

# **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PROGRAM**

## **Abstracts for Grants Awarded in December 2017**

*Coalition for Responsible Community Development*

*Civic and Community*

*Los Angeles, CA*

*\$250,000*

*December 2017*

Serving the high need community of South Los Angeles' Vernon-Central neighborhood, the Coalition for Responsible Community Development (CRCD) provides education, workforce development and supportive services to change the life trajectories of vulnerable youth ages 16-24 who are homeless, parenting and/or disconnected from work and school. To meet the multiple needs of these youth more holistically, CRCD's service locations and referral partnerships have grown in recent years. A two-year grant from the W. M. Keck Foundation will strengthen CRCD's capacity to use data organization-wide to more effectively connect and engage youth in services that will reduce barriers to their success. CRCD will hire a new director of data and analytics and an intake manager to develop a universal intake system and build an integrated data system to track referrals, services received and youth outcomes across multiple departments, programs and partners. CRCD will provide direct services to 1,000 highly vulnerable youth, including those who are or were involved in the foster care and/or juvenile justice systems.

*FosterAll*

*Civic and Community*

*Glendale, CA*

*\$250,000*

*December 2017*

Too many Hispanic children in Los Angeles County's foster care system are placed in homes where the language and culture are foreign to them. Trauma upon trauma results. Dedicated to the recruitment and retention of resource (foster) families, FosterAll (formerly Child S.H.A.R.E.) has launched the Hispanic Resource Project to address this issue. FosterAll will target the recruitment of Hispanic families from its more than 100 volunteer-based Foster Care Programs in partnership with diverse faith groups. To

prepare interested families for the approval/certification and child placement process, FosterAll educates people about the foster care system and conducts in-home interviews and assessments, while volunteers from its faith partners provide important social supports to the families who decide to foster. With more than 40 foster family agencies (FFA) throughout the county, each with its own training requirements, Spanish language capabilities and services, selecting an agency to work with can be confusing and time consuming for families. Serving as a matchmaker, FosterAll streamlines the process by connecting prospective resource (foster) parents with the FFA that best suits their family's needs. As part of the Hispanic Resource Project, data will be collected to determine the most effective recruitment and support services required to secure and retain loving and caring families for this growing population of foster children. A bilingual team of recruitment and support personnel will be expanded with a two-year grant from the W. M. Keck Foundation with the goal of recruiting 450 Hispanic families, 20% of whom will become approved/certified.

*Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles*

*Civic and Community*

*Los Angeles, CA*

*\$250,000*

*December 2017*

Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles (JFS) is a non-denominational, multi-service agency that for over 164 years has provided a safety net for those in need. It helps more than 100,000 people of all ages and ethnicities each year meet the trials of hunger, domestic violence, mental illness, substance abuse and aging with dignity. A W. M. Keck Foundation grant will go toward the construction of a new and larger center, located in Los Angeles' Fairfax District, to serve as a permanent headquarters and a hub for the provision of integrated services to the most vulnerable community members. The project will more than double the size of the Fairfax campus with the construction of a new 28,340 square-foot building, which will replace three separate, smaller facilities. In the new building, JFS will be able to consolidate health, mental health, social and recreational services for older adults, provide space for its counseling and case management services for individuals of all ages and develop new intergenerational programming. At least 2,360 older clients, an increase of 20%, will have access to services that will enable them to live independently for as long as possible. Many of these seniors are food insecure and their health care and social service needs will become more complex as they age. JFS will also expand programs for new mothers suffering

from postpartum depression, social-recreational activities for adults with developmental disabilities and support groups for older LGBT adults.

*PATH*

*Civic and Community*

*Los Angeles, CA*

*\$250,000*

*December 2017*

PATH (People Assisting the Homeless) has been at the forefront of the movement to end homelessness since 1984, prioritizing housing first, while providing customized supportive services for the most vulnerable individuals and families. Through a two-phase project, PATH will construct PATH Metro Villas Town Square, consisting of five, multi-story buildings (three of them new), which will provide 187 new units of permanent housing, 88 beds of interim housing and four connections centers for housing, employment, health and veterans services. The new Metro Villas will have a maximum occupancy of 280 people since some units will be shared. Public funding is paying for the three new housing facilities. PATH is raising philanthropic funding for program start-up and reserves and to remodel two existing buildings for the interim housing and the PATH Mall. A Keck grant will support the renovation of the PATH Mall to better accommodate administrative and program staff and access to housing placement and employment services. Once the campus is completed, PATH expects to serve 3,000 vulnerable community members and residents at Town Square annually.

*Constitutional Rights Foundation*

*Education*

*Los Angeles, CA*

*\$125,000*

*December 2017*

Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF) is a non-partisan, community-based organization dedicated to educating young people about the importance of civic participation in a democratic society. One of the greatest challenges teachers face in implementing the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) is making the necessary shifts in their instructional practice to facilitate effective academic discussions about complex texts and issues that will build students' critical thinking skills. Facilitating these discussions is

proving difficult due in part to a lack of quality materials that are tightly aligned to the Common Core. A grant from the W. M. Keck Foundation will provide the support needed for CRF to update and digitize *The Challenge Series*, a social studies curriculum originally developed with funding from the Keck Foundation, that covers the challenges of diversity, governance, violence and information. These topics remain highly relevant today. CRF staff and its teacher leaders will update and align the readings, student discussion questions and teacher guides to the CCSS and test and refine them through a network of 300 teachers trained by the teacher leaders. The new *Challenge Series* will be prominently displayed on dedicated pages on CRF's website and disseminated through topical e-blasts, posts on other education-related websites and conference presentations. CRF will track the number of *Challenge Series* downloads and webinar attendees and will survey teachers about the quality and their usage of the lessons. By the end of the grant period, CRF expects that at least 5,000 teachers beyond those trained directly by its teacher leaders will be exposed to the *Challenge Series* through these dissemination methods.

*National Center for Youth Law  
Education  
Los Angeles, CA  
\$500,000  
December 2017*

The National Center for Youth Law (NCYL) is a nonprofit law firm that works to transform public systems serving vulnerable children so they can thrive. A three-year grant from the W. M. Keck Foundation will support FosterEd, an initiative to improve the academic, social emotional, and behavioral outcomes of foster youth. FosterEd will implement a multi-agency systems improvement framework in partnership with three school districts in the Antelope Valley region of Los Angeles County and several county-level partners – the Departments of Children and Family Services and Probation, the Los Angeles County Office of Education, the Juvenile Court, the County Office of Child Protection, and the Education Coordinating Council. The project will test and implement high-quality, evidence-based interventions to meet the specialized needs of approximately 480 foster youth and provide targeted support to approximately 360 youth that address emergent needs to improve enrollment, attendance, graduation and school stability. This project will also include the design and execution of systems-level practices to improve cross-agency collaboration using data to more proactively identify and respond to early warning signs of educational disengagement for all 5,000 foster

youth in the region. FosterEd will also develop and distribute model policies and other resources to support the effective implementation of federal, state and regional legislation passed over the last three years. FosterED expects the public sector, including the school districts, to sustain the project once proof of principle is established.

*Pasadena Educational Foundation*

*Education*

*Pasadena, CA*

*\$300,000*

*December 2017*

The Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) serves an ethnically diverse student population, nearly two-thirds of whom are from low-income families. Its new Math Academy will offer all the district's mathematically talented middle and high school students a highly accelerated and challenging math curriculum in which they will advance much more rapidly than they would in traditional honors classes. The goal is for students to complete the entirety of the standard high school math curriculum, including calculus, by the end of middle school (8<sup>th</sup> grade) and spend their high school years learning undergraduate-level pure and applied mathematics. During the 2016-17 pilot phase involving 75 students, the 6<sup>th</sup> graders had mastered Algebra, Geometry and Trigonometry and the 7<sup>th</sup> graders had learned what is typically covered in a first-year Calculus course. Students demonstrated their newly mastered skills and knowledge in front of a public audience and panel of judges primarily from the fields of math, physics and astronomy at the inaugural SOLVE math competition, which will be held each year in the spring on the CalTech campus. To ensure equitable access to the Math Academy, all 5<sup>th</sup> graders are being assessed and specialized preparatory programs will be provided to students whose scores are borderline or to those that attend the district's most disadvantaged schools in northwest Pasadena. A three-year W. M. Keck Foundation grant will support the independent evaluation of the Math Academy by WestEd and its expansion to five middle schools and one high school. By the 2019-20 school year, PUSD anticipates serving 180 Math Academy students.

*Saint Genevieve Parish Schools*

*Education*

*Panorama City, CA*

*\$300,000*

*December 2017*

Saint Genevieve Parish Schools operates a preschool, K-8 elementary school and a high school on its campus in Panorama City with a combined enrollment of 1,120 low income students. Virtually all of the senior class is accepted to college, with 80% of its most recent graduates attending a four-year institution. Saint Genevieve has completed a multi-phase master plan to meet the needs of its growing school and parish community. Phase I involves the demolition of several outdated structures and construction of a 60,000 square-foot Performing Arts and Parish Education Center. A W. M. Keck Foundation grant will support construction of the new building, which will house the schools' music and performing arts programs, a 300-seat theater, and parish activities. Currently, three choirs, 13 bands, three dance teams and the drama program are competing for limited space in dilapidated buildings. The goal is that with the larger, state-of-the-art facility, every student will have an opportunity to participate in a performing arts program.

*Los Angeles Christian Health Centers*

*Health Care*

*Los Angeles, CA*

*\$300,000*

*December 2017*

Los Angeles Christian Health Centers (LACHC) is a Federally Qualified Health Center that provides accessible, comprehensive health services to vulnerable patients living in downtown Los Angeles' Skid Row. A W. M. Keck Foundation grant will support a capital project to replace the agency's Joshua House clinic facility located in a dilapidated, century old hotel with a new 25,000 square foot building two blocks away from the current location. The clinic will be co-located with 55 units of permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals and disabled veterans separately owned and operated by the Skid Row Housing Trust. In the new Joshua House Health Center, LACHC will be able to increase the number of patients receiving comprehensive health services from 4,800 per year to 6,000 by the end of the first year of operation. In addition to receiving treatment for their immediate medical and dental

needs, patients will be screened for housing status, substance abuse and mental illness and be provided with the appropriate wrap-around services. The added space will also allow LACHC to expand its clinical training activities and to house staff from collaborating social service providers.

*Venice Family Clinic*

*Health Care*

*Venice, CA*

*\$300,000*

*December 2017*

Ensemble Health is a partnership launched in 2015 that brought together four Los Angeles-based Federally Qualified Health Centers to explore opportunities for creating an integrated health care delivery system. Members of the partnership are: Eisner Health; Saban Community Clinic; South Bay Family Health Care; and Venice Family Clinic. Collectively, these clinics serve 120,000 patients annually. Ensemble's goals are to collectively plan and implement complex internal projects to reduce costs, increase opportunities for successful implementation and improve the health status of each clinic's patients and community. Ensemble has executed a Joint Board Resolution and is working toward becoming a jointly governed nonprofit organization. Over the next two years, Ensemble will finalize its corporate structure and governance, create an operations plan and budget and design and roll out projects in two priority areas: telehealth and standardizing legal/contractual compliance. Best practices will be shared and each center will implement changes to improve operations. A W. M. Keck Foundation grant to Venice Family Clinic, which is serving as the fiscal agent, will support Ensemble Health's first two staff positions to manage these initial activities. In the long run, by establishing Ensemble Health as a separate nonprofit, the centers are laying the foundation for standardizing practices, streamlining operations and positioning themselves for sustainability in the face of potential cuts to the safety net.