

# Chula Vista, CA

## Earned 'C' grade for Fiscal Health



### The Truth

Money Needed to Pay Bills **\$76.2 million**

Taxpayer Burden™ **\$800**

Financial Grade **C**

Ranking **34 out of 75**

## Financial State of Chula Vista

After the Covid-pandemic, in large part due to unrealized gains in stock market valuation of its pension investments and federal government stimulus money, Chula Vista's financial condition appeared to improve. Despite apparent improvements, Chula Vista had a Taxpayer Burden™ of \$800, earning it a "C" grade from Truth in Accounting.

The city's pension liability is calculated by subtracting earned and promised benefits from the market value of pension assets. Based on an exceptionally good year in the markets in 2021, the pension assets' values were high. The result was a dramatic decrease in Louisville's pension liability and a corresponding decrease in its money needed to pay bills. Because the city borrowed money to put into its pension plans, these plans appeared to be well funded, but the city has set not money aside for promised retiree health care benefits.

Chula Vista's elected officials have repeatedly made financial decisions that left the city with a debt burden of \$76.2 million. That burden came to \$800 for every city taxpayer. In 2022, markets produced negative market returns and federal COVID relief waned. These conditions may increase the per taxpayer Tax Burden. Chula Vista could struggle to maintain current levels of government services and benefits without further negative impact on its financial health.

The data included in this report is derived from Chula Vista's 2021 audited Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and retirement plans' reports. To compare prior years and other cities' financial, demographic, and economic information, go to Data-Z.org.

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[www.truthinaccounting.org](http://www.truthinaccounting.org)  
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# Chula Vista's Financial Breakdown

## Fast Facts

- Chula Vista needed \$76.2 million to pay its bills, which was \$27.5 million less than it needed in 2020.
- The city's reported revenues, including additional relief from the CARES Act, exceeded its expenses.
- Chula Vista's pension debt decreased by \$350 million, but this reduction was offset by an increase in the city's bonded debt.

## The City's Bills Exceeded Its Assets

Total Assets	\$2,537,021,000
Minus: Capital Assets	-\$1,572,532,000
Restricted Assets	-\$197,349,000
Assets Available to Pay Bills	\$767,140,000
Minus: Total Bills*	-\$843,333,000
Money Needed to Pay Bills	\$76,193,000
Each Taxpayer's Share of this Burden	\$800

## \*Breakdown of Total Bills

Bonds	\$500,001,000
Other Liabilities	\$477,671,000
Minus: Debt Related to Capital Assets	-\$163,091,000
Unfunded Pension Benefits	\$1,965,000
Unfunded Retiree Health Care Benefits	\$26,787,000
Total Bills	\$843,333,000

**Grade:**

**C**

Bottom line: Chula Vista would need \$800 from each of its taxpayers to pay all of its bills, so it has received a "C" for its finances. According to Truth in Accounting's grading scale, any government with a Taxpayer Burden between \$0 and \$4,999 receives a "C" grade.