

From: [Christian Arana](#)
To: [cityclerk](#)
Subject: Public Hearing Item, I. 1, American Rescue Plan
Date: Monday, November 01, 2021 9:58:19 AM

November 1, 2021

Dear Members of the Merced City Council,

My name is Christian Arana, and I am the Vice President of Policy at the Latino Community Foundation, California's sole philanthropic organization focused on unleashing the civic and economic power of Latinos in the state.

I write today in support of community-driven American Rescue Plan advocacy from our grantees like Leadership Counsel and Power California.

Of particular interest to us are the requests to use American Rescue Plan resources to invest in job opportunities and guaranteed income for youth. According to Measure of America, over [4 million](#) young people ages 16-24 across the nation are either not working or attending school, a problem made worse by the Covid-19 pandemic. In summer 2020, Power California commissioned a [youth poll](#) which found:

- 1 in 2 young people had hours or pay cut during Covid-19;
- 46% had troubles paying for life necessities (food, medicine, etc.); and
- 38% had troubles making rent or mortgage payments.

Young people across California, and especially in Central Valley cities like Merced, have sat at the nexus of serving as caretakers for their families, essential workers for the community, and as critical stewards of our democracy by participating at higher levels in elections.

Leveraging the American Rescue Plan to invest in the community's youth can provide them with the confidence, training, and opportunities to thrive. The city of Merced, in return, can benefit from tapping into this local talent, stabilize its economy, and uplift the very people that tie together the community.

With deep respect,
Christian Arana

Christian Arana (he/him/his), Vice President of Policy

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