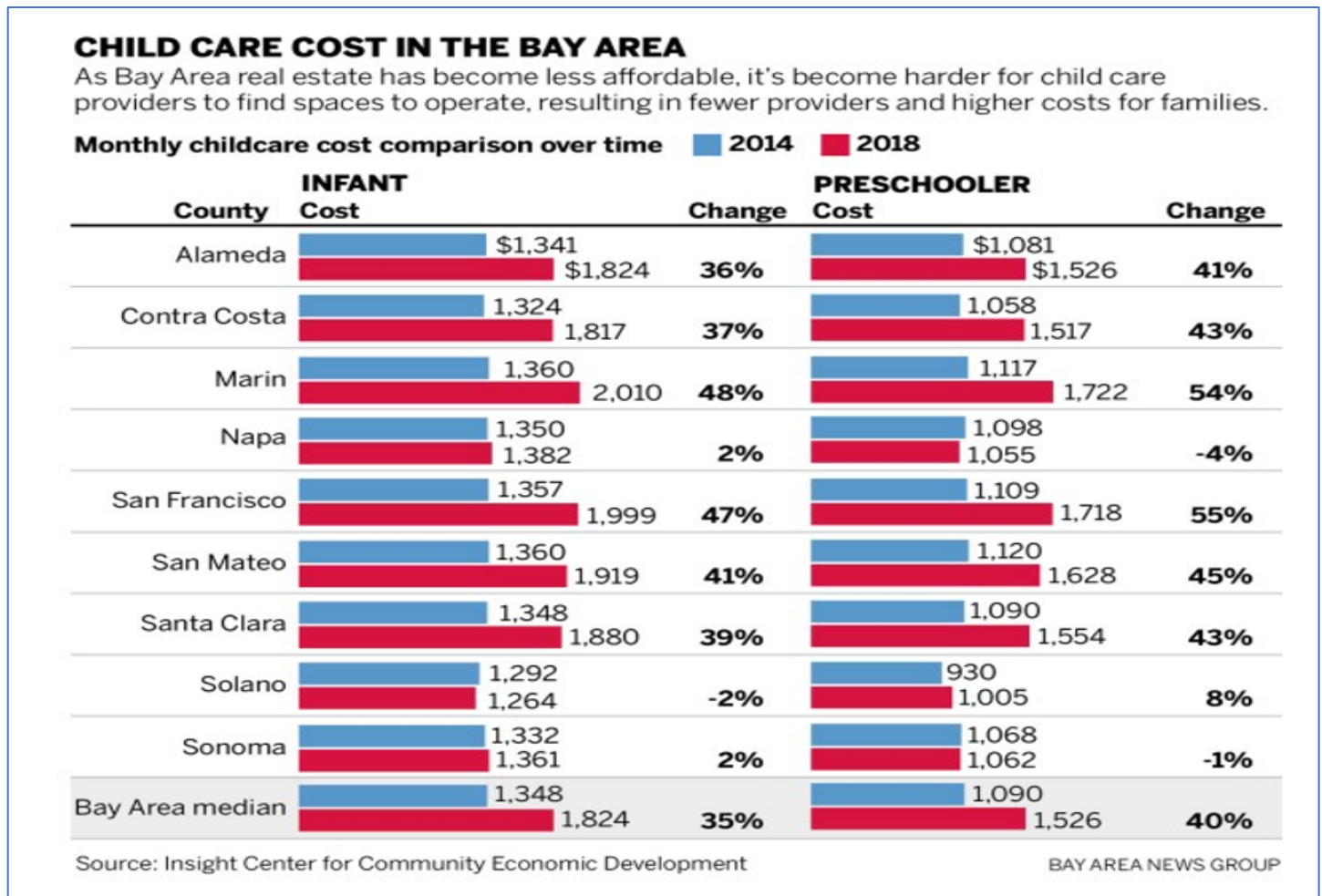
It is time for local leaders and service providers to come together to identify solutions to the most pressing issues in our community to get these trends pointed in the right direction.

THE ISSUES

Affordable Housing: The San Jose/Sunnyvale/Santa Clara area's monthly average housing costs are the highest in the U.S. at \$2,341 per month [2]. Affordable housing development across the region is dismal. For fiscal year 2017-18 just eight percent of new units approved were affordable, compared to 16 percent in 2015 and 23 percent in 2010 [3].

Working professionals like teachers in San Jose are finding their salary in no way matches the cost of living in the area. In order to afford rent for a one-bedroom apartment, San Jose residents need an average annual income of \$88,000, according to a study by the city [4]. Most teachers only make an average of \$60,000 a year, according to Glassdoor.

Quality, Affordable Child Care: Much like the hunt for a place to live in the Bay Area, the search for child care is getting harder as costs rise. Over the past four years, the median cost of childcare in the nine-county Bay Area increased 40 percent [5].



Strengthening Our Healthcare System: In Santa Clara County, despite overall high rates of insurance and available providers, the community members find healthcare is often unaffordable. County residents with low socio-economic status are more likely than higher-status groups to have access issues, such as inability to afford medication, inadequate transportation to medical appointments, and lack of recent health screenings [6, 7]. These healthcare access issues may contribute to worse health outcomes in our community.

Compared to residents in North County, residents in South County and the City of San Jose have worse health care access. The percentage of adults with no usual source of care or have delayed/not sought care due to cost are significantly higher in South County and City of San Jose. Overall, residents in Gilroy have a life expectancy 4.7 years shorter than the Santa Clara County

average. And Morgan Hill residents live on average 3.7 years shorter than Santa Clara County residents.

Santa Clara County's recent acquisition of St. Louise and O'Connor Hospitals and DePaul Health Center show the County's commitment to investing in our public health system. However, we must ensure continued investment in our healthcare system and wrap-around services so that residents are able to access the highest quality healthcare.

OUR SOLUTION

It is not an accident that some of the wealthiest corporations have made Silicon Valley their homes. It is because of the conditions that we, the residents, created; the community we invested in. Our coalition believes that Santa Clara County voters would like investments in strong public services in order to build a Santa Clara County that is inclusive and livable for all. Which is why we are asking the Board of Supervisors to let residents vote on a revenue measure this upcoming November 2020.

Santa Clara County Revenue Measure – November 2020

- 1/2 or 5/8 cent general sales tax to raise up to \$250,000,000 annually to fund local priorities, with annual public reports to ensure fiscal accountability.
- As a general sales tax, this measure would need 50% + 1 in order to pass and the funds would go to the Santa Clara County General Fund.
- Polling will be done to decide the exact wording of the measure, the amount of the tax, and whether to include a sunset clause.

Sources

[1] SPUR, May 2018 - <https://www.spur.org/publications/urbanist-article/2018-05-29/urgency-achieve-inclusive-economy-bay-area>

[2] Citing figures from the U.S. Census, the 2019 Silicon Valley Index calculates that the San Jose/Sunnyvale/Santa Clara area's monthly average housing costs are the highest in the U.S. at an estimated \$2,341 per month.

[3] SF Curbed, Feb. 19, 2019 - <https://sf.curbed.com/2019/2/19/18229922/silicon-valley-index-2019-housing-gentrification-wealth-gap>

[4] NBC Bay Area, Feb. 25, 2019 - <https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/San-Jose-Teachers-Grapple-With-High-Housing-Costs--506335731.html>

[5] Research from Oakland's Insight Center for Community Economic Development

[6] Stanford Health Care. 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment Report. <https://stanfordhealthcare.org/content/dam/SHC/about-us/public-services-and-community-partnerships/docs/SHC-2019-CHNA-report-final.pdf>

[7] Health Resources and Services Administration, UDS Mapper. 2017. <https://www.udsmapper.org>

[8] Santa Clara County Public Health Department. June 2018. https://data-sccphd.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/health-status-statistics-cities/data?orderBy=life&orderByAsc=false&selectedAttribute=cancer_mort