

**Agenda Item 1**
July 6, 2016

DATE: June 21, 2016

TO: Children and Families Commission of Orange County

FROM: Kimberly Goll, Executive Director *Kimberly Goll*

ACTION: Receive the 2016 Orange County Community Indicators Report

SUMMARY:

The Children and Families Commission of Orange County is the lead partner in the production of the annual Orange County Community Indicators Report. Released annually since 2000, the Community Indicators Report tracks a range of topics important to the county's health and prosperity. It highlights areas in which the county is performing well and making progress, as well as those areas where improvement is needed and where community efforts may positively influence Orange County's future. The data compiled allows stakeholders to ask whether a certain practice or trend is sustainable and helps guide policy makers in fostering and maintaining Orange County's vitality. This agenda item summarizes the 17th Annual Orange County Community Indicators Report that was released last month.

DISCUSSION:

The 2016 Orange County Community Indicators Report comprehensively measures the health and wellbeing of Orange County's people, community, and economy. The report includes updated community profiles and key indicators with clear graphics that highlight how Orange County is doing. The indicators include measurement across a broad range of topics: economy, income, housing, education, health, safety, and infrastructure. The 2016 Community Indicators Report will be available for distribution at the meeting.

The Orange County Community Indicators report was restructured in 2015 to focus attention on pivotal issues which impact the wellbeing of the county. The 2016 report further identifies persistent poverty and educational disadvantages among the county's Latino population as one of three major countywide issues that require urgent attention. Affordable housing, children's mental health and rising obesity rates are also identified as critically important pivot points.

Pivot Point: Opportunity Gap

Among Orange County's diverse population, Latino residents are most impacted by poverty and lower educational attainment. Latino residents age 25 and older represent the lowest proportion of college graduates and the highest proportion of high school dropouts. Trends show that wages continue to decrease for lower paid occupations, which translates to increased financial constraints for high school dropouts. Low and declining wages further contribute to poverty levels in the county where the cost of living is an estimated 85 percent more than the national average. The report notes that education is a strong protective factor against poverty and educational attainment

is a key strategy to give children, and communities in which they live, a strong foundation for a prosperous future.

Pivot Point: Housing

The Community Indicators Report found that even while jobs in Orange County continue to grow, the four largest employment sectors tracked; construction, tourism, business and professional services, and health services do not have annual salaries high enough to qualify for an entry-level home in the county. In terms of renting, only about one-third of county jobs offer median wages high enough to afford a one-bedroom rental unit. New housing construction is not keeping pace with the growing number of job. The housing that is being built is not affordable to residents with lower income. Only five-percent of new construction in 2014 was in the low or very low income categories. The imbalance is evidenced by younger adults and families moving out of the county, businesses unable to find workers to fill open positions, and individuals and families living in crowded or poverty conditions.

Pivot Point: Children's Health & Wellbeing

The report found that since 2003, the hospitalization rate for major depression among children and youth has increased 39 percent and continues to rise. Orange County ranks 39th out of 58 California counties in availability of mental health providers. As of 2014/15, one-third of Orange County children were overweight or obese. In some areas of the county, the childhood obesity rate has climbed to more than half. The long-term trend among adults shows increasing rates of obesity-related chronic diseases, diabetes and heart disease.

In addition to the three pivot points, new to this year's report are two additional education indicators, kindergarten readiness measured by the Early Development Index (EDI) data and an analysis of high school student participation in STEM coursework. The report also includes academic performance indicators showing how Orange County students are performing in math and reading, according to the new Common Core State Standards. Also of note, the health indicators show a surge in community clinic use and enrollment in public insurance as the Affordable Care Act reached full implementation in the county.

The Community Indicators Report is co-produced by the Commission, Orange County United Way, CalOptima, and the Orange County Community Foundation. The organizations involved in guiding and funding the report have expanded this year to include PIMCO Foundation, Orange County Department of Education, Hope through Housing Foundation, Orange County Funders Roundtable and Orange County Transportation Authority. The goal is to galvanize community action through increased partnerships and community collaboration.

STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY:

There are no funding actions proposed for this item.

PRIOR COMMISSION ACTIONS:

- July 2015 – Received the 2015 Orange County Community Indicators Report

- May 2014 - Received the 2014 Orange County Community Indicators Report/Executive Officer's Report
- April 2014 – Received update on the 2014 Orange County Community Indicators Report/Executive Officer's Report
- April 2013 – Received presentation on the 2013 Orange County Community Indicators Report

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive the 2016 Orange County Community Indicators Report.

Contact: Kelly Pijl

<http://ocgov.com/about/infooc/facts/indicators>