

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Question 13: Please share additional information you believe may help us with developing a plan to use ARPA funding.

The pandemic hit the community on many different levels, however, without the essential employees and their commitment to the community Merced would have been crippled beyond measure. Essential employees continually place others ahead of the themselves, pandemic or not for the betterment of our community, they know the risks but faced them head on. Public Safety should be the number 1 priority.

Please move homeless in one area to live, do drugs, squat. I'm sick of seeing them destroy our city. The ruin one area and then move to another. One place please where they can do what they want and have animals.

If this money can some how finding a way to reduce traffic in this city that would be wonderful. The traffic is crazy for this small town.

I feel that the city really needs to focus on making this City a place where place to enjoy living. With all of this growth, we need more amenities and places for teens and teens to have fun safely.

Water play areas at city parks for children

Public safety is a joke here. Every time I've had to call police, they were condescending and useless. Put that money toward a better mission like youth resources and enhancement or addressing the number of individuals who are homeless in the area who need housing and mental health services.

Maintenance programs for parks, rec, water, utilities, investment in business.

The City employees are essential workers that have not had a cost of living raise since 2019 and have continued to work and provide services to the citizens of the city. They deserve the recognition and bonus pay for their loyalty and dedication to the City.

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The funds should be used to focus on the essential workers who kept the community moving forward despite the risk of infection. Next, the funds should be used to take care of Public Safety to support the first responders who keep our community safe. Lastly, the funds should be used to support affordable housing for more than those only in the lowest income brackets. These funds have the ability to restructure the City of Merced and its employees and constituents in a way that supports long term recovery and sustainability.

Plans to reduce food waste (and comply with SB 1383) and to simultaneously reduce food insecurity

Get more people vaccinated! Merced County's rates of 35% vaccinated are not protecting our citizens.

The homeless issue needs to be addressed in a major way. It does Merced no good to beautify Merced with all the homeless people. They need a place to live. We need to work together to solve this issue.

If Community beautification means cleaning up the city then that's where it should go. Help out the homeless, I see too many it makes the city look ghetto. Cleaning up downtown was good but what about G St and 13th by the fwy it looks gross. Then we have a few homeless folks next the Walmart, which I hope the new homes being built will go all the way through the fence but then where will those homeless people go? So if you want to help Merced, help them first. Also fix the roads that have pot holes. I can't remember the the street I was on yesterday but if you're on McKee and turn left to go on the overpass that street has pot holes. Also in Livingston (I know it's still considered Merced county) Eucalyptus st and Cressey need to be fixed or redone for the most part they just cover up the pot holes and months later it's a pot hole again. I work in Livingston and I drive there every day so all those back roads are messed up. I apologize for my rant but I hope this helps.

It is imperative that we have more affordable housing options for our citizens. I am fortunate to be a homeowner but it is disheartening to see how many people without a place to live or on the brink of homelessness. We have really got to do more as a community to ensure people are able to have a roof over their head especially in these times. Thank you!

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We need more affordable low income housing . the complexes here in Merced and Atwater are full and have 3+ yr waiting list while a lot of us are homeless because we can afford the rents these days. Landlords have raised rents here up to 50% in just the last 60 days and want 2/3x rent. That's impossible for a person like me on limited income. We need more housing programs and not just shelters. Help us get off the streets and somewhere permanent.

Sierra Saving Grace project to build housing for low income and homeless should be funded.

Please help fund Sierra Saving Grace housing project for famlies

Fix the streets!

Those who did not qualify for the Golden State Stimulus but are still in need. I moved into California in August of 2020 so I did not qualify due to being a half-year resident. A grant program/application for those who do not qualify stating why they are in need of the money would help. Also improvements to unemployment benefits. It has been months and I am approved but not seeing any money. Every job I apply for rejects or doesn't respond even though they say they are desperate for workers.

Sierra Saving Grace is working hard to assist homeless individuals and families. Their past programs have shown that they are capable of making a real and lasting positive difference in the issues surrounding homelessness in Merced. Please give them funds to continue their efforts. I would also encourage you to support landlords who are attempting to continue housing people, in spite of all the economic challenges. And, it would benefit all of us if you invested money in groups that are attempting to restore order to our city, including Restore Merced.

The Merced City Council should work with Merced residents to find them alternate housing options in case their credit report gets affected by a single eviction.

I support Sierra Saving Grace's proposal.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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More housing to match growth

Keep in mind that the trickle down theory has been debunked. Help poor people directly. The rich folks are fine. They made so much money on investment income while poor people went without food during the pandemic.

There needs to be activities and things to do for kids to keep them stimulated and motivated away from drugs and gangs.

Developing programs to provide more healthy food options to others in Merced. Also, providing more spaces for restaurants and grocery stores to open up in Merced.

Ensuring we have clean drinking water by improving our wastewater and sewage systems to support our Community & keeping our waterways from being polluted.

More police men and women.

The library is old and the books and furniture in it are old.

Fight the MANDATE!

Support Sierra Saving Grace with their proposal

a foodstamp program for middle class households that don't qualify under the current foodstamp income limits but are still affected because of how expensive food and gas prices are. We are essential workers and didn't get any hazard pay increase. I can barely afford to keep going to work.

Allocate funding to launch a Right To Counsel program that serves tenants facing eviction. This program will serve as a way to prevent homelessness from continuing to grow in Merced while allowing the tenant to be represented in eviction court.

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Let's use these one-time funds to make the community as functional and as beautiful as possible. We are blessed by previous generations' foresight to invest in public parks, but alas, we have let them fall into disrepair - taken over by drug abusers, layabouts, and decaying infrastructure. Let's focus on improving the bike path through new asphalt, more lighting, and location signage (<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/trinty-trails-emergency-signs/1898265/>) for safety and functionality. These are all worthy investments and easy wins. Better parks equal more utilization, which will put a positive social pressure to push out the drug-using 'unhoused'. I ask that we do not waste these funds on social services; there have been MORE than enough funds thrown at households from the federal and state level - the nationwide grift needs to stop. The level of waste has been staggering, so let's stop the trend at the local level. Lastly, let's try to avoid throwing more money at the money pit known as McNamara Park.

Stop rewarding people to stay home and not work

I would like to see effective support for programs that get homeless people off the streets and out of "hidden" camps.

Better equipment for parks. They're old and need new look new protection from the sun for our children in Merced County.

Support public safety.

These funds should be used to pay our public safety workers what they deserve. It's a disgrace that Merced well below the areas average. Be proud of your town, support the workers who take care of your residents.

Promoting how to improve our natural immunity. Teaching community about use of media as propaganda tool.

I was recently homeless. I found Merced to be a place that waves the American flag, until it discovers you don't have any money, and then it doesn't care if you're American. This has to change.

Build/improve parks for kids. Increase policing.

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Homelessness is out of control. The encampments get taken down and within the week, they are back. Garbage gets dumped throughout the city

Completion of the Campus Parkway and Parsons bridge and road.

We need something for the youth so they stay off the streets and away from gangs. Gang exposure is inevitable but if the youth had more to do they would find gang culture is less enticing.

Public safety is the most important to get people to visit and live here. Secondly making merced a family place. Kids and teens need places to go, things to do safely.

We should include investing in Miniature Golf or Bowling Alley to provide families with family activities.

If it weren't for public safety and essential workers. This city could have fallen into chaos.

Merced definitely needs more low income housing. Just affordable housing in general.

FIX mission road and stop filling potholes year after year!!! essential worker pay rent prices are very unaffordable

I think Merced has great potential and we need new business/activities for the youth and families to partake in and that will attract others to come to the city. We are making some good strides but believe there's a lot of area for growth. Bigger chain restaurants, activities like a new bowling alley, I think would add a lot of value

Addressing the homeless problem

Deal with the homeless problem. If they aren't from here then they need to be sent back to the city they came from. There just destroying our city! They bring lots of negative to our town!

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Small businesses and locals are hurting, greatly. Housing is absolutely insane, and people are being driven from their homes on a daily basis. The cost to rent a small house for a family of 4 is over \$2,000 a month now, with only low paying jobs available. The city is crumbling around us, with homeless camps and trash everywhere, making businesses that WANT to be open suffer. The Catholic Charity building on Main Street is a particular problem, handing out food to homeless drug addicts that just gets left all over Main Street, trash everywhere, every day. It is only getting worse. Businesses are suffering, with clients not wanting to wade through the piles of trash or fearing for their safety downtown as drug addled homeless men scream and terrorize them, with no help from Merced Police. All this money spent renovating the Tioga/Mainzer/El Cap buildings will be a gigantic flop without addressing the vast homeless problem downtown. I have personally lost many clients in the last year, not just due to the pandemic, but due to the horrific situation downtown with homelessness. It is not safe, and people do not want to shop there.

Pay the fire department!

Work on getting the homeless out of the area. No matter how much time effort and money go into beautification and filling vacant main street locations, it will all come crashing down when community members don't feel comfortable going downtown due to harassment and blight. Work to make it smoother/easier to open a business in Merced. Streamline the process to entice business to set up shop in Merced. STOP letting Atwater and Turlock take the reigns of newness to the northern valley... STEP IT UP MERCED.

Sierra Saving Grace is very proactive in housing the homeless population.

Question 12 - Do you mean the 3rd item I feel is of importance or the last thing I believe should be addressed with the funding? Developing clear questions that the target audience is reading would help you gather the information you are looking for.

Expand public safety. Make our town a safe place to live and is we have an emergency qualified personnel to provide the highest level of life and property protection.

Help the invisible homeless

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We need to clean up our city from all the homeless. Its disgusting to see them housed everywhere on the sides.

Thank you in your hard work in putting this survey together. I appreciate the efforts the City and Council took to ensure that the public participated. I also appreciate that the survey is available in Spanish. The video that went along with the survey is also very informative and useful--and very appropriate for today's virtual world. These are my three priorities: expand access to broadband internet, more housing programs and youth programs. Although, as a business owner, I think that some of the funding should go to helping entrepreneurs and train a local workforce so that we can create industries and jobs in Merced. Our greatest asset are the people. The people are gritty and resilient, and the young people are SO innovative. Imagine investing in young people with entrepreneurship opportunities and in up- or re-skilling people who ARPA targets, people living at or below the poverty line and people of color. Also, more than 20% of Cannabis dollars should be used for community beautification (aka Parks and Rec). It is important that outside spaces be pleasant, green, vibrant, and representative of the community. This pandemic is here for the long-term and having outdoor spaces, places, and events is so important as we adapt into our "new normal. The City should explore more empowering methods of engaging with the community than just a survey. ARPA is for those who have been most impacted by Covid. People of color and people who now live in poverty have been impacted most negatively because of the pandemic. As such, the city should follow the INTENT of ARPA and use data of these highly impacted peoples and invest the dollars in alleviating their lives with dignified and sustainable wages, and equitable opportunities and access. This is not a survey that takes an equity lens. Please do better next time--all times.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING. This town has zero available affordable housing. As a family of four, 2 adults and 2 children, two adults both working full time jobs still don't make enough money to rent a home sufficient enough for their family. It is literally economically impossible. Without affordable housing, and landlord co tinting to UP RENT to benefit their own pockets. The homeless issue will continue to rise. Why is it that local welfare assistance programs say you don't qualify for a monthly assistance if you make over (said amount) but (said amount) is still lower than what you have to pay in rent each month, let alone buy clothing and household essentials for your children! AFFORDABLE HOUSING FIRST!!!

I think it is important to consider feedback from community members that come with different perspectives (education levels, type of work, family compositions) as everyone can offer a different perspective as to what our community needs. I strongly encourage that you consider what assistance/aid is already being provided by other means and if said means is truly working as they say it is. For example, food insecurity continues to be a problem

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(even prior to covid), but the state has already tried to address that issue via means of sending P-EBT cards to families, increasing EBT monies to welfare recipients, putting money into food banks, etc.

Please repave 15th street from MLK (J street) to Veterans Blvd (M street)

Our front line workers received no compensation for their work during the pandemic...going into the fray...choosing to show up for those in need deserves to be recognized. Hospital personnel that showed up when other staff choose to stay home...deserve some kind of recognition from the community they so willingly serve. But if you choose to use the \$ in other ways...use it to bring revenue to our city...we haven't begun to capture the revenue that could be made being a UC community. Students go out of our city to spend money...families go out of the city to spend money. Find a way to capture that revenue stream...in doing this you will have more funding to pour back into our city in the many ways that need help.

City owned broadband

Do something about the homeless Make Merced not look so ugly

Please keep working on partnerships with churches and other non-profits. Thank you for asking for community input! There are many people who care deeply about Merced.

We are living near a great university by with no interaction with what they can offer

Merced has a unique geographic position, and UC Merced is helping it grow. Unique food courts. And clean street and color full flowers will bring people here to stay.

Community Technology Workshop or makerspace project funding

You need to spend the money for homeless villages in Merced. The navigation center is a \$6 million dollar failure. Homeless people are everywhere! It seem the city leaders have No reason to fix the problem because if they do spend the money on a village that works then the city will stop getting money! So there is no reason the city wants the problem fixed!

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Extra moneys should be funneled into infrastructure projects to expand affordable housing in Merced

Parks on the West and South of Merced need major up grades. Because I've noticed they've been out dated for years compared to parks on the richer side of town.

Housing prices are too high for locals. Average of 400000 for a new 3 bed 2 bath house.

We need more officers. They are a valuable asset to our community!

Work with Public Health and the Housing Authority.

Assistance for payment of water and utility services.

We need to make sure homeless people stay off the street. Temporary housing units are critical. People have been HIT HARD by this pandemic. We need food, housing, and job security. These moratoriums CANNOT end. The pandemic will WORSEN if people are kicked into the street.

The city is a mess, there are plants growing out of the sewers, mosquitos everywhere, trees/brush/plants overtaking sidewalks at the human head and car level, Trash all over the road, rampant homeless drug use. Pick one of many topics. Use the money to develop Merced into the future rather than focusing on the past. How are we going to attract businesses if we don't improve our water quality, how are we expected to attract corporate investors if the city looks rundown and not taken care of. How are we supposed to develop a family oriented image with rampant drug use being exposed to our children from a homeless population that clearly isn't from Merced (who is bringing this population here, there should be an investigation from the city about this).

Do something about the homeless, that's the biggest issue in Merced at the moment

Kiddieland at Applegate Park suffered significantly from Covid shut down. Kiddieland provides a safe low cost activity for our community.

Clean up the streets and rid of homeless population. Merced City has potential but are seeded with much of CA's population and drug trafficking. Provide psychiatric assistance to the homeless population.

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I hope the funding stays here in the county and helps out the merced county

I would like to feel safe in Merced. The effects of the pandemic are tough enough, but feeling unsafe makes it harder to even want to be out and about in public settings. We need more resources to control the violence and homelessness.

Investment expenditures are necessarily wiser than money spent without return. Sometimes it's not possible, but as often spending can be designed to pay itself back.

Better eateries better parks with swimming pools beach club. There's a park in Marshall m.o that was great for kids invest in kids.

Bringing in more shopping options. Mall is an embarrassment. We always shop out of town

Do something for the homeless. Have more places for them to go to get services & assistance.

"Public Safety" hopefully will address the rising issues with the homeless in Merced. Beautification and infrastructure investments will do nothing to entice and keep businesses in Merced while this is such a huge issue.

Water infrastructure

Be Kind, we all want mercy when it comes to us.

Please do something with the homeless in downtown area

More Funding for Public works

Invest in the infrastructure of Merced both physical and social. We need investment in childcare in this community! What could be Merced's New Deal?

I lost my business in Merced. I lost thousands of dollars. How can these funds help me??

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Using some funds to make a sports complex for our youth where we can hold baseball or soccer tournaments and generate income for our community.

Housing is so important in a town with limited availability

Use some of the money to take care of the overgrown trees through out the city

Reduce expenses or costs of water & electrical fees imposed on their mid & Pg&e bills for residents & businesses in Merced

Everyone will be affected if school closures occur. Fund remote learning initiatives, or use the funding schools will lose if kids aren't physically present in schools.

Tax breaks for people who worked and are continuing to work through the pandemic and beyond, tax free zones for start up businesses, industries and entrepreneurs who are willing to bring good high paying jobs to our poverty stricken area.

I believe Merced has seen a growth in the homeless population during the pandemic. There must be a way to house these individuals.

Make this city less attractive to homeless & illegals

We need to attract and keep viable businesses. We need to promote work programs and viable wages. Public safety is key as too many drugs, gangs, shootings take a toll on this city.

Hazard pay for essential workers and build a Bmx park or dirt jumps for the kids they need something outdoors to do I'll even over see it let's just get something for the youth and not a community center those don't work.. fix the streets

Streets are always neglected. Time to step up and fix our streets

Prosecute those whom committed Edd fraud

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I think you should help people who are in need !

This money has a short leash - am I right to think 3 years? Since our communities have not been hit by the revenue shortfalls of other states, it seems like we should be using the money for meaningful investments for the future; what the state has been doing by expanding social services that won't have obvious funding mechanisms at the end of the money strikes me as completely bananas.

Thank you for this opportunity to get our citizens informed and involved of your plans for the City. Keep up the good work, much appreciated!

Merced needs to step up its housing programs

Merced has done nothing but run businesses out of Merced since I've been here, I've been here for 30 years and I have watched most major chains come in and leave. Why is this? Atwater, Turlock in Modesto thrive with new businesses why does Merced keep running them off? We now have a UC college in our city and no mall to speak of and no stores or restaurants. This is a huge problem for the economy and Merced all the students are leaving town and spending money elsewhere, what are we doing? And why is Merced legislation so far behind the times?

Youth services

Retirees and seniors on a fixed income everything has gotten more expensive like having stuff delivered/instacart costs extra. Home owners were forgotten no mortgage assistance programs. Government made empty promises

Fight against drugs

I believe we need more support with our youth allowing to have scholarships so they're able to do extra activities (sports , boxing,poetry clubs, which will feed into the community financially , more education programs for buying a home credit programs for rebuilding ,

Homeless issues

Fix the roads ! You know you agree

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Do not offer anything to the legal immigrant in the form of money or places to stay. Maybe lunch in a bus ticket out of the country

I think there should be a big effort to support the learning loss in Merced schools.

More programs for kids where they have a safe zone that's fun .

Streets/Roads fixed example 22nd street in front police/ sheriff need fixing

Relaxed laws is causing more theft and crime, invest in public safety

Homeless programs

After school help

If this pandemic has taught us anything is that we need more parks and splash zones for kids to go outside and play. Also, we need to spend some money and fix our roads. Moreover, we need to spend more money on the police and remove the vagabonds from loitering at every gas station and scaring every patron that goes there. The city's answer for the homeless problem isn't working. You have a lot of money right now. Come up with a Clovis like plan. Nobody feels safe.

Back hazard pay for teachers and essential workers. Help low income students and families with rental assistance and mental health issues.

implement a ubi program

I find it completely disrespectful that even a suggestion of landlord assistance is on here. My landlord raised the rent over \$400 during COVID, even though the cost to maintain the property did not increase at all. He works in tech in the Bay Area and makes 3x what I do, but I'm the one impacted by his greed. The suggestion that he could be further assisted with these funds is abominable. There are issues that are much more important than private landlord getting richer.

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I'm not knowledgeable enough to help.

Removing homeless from city parks.

Stop all these Black Lives Matter protests in Merced and fund the police force and take the homelessness out of Merced. Get the criminals off the street and bring more BUSINESSES to Merced!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

We need to have some sort of outdoor celebration in spring/early summer to bring the community together, safely. Perhaps a fourth of July fireworks show and the Merced Symphony can perform.

Make this city more enjoyable to live and work in. Need to deal with the homeless issue once and for all.

I think we need to support those who have been financially hit the hardest. I know property owners may need help, business owners and citizens of Merced not able to pay bills. I do not think we need to beautify Merced, but I do think some hazard pay for employees who worked through the pandemic would be nice to show appreciation.

I believe in addition to the 3 issues listed above, helping small businesses recuperate financially is essential. And this is coming from a teacher - I was fortunate enough to continue working (online) during the last year.

Please make the city pretty. It's not very nice to look at. Also there's lots of garbage that needs to be cleaned up

Help small businesses who are short staffed and suffered heavy from Covid-19, help those of who lost jobs from Covid-19 and didn't receive unemployment. Help students who suffered from depression and anxiety from Covid-19. Bring more out of city businesses and resources to Merced and Merced County. Let's see Merced thrive and grow and bring businesses that haven't been here already.

Low income housing for retired people

Green areas, more parks,

Modernize thinking in police dept.

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Repair more roads

Jobs Jobs Jobs!!!

The internet is imperative. Not only is it not competitive but it's not fast. We have to evolve with the times. Secondly there are roads that are just bad and those two things also help businesses but without small business you have no economy

Reinforcing our mental health system. You hear a lot lately about our youth being negatively affected emotionally and psychologically because of the pandemic. I can attest to mental health programs/workers being exceptional (even better than religious systems/people) in assisting and benefitting people who are distressed and mentally ill. We should ensure that more people have access to that. Thank you.

I work in a salon on 18th & P st. The homeless situation is terrible in our area and due to the schizophrenia it makes it worse. I know it is a problem everywhere but it seems especially worse in our alley that we share with the funeral home. It is a challenge to keep them from trying to set up their camps in our alley. They leave trash all the time and have even scared and or intimidated our customers who are trying to get out of their cars for their appts. A glass door and a huge storefront window had to be replaced within a years time of each other due to vandalism. It is not good for our business and it is getting worse. I have been self employed at this salon for over 30 years and cannot believe how bad it has gotten lately. The owners are in their 80's and have had their business in Merced for over 50 years, they don't deserve to put up with the mess these people create daily. IS LOCKED FENCING AROUND OUR BUSINESS THE NEXT DECISION WE MUST INVEST IN TO KEEP IT CLEAN AND SAFE?.

There are lots of very gross areas of Merced that need to be cleaned or refurbished. Too many homeless and homeless camps. If anything we should invest by hiring homeless or criminals or whoever to clean areas of Merced. Help clean the streets and get people off of the streets. Hopefully this idea is taken into consideration. There is no point "investing to revitalize downtown" if there are just going to end up being homeless people outside of the single block that has expensive food.

Please improve the police department. This city is the wild Wild West. No police response. No traffic or parking enforcement. I've lived all over the country and this is the worst (managed) police force I have ever seen. More animal control personnel and enforcement of animal safety.

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Our community consists of many small business owners who need financial assistance getting back on their feet... especially those who suffer from chronic illness.

Creating and updating outdoor space/areas that people and businesses can gather and enjoy food and entertainment. Parks should be updated and improved and programs/facilities developed for our youth. There also needs to be more affordable housing for our low income residents.

Take care of our public employees... get the homeless out of the city... I've the city a face lift and bring in jobs that can sustain a family

Developing town revenue

If public safety meant more sidewalks/bike lanes/street lights I would have that higher, but I fear that it would go to fund police instead.

I think that landlords not being able to evict tenants is a huge financial burden. I also think that essential workers like police officers should be compensated for working through the pandemic.

It will help the Merced community in different sectors

More business establishments/investors (mall and restaurants) to bring more revenue of the city. Please no more tire shops and starbucks.

Infrastructure please

Allocate funds for the invisible homeless

Activities for the youths in the community and school improvements.

They should build shelter just for the homeless make more programs to help get them off the streets and on to a better life with the requirement to get sober & only continue help if they stay sober with limited time frame of getting on there feet proof of progress

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I also think landlords who have missed out in rents due to covid should be subsidized to KEEP lower wage,service workers housed.

Give the funding to the people.

Supply tutors at parks and youth facilities to mitigate learning loss for K-12 students.

Our public safety is in limbo

Wake up. Your population is experiencing a serious housing crisis! I'm currently sheltering a homeless mother, for heaven's sake! She's been employed and housed for years, but can't currently find a place to live. Address this issue! And put rules in place regarding vaccine requirements, mask wearing and Delta. Our ICUs are rapidly filling!

I have lived here for 8 months. I have found entertainment is lacking, there is no bowling alley, no bingo place and the movie theaters are old they need remodeling. Also down M street towards Bellevue St. needs to have trees planted. Police need to patrol more at this end of town. Always speeding cars, motor cycles

Homelessness has become one of the biggest issue I see In Merced. I belive some of the funding should go to cleaning up are streets and assistance for Homeless people.

More communication between city management and Merced residents; outreach

Additional aide for middle class workers on daycare options and funding. Our government programs allocated with MCOE do not aide those trying to successfully achieve there maximum potential due to difference in pay of lower class workers. My child could not get into early head start programs due to my income being 5k over exceeded, it is unfortunate that my child has to suffer and not get early education due to my rate of pay. Trusting home cares for children under the age of 1 year is the biggest bargain you have to compromise with due to not knowing what is happening with your child in that home. A Merced man was caught with child porn and a firearm at a home day care this does not put me at ease of being at work and leaving my babies with just anyone. Provide us more options.! Please! If this is where I could allocate funding this would be my first option we all have children, you want "Merced" to work provide decent care options for our kids.

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Assist homeowners buy reducing property taxes.

Opening up the limits of ihss only being possible for ones with medi cal cause my mom don't get any help and it's cause she made a lousy 100 dollars over the limit to qualify so now she has barely enough to make it threw the month with her money and we can't get any extra help meaning I her son does it all 24/7 I'm here with her every day all day and with no pay because my moms a hundred bucks over the qualifying limits so instead of just helping us figure it out we are out left broke and I can't even make any money cause I need my mom to be helped and no help is here for us just cause that not only that but medi-cal covered more then what she has now

Merced needs to do something to address this housing crisis and to ensure that the residents that grew up here and work here can afford to live here, Access to affordable housing is the largest threat to public safety. Also to help businesses and churches that have been vandalized as a result of being empty due to covid. It also important to invest in our youth and programs to keep them busy and out of trouble.

Water quality is poor and is not drink able and Dead trees and dried grass are fire hazards it has not been removed quite some times and you could smell the sewer line also need attention

Help small business get back

Merced has grown exponentially over my lifetime but it's clear to see that we are overall a poor, underfunded community. As a county worker it has opened my eyes to how much segregation we have between the north and south side of the city. We need to blend that line ultimately. Have more stores and healthcare in the South side. Better public transportation for those who can't afford private vehicles and to become more eco friendly. Offer internet at a reduced rate or free to those who need it. We are in a digital age and now it's necessary for children to use the internet for their education. We need more jobs during this pandemic and more chain branded retailers may alleviate some economic stress that we have. Also, a Trader Joe's would be amazing lol. It would be essential work, low cost groceries, and a first health foods grocer option. Just throwing that out there 😊! Thank you for all that you do for our city.

Sponsor cruise nights, help the youth get out and enjoy themselves. Educate Law enforcement to be approachable, Smile more, interact with the public, Reverse prop 47!

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Question 13: Please share additional information you believe may help us with developing a plan to use ARPA funding.

Funds are to be used for roads and infrastructure!

Help businesses recruit and training employees, create jobs

More Sports It all Starts With the Kids , More Things to do here Merced Is Known by locals as Merdead

Address the homelessness, it's out of control. Will certainly lead to more health problems for the general population.

All the communities that look horrible even though they pay the merlo Roos and CFD's in their tax Bill the coty has yet to landscape/ put the parks that were given by developers and make it presentable.

What are the UC students bringing to the community, except depleting housing and driving up cost for residents? How can merced promote safer practices with masking, vaccines and preserving our few ICU beds? How can merced help the older/elderly community stay safer but still engaged in the community?

Streets. Fix the streets. Please.

1. Youth are always priority. 2. Surge of crime due to release of prisoners means public security is at the top also. 3. Drinking water is next. 4. Communicating with public is next. 5, sewage next. 6. Beyond this is financial gain, this would be lay on my list. Not to say I don't think this is important also. 7. Small business is the heartbeat of Merced. 8. Bringing new jobs and industry would solve many issues in Merced, but the Farmers have run Merced since The late 1800's.

Educating the public about the science and facts of the pandemic and keeping people safe by enforcing the health and safety mandates and recommendations needed to help get over this deadly pandemic. I think Merced's public health response is Pitiful!

Public safety is the biggest issue the city of Merced is facing. The transient population needs to be moved elsewhere. The city of Merced is doomed if its tax paying residents do not feel safe. We will be forced to move away from this town which will leave a low-income population as the sole residents of Merced.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

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Irrigation water and assistance for farmers.

Offer counseling, encourage residents to support local businesses, train outreach social workers to address homeless issues.

Don't reward people who don't want to work

If there is any way to financially encourage people to stay home if they might have Covid that would be great. Choosing between infecting others and putting food in the table is a tough call for many people living paycheck to paycheck. Also finding to promote vaccination!!!!

Need a fire station on the north side. A lot of home being built up there.

Lower rent and create more affordable housing both for renters and buyers

We should use the lenses that another pandemic will hit, and prepare appropriately. Put in measures to address violators of emergency protocols. We had many houses who had parties etc. when we were locked down. There should be anonymous reporting with action.

Merced needs to concentrate on developing our economic base.

Perhaps assisting homeless in relocating outside our community

Community Gardens

Middle class and paycheck to paycheck families need funding to attend school and get a better job

Not sure why Merced City School District Teachers.. Aides... are receiving Covid 19 relief But the County of Merced School Teachers as Well as Aides are not?

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

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The worst clinical difficulty has happened to local businesses that did not qualify for previous vivid relief from Government. It's my desire to see local businesses be support and financially helped. AI9ng with low income residents to be supported that own homes that may have not qualified with County Vivid monies. .

Upgrade the city and make it easier to get through town and easy the traffic. The usual upgrades always include islands with plants. They always seem to make it more difficult to get through town and create more traffic, as well as more accidents. Pedestrian cross walks need to be upgraded or just add in cat walks. So people are walking above traffic across busy streets like G street, Mst, Rst, Olive Ave. and 16th street. More lighting in the streets, underpass or just build over passes for Mst, Rst & Highway 59. No more 99 cent stores, tire shops, and Starbucks, we need Whole Food Stores, family dining restaurants, more family entertainment options so the whole town doesn't have to go to one place. I am also tired of Bearcreek between Rst and Mst and that little neighborhood in that area getting brand new road repaved over an already new road. It needs to stop. It makes me feel that city officials live there and are using city funds for personal use. Meanwhile the rest of the city that needs new paved roads goes on year after year for decades already remain deprived, pot holes just get shovels full of hot tar and black top. Then as soon as it rains the pot holes are back again and bigger than the last time. It's unexceptional, inexcusable and a total waste of city funding. Especially when the whole roads in these areas need to be repaved. I want more transparency to who is doing this? So we as a city can remove them. Because the city does not belong to them and neither does the state funding. Homelessness and their litter, late night thieves, mental health handing out meds to homeless and sending the people back out into the streets for Merced citizens to deal with threatening the public yelling at traffic with weapons and or destroying property. These people need real help and need to be in programs to evaluate them in order to actually help them or diagnosed where they fit in society. Find placements for them if they are not suitable to be on their own in society or they are totally uncontrollable. Do not allow other cities to bus in homeless people into Merced. We need to sue San Francisco just like they did Seattle for sending us all their homeless. Exactly the same way Seattle did to San Francisco. Fight for our water rights for our farmers and people in the valley stop selling water to San Francisco and Los Angeles. We need to keep our lakes rivers streams full and our land green and less fire hazards. More water storages that to not lead to floods. Stop letting water go in order to stop flooding in Merced as well. Collect that water. Protect our foods, help get funding for our farmers to be encouraged to grow organic and weed out gmo's out of our valley. Organic is just growing crops as we use to for thousands of years. Schools need to be held more responsible for their actions and School Districts need to stop hiding complaints to protect their own interests. They need oversight, Principals, Teachers and staff should not be allowed to get special treatment for their children or be able to deal with issues with their

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children either. We as citizen should be notified before decisions are made to update and upgrade the city of Merced as well and voting or polls to help make decisions that effect us all in order to build a better Merced.

Investing in public safety (fire, police)

More housing

I believe that essential workers were not equally allocated emergency hours or pay. Specifically the refuse department. Those dedicated drivers continued to work through this entire shut down putting themselves at risk, while ensuring that there was no interruption to our weekly scheduled service. There was no equity shown to those dedicated employees as they were not given equal reimbursement of time off comparable to employees at City hall or in an office environment.

You need to have more after school programs and jobs to keep the youth out of trouble instead of sending them to the continuation school that is the pipeline to prisons!

There are a lot of very good families here in Merced who would love to become first timers home buyers. The market rate hikes price many people out of their dreams. People would prefer to buy than face escalating rent year after year. Help us help ourselves and build a stronger Merced.

Remove homeless off streets and take them to shelters

Do not give this money to landlords or business owners. They have become richer during this pandemic and will be fine. Help the city. Help the less fortunate. Help those who actually need it. Since you're the Merced City Council I EXPECT you to do the wrong thing. Maybe Kevin Blake will use the money for his defense in the next barfight he gets into? Maybe he'll use it his next domestic violence dispute? Maybe Sarah Boyle will use it to continue to deny the Holocaust? Domestic abusers and Nazi sympathizers on our city council... what a tragic development for the city.

Please help very small businesses, start-ups, and entrepreneurs who would love to open up a shop but don't have the capital. Business grants and loans, reduced commercial rent prices. Let's also clean up the city, make it beautiful and something our citizens can be proud about, not ashamed.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Question 13: Please share additional information you believe may help us with developing a plan to use ARPA funding.

Small businesses need help!

Mental health programs

We need to make Merced a more attractive place so we can attract new businesses. Take some advice from Turlock since they seem to be able to attract new businesses.

We need to attract more businesses to Merced. We need better economic development. Especially downtown and South Merced. Residents need more than service jobs.

New parks for children update public bathrooms. Trash cans on bike trails.

Beautiful of the city helps is good for business and helps with feeling safe. The litter problem is out of control and it's hazard. My friend's son almost stepped on human feces. My dog almost got poked by a broken needle. Please invest in provocative signs, civic programs and more public garbage cans (the one that a human cannot pick garbage from) Don't forget the elderly. Very transport system for the elderly ...include the elderly to be involved in community programs.

Even though i was fortune enough to continue working during covid, as a CNA i barely make enough to put gas in my car, buy groceries and pay my bills late. Do you know how infuriating it is to see so many people who made more money staying home not doing anything versus those of us who were caring for others every single day during covid, potentially exposing ourselves and not get a nickel more.

We need to bring healthy change and opportunity to Merced. With that being said bringing more quality stores like Trader Joe's, Sprouts, healthier fast food places. We have more Starbucks and dollar general stores than food stores! Also maybe fixing the apartments at the Atwater base into placements and similar programs like job core for veterans and the homeless who need and want the help getting back on their feet.

Clean up parks!

Cleaner hospital

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

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Safety at parks from (drugs, homeless) More lighting 4 way stop sign by schools that only have 2 Flashing stop signs in areas with bad lighting Cameras in areas where people dump trash Storm drain cleaning before rainfall begins More cross walks near schools and rumble strips and or speed humps Utilize empty buildings for food banks, clothing, sandbags, etc. Fund stores with enclosed garbage bin areas

Focus on areas that have been more impacted by COVID like South Merced. There is a reason why people that are not from Merced, call it the ghetto. Even they can tell the difference between the two side of Merced that are divided by the freeway.

Find housing for homeless and fix streets

Fix streets first then to do for the homeless sad all the transient in the alley ways and on the side of the freeway

The prices of groceries and household staples has ballooned. I don't know what can be done about that on the scale of a city, but that's the largest problem I see, right now.

We need to build apartments for community residence people that are more affordable. And we need more research about housing rental rates because most people cannot afford the housing around here and the Authority housing program I feel like they're getting the rates wrong how much the apartment cost around here in this county. And do yearly walkins for apartment complexes To see if the owner straight there tenants right.

Community beautification to drive out crime. Make Merced safe and beautiful.

This money should all be used to help business owners who have struggled to stay open. We do not need to keep throwing money to people who have already collected so much unemployment that they don't want to work. But, since public safety is also a choice, we should use it to hire more police officers and give them a decent wage to live on. No more freebies with our taxes.

I would like to suggest using the funds to upgrade, improve and beatify the Merced Flea Market. I believe if this is done well (creating a world class market place) it will continue to benefit a struggling part of the community who frequents and depend on the flea market as a means to access goods at reasonable costs, as well as become an attraction for residents and visitors to the Merced area.

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Increase academic success and decrease youth involvement in gang activities.

Need to rescue stray dogs and cats. Need to make it easy to fix pets to reduce number of stray animals.

Don't bother listening to conservatives

This is an aside, actually. PLEASE DO THE CITY LANDSCAPING IN BELLEVUE NORTH! In the Lennar neighborhood, near Merrill Place and surrounding areas. It is a blight! Thanks you for listening, and for taking care of our city :)

Use the money for something other than public housing, homeless -except for more patrols of bikepaths open spaces, social welfare spending in general as there is plenty of that available and those resources are abused as it is. Use the money for acutal infrastructure or maybe just fix up the bathrooms in all the parks. They are atrocious and a reason we dont utilize the parks very often. Also,

A farm worker homeowner program would be nice to see. Also affordable housing trust fund. More investments in homeowner programs.

War on drugs, crimes related to drugs, narcotics

Homeless

My parents do not need assistance with living, they need a place to live. After living in the same place four ten years, they need to move because their landlord is leaving the state. There is nothing for them to afford, on a fixed income. Where are they supposed to go..?

Money for education

Safety covers crime and homelessness, youth programs and opportunities that every child can take advantage of such as skate & water parks across town not just on Canal.

Helping out the essential workers who put their health on the line and worked through the pandemic

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Besides gun safety classes for councilmen who shop at FoodMaxx, a great way to spend the money would be to put most of it into the police department, since fear of spreading COVID in jails has led to the governor ordering the release of numerous inmates and disallowing the booking of a lot of felons with \$0 bail and reduced jail capacities when they go under outbreak status. Things such as more officers, reopening the city jail, or a new north station, be it the Sun-Star building or from the ground up, would make this governor-induced situation a bit more bearable. A lot of these people are repeat offenders who should have been in jail without the ability to offend again so quickly, but since they can, they know that they can get away with it again, and then think "I wonder what else I can get away with!". These people who steal, trespass, and/or vandalize on a regular basis, break the same cell phone store windows as soon as they're replaced, commit arson, expose themselves, brandish guns in grocery stores (besides self defense), and commit hit and run with bodily harm, should not be able to go home the night that they're caught, be it to a house or a tent, but they have been ever since this all began. I should not have to think twice about rolling up the back door at my workplace or opening a window in my own apartment, but I have ever since March 2020, not because of the virus, but because of the emptying jails, which I acknowledge are not the fault of the city or county. Crumbling roads and wastewater are not COVID problems, and most of the homeless choose to be that way so that they can get away with things more easily, and won't accept anything that the money would be spent on. (In Fresno last year, only 1% of homeless people accepted any kind of assistance offered by the police.) Most of them should be housed in a jail cell in the first place.

Improve bikeways and pathways. Get rid of homeless people who are being dropped off from other communities.

Get the homeless camp by the 99 freeway entrance cleaned up and gone... It's just a mess. A site for new people whom visit our city... the gateway to Yosemite...

That would be amazing to use this funding to increase the size of the sewer lines throughout the city to increase our ability for growth. Much needed and would probably help with so many other issues in the long run, especially housing affordability since so many new developments would actually be able to be approved.

If we keep passing out funds to individuals they will never get back on their feet. There are a lot of bogus claims to having COVID so they can continue to stay off work meanwhile the workers that continue to work suffer and have to work longer hours..

Get rid of the sheriff

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Question 13: Please share additional information you believe may help us with developing a plan to use ARPA funding.

Fix the homeless problem. It is out of control and a blight to our community!

Community "beautification" I hope, that it means using the funding in those areas on the other side of the freeway bridge where I live! My water bill is very high just so I can water all that grass on the corner lot. I asked the city to cut down the termite infested trees and trunks, which took them a very long time to do, and eventually infested our home. Had to tent and fumigate which cost thousands of dollars and paying thousands for damage repairs. But at least I got 3 of the 5 trees I requested. We are a forgotten neighborhood that I believe would see less crime if we had clean streets, assistance with housing repairs(even a paint job) and other options instead of a grass sidewalk. Many can't afford a high water bill. I have to take my dogs for a walk across town where the streets look like gold. Many trees lined up among green grass sidewalks and clean streets. Nice parks to choose from and it feels safe. I would like that for my neighborhood in the McNamara area. To see not only the police station, but a decent clean playground for our future generation of kiddos.

We should focus on services that will support those that are truly in need then focus on ways to support small businesses so our citizens will have jobs and the ability to improve quality of life.

Hire more police to get rid of the homeless and reduce crime. Do not release felons early.

Our roads are in need of work Drainage basically

Add more establishments in this community for our teens and kids

Please don't give raises to employees that didn't lose pay.

Homeless

Bringing businesses back and continuing to grow our small businesses will increase tax money payed to the city. This will then lead to more available funding for assistance programs, city beautification, etc.

Growing up in Merced my greatest trips were to the Merced Mall. I am saddened how deteriorated it has become. It helped me with high heated summers and a roof when it was raining. The right retailers would bring in monies the city needs. There would be a trickle down effect! A benefit to all!

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Affordable housing

Concerned about rising crime, especially shoplifting to support drug use.

A bike path for west North Bear Creek Drive.

That we use the funding for more free COVID-19 testing sites. Some people aren't able to be tested due to lack of income, information and or resources. Thank you!

Help Uc Merced bring in more medical doctors.

I would use the money to help our people. I myself had to quit my job due to not having the daycare I needed during school hours to my 5 children. It has been difficult to keep my bills paid and keep food on the table now that I don't have a job as a single parent affected by Covid and not being able to find work again.

The beautification of our town directly effects every listed item. We want to become a destination and attractive place for new business and UCStudents to spend money at those businesses, creating more jobs and tax dollars for utilities projects. Beautification is the first step!!

The streets are getting fixed but the sewer systems need repairs too. There are too many roots in sewers and trees cut by the city are not fully removed continuing the problem of bad streets, sidewalk, and sewers. We need trees for cleaner air, but the city needs to maintain their trees too. There is no affordable housing in Merced. Affordable housing should not mean you have to extremely limit or put off all other costs such as food, water/gas/electric energy, work transportation (vehicle bill, fares, fuel, repairs), internet, medical, etc. in order to have enough money to pay for housing. It is also unfair for property management companies to try to fill costly living places as soon as possible (lease and contract) and then urge tenants to leave/move out so they can sell a property. People living in the city of Merced are struggling to live, meanwhile most use of funds are not affective to improve our wellbeing.

Please address the homeless crisis

I think the money should be spent in a way that the general public would benefit from it rather than a select group of people.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

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Spread the wealth.

Services for the homeless. Get them out of residence's and parks. Find ways to help with the cost of good and gas.

Developing a strong, safe, beautiful, downtown business community.

Youth to volunteer/ part time work programs in the community to beautiful or clean up the city. More of taking pride of their community. Plus other city volunteer programs; small stipend.

We need to add more trees and parks in northern Merced, in the Bellevue Ranch area. We need more side walks/bike paths and lighting going to the UC Merced, El Captain and Cruickshank Middle School.

Make sure funds are used appropriately and those spending the funds are accountable.

Kiwanis Kiddyland is an inexpensive place for kids and families to spend an afternoon during the summer. (If They can ever open. Covid has kept them closed, there target audience is the 12 and younger set.)

Individual small business grants

I would be willing to turn down some sort of hazard pay if it meant that others who needed assistance regardless of "yearly income" got help they needed. I don't think good or shelter should be a concern for anyone during a pandemic. As a community we should be able to come together to help one another survive.

Addressing the homelessness issue Mental health facilities

roads were designed poorly to accommodate 10 thousand cars a day on M street on a two lane road. Allowing high density and section 8 in newer neighborhoods. Homeless everywhere and crime rising. We are getting the hell out. I was born and raised here. What a shame!

I have non, myself. Thank you for asking residents!

Using waste water for parks, trees, and Shrubbery.

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Don't give the money to landlords. If landlords need money, they can just sell their properties instead of leeching money from the people they rent to.

A bus ticket out of town for the homeless

I think that with a growing UC population, aside from my previous responses, the encouragement to keep businesses open much later and then to make those open later updates known across the city with more public service announcements, will drive the local economy, especially downtown, bringing in more businesses and fewer empty buildings, which will help with the budget (tax revenue). As businesses see a thriving city center, that will bolster the tourism sector, and help encourage the homeless downtown to use the available resources that are being provide to them. I am a young man with a small family born and raised right here in Merced and if you'd like to have any further discussion about these and other topics locally feel free to reach out, my name is Luis Beale (209)617-0489

Ayuda financiera para pagar el internet, tutorías gratuitas para estudiantes atrasados en aprendizaje. Cupones para gasolina por que redujeron los servicios de autobús, a hora tengo que llevar los niños hasta la escuela.

Assistance for families who were negatively impacted by covid

Not one penny should go to public servants. Police should get a raise

As an ER nurse I can confidently say that our hospital leadership has placed profits over patients. Many nurses that the community has relied for help now need your help. We're suffering from mental health strain that COVID19 and ineffective leadership has cause. Not once has anyone done a wellness check for use. We're tired, we're abused, and we are done. Merced need nurses that are valued, looked after, and supported. For more information contact the California Nurses association Union Rep. Ernie Gonzales.

Start with the people that were hurt because of the pandemic. Some put in there blood and sweat to stay a float while others who weren't doing anything before this get even more help while not even try to better themselves.

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Homelessness is not on here but the number of unhoused individuals is growing. The unhoused have many needs, but they should be considered.

Develop sports facility at Merced's CP42. Work with County to secure add'l funding. Sports and exercise opportunities for our youth is a vital health issue. It is important.

Housing is vital to the native residents who live & work in our communities. We should not allow economic development to force our families, friends & neighbors into slums or homelessness. Yet, benefit outsiders who come from more expensive cities.

Kids we need something for the kids we are #9 on a list of the worst city's I'm USA come on people I mean really u have more of the city officials and there family's committing some of the worst crimes this town has ever seen and u have more children in CPS CUSTODY then most states and for some of the stupidest reasons and some of those children do not make it home to there parents. Also the gangs are getting looked over and some of them hold high positions in government programs and such. and the members of these gangs are becoming younger and younger .Girl saling there body's and 12 14 years old so yes definitely youth programs mini golf something that doesn't cost a arm and a leg since we are also one of the poorest countys in the USA . With the highest rental prices and mortgages in the USA . So u can take your pick of all the things I have named but since u asked me I am just gonna say IT ALL NEEDS TO CHANGE ALL OF IT ...

Students that lost and fell behind on education need one on one attention so they can catch up. Education is only way out of poverty.

For the City to develop the CP42 Sports facility. Sports and exercise are a vital function for improving the health of our youth and adults as well.

We need to use this money towards what's best for city residents not for special interest groups.

I would like to see the city provide municipal broadband to all households. In addition, there should be an outreach to many of the senior residents to show them how to use the WWW to access information and services. Secondly, there appears to be outstanding issues with the water quality that need to be fixed. The storm drains overflow on

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the [rare] occasions of heavy rain. Lastly, the city has been removing old trees from streets but with very few replaced after more than a year. Trees are important for the microclimate, air quality, and just plain aesthetics. Selection of drought-tolerant trees and rapid replacement is a must for Merced.

I'd love to see less waste in the city and more environmentally friendly options and programs. Education of such. Like compost services, less plastic, more compostable waste as opposed to single use plastic.

Always consider the rights and privileges afforded by the United States Constitution to its citizens when developing and implementing any policies and funding.

Need something to do around here no where to go to have fun parks are dirty just need some excitement around here

Fix the mental health system. Open more mental health long term hospital/ housing. Places for our youth YMCA and things to do

Instead of moving towards a "complete streets" infrastructure downtown, you've turned it into a MUCH more car-focused location. You blew it. EVEN CalTrans thinks this is a BAD way to go. https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/transportation-planning/documents/f0020348_complete-streets-elements-toolbox-a11y.pdf

We have a nice town but it does need some beauty. Also, homeless are a scourge that are an attack on our way of life and the city we would all like to live in. Need to get them back to their families or in a system where we can get them back into real life.

Recent visitors from another area of CA recently told me that they couldn't believe how trashy Merced looked. Between the homeless and garbage left by these individuals, the community is looking in sad shape. I don't know what the answer is, but other communities MUST have had some success with the homeless population that we can learn from.

I believe that these funds should be used to support our hardest hit and most deeply impacted, we should formulate more social safety nets for the members of this community so they don't have to worry about missing

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work when the state's pandemic pay ends this month, especially working parents who have to choose between taking days off or sending their child to school sick. I also think we should invest in rapid testing at our school sites, and a better public health message so people will get vaccinated. funding for public webinars to explain how the vaccine works, funding for webinars to explain common myths and misconceptions about covid and the vaccine. and also webinars or social media postings debunking common conspiracy theories. our public health department needs to do a better job communicating these things to the public. videos we can watch and share. our main priority should be on keeping our kids safe this school with the delta variant raging and the only way to do that is to get more vaccines in arms and passing a city wide mask mandate again. also programs to help kids who may have fallen behind this school year, therapy/counselors in schools to help children who have lost family members or friends, I am sure lots of children could use professional mental health after this pandemic they have been through. and we should keep these counselors in schools, instead of SRO officers. fund more social and mental health programs for our children to keep them off the streets.

1. BRING IN NEW GOOD BUSINESSES!! Not the 99cent stores, cannabis stuff that will increase city revenues in itself. Take all homeless up into the mountains near a stream so they have water to drink, bathe, wash if they want then take supplies weekly to them but get that eyesore out of this town!! Atwater is growing bigger, BETTER than Merced and that is shameful!! Reduce taxes on W corps, S corps so we can keep them here., that will help the job market, the revenues, the housing industry and all! Spend money helping small businesses get up and running again. Our 2 store mall went down the tubes, now outdoor mall with WHAT? Lets get the shopping open again but get rid of homeless first or you will never cure any problem, that we have here. One ride through this town and they go elsewhere likely having experienced these issues before so make moving homeless top priority!! Then they can steal from each other rather than our stores or residents

URGENT - We need to start thinking about what the back- up plan is if Merced county runs out of water. To help with food prices we need to help the farmers grow more food. Desalination of the ocean needs to happen now!!!! I'm not ready for water wars and that is what will happen if we do nothing.

There have been many funding services and programs made available for families since COVID began, but individuals and households with only adults are struggling as well and there are no services being offered to assist this population. There are financial programs in place to help those who meet the guidelines for "poverty" etc, however just because there is a steady influx of income for a household does not mean they are not financially struggling as well.

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Merced needs to research the benefits of a community center and the revenue stream from the center. Look at Thornton, CO as an example. Keeps kids active and off the streets and programs for seniors. A community center invests in the people that live in the city.

Fixing curbs, street lights, and postal box on Motel Drive !

Please FIX the roads and add drought friendly plants to make Merced prettier. Fix the housing crisis. Add a Trader Joe's

I work for Dignity health only hospital in town have received no hazard pay for working with Covid-19 patients. Have been exposed several times thankfully not infected. We need hazard pay our dept are the front line workers caring for Covid-19 lives. Yet we are often the forgotten hero's.

Please visit Happy Hollow Park in San Jose. We need to upgrade Applegate Park, Applegate Zoo and Kiddieland to make it an attraction similar to Happy Hollow. Our kids have been hit hard by pandemic and our community would benefit. It would also help to beautify our city while also be a great youth program.

I am very concerned with the steadily deteriorating condition of streets throughout Merced, especially R, M, & G streets. Donna Drive now gets a great amount of traffic and is deteriorating at a fast pace.

I feel that having more services for adults as well as youth who have developed anxieties in returning to school/work with the fear of getting sick and for the youth the socialization is what our city needs. My child returned back to school and her fear and the bullying has been at an all time high. Also the fear of dealing with the emotions of covid and feeling of being isolated has cause damage to many people. Having a program that reassures everyone you are not alone would be a great thing.

Encourage local business's to thrive in Merced. Stop allowing these huge chains to move into the city. Please do not encourage fast food restaurants, tire stores, and discount stores to continue to take-up space in Merced.

We need another road from the north to the south that won't be impacted by trains or the creek. G, M and R streets were not made for their traffic load

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Question 13: Please share additional information you believe may help us with developing a plan to use ARPA funding.

Rob Pollitt

We must invest in the cities infrastructure. Public Safety is #1 so we must have a strong Police and Fire Department. Followed by good streets with a wastewater / sewer infrastructure that can accommodate growth. More citizens are now working remotely so we must have robust broadband internet.

It's tough to choose just three areas that this funding should address. Ideally, it would be nice to spread it around more.

It would be nice if some of the money could be given to help upgrade the Applegate Zoo. Also, that beautiful fountain on M Street needs repair.

Use the money to fix some of the broken structures in the city. Fix the roads and potholes, upgrade the zoo. Donate some to the police and fire department and help small businesses that were affected by the pandemic.

We need to build new sports facilities and up grade existing with modern lighting, so kids can get out of the house and stop playing video games and watching YouTube all day.

I believe we have passed through the worst of the pandemic and need to begin looking at the future ahead. With that in mind, most of my ranking was done with an eye to what will make Merced stronger in the future. Supporting growth in UC Merced with investment in broadband internet, having reliable and plentiful water and bring tourist dollars to the city.

Many city residents are being kicked out of their homes with no where to go . Please work to better the situation for renters in the area

Sports and exercise are a vital function for improving the health of our youth and adults as well.

Please consider climate change perspective when making use of these funds. Plant more trees, preserve our natural creeks, maybe use some of the funds to regularly water city trees that are severely heat stressed.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

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Our roads need to be paved so that they are safe. Not just filling in pot holes on very bad streets. The freeway between Atw and Mer needs to be finished. It is very dangerous. The old dorms at Castle should be turned into housing for the homeless. Need facilities for the mentally ill homeless with services to help them become healthy.

Good luck, al lot of people are depending on you.

Homeless camps are getting out of control.

We desperately need more services for youth, including mental health support, recreation, and even mentorship programs. The kids are experiencing trauma from the pandemic, and the schools and community do not know how to handle it. Too many kids turn to gangs and delinquency, because there is very little investment in them. We need safe, clean parks and outdoor spaces for families. Merced has focused too much on catering to the UC, and revitalizing downtown with bars and restaurants for adults to party, when families and kids have nothing to do. We need more housing, code enforcement, better city planning, and public safety to create safer neighborhoods. Pedestrian safety and roads need serious improvement, new crosswalks painted, etc. It is very dangerous for people to walk in Merced, especially kids walking to and from school.

Support local law enforcement

Invest in youth, invest in community, less policing

More behavioral health services for children

Please invest in affordable housing, food, and help homeless people.

As a prior service adult White Male Conservative I assure you there is no plan that will ever include me for any assistance nor relief. Because people were afraid of covid and refused to come to work we did 2 or 3 bodies of labor every day. Because of this, there were days i could not physically lift myself out of bed and ultimately had to quit my job. I never qualified for the company medical insurance and private coverage was too expensive. I still cannot afford to be seen. There is no incentive for someone to hire me in a new job and choices are limited as I can't labor in ag anymore. I don't know if this helps but maybe someone will hear me this time.

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Merced is experiencing a true housing shortage and crisis. Once the eviction moratorium is lifted, many tenants will be asked to move due to not caring for their properties during the pandemic. There will be many homes that are uninhabitable and in disrepair that will cost thousands of dollars to fix and make rentable or sellable. Many landlords will not have the funds to repair them. As a property management company, we are rehabbing a very typical 3bed, 2 bath residential home now that will exceed \$60k in repairs—the roach infestation is so severe that electrical is not working, all appliances need to be replaced, the yard is dead, the countertops are corroded, etc etc etc. You can imagine how filthy living can destroy a property, devalue a neighborhood and result in this kind of destruction. Our ask is that you set funds aside for residential property owners who's investments are in disrepair and therefore not habitable for less than \$20k in repairs.

First take care of our elderly and poor people. Then improve of our infrastructure. More wages won't help workers (gov and FR's). They have jobs, so what they need is support in the form of mental health services. They need a different kind of support, emotional support. We should honor them in some way to make them feel good. Giving them more money (hazard pay) is not the best way to show them that we love them, and it takes money away from where it's needed more. Elderly and poor people need it more. Giving workers more money wont make them happy in the long run. They will soon forget it, whereas honoring them might create a lasting of accomplishment and great memories. Money would be better spent using it to bring relief to the elderly and poor and homeless people who are suffering.

open a duane's restaurant

Care must be taken not to give money directly to people but to the services (such as rent assistance) with auditing. Unfortunately, when funds are given directly to some individuals they are not seeing the importance of going to work. Look at the businesses that are looking for workers. I am seeing too many people use the money for nonessential needs instead of paying for rent or food.

Streets and sidewalks are very important to me. I had a serious tripping accident while walking in my neighborhood. My husband hit a large deep pothole and did serious damage to his vehicle. We are long term residents and want to enjoy our neighborhood; du to the deterioration of the streets and sidewalks this is hazardous. We are of the senior population.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

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Merced needs a lot of work. We need to find help for the homeless population and making our city better. Being a citizen who is out and about a lot around the city, there is a lot of things that need to be fixed; roads, police actually doing their job, more investments with troubled youth, etc.

There are a few issues that I see where the money can be spent. There are several roads within the city limits that need work, and sidewalks that need repair. (please don't use asphalt. It makes the area look bad). The homeless issue needs to be addressed. The homeless leave trash all over the place, and have noticed that they pull trash out of the cans looking for recycling material; without placing the trash back into the cans. When they are at the curb for trash pick up, by the garage trucks. The last thing is. What is being done to try and keep the homeless camps from constantly moving from one location to another?

Please use the funding the support the long-term health and growth of the city, rather than on short-term projects.

It is challenging to find people to fix issues as they pop up, including the costs. I am very concerned about the cost of housing. I am also deeply concerned about the homeless encampment at the G street freeway on-ramp, going south.

Everything rides on good infrastructure. If infrastructure fails, everything above it crumbles.

Fix the city streets

You should definitely pay your employees more for having to work through this pandemic!

Proper disposal of electric batteries should be a high priority yet it is seldom mentioned. Merced should have more battery disposal sites and fewer homeless people. And to the individual who reads this, thanks for the work you're doing.

If there are any programs put in place that are focused on housing it shouldn't be a condition that you already have an eviction notice to qualify for assistance... I speak from my own experience and also from what I've heard from many others in the same boat...I literally spent every penny I had to cover my rent expenses... to avoid getting an eviction letter... after hearing many stories about landlords finding loopholes in the eviction ban and putting

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

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families out on the street. So when I applied for help with rent I didn't qualify for assistance, even though my husband and I were both laid off from work, on unemployment, and couldn't afford to keep food on the table or any of our other bills like insurance, car payments, etc because EVERYTHING was going to the rent.

If an individual did receive the Governor's State Assistance of 600.dollars, then they need to go the the back of the line for the City Assistance. I make less than 10 thousand dollars a year and did NOT receive that 600 dollars.

Our city needs a makeover. Clean up the town. Pay and treat your public safety employees well to keep them HERE. DEAL with, not enable the homeless problem. Provide things for families to do HERE in Merced. More people would stay in this town if you actually dealt with these issues. The people in our community are TIRED of talk, plans, committees, and surveys. It is time to see ACTION on these items. This is your chance to get it right!

Merced is a small city. We can't afford to lose more businesses to our neighbor cities, counties. Please take care of the businesses with or without this funding.

Expand public safety with the MCFD & MPD, clean up this town!

Help people with payments for debt including credit cards due to be payed off.

The ARPA should go into infrastructure and business in Merced. The city is not doing enough to bring/keep businesses in the city. There is nothing to do in Merced so people go out of town to spend their hard-earned money.

These funds should NOT be used for replenishing the general fund or to fund Public safety. The decisions made for the funds should be data driven and feelings need to be left out.

Making camping groundsparks for the homeless

Keep working on the homeless issue

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

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From the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020 there has been a lack of information of the severity of the Covid19 virus in televised media. There should have been the dramatic truth Including cargo carriers filled with body bags, tearful testimonials from serving family members and portraits of each country's deceased on the nightly news. Additionally there was a lack of clarity in the verified safety and process of varifying the safety of the vaccinations which should have been presented adnasium. I believe had these two issues had been addressed with the emphasis a pandemic should have been addressed with, the political devide creating vaccination hesitancy would have been dramatically reduced.

Clean up the homeless problem. Start enforcing vagrancy laws

Help small business owners

Affordable housing & homelessness. Merced lacks affordable housing. Low inventory causes prices to increase. Introduce new housing projects with low rents and first time home buyer programs. Figure out how to handle the homeless by the freeways and 16th street.

Please put money toward affordable housing assistance and aid.

Fixing road, clean up street, provide protection community to get safety for everyone.

Expand the use of the fire department. The ambulance company isn't worth a darn in this town. Some communities use the fire department as a public health tool. The city of Anaheim has done a very good job. The fire department can do so much better if they're given the opportunity.

Better fund law enforcement to reduce crime and panhandling in Merced.

Help the homeless.

It would be great to have a dashboard showing where the funds are being spent. A dashboard would be a great move for transparency, showing citizens that you want them to easily see how the monies are being spent.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

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Food, housing and employment help to all low income or poverty level families who have or will lose their homes because of this pandemic.

Areas that do not receive federal funds should be first on the list after helping the police, health care workers and locally owned businesses. Businesses that will fail due to loss of business, people or businesses that will go bankrupt due to loss of rent income. Any where that already will receive or have received federal dollars should not be included. Too much federal money is being spent!

The roads need to be fixed. The Diesels need a separate lane from cars. More housing programs ASAP . More programs for homeless get the homeless off the streets . Merced ca needs more fun activities for the young youths. Let's get some programs going for the young youths get these young children off the streets . Less gun violence. Less drinking and driving be more strict on the roads. Need more churches . Less burger joints . Let's get some soul food going more black business. More black owned stores hair salons etc . More jobs more pay . Less sex trafficking.

I really think these are the top priorities right now.

encourage low wage workers to re-enter the workforce. Supplement the hourly wage for specified amount of time. There is no incentive for those to return to work with eviction outlawed and constant giveaways.

Have more interaction with the university & their status of covid 19 cases and mitigation practices. Inside contacts say nothing is being done but daily reports of positive cases and exposures. Health department should be concerned.

A very low or no interest loan program for local businesses to use for infrastructure/expansion needs would be very helpful. For example, to use for ADA compliance construction, large repairs such as roofs, facilities improvements, equipment upgrades, fleet expansion, etc. These normally high cost improvements would allow our local businesses to grow quickly and hire more people. The same idea/program applies to housing. Offer low interest loans repaid through payments additional to property tax (for example) that would allow homeowners/landlords to do major repairs such as roofing, tree cutting, fences, plumbing upgrades etc.

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The city needs to expand the hwy 59 between 16th street and Olive Ave.

The city streets are terrible use the money you have from this problem and fix that. The city needs better roads they are falling apart.

Share it with the "little people." You've had this since March 2021? 6 months later, you ask a survey from a anonymous text, and now there is 3 months(Dec 2021) to figure it out and disperse the funds? Most funds will stay in governmental accounts.. so where and what do you guys think you should be focusing on?

Improve roads

Just because someone kept working doesn't mean they weren't affected financially. Think about middle income residents, seniors, and others who also are affected. If funds are allocated to "those hit hardest", make sure there are other criteria besides "income" and the allocations given are truly to those in need and not those gaming the system.

Sierra Saving Grace has a plan to help with homeless. I think the council should seriously consider their plan. Another fire on Bear Creek this morning, the second one I have noticed this week, should indicate there is a definite problem with homeless camping on the creek. If the law for no camping is going to be ignored, then remove the signs.

Honestly, all of the things listed are important and I am relieved to know that the City is working on them all.

Something definitely needs to be done about the homeless problem. It seems many won't take the help with shelters, housing and programs. I believe because they don't want to go by the rules. They prefer to pan handle, stay high and drink Those need to be sent down the road, go back to their hometowns and families. Merced has become a dumping ground for these individuals. Those that accept help and the rules should be where the effort and money should go. In finishing, you don't want to go by the rules, were giving you a one way ride home. The trash, tent cities, and disruptions to law abiding ciitizen's daily lives are not acceptable.

Public safety

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

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Merced city streets are terrible. Glen avenue north of the Sante Fe tracks is destroyed. 27th street in front of Our Lady of Mercy and Bear Creek between "R" street and "M" street, just to name a few. And I am not talking about slapping down a slurry seal and calling it a fix. They need to be dug up and repaired correctly!

Any issues currently addressed by State and/or Federal programs should not be considered by the City of Merced.

Having someone adjust the timing on the signals. There are streets where you sit at a red light with no cars coming the opposite direction, the signal finally changes (2 cars fly through on a red light) then traffic backs up that direction. I see this every single day on Donna and G street in particularly, as well as other streets.

To beautify and ensure safety of Merced, the homeless issue needs to be addressed. There are enough services, they choose not to use. Our youth need something to keep the entertained and safe as well.

Increased upkeep of our streets, specifically dealing with the homeless population and the pollution of our streets (mentally ill homeless people screaming in the middle of the day on main street, that doesn't make me feel safe with a baby in tow, keeping business ways clear of this loitering and cleaning of sidewalks, spray down, rubbish). I won't continue to spend money on Main St until there is better upkeep of the sidewalks and business fronts. So spend some money on getting the homeless out and literally cleaning our adorable downtown so we and others may enjoy our city. Either you or the businesses need to be held accountable.

Utilize this survey when planning fund dispersement.

I would really like to see our parks cleaned up and homeless encampment removed from parks and bike paths. I think the city needs to come up with a better solution for homeless and those with serious mental health issues.

We NEED businesses in our community. Our city needs to make it easier for new businesses to enter our community so we have more than just tire shops, Dollar Stores, and car washes. We have to leave our community to shop and that is not good for ANYONE.

The city needs to put pressure on the county to end zero bail and keep the criminal elements in jail where they belong.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

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We need to end \$0 bail so inmates are incarcerated and the law abiding public members are safe.

Money needs to be spent to the benefit of all residents; not specific groups or individuals. Use the money for permanent and tangible items and not one-time stimulus or hand offs to local bureaucracy.

You know I'm considered an essential worker but I've had reduced hours but the but the bills kept coming in I couldn't file for unemployment I couldn't file for any assistance really but yet people are living off of unemployment and all the programs that are out there what about Hazard pay for the people that are still working still struggling to pay their bills

The biggest problem in Merced right now is vaccine hesitancy. There will be no progress on anything else until this fundamental problem is addressed. And this problem is related to lack of education, people believing misinformation, and leaders at all levels and in all institutions not always acting in the best interests of the people living within their jurisdictions.

It would be nice to invest some of the money in maintaining the bike paths - Bear Creek and Rascal Creek. They could do with clean up, care of the vegetation and regular patrolling for safety. Thank you.

Work diligently to eliminate illegal activity within the city such as vandalism and theft. Such destructive activities deplete the resources we need for beautification and food programs.

Use the funding which impacts the basic needs of the Merced residents. Public safety, Service for homeless individuals, landlord assistance for renters who have been impacted by COVID. Keeping our communities parks and roads clean helps to bring positive mental attitudes.

Another rebate to residents (like the \$25 voucher) for supporting local businesses.

Please be aware that a single person can turn in multiple survey entries on this form, this is the second one I have submitted.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

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Invest in youth programs, restaurants and shopping have to travel to Turlock, Modesto and Fresno for clothes for myself and my family...We need entertainment for our youth like Modesto and Turlock have, we need a Ten Pin, Dave and Buster etc, Also More Police Officer...

If we are able to create more jobs. That's something I would like to see. Many people abuse the system and I think it's time to have some kind of job in order to get help. I understand stand some people are not able to have a job due to health or a disability but for the most part majority can hold a job just chose not to because they know how to take advantage of the system.

Public safety - including ensuring streets have good lighting

We need to help the poorest of the poor, then we need to help people from sliding into homelessness. Focus on basic needs. No extra pay for emergency workers. Perhaps another sort of recognition? I haven't noticed an Internet issue here, but perhaps there are area where that is a concern. Same with water/sewer. I do notice people who are down and out or close to it. We need to lift up our neighbors. You can't lift yourself up if you basic needs for food and shelter are not met.

California has the Housing is Key program, not sure why Merced would need to further help landlords. It seem redundant that both Merced and California have a program aiming to do the same thing.

The funds should be used for EXISTING conditions, not to expand where nothing is there to begin with. IE, do not expand water/sewer if it wasn't there to begin with.

Take care of the homeless issue and make it easier/encourage new businesses and restaurants to come to Merced

As gentrification in our community grows, it's important to remember that not all house/apartment landlords are residents of the City. Choosing to invest in services for the most vulnerable members in our community such as housing programs, food insecurity, and services for homeless and displaced individuals, as well as investing in infrastructure will benefit our entire community. However, investing in landlords will cause some of the relief funds to be used for people who don't reside in our city and are thus not a part of our community.

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We need to plan for lack of water in the future and how this city is going to enhance the infrastructure of the city since it is projected that a huge amount of people will move into this valley.

The children in Merced county need the extra support in their learning especially the kindergartners.

why is it that there is not enough contact to communities by elected City council officers...I bet you that 50-60% of Merced residents never know who their rep is,

We have talented and interested communities here in Merced. Don't waste money on outside companies. I understand the City spent \$35,000 to disperse the \$25 gift per household monies. The I would guess a good amount of cards mailed were most likely tossed out thinking it was advertising, The process was time consuming to even get the gift on ones phone or printed off the computer. Might have been better to give people a \$25 credit on the City utility bill.

Cleaning up and beautifying our community should include getting the homeless and vagrant population under control. It is a safety issue. The wander the bike paths and other areas that public funds pay for and make it unsafe to use public areas.

Although I do not think that community beautification is a top issue, I think that "two birds could be killed with one stone", by demolishing the substandard motels along 16th street. The land could be used for affordable housing, or a perhaps businesses, if this were allowable under the funding guidelines.

More park amenities to be outside

<https://arizonatinyhouse.com/portfolio-items/the-village-on-13th-ave/> <https://www.bernco.gov/community-services/housing-services-programs/tiny-home-village/> I'd love to see something like this in merced.

Currently in North Merced near El Capitan High School where what looks like the highest rate of homes being built it seems that the city has given up sidewalks, bike paths and other safe routes from the Bellevue Ranch neighborhood. On G Street and Bellevue Rd. for instance there's literally no safe way for UC students to travel by bike to and from the neighborhood to school, there's no safe manner of bike or walk travel from the

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neighborhood to Chenoweth middle school. Near Cardella and G it's like the city and/or county just flat out gave up. The Chenoweth buses are so full my son had to sit or stand on the floor when he attended that school. There's an exponential rate of family and student growth here but there has been next to no investment in the beautification of areas around Bankcroft Rd and Cardella. UC students would benefit greatly from a safe bike path from G street down Bellevue Rd towards the UC. A kid died in that road recently and there has been no effort to increase lighting or safety measures on that road. Many of these students who live in this area have no alternatives other than biking down this road. On the corner of Cardella and G st. The bike path quite literally ends. People drive like maniacs on G st. My teenage son, neighbor kids and adults would benefit from a safe path of travel from this neighborhood to the Hospital, to the Raley's shopping zone and to Chenoweth middle school. The landscape on Bankcroft, on Bixby and on Merrill is total garbage. The city wants expansion and needs revenue and is encouraging the building of big beautiful homes on land that they refuse to make safe for families. The juxtaposition here is interesting but mostly frustrating to families who have paid a substantial amount for their homes in an area ripe for improvement and growth that looks as though it's surrounded by weed growth, barren dirt and unsafe paths half-built. What's the plan here? SMART goals that coincide with the city's growth plan or building houses for the sake of building houses. Let's make this area safe so folks are more willing to venture outside. Give them a safe break from the monotony of Covid isolation. Invest in the community!

Roads are getting bad, bike paths along roads are dangerous. If the homeless are not going to be housed can we still provide trash cans and portable showers. Tiny homes village might not be the craziest idea.

Funding sources such as ARPA, with many flexibilities, should be utilized on long term projects that will effect our community versus one-time benefits.

Any assistance with outrageous PG&E bills. Solar for renters

Pay your employees a competitive wage so you dont continue to lose them to other cities. You cant be a public service without good employees.

We need to find a solution to the homeless population.

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As a school employee who lives in North Merced but works at Sheehy. The connection difficulties I have at work compared to home are worrisome. Internet access should be improved in South Merced.

I believe the access to broadband internet could be coordinated with Merced County in order to reach a wider segment of our population who are on the downside of the digital divide.

More nice playgrounds in parks and school's.

All necessary infrastructure repairs need to be priority but we are having an increasing problem with homeless on the streets that needs to be addressed.

Merced desperately needs to have a spay/neuter/chip/immunization program for cats and dogs. Our feral animal population has grown and continues to grow. People want to spay and neuter but cannot afford to do so.

Provide spay and neuter vouchers or schedule free spay and neuter clinics. Many people, especially the homeless, cannot spay or neuter their pets nor provide immunizations.

Our city is growing...fast. The biggest impediment is our wastewater/sewer infrastructure. However, not many people realize that. So this survey is not going to be a good indicator of the public's true needs. Something not on the survey, but that should be considered - first time home buyer programs. I know the survey included "more housing programs", I guess a first time homebuyer program might be included there, but all in all, the city needs FEWER housing programs. Offer incentives to builders and a first time home buyer program and those I would support.

Housing and food

Please finish the mall more jobs will be available

Civic programs and police presence.

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I believe our community is far behind in supporting our local youth. We have a large amount of land to make a amazing soccer complex. One that will support families for decades to come. The most emotionally disturbed people from this pandemic will be the children and the loss of there parents and grandparents. Least we can do is give them something to enjoy and love after school will keep these kids and families occupied instead of being in trouble in the streets. Let's support a soccer field turf and grass. Every community from Fresno to Modesto has great soccer complexes except Merced. We beg the college to allow kids to play soccer. The sports complex is baseball and they move all the soccer players out of the area. Macnamara park has 1- 11v11 field and supports little fields. I think the more troubled youth are in the teens and they play on a large 11v11 field and we don't have any! However I know that this won't happen most moneys will go to special interest and most likely will not even make a impact on our community. The following have soccer complexes Madera,Clovis, Fresno several, Modesto several, turlock has 2. Where does Merced fall?? When do you all start caring about our children in the community? Thank you

There are so many children in need. Their parents are struggling due to the pandemic and prior to this life in general. Merced needs to save the youth before there are more homeless and individuals in need of government assistance. We need to educate and guide the youth of Merced to create a sense of community. Crime and drugs are taking over.

Larger infrastructure completion - downtown, the Mall, campus parkway exit. Add to the stores and options make the city more appealing to draw in consumers

Affordable housing for families

Revamping existing sports complexes creating more for our youth to do. Basketball courts, skatepark, community chess/checkers in the park, exercise equipment along paths.

There should be more facilities for youth sports. These would also bring in money with games, tournaments, etc. soccer fields, 50 meter pool, etc.

Some funds for more soccer Complex. It will bring revenue to the city, if done correctly.

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It would be awesome to see monies allocated to existing sports complex and production of new sports complex.

I have lived in Merced all my life born and raised here. I have never seen the homelessness we have now. We need to clean up our city and find real answers for homelessness in Merced.

I suggest Council spend the money on projects that affect ALL the people (or almost all) of the people. The money comes from increased debt at the federal level which increases inflation and everybody's costs. E.g. My utility bill went in Jan 1 and again July 1 so you could pay employees more money. This suggestion hurts me personally, but I will endure for the City's sake. PS No public-private partnerships, no monies for the "homeless", no monies for the arts and no monies for all those remaining suggestions you made.

We need more clean and safe spaces for our children Sports fields and areas where our kids can play without the fear or drugs paraphernalia and alcohol leftovers are there where they can get ahold of them

Merced needs a lot of help. It's hard to decide which answers to pick because they are all very important. Good luck.

If by youth programs the money could be used for improving and maintaining all of our parks and sports facilities then I would move that to the top. Merced is missing opportunity for a lot of economic revenue because we don't have great youth sports facilities.

We should invest in sporting facilities, like a soccer park and baseball fields. These will provide positive outlets for our youth and generate revenue in the future. Take advantage of this money to make our city better now and for the future.

Please make sure the city plan accounts for equity of those impacted most- especially people of color, small businesses.

Need more facilities where our youth residents can play like sport complex

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Let's use the money for one time improvements, not to start programs that won't have funding in the future. Our streets are falling apart. Let's fix them.

I believe Merced would greatly benefit from a sports complex with multiple sport fields. This would bring in money for hotels and restaurants. This is something for the local youth and could be used all year round to bring in money.

Sports complex facilities, youth we need to focus on them

I do NOT want to see a dime of this go to helping business owners and landlords, who had plenty of assistance via PPP loans. This funding should go to improve the lot of normal, everyday people who need help -- NOT capital.

Fix the roads. Remove the homeless population. Clean up the trash that's everywhere. Fully fund the police.

The pandemic has hit kids and families particularly hard. I would like to see ARPA funding used to support youth programs, including, for example, athletics and athletic facilities (like soccer fields)

Plans to address the needs of the homeless should be part of the funding priority list.

The City of Merced needs a youth sports park to hold soccer and softball tournaments. Surrounding cities have amazing locations for youth sports and Merced needs the same with adequate parking, play structure, bathrooms and lights. This would bring more business to Merced as well.

Please develop the CP42 Sports Facility. We need our youth out exercising and staying fit after being secluded and quarantined for the past year due to Covid.

Continued drought and increasing climate impact on city services have endangered all city residents and impacted the availability of water sources for future continuation of business operations (i.e. hospitals, local food processing, and continuation of adequate fire suppression)

Build new sports facilities with lights and upgrading existing sports facilities.

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Recouping the economy

\$ should be allocated for the small business' that were forced to shut down

Youth Sports. Keep kids involved and out of trouble

creating new sports facilities and upgrading our existing ones.

Housing for the homeless and more community activities.

THE SOUTH SIDE OF MERCED IS ALWAYS FORGOTTEN!!!! NO STORES, NO SHOPPING, NO ROAD MAINTENANCE, STILL WAITING FOR A PROMISED PARK ON TYLER AND MISSION, NO WALKING TRAILS, ALL OF MERCED'S FOCUS HAS BEEN ON THE NORTH SIDE, AND FOCUSED AROUND THE UC CAMPUS. I GET IT BUT COME ON IVE BEEN IN SOUTH MERCED FOR 17 YEARS AND STILL NO GROCERY STORE. WE DO HAVE ALOT OF BUMS AND HOMELESS IN SOUTH MERCED G ST. ON RAMP TO HYWAY 99 IS SICKENING. HEY JESSIE DO YOUR JOB!!!

More funding for code enforcement and Contract enforcement. Private landscapers contracted by the City are doing a terrible job of maintaining subdivision common area landscaping because nobody enforces their contracts to do the proper maintenance.

It would be beneficial to our youth and community to develop a sports complex where the children in the community can engage in sporting activities.

Should add \$\$ water and sewer services. If not needed, cut fees for said water and sewer. It benefits owners, renters all equally

Improve city infrastructure: water, internet, sewer, roads, schools and etc. Don't waste money on some accounting project that employs a dozen administrators and has no material benefits for anyone who lives here.

Soccer fields for our kids to keep them out of trouble

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

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Please give thought to the future of our City. Citizens received a lot of money from the Federal Government that was not well managed either by the government or the people receiving the money. Use the money where it will benefit the City of Merced, it's people and the future.

a. Property owners need to understand the value of their lots; property values are skyrocketing, yet there are too many properties looking like hovels. Facilitate a landscaping consultation/maintenance service to improve the aesthetics...job creation opportunity; i.e., pick a block: advise the property owners ARPA will finance 50% of their landscaping/painting expense. b. Convert Bear Creek West of R Street into a regional park to Hwy 140 West (collaborate with County and MID for construction and maintenance...job creation c. If this is going to be a University Town, engage people in education and self-improvement; use ARPA funds to engage residents in converting weed/trash infested vacant lots into community gardens d. Are the current bike lanes one linear network so people can get around town without intersecting with cars? Use funds to make that happen. e. Leverage ARPA funds to eliminate at grade crossings with Union Pacific and Burlington Northern/Santa Fe (BNSF); close 50% of intersections with rail to improve safety and quiet the community (eliminate stress attributed to harmful train horn). The utility should pick up 75% of the expense. f. More trees, less asphalt and concrete; why is 16th Street (between 99 North and V Street), Martin Luther King, Yosemite Parkway, Yosemite Avenue, G Street between Bear Creek and Childs Avenue void of trees? V Street (between 18th and 99) is void of trees. Provide an ARPA Urban Forest program: a 1:1 tree planting match (size for size).

I believe the non-profit realm can help more with relief efforts than the government. Merced needs investment in infrastructure, and could use a facelift to attract new visitors and outside investment.

More houses or even townhomes to be developed in the community. No more apartments.

Merced has a lot of streets that are in need of being replaced. Ex. G st to M st, 18th st to 24th st

Soccer complex is needed in Merced to support our youth

No more handouts!!!

Develop a wish list of IT projects and identify pain points IT volunteers can solve.

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Help families like mine who are living in motels cause there's no affordable housing plz help us

All homeowners should receive a \$50 credit toward their city service bill for 6 months.

Water or Utility bill credit would benefit large population.

All essential workers! Not just medical and Fire and Police. The grocery stores, delivery companies, etc. who were exposed everyday but kept our community going.

Allocate funds for the invisible homeless

Allocate funds for the invisible homeless

Keep schools and businesses open. Let people choose the safety steps that they believe are best for them. Thsnk you

Keep businesses open & our schools. Hire more policeman & fireman

Downtown homeless and downtown vacant storefronts. If building owners won't bring their buildings up to code, make them pay or take their buildings so we can accelerate downtown transformation.

Rent control, rent is ridiculously high and there needs to be some kind of handle on it

crime prevention road repair

NO funds for investments in broadband infrastructure !

A lot of us are struggling! Maybe section 8 should be revamped so some of us who need it can get on, there's a lot on it who abuse it and it's not fair

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The plan should focus on stabilizing living in the city of Merced - Access to affordable housing. Access to fresh and healthy foods. Access to educational programs. Access to income.

Focus on attracting new jobs for young workers and the rest will take care of itself.

Help the small business owner/operators recover from lack of employees created by the government paying workers to stay home and be useless.

So much money has had to be spent to keep people housed. The only answer to the housing problem is MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING. Our city needs to help non-profits renovate buildings or build on empty lots. The affordable housing needs to be spread throughout the city, not a whole lot of formerly homeless in one area only.

Send it back. There is a desperate need for less spending and more fiscal responsibility

Firefighters and Police Officers should be compensated for the overwhelming hours and work they are putting in.

Please help those who didn't get the free vacation and paid time off and stayed at work To serve our city. Bless those firefighters

Merced youth need a safe place to stay active outdoors.

Use this money where we can all benefit from the funding. We all need to benefit from this money not just a certain sector, demographic or political preference.

Take care of homeless people. Decrease the number of homeless.

I believe the homeless situation is the greatest problem in the Merced community. Whats the use putting up and and fixing up the city if the homeless continue to trash it.

There is SO much mismanaged funds going toward homeless and housing! Atwater with 1/3 the population of Merced has better small business focus!

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City and County elected officials are elected to make these decisions. The fact they are elected, receive a salary during COVID, and are "punting" these decisions to the public is improper. They are elected to make these tough decisions and should make them on their own rather than having the electorate make decisions. It illustrates a lack of leadership because people often do not know what is best for them and that is why they choose elected leaders to make these decisions.

Helping the homeless tent cities or tiny homes with community center to help them get jobs and housing and contribute to society

Change structure of local government to this century and eliminate obsolete mundane practices that rally cater to the different needs of the community. We are in the year 2021, our infrastructure and community needs are still catering to the 1980's era.

I believe that homeless individuals need structures to live in. They also need porta potties and trash bins. Check out what other cities are doing, there is no need to reinvent the wheel. Santa Rosa has some good ideas in place.

Expanding broadband high speed internet would be beneficial to everybody...

The city of Merced needs to provide funding to programs and organizations for kids and youth. The Kids Discovery Station is the first children's museum in Merced County and provides joyful play and discovery to the children and families of Merced County. The museum explores a variety of industries and subjects for all interests to bring families together and spark children's imaginations and interest. The museum has been an ongoing project for almost 4 years now and needs more funding from the city to provide a safe environment. This museum will increase tourism, encourage and foster the children of Merced, and provide safe play.

Everything is dependent upon two things, cheap sustainable energy for AC and lots of water to grow

Do whatever you can to bring businesses to Merced. We have so many empty, rundown buildings in our community.

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I would strongly support giving funding to the new Kids Discovery Station as well! It is a terrific resource for kids from all backgrounds in our community.

I believe we should work on gang prevention and when I say that I DO NOT mean harsh punishment and mean finding a new solution. Prevention, outreach, creating opportunities for youth

\$600 stimulus for Merced residents

Clean up homeless camps get them out of merced

Please do not be bullied by identity-politics groups who are seeking the advancement of their own selfish agendas. Take care of the people that keep our economy thriving. Jobs and finances = freedom for individuals, tax dollars for our local government, and a healthier community!

We need to take care of public safety first. Every single day I read about someone catalytic converters being stolen or some random person checking people car in the early morning on the ring community. We also need more police officers patrolling the town for people driving recklessly, and harsher punishment. Minimum 1000 dollar fine. With the money generated by then we can then focus on bring new business into town. We need more warehouse jobs or something that people in this town can actually qualify for. Yes it would be ideal to have tech jobs here in the valley, but a majority of the population has less than an high school education. Let's focus on putting money in your people pocket first. After that is done we can start to focus on the homeless issue. We need to open up a psychiatric ward to help rehabilitate these people. They are broken mentally so trying to provide them with shelter and food is only a bandaid fix. We need to fix the root cause so they can become productive members of society, and not relapse back into their old ways. Ask the UC and Merced college for a collaboration .

An updated sports complex for our youth that is located in a decent part of the city.

I can see the efforts that already are being made, such as providing more jobs through the building of more stores(Ex: In process, business stores on Yosemite Ave). This helps both the homeless community as well as those who lost their jobs during Covid-19 and to add on, to encourage more places/jobs for UC & College students in our city. Thank you for what is already being done to help our city thrive. I do believe we need to up our game in

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beautifying our city as well. Appreciative of the community clean-ups, but also we're known as one of the Gateways to Yosemite, and I think we should own that title. I'm aware the City of Fresno is taking that route as well, so not necessarily wanting to compete but just spruce our city up. For example, adding more trees (Redwoods!) and bringing back our old mall to life.

expanding downtown as a vibrant area where people want to spend time rather than walking past dozens of boarded up store fronts.

Would love to see: - more health care providers/services!!! Maybe satellite facilities of UCSF or UC Davis? Pay doctors to relocate here? More community health clinics? - better public outdoor spaces and infrastructure, especially for children - great playgrounds, outdoor theater, sports fields - build outdoor facilities at schools so kids can eat outside (safer for covid)

Homeless housing management Getting homeless off the street will help business, food insecurity, law enforcement, emergency room issues, tourism and beautification of Merced

I believe these funds should be used to uplift the community. Mainly within yhe youth, invest in parks, sport complex and other activities for the youth.

New indoor sports park or anything beneficial to the kids being active.

We need to help support the invisible homeless.

Fix out roads and built more entertainment for our kids.

Soccer fields for our youth

I am aware that Merced has a housing shortage. Because of the damage done to my rental property, once I'm able to remove the tenants from the property, I believe I'll have somewhere between \$30-\$50k in rehab required. I'm told materials are more expensive and delayed in arriving as well as contractors being weeks or months out before taking on new jobs. I do not have the cash to front the project nor am I in a position to get a loan. This means I'm

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likely either to lose my home or that it will remain vacant for quite some time. Can the City consider offering help to landlords like me that want to fix the home but don't have the financial means to do so? I'm very worried about further vandalism to the property as well.

Would love to see new sports facilities, upgrading existing facilities, and youth recreation opportunities.

public safety is very important. please do not defund police but provide more resources to them. All things will fall in place once residents and businesses feel safe.

The City of Merced is in desperate need of a decent youth sports facility. I am tired of seeing our kids lose out because we have not invested in them. When we travel with our son to other cities, it is clear that they have prioritized their children by providing them with a decent place to play sports and have activities. Our facility out by the airport is an embarrassment. We need to do better.

fixing Merced Highway between R st to Mission off rap

A youth soccer complex. Soccer is a huge part of youth activities for our city and these kids love it. Both competitive and recreational. Kids have really been hit emotionally during the pandemic and this would revamp our soccer programs and hopefully draw more participants within our community. Fostering a stronger and more united Merced is important or at least should be to all parents for our children's future.

Creating new sports facilities and upgrading our existing ones. Soccer complex

The youth in our community need more resources. The park in our communities are unsafe because of the homeless people have taken over many of the parks. Public safety should be a priority.

Merced County residents have had pro soccer players, pro football players, pro baseball players, and Olympic athletes and yet the City of Merced does not provide enough fields for all our youth to take advantage of.

In all reality the children are being the ones hit hardest with not enough areas to play and stay active. More programs need to be developed for year round activities. I am an essential worker who worked while being sick

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with COVID-19 in November last year, enough has been provided for everyone that is unemployed. Here in the valley the is whoever is unemployed is by choice everyone is hiring but no one wants to work and they are still receiving extra aid. I am a single parent who had to work from home and school my child to help her succeed. I make too much to receive any aid even when needed but not enough to be able to live on my own and have to live with my parents because 1 salary is not enough to have a car payment, pay rent and meet my daughters need.

Due to fear of illness and being around people because of Covid and to reduce depression and isolation more programs for the youth are in great need. Programs for the youth that would safely allow them to get outside and be active as opposed to staying inside in front of electronic devices. Some parks with basketball courts, soccer fields, splash pad and opportunities to stay active. All of the schools with courts are locked after school hours. Many of the local parks don't have any or enough courts for children to be active. Also support/funding for organized sports programs that would make it affordable for families to participate. Our youth is our future and investing in healthy emotional support through physical activity will make leaps and bounds in the success of our community!

Provide more free or low cost COVID testing sites. Schools and employers are burdening parents/staff with testing requirements that prevent students return to school/ employees return to work with each health incident for 2-8 days on average. Additional testing options would increase testing turnover and results response and get students back to campuses quicker or staff back to work.

Upgrade youth and adult use sporting facilities through out town. Make Merced a hub location for large scale soccer tournaments which will drive the local economy. Help youth be busy with their time and stay out of trouble. Create jobs in field prepping, concessions and referring.

Use the money to improve the city's infrastructure

Sports facilities for children, A children's museum, re-open Rockin jump, reopen smart pants art school, anything that makes merced a great place to raise kids is ideal.

We need to invest in our youth. More parks and complex's for sports

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Improvement of youth facilities, fields

Merced needs more businesses, especially food and entertainment in the college areas. Many businesses closed down due to covid. Merced needs an economic boost.

A trust fund for affordable housing is a great idea that will keep giving. Investment in downtown revitalization and incentives for small businesses to fill vacant storefronts is needed. Thank you for soliciting feedback!

We need a sport complex to host soccer and baseball tournaments. This would bring additional income to our community. The kids need things to do. Sports are one of the best things for kids. It teaches them discipline and responsibilities.

Support the most vulnerable of our citizens. Attract new businesses to create jobs.

If we can provide support for businesses and improve community beautification/infrastructure we can bring people to downtown to generate sales tax. we need to bolster those who have weathered Covid and support new businesses who are just starting out, to improve services and retail offerings.

Give teachers raises

Let's put these criminals who are preying on us every night in our neighborhoods away in jail, more patrols, more officers, more public safety!

These funds should be prioritized to programs that most improves jobs growth within the city.

There are many people facing housing and food insecurity, and they need access to the social safety net regardless of their legal status, even if it means creating or funding programs that do not have a legal status requirement. Those in agriculture have been among the hardest hit, and also tend to be undocumented and cannot access the labor market, healthcare, and other services and resources that are essential to their health. This group, in addition to others (the houseless, other undocumented immigrant groups, etc) need resources to weather this pandemic, and their worthiness should not depend on how much they contribute to the economy (e.g., don't just provide

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services to "essential" immigrants). Lastly, the city should invest in the infrastructure, as we could benefit (especially students) from better public transportation, more safe spaces to gather, safer roads (especially Bellevue towards campus!!!!), and more access to internet. Having a university here is great, but it seems that the city currently does not have the capacity to 1) support the influx of students and new residents and 2) protect those who already live here from displacement. I hope that this gentrification and heavy housing segregation is mitigated by efforts from the city to fund and beautify neighborhoods in Merced that house mostly low-income people.
<https://ucmerced.app.box.com/v/climafinancialinsecuritybrief>

I believe a portion of these funds should go to small businesses like mine. Being a private practice in merced is challenging, but Covid is making it difficult every day for us. Money towards new equipment we need at our practice and at the hospital would help the people of merced.

Work with Habitat for Humanity in finding low/no cost lots on which to build affordable homes.

We are a medical care desert in Merced, I would look at the 2015 report the county did to actually recruit numbers of primary care physicians and specialists, including public health to get to the number of needed to satisfy adequate providers / population compared to other communities. With close to 50 million available you should create a plan to recruit and retain. The next area would be in improving the schools and that may need an overhaul in overall leadership as test scores and literacy has been stagnant for the last 15 years...lack of vision and actual leadership and accountability has been highlighted by their behavior during the pandemic. These 2 issues are some of the core reasons why there is difficulty to recruit other businesses here or capping certain industries from expanding.

can you partner with UC Merced in any way? matching funds? expertise? joint programs?

district two needs more stop signs, more speed bumps. SAFETY

I'd like to see more mental health facilities that specialize in aiding those who are now in our ERs . Instead of having mental health workers there to care for their needs we are overwhelming our nurses and security not to mention holding up necessary rooms for actual emergency cases. Not to discount the mental health patients and

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their need for emergency care but quite the contrary. They need appropriate care so as not to exacerbate their already fragile condition!!!! Thank you for your consideration!

Please use some of this money to work on improving some of the residential streets in Merced (19th to 27th/G to T Sts)

We have enabled the homeless to remain homeless by providing services while they remain on the streets. Services to the homeless should only be provided if they agree to be placed in housing and follow current protocols. Homeless camps need to be cleared out. Vagrancy should be confronted. Accept housing and follow the rules, accept a bus ride out of the state of location of their choice, or be arrested.

Gain control of Merced once again! Homeless problem has gotten way out of control need to get them off our streets to make them safe again! They camp out anywhere make big messes and just get loaded, make paying citizens uncomfortable and start fires

I think there should be a ground force going door to door helping elderly people fill out this survey and also those without an address, like the homeless in the county.

Stop funding programs that programs that empower the help homeless to stay homeless.

We need to Develop/redevelop as possible to the downtown area as well as an Experiential uptown area Between the University and the community college.

Find a way to stop the homeless from setting up their homeless camps in nice residential areas. They are destroying Merced. If they don't want to comply and go to the new shelter, then give them a one way ticket to Slab City. Slab City, also called The Slabs, is an unincorporated, off-the-grid squatter community consisting largely of snowbirds in the Salton Trough area of the Sonoran Desert, in Imperial County, California. HOW TO GET TO SLAB CITY: * Start from Niland, CA off Highway 111 * Go East on Main Street * Continue on Beal Road about 3 miles * Your first major stop will be Salvation Mountain * Continue past Salvation Mountain * Slab City (where people actually live) is about another 1/2 mile

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Regarding public safety, I would be nice to have a sidewalk put in that extends from Mercy Medical Hospital in G St to Cardella. It is dangerous to walk along there.

Community beautification. Since the pandemic hit and when the restrictions to go out has been lifted, walking is the only way people were able to release their anxieties and see the outside again with social distancing. A relaxing environment, eco friendly, more trees , less pollution. We need to go back to nature because it's the only way we will be able to survive this chaotic struggles. Please start planting trees along M St and Cardella way (Bellevue area going to El cap) Unless otherwise contraindicated 10 years has passed and that area is barren. Please check and see. We will be able to avoid soil erosion and bring beautification at the same time. Roam around and see the entire Merced community. Let's not turn our heads the other way on what is missing but find solutions . We live in one planet by the way.

Please improve public transportation and make bike commuting safe. A protected (not just painted) bike lane going along G street would greatly help. Also, increase the convenience and frequency of bus lines. M4, for example, could go along the entirety of G street without having to stop at the bus station. That would help people who want to commute by bus but don't do it because it's too difficult or impractical

Funds should be used in bolstering things in Merced that will be long lasting in benefiting the economy and community. Even though this is one time money it should be sparingly used on items that will be temporary.

Only the two listed above. do not waste the funds.

Anything to address the homeless and vagabonds that seem to be everywhere and gaining numbers.

Developing a complex with a community center

I moved to Merced in February as a chef for El Capitan hotel. I grew up in WV, lived in VA, MD, DC, and San Diego before moving up here. I've visited and stayed in every state in the continental US. Merced is a great town and I really feel at home here, but the water quality is the worst I have ever experienced. At my house, in public, at work, etc. It is so bad that my truck gets stained from mineral buildup due to sprinkler systems hitting it. We go through

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more water softener at work to treat the water than I have any where else I've ever been. I know it is a very old town, the water needs work badly.

Focus on critical infrastructure such as streets; water; plumbing; sewage.

Replace lost revenue to the City for the utility bills that weren't paid by residents during Covid

Please invest in projects that will create long-term improvement for residents which cannot be accomplished by the private sector. Some ideas: improved traffic light timing, new trees planted along walking and bike paths where old trees have died, more firefighters and police are always welcome. And a freebie - loosen the paint color restrictions for businesses so they can add at a little visual interest.

These one-time funds will make a significant impact for our city. Let's ensure that these funds are used equitably and fairly. 10 years from now, I still want to see and feel the positive impact these funds created for the city. To see and feel these changes will take time...but actions must be taken now for those changes to evolve. Home prices have gone through the roof. Merced needs more housing options. I support inclusionary housing for both south and north side of Merced. Let's make it balanced. Stonefield Homes is selling their 1600 square foot home for \$411,000. That is in the Cypress Terrace (South side) development. And there is very little backyard. Where are our children going to play? As a 30 year south side resident of Merced, I never thought I would ever see homes in south side Merced sell for \$400K+. Imagine what the homes in north side Merced are selling for. The median income for Merced in 2019 is \$45,000. No household income of \$45,000 can afford a \$400K home, and this price is one of the lowest prices you can find for a brand new built home.in Merced. Attach the cost of new solar panels mandated by law for new homes, and the prices of homes are outrageous. Is Merced City investing in non-local investors and non-local home construction companies, or is Merced City investing in creating stabilized communities that in return, will reinvest back in Merced? Secondly, the homeless issue continues to be a problem, despite recent efforts to alleviate/resolve homelessness. This is an 'entire city' issue, not just a south side or 'near Hwy 99' problem. I know that more can be done. Thirdly, if Merced wants to remain as the Gateway to Yosemite, let's beautify the city even more. Downtown, is seeing lots of improvements which has been a long time coming. Beautifying our parks, neighborhood parks, our streets, including south side, Franklin/Beachwood, Mission Ave and the Weaver District areas. These areas need a lot of road improvements and pretty landscaping. There are so many potholes on Mission Ave and there is a certain section of Mission Ave where people constantly dump their trash and mattresses and sofas onto the side of the road next to the almond orchard. Applegate Park needs a clean up

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too, especially the bathrooms. Because of the homeless issue, only one is open (closest to the playground) and is rarely cleaned and attended to. It smells and is wet all the time. Beautifying the City will attract visitors, thus helping with our tourism sector. Focus on the West and South side of Merced. Add pretty landscaping, and flowers. Having city workers and maintenance crews come out to maintain these areas will show residents that their city cares about where they live. Thus, it will help boost these communities' morale and well-being. Making the city prettier will attract and create better neighborhoods, naturally. If there is a way to add pretty landscaping to Yosemite Pkwy and all of 16th Street, Merced City should do that too. After all, those are the main roads that takes visitors and everyone into Yosemite National Park. When people drive through Merced, that is their first impression of Merced. I think first impressions are important when trying to send a message. So let's live up to live up to our name - The Gateway to Yosemite. My fourth priority would be to update and invest in the infrastructure of Merced. Our waste water and sewer systems, including old and outdated pipes needs attention and updating. Corrosion, leaks and bursts is a main concern. With all of these new homes being built, Merced needs a water and sewer system that can support all of Merced. Lastly, I'd like to see a larger part of Merced remain agricultural and farmland. A lot of these lands are being sold for housing developments. Please plan and develop Merced in such a way that keeps the balance. Seeing farmland and mountain ranges in the distance is what keeps Merced a desirable place to live.

The city and county should use the funds on issues that invest in Merced City and Merced County's future by addressing potable and non potable water infrastructure, Yosemite tourism attraction to downtown, and updating recreational parks to include hiking, biking, walking, camping, fishing, off roading, etc... This is a great opportunity to update the city.

Small business are the motor of our economy. We need to allocate most funds to small businesses. Those businesses that can PROVE they lost income should have it reimbursed. Those who continued to operate but have been suffering to find employees and help in general should be awarded financial assistance or programs that can help incentivize or promote finding/hiring employees. It's been tough in that sense. Let's not make the same mistake again and blinding pass out money to those who don't need it. It will only make it worse on small businesses, trust me.

Support Kiddieland and the Kiwanis Club. Kiddieland provides low cost entertainment for families of all ages.

Additional bicycle paths and lanes. Specifically McKee between Olive and Yosimite. Thank you!

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Need underpass on R st.

As someone who has moved all over California there are some major advances Merced can incorporate to create better upscale community efforts. Currently we lack in having access to save fun locations for adults & children to enjoy. We need to work on making our downtown safer and adding relevant restaurants/bars, shopping, and grocery, and activities. The new commercial shopping center also needs new fresh places to be added. Disappointed they are bringing in 7/11 when there are so many other businesses that are new and will bring up the area. Merced is being too safe and needs to take risks in trying to gain better business into the area. The construction on the mall is another project that should be in the works to help community. Give us a vote on what we want to be placed in these new locations or be willing to try something new. As the new UC Merced is being built out we need to update with the times and have greater opportunity for Uber or Lyft and safety for downtown or heavily trafficked areas.

We believe that the City should use these funds to help pay for a new Police Department headquarters.

Seniors already living in poverty should have an emergency outreach to address issues created by the lock down. Housing assistance that would directly address emergent needs created by COVID 19.

For public safety, more street lights are needed and crime prevention cameras including traffic control. Powerwash areas needed especially down middle of olive and in front of some businesses to help sanitize, offer businesses 1 time for powerwash, then encourage them to keep up (look at 7/11/Gas station on corner of R st and Olive - if haven't cleaned since I was there it is very unsanitary and lots of homeless hang there. Clean up, protect and landscape street/highway strips to encourage others and to discourage loitering by homeless. Add a few billboards to discourage graffiti (this much spent means less programs). May not qualify but also build a Children's museum surrounded by land to rent for festivals would also be nice. Thanks for all you do, NW

Neediest should be first priority

City parks in Farmdale area are well used and lack restrooms. Applegate park restrooms need to be replaced....good example Pinecrest lake have good setup of restrooms for male and female. These public facilities have been overlooked in keeping public healthy.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Question 13: Please share additional information you believe may help us with developing a plan to use ARPA funding.

Allocating funds to public safety will enable those who have been confined for this period feel more willing to go out and participate in community events...too much violence in this town...period....the housing issues need to be addressed immediately as more and more citizens are losing their homes...ty

Youth programs; drug/gang diversion for kids, family friendly event and locations

I'm also interested in the funds being used for public transportation. I live on south G Street (south of Childs Avenue), and I wish there was a direct bus line that went from south G Street all the way to Yosemite Avenue (a line that just goes up and down G Street), as well as lines that run the length of Yosemite Avenue and Olive Avenue.

Create teen recreation centers, local tax credits, new roads and expansions that plan for the future instead of trying to catch up, new business owner support and grants, replace broken sprinklers and landscape for water conservation, shade large areas of parks, update city website to streamline all services and internet security

Senior citizen support

Help law enforcement so that there is more of a presence, even in more affluent neighborhoods. Consider some kind of recreation asset that would keep golfers from having to go to Atwater, Chowchilla, or beyond. Keep up the good work trying things for downtown.

Can some of this money be used to help improve the zoo?

PLEASE consider fixing Laura Fountain in Applegate Park.

move homeless from the downtown

I believe more housing programs/down payment assistance will help benefit the economy and invest in the Merced county.

I bought a house in Merced 6 months before pandemic closed everything down. I feel the only people that were not supported was those who worked throughout pandemic. I was never able to get gift card working. I worked

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throughout the pandemic except to take care of my mother in law who passed away of breast cancer during pandemic. My husband ended up retiring. Nobody has helped those who worked and struggled through the pandemic. I think it would be great if those workers got recognized. A lot of people received more money on unemployment than the essential workers made working. It would be outstanding if Merced showed those who kept businesses open during the worst times some recognition.

Clean water priorities

Keeping the creek free and clean of homelessness. There were two fires because of the homeless people and countless amounts of trash. This one of our most iconic elements of our town and we need to keep it clean and safe for people to enjoy the beauty of Merced. We need to create laws that protect the good citizens of Merced from people who don't want to take care of it and treat it well. No loitering laws, trespassing laws, etc. and enforce it.

Safety in every area of essential, nonessential, public facilities, and schools should be priority across the board.

Firework abusive explosions !!!!!!!

Funding should be allocated to programs and services that will prevent future housing and economic insecurity; ie community and business development such that shutdown of service sector work doesn't cripple the entire community.

Synchronization of stop lights on g street ,more traffic tickets for bad drivers

Emergency System

Don't create any more debt, keep within budget-just like I have to.

We need to address the homelessness issues and drug treatment issue.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

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Water and wastewater infrastructure should be the top priority. Community beautification combined with functionality/public safety should be the next priority. Beautification such as nicer, cleaner streets that promote complete streets; less trash and more pride; assistance to businesses to promote nicer storefronts; utilizing youth groups to provide volunteers to implement programs; etc.

Continue to revitalize the downtown corridor with more places to socialize outdoors; eating, coffee shops and small business owned by local residents and not big corporations. Plan a town center close to UC so that area can grow.

Low income housing and housing for the homeless needed.

stop paying people to not work Stop punishing landlords with eviction moratoriums. With the present housing shortage in merced, such policies discourage potential landlords from entering the market; it is too risky. get the homeless out of tent cities which negatively affect the beauty and safety of both businesses and residences. Public safety does NOT mean mask mandates and shut downs which have not proven to be effective. Public safety means more police patrolling and responding to emergencies.

There are many resources and benefits currently available to low income individuals and families and not enough for the middle class working families who have had to bare emotional and financial stress during the pandemic. Availability of resources for working families would be great start to begin building equal access to resources for all.

The funds should be spent by parks and recreation to offer programs for youth, families and seniors. Isolation is a big problem.

I very concerned when it comes to the homeless. I am so tired of the homeless living right on the other side of my fence due to the land being owned by Cal Trans. I live in the area next to Home Depot and worked very hard for my home. I don't think it's right that the City of Merced allows these people to live where they like, leaving tons of garbage everywhere. Not to mention I don't feel safe in my own home. The City of Merced received tons of money for homeless housing and I believe they should enforce that the homeless utilize that housing. I don't think anyone would be okay with tons of homeless living basically in their back yard.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

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Programs need oversight, not just money thrown at them. Great need in middle and high school but what programs work best?

I believe our kids should be our main priority at the moment and funding towards schools for Proper Sanitation of schools and ensuring our children have the required PPE and other precautionary products to protect their health during the pandemic.

One time investments to beautify Merced and make long over due repairs. Invest in bike paths and expand bike paths to all parts of Merced

Bike paths. Expand and connect whole community. Put lights downtown and along all parts of bike path

Provide Sierra Saving Grace with funds to build a 12 to 16 unit apartment building to house displaced single, low income parents and their children.

recreational and job opportunities for youth

Can we use some of the money to improve bike access from north Merced to Downtown? Bike/Pedestrian bridge across Bear Creek - between either M and G or G and McKee.

I believe landlords have been one of the hardest hit groups by the pandemic. The inability to ask tenants to move has had a drastic impact on the condition of MANY rental properties in the Merced area. As the eviction moratorium is lifted, we are discovering homes in total disrepair; roach and rodent infested, mounds of belongings left behind, evidence of illegal activity, massive physical damage etc. Investors are going to have significant bills to incur in order to make homes rent ready again. Many can't bear the cost and will either sell the home or take years to conduct the rehab. I plead for you to offer assistance to home owners with tenants who could not be removed from homes during the pandemic and who as a result, now have dilapidated properties to contend with.

Limit the rental companies on big increases of rent every year

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

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Helping people helps businesses. Trickle down is a lie according to the highest tier of economists. Trickle UP and social programs have massive positive effect that is PROVEN domestically and abroad. Help citizens FIRST* (*this includes the housing insecure)

Litter removal

I think the landscaping along Black Rascal Creek near McKee needs to be cleaned up. Bushes cut down to size and leaves removed. Eyesore for Merced UC students.

wastewater/sewer infrastructure is my 4th

Hazard pay to essential employees rates the highest on my list because they didn't bow out and opt for the extra unemployment. They put themselves and their families at risk during the pandemic to ensure everything stayed running. On a side note: Merced has been allowing the sale of the American dream to slumlords for far too long for me to care about what happens to them or their investments. They couldn't rate any lower on my priority list. Please do something about out of town buyers being allowed to buy our hometown and inflate the prices of rent and while not putting back into our community. It's gross negligence to allow these investors to inflate the rent prices.. tenants can't afford to do pay these prices and spend money within our community. Locals can't afford to be tenants with rent prices and cost of living constantly increasing, and they can't outbid them or their cash in hand. Please stop the gentrification of my hometown. Thank you.

appegate zoo

fix streets and potholes

Please focus on more housing for low income people. Rents are rising. Homelessness is a major problem.

Cleaner neighborhoods and parks.

Garbage

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

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This survey is not user friendly. How do you help all the people affected? Easy, stop the mandates and get businesses back to what they need to be. Simple! People will have jobs and pay taxes therefore city revenues will be improved, get everyone back to work. Now!

NO MONEY IS TO BE SPENT ON SOCIAL ISSUES !!!!!

Less mandates

Landlords and rental home owners need help -they have been crushed by tenants not paying rent and then moving on with a huge balance due and leaving a property in complete disarray. This is a massive problem and the cost to repair homes, after not collecting rent for over a year, is astronomical. Please help the landlords and the rental home owners!

I believe there should be a program in place that makes the homeless population clean up their own messes and dispose of it properly. There's no reason to spend our tax dollars for city employees or county employees to be cleaning up that filth. Round them up put a program together and make them go out every day and clean up their messes!!

Support landlords

Fairness

get every youth over 16 plus a job to help their parents in this hard time.

Investing in infrastructure is the most important issue in Merced.

Provide money to landlords who have documented unpaid rents from those that refused to pay rent during the moratorium. Provide money to families who had to quit their jobs due to the pandemic for health risk reasons. Put money into public programs related to contagious disease public education and reducing the transmission of public diseases by reducing illegal immigrants and homeless encampments. Make homelessness illegal.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

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Include aid to investors to stabilize housing market and property tax revenue

Landlords need help! Business owners need help! And we need housing. We need safe streets. We need the homeless removed from the streets and our streets safe again!

The city should disincentivize crime. Our property was broken into and vandalized too many times to count, and there was never any consequences for bad behavior. All of the burden fell on us, as landlords and law abiding citizens

No more handouts!!!

This money needs to go directly into the hands of people who are the most vulnerable in our community, that is low-income qualified people who make less than the area median income. Premium pay should not be supplementing those who make more than the AMI. Helping those most in need is a benefit to the entire community. We can't keep giving the more to those who are more financially privileged than others.

This money is to be used on our city. Individuals received hundreds of dollars from the federal government. This money does not need to go to any individuals. People have received plenty. Fix issues in the city and number 1 secure our city. Get the homeless out!

Safer parks!

Encourage and Support Small Businesses for employment of some Merced Residents.

Taking responsibility.

Stop funding the homeless.

The city should fund programs to encourage water conservation; like rebates for taking out grass, rebates for toilets and washing machine upgrades. The city should invest in a surface water treatment plant.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

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If we don't lose our business due to the pandemic, we will lose it due to the homeless that scare away the customers and the mess they produce. They need help and a safe (sp), where business owners aren't at risk of losing their business.

trim trees on most congested roadways and fix the merced mall

We need to improve traffic flow in City Limits of Merced. Dual turn lanes at G, M, & R Street and Olive Ave. would help. Open up Parsons Ave with a bridge over Bear Creek and a over pass at Parsons & Santa BNSF Tracks. Think long term for traffic. Finish the Quiet Zone on BNSF Line. Thank You. Gary T. Rucker

Community beautification and services for homeless are linked - bear creek between G and McKee has become a hotspot for homeless and an absolute mess of trash, dead trees and fire scars

Look at the middle class that had to work through the pandemic, trying to keep up with rent or buy a house. The town is so expensive but nothing to show, no shops, no restaurants, no activities for kids, and its a "college town".

we need housing very badly, build more senior housing to fit our income. build housing for all available for all. solar supported. we need income based housing especially for seniors and homeless families

-what about a couple of portable toilets near homeless camps to cut down on those issues? -dumpster days the entire city can throw out stuff at dumpsters placed around the city, benefits anyone wanting to use it? -tree trimming for anyone who has a need, not just city maintained trees but anyone that schedules with you? -funds to grow love Merced city involvement programs -used to offset cost of permits for new growth there are always more ways to clean up the city and those would be toward the top of my list.

Help most vulnerable , houseless, lost jobs,) maintain increase police, fire, paramedic, nurses Help for mom & pop style businesses

Gather all our homeless to an assigned area, fenced in, where their issues can start to be resolved. "NO loitering and lettering. Laws must be enforced and the city/county have land parcels that could be used for this more

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beneficial and compassionate process for people, who can no longer handle their lives, for a variety of reasons.
Thank you!

Create a task force to patrol homeless and keep the city clean safe this will encourage more shopping in our city and create more tax revenues

Merced needs safe paths for walking and bike riding that don't make you go under streets where homeless live. We need walking paths around Yosemite Lake, around Applegate Park, around Merced College and any other large park like area or residential areas. They need to be well lit, clean, artsy and safe.

City surveillance system to assist in identifying individuals committing crime and vandalism.

Merced needs more entertainment for the college students and residents. The mall projects seems like it stopped.

The money budget in this town goes to things that don't matter as much. The trash, homelessness need to be fixed. Focus on bringing things into this city that will make it better, not worse. The city employees deserve more. They do not get paid enough for what they do.

Clean up Bear Creek. Remove a lot of brush and old trees. Work on landscaping and make it a nice creek area.

As a returning resident to Merced, there are very few youth programs. I would love to see money spent on our youth.

Robert Givens lots of talk about COVID. Why is it legal to let people live in my house without paying me and you just keep kicking the can down the road! \$17,000 owed to me so far! Just not right! Call me (209) 485-4584. Pay me!

Give funding to Sierra Saving Grace to renovate existing rental housing or build new housing for the homeless especially for families that are split up by being homeless with children housed away from their parents.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

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Low income workers. Not aided people who is supported by the Government already. For people who worked and suffered.

Help pay Property taxes, more youth programs and Communication for youth programs in all schools also clean up a lot over here over X St. There is a lot of homeless and a lot of drug activity especially by the motels off Vsr thank you. Maria Martinez 1783 Lopes Ave. 95341

Implement ideas to avoid traffic delays. Repaving of streets. Everyone uses the streets of Merced fir transportation.

Maintenance of the bike path(s) and homelessness assistance/programs

Help the people of merced country!

The city needs to fix the roads.

Sport facilities for kids

designate homeless encampment zones. for safety, sanitation and focus of community security. Focus social service location.

The buildings can use a upgrade

Making youth and adult program locations more appealing. Dilapidated facilities need a makeover

I believe we have a lot of programs for homeless people but there should be a way to make them get the help they need. I see the clean up crews go from camp to camp to camp to clean everything up and within a week, camps and tents are back up. The G and 13th area was cleaned up last week and when I drove past on Saturday, there were 3 or 4 tents already put back up. The city spends a lot of money cleaning up after them only to have it go right back.

Founding to do improvements in the city of course, jobs for homeless, and keep the city clean.

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Water issues. We need water free from toxins and carcinogens.

It's been months abs I was approved b it they haven't paid the landlord yet they said they are busy but it's hard to speak to anyone who knows what is happening. I just wanted to speak to the person involved in my case I think that's fair enough. I was worried it was taking so long to be approved that they might not approve me and I would have to pay three months rent at once I paid 2 months after I called and they said I would be paid back if I decided to pay before the time the case was approved. Anyway after I paid the two months and was approved a lady on the phone said that since I had the money to pay I must of not needed help, and I wouldn't be getting it back. that's not the case I went months with no money at all only to be back paid some money all of which I used for that thinking it would come back to. The customer service is really not good within the programs. Are there even notes taken and added to your profile at all? It's a little earth shattering to hear I just lost 2500 that I was prepared to receive back to me or at least apply to future rent? That's been my issue with the program so far and not to mention the long time she says it will take to even start paying the utilities that they said they could. It's really hard and stressful to watch bills pile up not knowing if and when they will be paid. An added stress we don't need

It's not necessarily the city's problem but let's get the owner of the Merced Mall going on the big remodel. The place looks sad and terrible for the city. Get that tax revenue!

Eliminate visible homeless camps.

I believe more community input should be taken into consideration for ARPA funding including community mapping and meetings for priority identification .

The town is being run down, more full of crime than it has ever been, homeless are a HUGE problem. Cannot believe how many times I am approached and threatened on a regular basis by homeless people who even say they are going to murder me... Invest in police, invest in small businesses that were destroyed by our idiot governor over the last year and invest in fixing up this city that is falling apart and hideous. Nobody I have ever met who drives by ever stops here because of how terrible it looks. The freeway, the businesses close to the freeway and buildings downtown look terrible. Write people up who own buildings downtown, refuse to sell and let them fall to shambles. FIX OUR TOWN. There is no way a city with a University yet THIS SMALL should look like this or be like this.

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I do not want the board of supervisors to use the ARPA funds on Revenue replacement. 1) I want 5 million dollars to go to a Rights to Counsel program to support protections against unlawful evictions. 2) I want 10 million dollars for affordable housing in Merced county. 3) I want 15 million dollars for building community centers in rural parts of the county like Delhi, Hilmar, Livingston, Santa Nella, Le Grand, and Planada. 4) I want 5 million for building parks and improving parks in Delhi, Hilmar, Livingston, Santa Nella, Le Grand, and Planada. 5) I want 5 million dollars for youth jobs facilitated through Merced county and in partnership with city municipalities and Merced school districts. I hope the board of supervisors host a townhall for community input on how to spend the ARPA funds. I am requesting the board of supervisors change the meeting time from Tuesdays at 10 am to 6pm so the community can come speak to you in person about our concerns.

Taking care of streets, and community parks. More youth programs. More resources for the library. Make main Street relevant, and safe for people to walk and shop.

Research shows that when people have their basic needs met (food, housing, etc.) the positive outcomes extend to the community. For this reason, I advocate that this should be the first goal of the city's efforts. Longer term, we really need to invest in water/sewer/waste infrastructure. We are not creating a sustainable community around any of these issues.

Figure out a way to return all our shopping carts to business's. Fine the homeless for taking them.

Hazzard pay please for the love of God

Need financial help to pay rent and creditors as a small business owner.

To many homeless

Please develop downtown. Why does Turlock have such a great downtown and Merced does not?

Please use this essential fund to ensure the people most at need are helped. Do not waste this money on administrative and businesses that shout the loudest.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

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None

Merced has a really bad housing crisis, so affordable housing should be top on the list. It would also be nice to help eliminate food deserts, and bring more diversity of stores and shops to Merced.

I come from Hollister ca I've seen an increase of the homeless this is a big issue after the pandemic. Here in Merced the mental illness is dominated in this area?

I think small grants for landlords could be beneficial in reducing debt

I've noticed more than usual garbage on merced city streets, making our city look like a dump also we haven't started working on merced mall looks horrible..

Just don't waste it!! Give it to the Landlords who have to pick up after all this mess. People getting paid for sitting on their behinds and hiding behind the ruling to not pay Rent, but can purchase a new car, new iPhones, dinner out, while the rest of us work our behinds off. By the way I am a Landlord, in a different county no issues with our tenant, so far.

If you're truly concerned about community needs then answer your phones, put people in place who have answers or can at least direct concerns to the correct sources. Something needs to be done about our water resources. I have yet to see any concerns from the city regarding the drought. No water, you can all kiss your jobs goodbye.

Creating more essential housing, medical assistance, programs and food distribution for seniors in the community (Sew the seeds now to create adequate resources for the largest group of retirees in the next 7 years!).

Bring more businesses to Merced so we can leave our tax dollars in Merced instead elsewhere. We don't have any stores to go shopping at

Giving Minimum Wage Essential Workers a Retroactive Hazard Pay. Retroactive.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

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Aside from affordable housing and resources for the homeless addressing resources and support for those struggling with meth and mental health. We need a better infrastructure at the hospital because the ER is too small and the staff is limited to the growing population.

More services/ housing for homeless families with school age children I see school age children living in these makeshift temporary housing motels and they have to live with other individuals that are on drugs living in the same motels as they are and the things I'm sure they have to see and hear are things that we as a community wouldn't want our children to be subjected to. Separate housing for just families with school age children should be one of the main priorities.

Use funding to help those who lost jobs due to the pandemic to pay for backed up delinquent water/refuse and sewer bills charged by the City of Merced.

Daniel Zacharias

My street on Carol Avenue in 2 years cars parked in the street had been side swipe by people reckless driving and leave the scene.... Police don't seem emotionally or mentally invested in trying to help community... people either have great or limited insurance loose a car and are hurt without being able to have any transport to go to work...my community with neighbors in their 60 or 70s have requested street lights and speed bumps for years... I am 29 and been here since I was 16...and I still see no change and a once quiet neighborhood next to golden valley high school is now not safe to even to walk in evening without some sort of protection. I invested also in cameras for my home and cars as everyone else in my neighborhood since cops won't do anything without some slight of evidence... I understand when there is nothing to go on cops can't do much but at least tell the community we will do all that's is possible instead of telling people "things happen, did you see anything if not we can't do anything "

We need a safer gang and drug related major clean up!

Increase pay for daycare so people can go back to work

I think there are quite a few people who need access to "in person" mental health and it's hard to be seen.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

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invest in the youth period. Maybe figure out a way to get rid of the homeless besides throwing money at them.

Bring awareness to address the ACEs experienced by children & families that have been exacerbated as a result of COVID-19 and fill the gaps between healthcare & community resources within our community. Please & Thank you

I believe Merced should be focused on infrastructure, expanded housing, community development, and business development; in that order.

Fix roads

This is a not a Marxist State. Private Individuals and Companies invest in a area that has infrastructure. The rest will come.

We need more programs for youth. Youth criminal activity has gotten out of control since the pandemic because kids don't have anything to do and schools are barely staying open with weekly quarantines. We have to provide more opportunities for the youth of Merced to prevent them from turning to other harmful sources for entertainment and support.

I entered beautification as a top priority because tourists do not want to come to a city overrun by homelessness, tagging and filth. I just visited the East Coast and coming back to Merced was a rude awakening, sadly it is dirty and unkempt. Can owners of empty lots be held accountable to clean them up? Is there any budget to paint old dirty buildings by volunteers if the owners give permission? Who is responsible for cleaning shopping center parking lots? Can any one be held accountable for unsightly yards? Does the city have any regulations for unsightliness? We need more neighborhood clean ups and to stay on top of homeless encampments. This is my birthplace, but I'm embarrassed by it, does anybody else care? I want to be proud of my community.

Addressing homelessness

Please provide mental health and drug recovery assistance for the homeless population

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

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Merced county needs programs to control the pet population. They need assistance to help spay and neuter cats/dogs. This would greatly decrease amount of unwanted pets in shelters. Animal control is either understaffed or underfunded. They are never open! The majority of homeless people have choices. The abandoned and feral animals don't.

pave the streets, get rid of the tweekers.

Adding more apartment complexes.

I believe elected are officials are paid for and elected to make these decisions. Having the citizens make the decisions for them is gov inefficiency

The roads in Merced are in terrible condition and need help.

We need a program that oversees the homeless people Which makes them responsible for cleaning up their own garbage. They need to be accountable for themselves instead of our tax dollars being used to clean up their crap

Mental health care in this county is extremely out of date. I would recommend putting everyone that works for county mental health services through ASIST training and certification as a start.

I understand that it's difficult to accommodate everyone during the pandemic, especially with such differing beliefs in our community when it comes to COVID. Regardless of how people are viewing COVID, the reality is that a disease is a disease, and it is better to be safe than sorry. Housing prices have skyrocketed (doesn't help that UC Merced screwed over a bunch of students) and it needs to be addressed as well.

Be fiscally responsible with public funds.

The pandemic is still a serious threat with Breakthrough infecting rates climbing. The county needs to catch up with current scientific understanding of covid. Masks should be mandated for everyone in all public access places and vaccinations need to be pushed harder.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

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Not sure how this got sent to me

Seems to be very much more dangerous to be out on Merced streets over the last 2 years

Merced Rescue Mission - they have helped the city and county with caring for COVID and had to pay extra for covid pay when employees get sick, a great hardship of the mission

PUBLIC SAFETY!!!!!! Our homes are not buffet's so POS LOW LIFE CRIMINALS CAN COME UP TO OUR DOOR STEPS A RIP US OFF, or run us over when we stop them from stealing our mail!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Resurface 15th street

Utility bill assistance, youth programs, financial help for senior citizens for us making less than \$1487 monthly. it would be nice if i got a little of that money you have, BTW, I am widowed and 71 years old.

We are an agricultural town we have to recycle our waste water and return as much as possible to our aquifers. Better integration with UC Merced so 5 G and fiber optic and I know it is difficult because of the current political climate but our city and county leaders need to educate state leaders that we Merced are home of innovation, efficiency. Not the dumping ground for their prisons, hazardous waste, and other failures of the state.

I am an artist and want agriculture to be free of in

Build the parks that we were told we had already received grants for. This should be funded as it includes: health and fitness, city beautification and youth.

There is so much to do in our community and the money really could. Be used in any of the areas listed as we need help in all areas. I think the ones I chose if addressed first would cause a chain reaction for the other issues

Child Care servcies for children of work families Child Care Small Buisness Owners

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

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Get the homeless out of our streets, they deserve a roof over their heads, especially with how many youths recently entered their ranks due to Merced's mishandling of a horrible pandemic.

Merced has a state university, a junior college, 80 thousand people, and not one decent park or restaurant. We're better than this. We're isolated in the middle of the valley, so we're on our own. Nobody commutes to the bay area or Fresno (maybe a few) from here, like they do from Modesto or even Turlock. Turlock is WAY smaller than we are, with a similar demographic... but we drive THERE to go out to eat. Let's make Merced a *destination*. Play up The Gateway to Yosemite motto to the hilt. We need recreation areas. Bring back the bowling alley. Bring back places people will drive to get *here* to get to...Interesting, fun things to do. How about a food truck park, next to a Miniature golf venue? Ping pong bars, or night clubs that aren't dives... pump some money into beautification and infrastructure.... and for the love of God, make Bear Creek park beautiful again, and find some place for the homeless and their trash...

Please help essential workers who have worked non stop during the pandemic and did not have the luxury of working from home to keep safe. These people in our community have been looked over.

Need more parks and recreational areas

Make Merced beautiful again and safe from so much crime

Many individuals have lost their homes due to the pandemic and are now roaming the streets. It would be best to get them off the streets by investing in shelters and housing assistance programs. Once more civilians have a sense of stability, a stable economy will follow. Invest in our people of Merced, all our people.

More traffic lights and parks in North Merced. Additionally, there should be sidewalks and/or safe bike trails for students to get to the university and high school on and around Bellevue Road.

We need to understand to keep the economy flowing which helps all people benefit we need to use this for continual good for the people and/or businesses. NOT A TEMPORARY BAND AID TO HELP SOME FOR A SHORT TIME RATHER THAN MANY FOR A LONG TIME.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

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Better jobs with training fix more of our tore up county roads support our police and essential workers find some better solutions for our homeless and the god awful trash that they leave everywhere they go make the people receiving public assistance do something for their money train them with the right P P E to clean up the homeless trash problem it's disgusting. No more free rides everyone needs to pitch in to make our community an attractive place for everyone including attracting new businesses.

We are in a housing crises. Even before we build ourselves out of it we will need the water and sewer capacity and other infrastructure to allow the units needed to house our ever growing city.

Addressing the concerns of the citizens.

Keep working on homeless situations

Drought is real , recycling cleaned waste water back into aquifers. Without water the city dies. The other items maybe woke but survival is paramount

No more fun should be diverted To providing services to the homeless that refused housing.

No funds should be diverted to provide providing services for the homeless that Is either can or won't be housed.

I would like to see us invest in youth programs- specifically sports, music, and art. Beautify, build out, and improve our parks, trails,etc.

Bring in a more diversified business and restaurants to Merced.

Increased funding for community beautification in older/poorer Neighborhoods, improving/redoing side walks in these neighborhoods, providing bike friendly roads, repaving older streets and neighborhoods.

While it is appreciated that the city tried to collect community input through this survey, the structure and pre-written responses are very limiting and do not fully capture the hardships of our community and the way we are still being impacted by COVID-19. Our city would highly benefit from things such as youth opportunities, rent

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relief, infrastructure for access to healthy food in south Merced. Many young people on Merced also lack transportation from and to school, considering there isnt a single high school in south Merced besides GV. Free bus fares for students could be very beneficial. Please invest some time and allocate part of this money to creating a youth employment program that would ensure young people have sustainable opportunities in our city.

Unfortunately, it doesn't appear that these funds can be used to encourage NEW (emphasis added to new) businesses to come to our city. Maybe if the funds were used to make Merced appear more presentable. Get the mall to finish the construction where Sears was or dismantle what was started; demolish or have the owners tear down the buildings on the north side of 16th St between S and V. Start a campaign to encourage people not to litter; put more garbage cans around the walking and biking paths.

I am a young person and I feel that some funding should go to youth groups and there should be more jobs for us young people because I know that I'm struggling as well as others

I believe, as a young person who needs a job to support my family after the pandemic caused my parents to be laid off, that the ARPA money should go towards a youth program that helps teenagers get jobs at places other than fast food chains.

We need to clean up Merced. More businesses and individuals would be more interested i coming here. Get the homeless off the streets with more police and fire. We need to make the community safer.

Small business assistance

A super return on investment is the arts: they help the youth and people of all ages with their emotional struggles, they make Merced more fun and beautiful for all, and and they build good will!

Increase vaccinations

Child care needs massive improvements I am a single mother whom had to quit her government position due to no childcare. There is limited capacity due to Covid and is extremely unaffordable in our community my

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government job could barely afford to pay what is being asked for by day care centers. And home care centers are consistently getting caught with child pornography and firearms accusations which doesn't encourage anyone to want to leave there child with someone who is going to hurt them for a check. Do your part, work on this.

Rid the Old boys club

I am not a fan of government involvement in personal affairs. Government creates a problem then wants to ride in on a white horse and be the hero. Im against this entire program.

I think the most essential need for our community is mental health services and job preparation programs to help individuals break the social stratification level they were born into. Instead of programs that lead to dependency we need programs that focus on the mental and education components that are key to breaking barriers. Broken children turn into broken parents and cycles continue. The Lexile level of this survey highlights the lack of understanding of the needs of our community. We can do so much better.

Implementation of a task force to pick the unsightly and reoccurring messes left by all the homeless encampments.

My 1st 2 issues I believe are self explanatory. The 3rd one the city doesn't have, which is bi yearly sidewalk clean up. Many cities in the valley have it and it helps keep communities cleaner. By having this serve, the people of Merced can clean out their yards and homes, saving dump runs, which many people can't afford. It would also help in pruning trees, which would save electrical and phones lines being pulled on by the limbs. The citizens of Merced would be grateful for being able to beautify their homes. Thank you for your consideration.

Expand the commercial, and tourism sector in Merced. Build an outlet mall, build entertainment venues, create countless of jobs, and keep Merced dollars in Merced.

Help the people, we dont want a pretty town with poverty sky rocketing.

Teachers and students are struggling. Imagine a child who has been on distance learning for almost 2 years. They began the pandemic as 6th graders and now are entering high school. A freshman is now a junior in highschool.

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These kids are suffering from severe emotional and academic regression. Teachers deserve hazard pay and students need services. We are overwhelmed with our current workload, discipline and emotional/anxiety producing expectations everyday.

Repurpose empty lots to be community gardens for local residents.

Cleaning and fixing bike paths through the city of Merced

Full disclosure on the actual use of these funds.

I just think taking care of the homeless in our city will help improve our landscapes and roads neighborhoods also I think it would cut down on all the fires that were having from the homeless I know they don't do it on purpose but they're just trying to feed themselves or stay warm

Health care workers support

Anything that will provide better bicycle transportation routes that are save and not overgrown and broken asphalt plus beautification of this town along with placing funds aside to go after landlords that do not keep up with their rental properties!

More business on the south side of Merced. South merced residents continue to have limited access to full service supermarkets and commerce.

Hire more Black People! When you go for assistance, the Hispanics receive the most because the majority of the employees are Hispanics.

Replace the asphalt on Yosemite Ave from Massionte to Paraons. Do an underpass on M St for the Santa Fe tracks.

make merced safe and unique

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Special funding for restaurants and businesses for the downtown area. Develop an area away from downtown (Main st corridor) for all of the socially challenged people (homeless). Hopefully to draw them away from the downtown area. Yosemite Ave is really rough along with quite a few other streets

Born and bred in Merced County. MCM, is where i was born and it is sad that Merced had opened its doors to the less fortunate; but i see the recovery efforts and i love UCM, as a UC, Davis alumni. Welcome to Merced UoFCA, but what about our culture and small town feel! We have children also...

Public information. People should be properly guided, be it mask requirements in indoor settings, job openings, business opportunities, etc. In the recovery process, I don't believe in giving lots of money to people. It postpones people's need to find a job. Assistance to businesses is also important especially in upgrading their establishments to make it safer for customers and workers while this pandemic is still raging.

The leadership of Merced needs to think bigger. We should easily be as successful as Turlock, but we are an eye sore which is sad. I feel for the UC kids that come here along with our youth. Merced needs to get it together.

There needs to be some speed bumps on Arrow Wood dr. People are always racing up and down the street. It's quite noisy at night. Also trees need to be planted on M street Between Cardella Rd. and Arrow Wood St.

These funds should be used to implement new programs and opportunities other than things that have already been funded by the current budget. The funds should not be used to supplement the City's usual yearly expenses.

Get business here to get people back to work and off welfare

Cars are parked on lawns , trash in alleys, maybe put some camera s up and catch these people who throw trash in the alleys and some have so many cars they don't have a place to park them

Help people with their PG&E bills

arts organization funding - non-profits funding

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City bills should be reduced or a helpful program created to help assist in paying.

There are a lot of shootings here in Merced n though I've never been where they are I do hear there is a lot of gang activity... how about we start there!!!!

I believe you are doing a very good job considering. I greatly appreciate you getting public opinion. Internet availability and connectivity is essential for all aspects of your appointment community development and education.

It don't matter, the county already knows what they're doing with the funding

Stormwater, safety, community beautification.

Small businesses that didn't get enough loan assistance or missed their opportunity would stand to benefit most. They are the backbone of our local economy and we should do whatever we can to help them survive and thrive.

Please let businesses do business once again, and let people be.

The money needs to go to making Merced a safer place for us. Parents are afraid to even let their kids play outside in the daytime due to all of the violence, homelessness and drugs in the area.

Please invest in our youth. They have nothing to do. The skating rink is decrepit and there's not much else

Cleaner and safer neighborhoods.

Put people to WORK!

Consider updating fuel stations and pressure washing stations in the public works yard.

Focus more on those that worked to continue to provide care to patients and customers along with helping those that really need the help as opposed to fixing up roads, building or renovating empty buildings, etc.

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Need programs to attract businesses coming to Merced. We even need better retail stores, shopping centers and shopping malls. The only shopping mall is in poor condition with construction/ renovation going on and off for a couple of years now.

We need policies to allow as to move forward with the pandemic.

Providing more Jobs and reasonable housing cost

Get rid of l'd gangs and guns. Help the homeless relocate, elsewhere.

The SERIOUS ISSUE of Feral Cats really needs to be addressed. The Employees at the Animal Shelter in Atwater ARE IN MY OPINION. WORTHLESS AND LAZY. I HAVE 5 FERAL CATS IN MY BACK YARD NOW. I CAUGHT THREE IN A CAGE WITH FOOD WHEN THEY WERE KITTENS TOOK THEM TO THE SHELTER..(SORRY WRONG CAGE) GO BUY A \$50.00 CAGE THAT IS APPROVED ITS UNSAFE FOR US HERE AT THE SHELTER TO REMOVE THEM ! ONLY 1 CAT PER DAY. RIDICULOUS. I AM A SENIOR CITIZEN AND CANNOT BE TRAPPING CAT'S. TERMINATE THE WHOLE DEPARTMENT FROM MANAGEMENT TO SUBORDINATES. HIRE SOMEONE WHO NEEDS A JOB AND ISN'T SUCKING UP MY HARD EARNED TAX DOLLARS. NEITHER. DMV AND EDD EMPLOYEES HAVE NOTHING ON THIS GROUP OF CITY EMPLOYEES

We are tired of getting tax look at the homeless are on meth stealing.I moved from LA found out they moved the homeless from San Francisco to Merced.I saw homeless guy with his pants down at night fighting his imaginary person by Costco.

Parks, and infrastructure and programs to support recreation for youth and families is most critical.

Create a river walk for the city on bear creek by using city property and recycling the water in the creek between 16th st and g street provide space for food trucks and other benders like boat rentals and floating tubs let's use beat creek we don't have to buy the land and the cost of recycling the water would provide a lot for the city the water would be clean and. A place to enjoy and beautify the city.

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Help people that are currently in section 8/low income to live in better environment and house rather than living in a bad neighborhood just because of their low income and family size

You better start fixing the streets all over Merced. You guys waste money on a lot of streets letting contractors get away with shoddy work when repairing streets or resurfacing streets and roads. Olive Ave for instance is in very bad condition.

Utilize Castle Industrial area more, especially the airport section.

Paying homeless to Clean up the city. The City of Sacramento has a program. Look into what is working in other City's and County's do the research.

Fund schools

Take control of the homeless situation

Increasing outdoor activity opportunities: parks, dog parks, sports complexes, small business supporting sports and the outdoors, Exchequer Park, hiking, biking and running trails, bike lanes, and local sports organizations and teams.

Traffic getting bad.

the roads are truly crumbling! There are roads that needed repair ten years ago... that still await repair. Many roads so bad it's a hazard. Aside from that my neighborhood is plagued by a population explosion of roosters crowing 24 hours a day

Bear Creek is kind of our signature feature along with our many trees. I am appalled that our bike path is considered unsafe with homeless people camping under the bridges and in the brush. That path should be well kept from McKee to R street so our citizens can safely enjoy it

Build more housing and help the homeless

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Our city streets and trees are a disgrace. I don't pay my City of Merced bill to see the entire city look disgusting and unkempt

Down Payment Assistance.

Drug Addiction, Mental Health issues, and Grief Counseling need to addressed. Isolation due to the Pandemic has compounded these issues Tenfold.

Seed affordable housing trust fund

Do not give premium pay and hazard pay to people who are paid more than \$60,000 a year.

Do not give Premium pay and/or hazardous pay to people who get paid more than \$60,000

The City of Merced is getting bigger because of the UC Merced, however we're lack of entertainment for thousands of college students to relax or hangout during weekends. I hope you can plan some activities outdoor not only for kids but also for adults can have fun and exercise too like outdoor gyms equipment can be install at the parks, more fun event like yoga classes at the park sometime for everyone health, etc. During this time, it is very hard for everyone especially mentally health issues, so I believe more fun activities will help reduce stress and make the city more productive.

Allocate for the invisible homeless project

Allocate funds for the invisible homeless project

Allocate Funds for the Invisible Homeless Project

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More shops and things to do in Merced. There is a reason it is called "Merdead" There are a lot of good unused buildings all around Merced that need to be filled with shops or community projects. Also this whole situation with the homeless everywhere need to be dealt with. Get them housed somewhere or ship them out like every other state does.

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The internet will allow residents to work from home.

Affordable housing!!!

San Antonio TX capitalized on a river that goes through town. They have restaraunts along the river, lighting, etc. It has become a huge tourist draw. San Antonio is now known nationally for their "river walk". We have a treasure running right through town. I can't think of a better way to help small businesses than develop a Riverwalk in our little town which will draw tourism and tax revenue.

Stop listening to Black Lives Matter and bring more business to Merced and fund more police. Send the homeless to mental wards to straighten their lives out. Clean up Merced and get the graffiti out and put criminals back behind bars!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Stop being buffoons and stop supporting Marxist ideologies!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Get off your ass and get to work!!!!!!!!!!!!

There have been so many people affected by this pandemic. If we can use the money to help keep our homeless population from growing, small businesses running, and helping landlords who haven't received rent checks; I think that would be the best way to spend the money.

I would love to see these funds improve Applegate Park, update our bike trail paths, and improve our streets. We have an amazing park in Applegate Park and fantastic biking systems that need some love. This could positively impact the quality of life for residents for years to come.

creating new sports facilities and upgrading our existing ones

Several areas in Merced have homeless shelters that are a safety issue as well as an eyesore. These areas need to be cleaned up and more agresive enforcement of laws being broken by homeless people who refuse help.

We need municipal broadband, public safety, and infrastructure. We also should look at using funding for the soccer field project in south Merced and down payment assistance programs.

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We should be looking at funding the soccer field we've talked about in the past in south merced and also down payment assistance programs.

mental health services

allocate funds to house the invisible homeless

funds to house the invisible homeless

Help with the transitional school children that are going back to school in getting some better options for the nursing staff that has to deal with all these children coming back in an option available for parents that don't want their kids going back to imperson and nobody has even thought of that this special needs community that hasn't even been served at all during this entire pandemic and the The increased costs that it's given to the families that have no resources in this town

School for special education so more kids get the education they need and deserves. Classrooms for special only have space for a few for each grade.

allocate funds for invisible homeless program

Build a solar grid that serves everyone. Once it's in place the money saved would go back into the economy. I would look for role models, cities that make a difference for every day life. Demo unsafe buildings that have been empty too long. Clear out brush on bear creek, no camping. Remove walking bridge on south bear creek, so our neighborhood is safe. Vagrants would nolonger cut through to Walmart and camp at creek etc. Replace every "city tree" that's been cut down. Help homeowners with trees that are dead and present a hazard.

We should be looking at funding the soccer field we've talked about in the past in south merced and also down payment assistance programs.

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I would also like to see some of the funding go towards the Merced Zoo to make it a more enjoyable for our residents.

I would also like to see money go towards our road infrastructure if applicable and also our city zoo. The zoo has been a staple for decades and the money could really improve it for future generations to enjoy.

We should be looking at funding the soccer field we've talked about in the past in south merced and also down payment assistance programs.

Work on removing homelessness and gangs in our community.

Get more businesses along the freeway, bring more travel dollars to support a large variety of retailers and restaurants, create more jobs and a better way of living

in terms of homelessness, the community gets funding lets better coordinate the services , in terms of streets the city receives and will continue to receives funding from the tax measure, in terms of youth, this appears to be one time funding and the services to youth are such as to require on going support

Give raises to our police and first responders.

Invest in our police and first responders.

Expand funding all areas

I think a wonderful community park with a family friendly splash pad, trails, fitness park and playing fields would be wonderful!

It's not a Communist state. Build a infrastructure and good streets. The rest will come.

Homeless encampments are unhealthy, disgusting and a growing problem. Please use funding on these. They are fire hazards and a danger to our city/county

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Work with trusted, proven organizations to distribute and administer the funds, not activists or organizations that are mismanaged.

I believe you should contribute part of this funding to the school districts and the community college. Specifically the arts program at these schools. The arts were greatly effected during the pandemic as were extra curricular activities for students.

More lights on bike paths Please Close off the bike path behind Devonwood Village as it is behind the new Devonwood Village homes and all kinds of criminal activity, drugs and shootings take place back there. The gang members even drive their cars and trucks back there at 2and 4 in the early morning; just gate it off with a coded gate entry in case the police or firemen need to get back there. This will keep us safe instead of living in fear for our lives. Relocate WalMart to a different area somewhere around Childs Ave where there is more room and away from Devonwood Village residential area. This will stop the homeless people from coming into Devonwood Village and trying to break into our homes, steal our packages, steal our gas from our cars, fill up their gallon water bottles with our water, go through our trash, etc, etc Bring Rasin Cane Chicken to Merced and I-Hop, Olive Garden and also Sprouts, Whole Foods, Finish building the Mall Create a quiet zone from 10 pm to 7 am to give us relief from the loud train horns Have more police patrol around Devonwood Village - Loughborough and Austin and by the creek Initiate the bycycle police patrol Clean up the gangs and arrest them Clean up the homeless camps and put some stricter policies, fines and laws in place that will show them that Merced is a city that will not tolerate their destructive and filthy behavior. Don't let other cities send over their homeless and mentally ill people by the busloads . Find out their drop off locations and tell them to keep going. Let's take our city back and work together to make it beautiful, safe and a place where good people want to move too. Thank you

Invest back into communities, provide youth investment and involve communities in the decision making process.

We need to focus the most on the people. There are so many people who lost jobs, housing, and access to food during this pandemic. Improving other things within the city and county is important, but there won't be a point if our inhabitants are dying from exposure and lack of food and clean water. We also need to take care of the people who have no choice but to be on the front lines of this pandemic. Health care workers, grocery store employees, and others need all the help they can get because of their continual support of the community as a whole, even in times like these. There is also a critical need for more access to the internet, students of all ages

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need to use it to continue their education. It has impacted students who can't afford it, particularly the students in our community who have lost jobs and housing. There is no reason to have to halt their journey of education and by extension higher paying and more reliable jobs. Even beyond the impact to students of all ages, many people who were able to work from home or at least out of the physical locations of their work have been negatively affected. If they lost access to devices that have internet, they would have to find different employment, and if that happens, they would have no other option but to either get a job that deals with the public and puts them and anyone living with them in danger, or try to get unemployment. This pandemic has cost so much, not just resources, not just money and housing security, but lives. We need to take steps to try and stop the bleeding as much as we can until we can go back to normalcy. The world won't ever be the same as it was, but we can take all of this as a learning experience to prevent something this tragic happening again. To do that, we need to help our people, we are so much stronger when we are able to band together.

Allocate funds for the invisible homeless project !

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Allocate funds for the invisible homeless project !
Housing
Allocate funds for invisible homeless project
Investments leads to services
Allocate funds for the invisible homeless project.
Community cleanliness makes it a priority. Clearing streets and overpasses with garbages and trash. Get shelters for homeless people but also don't let them continues trashing our City they need help more than others but We need to keep the town intact, more cleaner and develop to have Potential for more people and travelers to visit MERCED which is the gateway to YOSEMITE NaTional Park. -Cher-
Find ways to make our community more suitable for outdoor activities to promote health from parks to sidewalks to bikeways.
Funds should be used for infrastructure not ongoing service
Keep homeless off private property - better police support and roads

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Assist in hardships

Putting money into not degrading and ONLY replenishing soils. Agriculture is a crucial part of the food system and our soil holds half of the carbon in the world, so we need to take care of it to mitigate even more severe climate change affects.

Lighting on older streets- oleander ave has no street lights.

Money needs to be spent on investments in our community, not one time allotments to citizens. Citizens have received (both businesses and individuals) so many benefits from various levels of government that more would only lead to wasteful spending at this point and prolong the effort of getting people back to work. Invest in physical improvements to our town (sewer, beautification, public safety).

Don't create a new government subsidy to the lower income. There have been so many programs given to this sector that the money has become used in wasteful ways and it prolongs getting people back to work. We need our community working and contributing - not taking and staying home. Put the funds to use in permanent infrastructure, safety and beautification of our town. Create community pride not community dependency.

continue to revitalize the downtown area - things are looking good - but we need to strive for GREAT...!

Use the funds to create more funds. Do not use funds to create a new subsidy on housing or Covid relief to individuals or businesses - there have been too many of these programs already. Use funds to support public safety, beautification and infrastructure. Invest in our community, giving it to individuals will not help them go out and get jobs, rather only prolong the return to work effort we need. We need a working community not an entitled community.

with the droughts becoming more frequent and catastrophic, it is important we invest in ways to keep the water we do get. Water we get from rain and rivers and snow from the mountains needs to be stored and used for more difficult times. In 2017 & 2018, we were above average in terms of rainfall. 2019 was average and 2020 was very below average. If we had been able to store more water from 17, 18, 19, we may be in a better position for when we get lack of water in 2020, and pay the price in 2021. I would buy vacant, not currently used for farmland or

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housing developments, to put in holding ponds that people can use for recreation activities in the summer, and water storage in the winters. Connect the bike paths to these areas, put in solar shades over the parking spaces, and make it a self sustaining area for our community for years to come.

Let's use this gift of funding to make Merced more beautiful, fix our streets, improve our infrastructure, and do all that we can to make this a place that residents can have a great quality of life. I'd love to see investment in Applegate Park's zoo and the park in general. If we can do something to build a sports complex like other communities have, it would make us more competitive with other valley towns. I think we should also make the entrances into Merced more desirable versus the scary eyesore that they currently are.

Do not create another entitlement program by granting the funds to the folks not willing to work. We need to get our community back to work and citizens back to contributing to our community. Use the funds on infrastructure, public safety and beautification. Create community pride by getting people back to work. Giving it to individuals will only enhance entitlement. We need citizens to contribute to the community not take from the community. There have been plenty of one time funds given out to individuals.

Youth Baseball Park for outdoor recreational activities

Please, please, use the money for things that are investments, not a one time infusion of money into a one time expenditure that doesn't provide a lasting impact on the community. There is much pressure from groups outside the city pushing an agenda for items that are temporal and would not provide long term benefit to the city.

We need to invest in the future of our community in real assets - such as the Merced Applegate Zoo and our parks. Additionally, we should use our funding for one-time assets our children can enjoy, such as the Tournament style soccer facility at CP-42 in south Merced.

I believe the most important projects to fund are Wastewater/sewer Infrastructure and Expanding access to Broadband internet. We also need to fund the following: 1. Tournament style soccer facility at CP-42 in south Merced, a 2. Renovate and/or expand the Applegate Zoo and adjoining facilities, 3. Downtown renovations/beautification to draw additional economic activity into the city core, 4. Support small businesses hit

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most by pandemic, 5. Expanded funding for first responders/public safety to offset "defund the police" narrative (safe communities thrive economically).

I believe the most important projects to fund are Wastewater/sewer Infrastructure and Expanding access to Broadband internet. We also need to fund the following: 1. Tournament style soccer facility at CP-42 in south Merced, a 2. Renovate and/or expand the Applegate Zoo and adjoining facilities, 3. Downtown renovations/beautification to draw additional economic activity into the city core, 4. Support small businesses hit most by pandemic, 5. Expanded funding for first responders/public safety to offset "defund the police" narrative (safe communities thrive economically).

I believe the most important projects to fund are Wastewater/sewer Infrastructure and Expanding access to Broadband internet. We also need to consider the following items: * Tournament style soccer facility at CP-42 in south Merced, a * Renovate and/or expand the Applegate Zoo and adjoining facilities, * Downtown renovations/beautification to draw additional economic activity into the city core, * Support small businesses hit most by pandemic, * Expanded funding for first responders/public safety to offset "defund the police" narrative (safe communities thrive economically).

Allocate funds for the invisible homeless project

Allocare funds for the invisible housing project

Create more community relationships to homeless that are even more impact by covid

Please put lights down bellevue on the way to the school, it is way too dangerous at night

Allocate funds for the invisible homeless project

The streets are horrible. We had just been patching for years.

ARPA funding should be use on the community needs. Such internet for students, parents, and food programs and housing.

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Allocate funds for the invisible homeless project

make the streets better and just provide a better home for the homeless

Allocate funds for the invisible homeless project

Allocate funde for the invisible homeless project

allocate funds for the invisible homeless project

* Use funding as tax incentives to draw in large businesses that will bring jobs, jobs, jobs! * Give Restore Merced a grant to provide temporary housing to their temporary employees which are actually going from being homeless to being able to support themselves long term.

Allocate funds for the invisible homeless project

Allocate funds for the invisible homeless project

In addition to the above areas, I'd like to see these funds invested in programs that can create long term change in the quality of life of low income/housing insecure residents - workforce and economic development, mental health and emotional well being, and drug/alcohol rehabilitation programs.

Housing assistance program, keep an eye on our infrastructure water/ sewer will definitely help us avoid a catastrophe like we've seen in other counties and states, assist small business so we can increase the employment locally and prevent people fall into homelessness

Main priorities are water and sewer infrastructure followed by broadband internet infrastructure. Followed up closely with Public Safety due to "Defund the Police" narrative.

Replace or improve infrastructure- should not be used for city expense budgets

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Wastewater and sewer infrastructure, broadband infrastructure and public safety

Main priorities are water and sewer infrastructure followed by broadband internet infrastructure. Public Safety due to "Defund the Police" narrative.

Main priorities are water and sewer infrastructure and broadband internet infrastructure. Followed up closely with Public Safety due to "Defund the Police" narrative. Homelessness.

Priorities are water and sewer infrastructure followed by broadband internet infrastructure. Followed up closely with Public Safety due to "Defund the Police" narrative.

Allocate funds for the invisible homeless project!

Allocate funds for the invisible homeless project.

Main priorities are water and sewer infrastructure followed by broadband internet infrastructure. Followed up closely with Public Safety due to "Defund the Police" policies.

More housing for homeless community

Allocate funds for the invisible homeless project.

Allocate funds for the invisible homeless project

Allocate funds for the invisible homeless project

Allocate funds for the invisible homeless project

Homeless housing

Allocate funds for the invisible homeless project.

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Homeless people allocation housing
Allocate funds for the invisible homeless project
Put Merced back to work!
Homeless housing
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1) guaranteed basic income 2) youth jobs 3) hazard pay
Allocate funds for the invisible homeless project
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and/or expand the Applegate Zoo and adjoining facilities, downtown renovations/beautification to draw additional economic activity into the city core, support small businesses hit most by pandemic, expanded funding for first responders/public safety to offset "defund the police" narrative (safe communities thrive economically).

Project Home Key should be considered.

Investment rather than dispersments.

Investments will bring wind spread growth. Dispersments are lost .

Investments bring wide spread growth. Dispersments are lost to on individuals.

Should be used for infrastructure, upgrade roads & beautification of Merced

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Updating zoo at Applegate Park

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We need to improve the image of Merced and how it is perceived internally and externally. Safety plays a huge role in this as does beautifying our community. Also, we need to invest in positive marketing for the tourist sector. This is important now more than ever with the opening El Capitan and the Mainzer. Would love to see an investment in Applegate park, bike trails repaving, entrances into Merced, and an investment in tourism/promotion of Merced.

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Our zoo could use a ton of love. It's such an asset to our community and we need to keep it up.

It would be great if we could have a spots complex here, most notably, for soccer.

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I own a house in Merced but do not live there

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It would be great if we could have a welcome sign coming into town like the old redwood one. Also, I think we should invest in Applegate Park again as it is the central park of Merced. Would love to see it shine once again! The zoo, fountain, and all courts could use some attention.

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These funds should not be used for any programs assisting illegal immigrants, period! Leave that to non-profits. Police Dept. budgets should be increased, not bludgeoned, and they should know by doing this we have their backs. This can increase hiring and put more officers on the street patrolling, especially downtown. All the up-to-date infrastructure and beautification, while important, won't make up for a city where its residents don't feel safe. I would assume this would qualify as it is part of general government operations.

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We desperately need to use this funding to focus on infrastructure investments including everything from sewer, wastewater, streets, bike paths, and Applegate Park including the zoo.

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Building a sports complex is key in investing in our town and bringing more businesses and more tax dollars to our area. This would provide us more funding to invest in things like infrastructure repairs, beautification efforts, and more!

Make investments to enhance our community, things like a tournament soccer facility in south Merced, renovate the Applegate Park and Zoo, downtown improvements, support for small business hit hard by the pandemic. Thank you!

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I think we should repave our bike paths as they as such an important part of our city's infrastructure. We need to be good stewards of them. I'd also like to see a reinvestment in Applegate Park.

o Applegate Park o Zoo o Soccer complex o Bike Path repaving

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Let's use these funds to complement the work being done by El Capitan hotel and beautify our downtown including city entrances, bike paths, and Applegate Park.

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Would love to see us add to the work being done with the San Jose Sharks and build more sporting complexes particularly for soccer. We should also make sure that Applegate Park is in tip-top shape for the Sharks arrival.

Invest in Applegate Park

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The few restaurants we have were hit hard, and funds should be directed to help them get back on their feet, or to help new restaurants open, or new businesses for that matter, but not more tire shops, dollar stores or fast food places! Merced needs to review their permitting process and cut what red tape they can. The idea is to entice them to come here, and put Merced on the map as the friendliest place in which to do business! Funds should not be directed to any social justice groups! If one gets money, they'll all want it, and that leaves less for what it really needs to go towards. We have a chance to make Merced great with better infrastructure and beautification. Don't blow it

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We need to do more to create a tourism group here in Merced.

Beautification of Applegate Park, specifically the zoo. More activities for kids to do to relieve pandemic stressors.

Make Merced a safe and beautiful place to live and work. Help create a thriving vibrant downtown where I will be safe and comfortable walking from end to end. Move the homeless out.

Make our downtown a place you want to be. Cleanup the homeless mess.

Let's fund proactive programs to keep Merced safer and let's pay our police more!

Invest in Applegate Park!

We need a sports complex for our youth and to drive our economy

I love the zoo. Can we give it some more love?

We need a soccer complex

Expand educational and training opportunities for health care workers. We have a shortage of nurses and doctors in our community made worse by the pandemic. We need to provide scholarships and loans for students to attend nursing schools outside of Merced to lessen the waiting time for the Merced College Nursing program then a percentage of the loans can be forgiven for years worked locally.

Since the pandemic began, businesses and individuals have seen that without childcare, we can't work. Closing schools was a problem but they are opening again. Our city has a large percent of families that are young with children not yet in school. These parents cannot work without safe childcare for their little ones. Most of these parents get childcare from small home-based childcare providers (they are not in Head Start, and in childcare at schools). Unfortunately, many of these childcare providers closed and many went out of business during the pandemic. They need help to open, and meanwhile, working parents needs more childcare services. Most of these parents make just a little too much income to qualify for state-funded childcare (Usually \$15 per hour). They are

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Question 13: Please share additional information you believe may help us with developing a plan to use ARPA funding.

"working poor." They need affordable, safe childcare near their home or work. There are many places throughout Merced with vacant store/office space that can be converted to low-cost childcare for working low-income families. Ideally this childcare would be available from 6am to 8pm and weekends. Schools and social services will not pay for this because this problem because they see it as the employers' problem.

Housing prices in Merced have increased greatly, impacting both local residents and new college students. Affordable housing should be priority as being unhoused can ripple out to many more difficulties, financially and emotionally.

Allocate funds for the invisible homeless project

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Service for homeless individuals

Allocating funds for invisible employees

Allocating funds for invisible employees.

Allocate funds for the invisible homeless project

Please allocate funds for the invisible homeless project

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Allocate funds for the invisible homeless project

Help the homeless

Allocate funds for the invincible homeless project.

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Allocate funds for the invisible homeless project.

Allocate funds for the invisible homeless project

I work in master gardening if there's a program in town, or schools i would be interested. Utility bill assistance - if it's ongoing.

Allocate funds for the invisible homeless project

We need to support the sierra saving grace invisible homeless project initiative!

Affordable housing programs!!

Allocate funds for the invisible homeless project

Allocate funds for the Invisible Homeless Project

Please consider this funding to help relieve student debt loans for individuals who return to their hometown of Merced to practice their profession. We are in need of more medical professionals who burden debt in order to achieve their status as a medical doctor, veterinarian, registered nurses and other essential health care workers.

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