

**From:** [Christian Arana](#)  
**To:** [cityclerk](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item J-1: American Rescue Plan - Latino Community Foundation  
**Date:** Monday, December 06, 2021 9:01:44 AM

---

December 6, 2021

Dear Members of the Merced City Council,

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

Leveraging funds from the American Rescue Plan to create an affordable housing trust fund, while adopting a policy that requires the construction of affordable units, is a worthy-long term investment that can improve access to stable, affordable housing, especially among unhoused individuals.

Because as the current rental crisis show, housing is an urgent issue in the city. At least 1,447 Merced households have requested \$13.5 million in rental assistance via the Covid-19 Rent Relief program. To date, less than one-third of households have received assistance; In other words, many of the families that have been unserved by the program thus far could experience displacement or even homelessness in the coming months if they do not receive the financial help they need to cover back rent. Funds from the American Rescue Plan for an affordable housing trust is a long-term solution to a problem like this.

In addition, leveraging American Rescue Plan resources to invest in job opportunities and guaranteed income for youth can provide them with the confidence, training, and opportunities to thrive. Although the economy writ large is beginning to make a comeback, concerns over inflation, disparities in employment for youth of color, and more necessitate these actions in critical Central Valley cities like Merced.

With deep respect,  
Christian Arana

---

**Christian Arana (he/him/his)**, Vice President of Policy  
[Latino Community Foundation](#) | [carana@latinocf.org](mailto:carana@latinocf.org)

235 Montgomery St., Ste. 1160, San Francisco, CA 94104 | T: 415-236-5145

**Follow Us!** [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Instagram](#)

[**NOTICE:** This message originated outside of City of Merced -- **DO NOT CLICK** on **links** or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

