

ANNOUNCEMENT

Haynes Foundation Awards \$1.5 Million Grant to USC to Develop Tools for Measuring Performance Outcomes of the L.A. County Government

The project will engage the community and the county government to assess and improve outcomes of public services delivery amid historic countywide governance reform.

July 16, 2026

The John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation has awarded a \$1.5 million commissioned grant to the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy to develop tools for measuring the performance of the Los Angeles County government in delivering public services. The focus of this 18-month project is to help develop systems at the county level to better the lives of residents and bolster their communities.

Founded 100 years ago, the Haynes Foundation has worked to make local governments more open, accountable, and effective for the people and communities of the L.A. region. This commissioned grant supports independent, unbiased research that will build on the County's progress in implementing performance metrics to create a new set of tools for measuring the impact of services the community wants and needs, while fostering greater public awareness of how the county government functions.

"Outcomes are the ultimate standard for evaluating how well the County government is serving the needs of its 10 million residents," said Dr. Raphael Sonenshein, executive director of the Haynes Foundation. "We are delighted to support this landmark research grant, one of the largest in the Foundation's history, to an exceptional USC team that will develop transparent performance criteria that the County can adopt to improve services and their impact on local communities."

The research team will be led by David Brady, Professor of Public Policy and Management, and Jared Nathan Schachner, Research Assistant Professor in the Wilbur H. Smith III Department of Real Estate Development. Two other USC research centers will participate: LABarometer, a unit of the Center for Economic and Social Research at the USC Schaeffer Institute for Public Policy & Government Service, and the USC Lusk Center for Real Estate's Neighborhood Data for Social Change project. The research will involve extensive engagement with community members and the county government.

The grant reflects the Haynes Foundation's commitment to the successful implementation of the sweeping County charter reform known as Measure G. The 2024 voter-approved measure created an office of Elected County Executive (for 2028) and expanded the County Board of Supervisors (for 2032). This package of reforms was first proposed by a Haynes-supported citizen commission 50 years ago.

"Measure G promised the community that there would be greater accountability for county government," added Dr. Sonenshein. "After 2028, the new elected executive, the board of supervisors, and the departments will be called upon to deliver on that promise. It's essential to get ahead of that curve by developing outcome measures today that will allow both the community and the county government to see and assess progress, obstacles, and milestones in ways that are visible and impactful."

This project is made possible by a grant from The Haynes Foundation Fund for Los Angeles Public Policy Research, a donor-advised fund established by the Haynes Foundation at the California Community Foundation.

To learn about the grant programs of the Haynes Foundation, see www.haynesfoundation.org. The Foundation can be contacted at info@haynesfoundation.org.