

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PROGRAM

Abstracts for Grants Awarded in December 2018

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Los Angeles

Civic and Community

Los Angeles, CA

\$300,000

December 2018

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Los Angeles (Metro) was founded in 2015 to take over management of three struggling inner-city clubs (Watts/Willowbrook, Challengers, and the Nickerson Gardens public housing site), reopen the Bell Gardens club, and establish a new club at the Jordan Downs housing project. During the start-up phase, facilities upgrades were made, senior staff members were hired to build out the management team, and community leaders were recruited to serve on the board. Over the next two years, Metro plans to augment its 38-member program staff by phasing in the hiring of 23 additional full- and part-time employees. A Keck grant will support the new director of programs and one site director. This investment in staffing will allow consistency in program delivery and enable the creation of new programs at every Club. At certain Club locations, recruiting talent to increase capacity will ensure higher success rates, while at other Clubs, a start-up investment in new program staff will be key to reaching more kids in need. The goal is to reach 25% more kids at existing Clubs and for participants to consistently score in the top quartile on the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's National Youth Outcomes Initiative survey.

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Los Angeles Harbor

Civic and Community

San Pedro, CA

\$250,000

December 2018

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Los Angeles Harbor (BGCLAH) serves 9,000 vulnerable youth at 18 sites in the communities of San Pedro, Wilmington, and Harbor City. Sixteen years ago, the BGCLAH established the College Bound program when it found that only half of its teenage members were graduating from high school. The program has proved highly successful and has been replicated throughout the Boys & Girls Club system. Recognizing that not all high school students plan to attend college, BGCLAH piloted the Career Bound program two years ago to provide an alternative pathway to careers. The program offers a combination of academic

support, employment readiness workshops, internship opportunities, and assistance with job placement upon high school graduation. A Keck Foundation grant will support the additional staff needed to expand the program and double the number of youth served to 200 over the next two years.

California State University, Northridge
Civic and Community
Northridge, CA
\$300,000
December 2018

The SIMPACT Mental Health Project will create a partnership between California State University, Northridge (CSUN) and 30 community-based mental health agencies to develop and assess a virtual simulation curriculum for the training of new mental health clinicians. CSUN is licensed to provide this type of mixed-reality simulation, which uses a combination of artificial intelligence and highly trained professional actors to animate avatars designed to represent a diverse array of mental health clients. Subject matter experts in marriage and family therapy, social work, and multiculturalism will work with community partners to create 50 therapeutic scenarios to build the skills of new mental health clinicians, making the clinicians' first months in the field more productive for the agencies and their clients. These new scenarios will be piloted and revised in CSUN courses before being implemented at the partnering agencies. While simulation training has been deployed for decades in medical and nursing education, this approach has not been widely adopted or assessed in the mental health field. Findings on the efficacy of the model will be disseminated through conference presentations and journal articles. A Keck grant will support the one-time costs for project coordination, content expertise, and additional actors to perform the new scenarios.

Child Development Institute
Early Childhood
Woodland Hills, CA
\$500,000
December 2018

Child Development Institute's (CDI) mission is to help all children reach their full potential by supporting the relationships and environments that shape early development. In recent years, CDI has adopted an integrated program model that incorporates three levels of care: promotion, prevention, and early intervention. These three levels come together at the Early Learning Center (ELC) in Canoga Park, which opened in 2012 as a free, drop-in community play and learning space. Now, CDI and its partners are replicating the ELC in Reseda, another high need

community in the San Fernando Valley. A Keck Foundation grant will support renovation of a mid-century church that will become the ELC and open in early 2020. The rotating play and activity spaces will be designed to promote learning and self-discovery. Young children and their families will have access to a science and art center, an indoor climbing tree, and a lending library. There will also be a community dining room, full-service kitchen, and outdoor gardens and playgrounds. Throughout, parents will interact with early child development experts, paraprofessionals, and volunteers who can answer questions about child development and make linkages to other community providers. This project holds the promise to intervene early and often on behalf of the most vulnerable children in the area. The project also supports better alignment and coordination among the different organizations working on behalf of these families.

*Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center
Health Care
Culver City, CA
\$500,000
December 2018*

Didi Hirsch operates the Suicide Prevention Center (SPC), which is a founding member of the Lifeline network of 160 suicide crisis lines. Suicide is a public health crisis in the U.S. Between 1999 and 2016, the suicide rate increased almost 30%, rising most steeply among the middle-aged (45-64) who have the highest suicide rate in the nation. Forty-one percent of those who die by suicide have made previous attempts, often beginning early in life. Among 15- to 24-year-olds the attempt rate is about double that of all other age groups. In 2017, the SPC answered over 100,000 calls/chats, a third from Los Angeles County, and trained over 10,000 residents to recognize and respond to the warning signs of suicide. Unable to squeeze more staff and volunteers into its leased space in Culver City, Didi Hirsch purchased a larger building in West Los Angeles. With double the square footage, the SPC will be able to expand current services and add new ones, such as a support group for teens who have lost a friend or family member to suicide. The Keck Foundation's capital grant will support acquisition to help keep the carrying costs affordable.

Goodwill Industries of Southern California
Civic and Community
Los Angeles, CA
\$300,000
December 2018

The manufacturing sector in Los Angeles County provides over 360,000 jobs with an annual average wage of approximately \$65,000, which is \$5,500 higher than the County average. However, the employers in the sector indicate that they do not have adequate qualified workers to fill their open positions. Not surprisingly, the skills gap widens for unique populations, who include those re-entering society after incarceration, the disabled, homeless, unemployed veterans, disconnected youth, and the working poor. A grant from the Keck Foundation will support Goodwill's role as a sector 'convener' to mitigate the misalignment between employers and training providers and achieve greater accessibility and employment opportunities for unique populations in the County. Goodwill will recruit and convene stakeholders to identify skill gaps and workforce needs in the manufacturing sector and establish customized training programs that are in demand and create meaningful career pathways for jobseekers. Through Goodwill's Work Source and Career Resource Centers and its affiliate partners, job seekers will receive career counseling, referrals to customized training programs, placement with manufacturing businesses, and follow-up support. Over a two-year period, Goodwill will place 2,000 individuals into jobs paying above the minimum wage and offering career mobility.

Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic
Civic and Community
Los Angeles, CA
\$250,000
December 2018

The Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic provides comprehensive, trauma-informed mental health services to more than 4,000 children, youth, young adults, and their families in Central and South Los Angeles annually. A Keck Foundation capital grant will support construction of the Avis and Mark Ridley-Thomas Life Learning Center where about 500 transition age youth ages 16-25 will have access to clinical services, education and employment-related programs, and housing resources. Designed as a warm, welcoming, stand-alone drop-in center, the 10,000-square-foot building will feature spaces for homework, a computer/media center, and a demonstration kitchen. It will also have showers, lockers and laundry facilities. Programming will balance the need for formal clinical support with opportunities for creative exploration, life skills training, and participation in recreational and social activities with peers.

United Way of Greater Los Angeles
Civic and Community
Los Angeles, CA
\$400,000
December 2018

United Way's leadership of the *Home for Good* initiative to try to end homelessness has resulted in the participation of over 300 public/private sector partners and a decrease in the County's overall homeless population. With the recent infusion of public funds, United Way is leveraging the trust it has earned from business leaders, elected officials, public sector employees, and community partners to promote the efficient and effective deployment of these new resources to make a visible difference in LA's fight against homelessness. The project will address two issues of greatest concern – the growing number of street encampments and the rising cost of constructing new housing. The goals of the project are to shorten the time it takes to move people off the streets, increase the number of chronically homeless individuals placed in permanent housing by 25% to 6,000 over two years, and accelerate the number of approved housing developments by 20% over the 5,300 units in the pipeline. A Keck Foundation grant will support United Way's *Home for Good* team and the nonprofits involved in testing new ways to better connect people living on the streets to shelters and housing about to open nearby and promote non-traditional, lower cost forms of housing. If successful, these pilots can be brought to scale to maximize the investment of public funds. To monitor progress, United Way will build project management and locally-based data collection tools and use policy roundtables that it hosts or participates in to address obstacles.

Valley Community Healthcare
Health Care
North Hollywood, CA
\$300,000
December 2018

Valley Community Healthcare (VCH) is a Federally Qualified Health Center serving nearly 25,000 patients annually in the San Fernando Valley. It is facing two major challenges: 1) a lack of primary care physicians and 2) ensuring efficient, cost-effective, high-quality patient care while demand is increasing. To address these challenges, VCH is implementing the Alternate Touch program that will expand the role of nurses to maximize the utilization of their clinical skills within the scope of their licenses. A Keck Foundation grant will support the hiring of two bilingual, registered nurse (RN) care managers who will address many patients' needs independently, including triaging, medication refills, and care coordination, thereby freeing up physicians to see many more patients who require a higher level of care. By the end of the two-year grant, 770 referrals will be made annually from call center operators to the RN care

manager on triage duty and 900 “*alternate touches*” will be provided to patients as part of the care team. The project will also position VCH for anticipated changes in insurance reimbursement that will be based on improvements in health outcomes instead of the number of visits and tests ordered.

Wayfinder Family Services

Civic and Community

Los Angeles, CA

\$250,000

December 2018

Wayfinder Family Services, formerly Junior Blind of America, provides a continuum of early intervention, educational, and workforce services for children and adults with vision loss, as well as a foster and adoption program, residential program for foster youth with medical or mental health conditions, and an emergency shelter for children awaiting a suitable placement. The emergency shelter is the only one in Los Angeles County that accepts very young foster children. In 2017, Wayfinder Family Services acquired foster family agency programs to expand its child welfare services. Data show that very high percentages of foster children have physical, mental, emotional, developmental or learning disabilities. Leveraging its decades of experience assisting children with disabilities, Wayfinder will recruit, train and support foster families so they are well-equipped to care for children with health or mental health challenges. A Keck Foundation grant will fund the hiring of a dedicated recruiter and the development of a medical curriculum to train foster families. Over the two-year project, Wayfinder will increase the number of foster families its supports from 90 to 150 and of these, 25 families will take in children with health challenges. By demonstrating how to best recruit, train, and support foster families for this vulnerable population, the project can inform the field.