

9 Dots

Precollegiate Education

Los Angeles, CA

\$300,000

Founded in 2011, 9 Dots partners with Title I elementary schools to provide its *Get Coding*, a K-6 computer science (CS) education program that offers standards-aligned curricula during regular school hours. Students learn foundational computer coding concepts such as sequencing, debugging, loops, conditionals, and functions. By the sixth grade, they are writing code in JavaScript, a language commonly used for creating dynamic, interactive websites. In the 2021-22 school year, 9 Dots added two new schools, 96th and 118th Street elementary schools, which are ranked as some of LAUSD's highest need schools based on academic performance and student demographics. A Keck grant will support the 9 Dots staff who will work with administrators at both schools to provide *Get Coding* across all grade levels and train and coach teachers to independently teach coding classes. A school site coding lead will onboard new teachers to help sustain the program. Over the course of the project, 9 Dots expects to serve 1,245 students and 45 teachers across these two campuses.

Alliance College-Ready Public Schools

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Founded in 2014, Alliance College-Ready Public Schools (Alliance) is the largest public charter school network in Los Angeles. It serves 13,000 students across 26 middle and high schools in South and East Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley. Ninety-five percent of Alliance students graduate with nearly all accepted to a two- or four-year college. However, up to one-third of Alliance's graduates do not show up to the first day of class. Of those who do attend a four-year university, just 43% succeed in earning a bachelor's degree. A Keck grant will support the Alliance's college counseling and alumni support teams in implementing two strategies to increase the number of its graduates who enroll in college, persist, and earn a bachelor's degree. Over the next two years, it will refine and standardize implementation of its college matching curriculum across all its schools to encourage students to enroll at the colleges with a track record for supporting and graduating first-generation college goers. The Alliance will also expand the peer mentoring program from 400 to 1,000 mentees. Through the project's strategies, the Alliance expects that 75% of its seniors will choose a recommended college and 95% of those with a mentor will show up on the first day of college.

California Hospital Medical Center*Health Care**Los Angeles, CA**\$500,000*

California Hospital Medical Center (CHMC) is a 318-bed nonprofit hospital serving downtown, central, and south Los Angeles. It is a federally designated “safety-net” medical provider for uninsured and underinsured patients. To keep pace with the region’s growing health care needs and improve the quality of care, CHMC has embarked on a campus expansion and modernization project to build a 150,000-square-foot, four-story tower. This will be the hospital’s first major addition of patient care space in more than 35 years. A Keck grant will support the construction of a state-of-the-art emergency and trauma center within the new tower; increasing emergency beds from 32 to 47 and trauma rooms from two to six, with the ability to accommodate up to 12 beds if needed. The hospital is part of the county’s network of providers that responds to large-scale disasters. Its emergency department is one of the busiest in Los Angeles County and its Level II trauma center is the only one in the downtown area. Annually, the hospital has handled 80,000 emergency department visits in space designed to accommodate 55,000. With the new emergency department and trauma center, CHMC will be able to care for more patients, decrease wait times, and reduce ambulance diversions to other emergency rooms.

East Los Angeles Women’s Center, Inc.*Civic and Community**Commerce, CA**\$250,000*

Founded in 1976, the East Los Angeles Women’s Center (ELAWC) serves as a first responder for primarily Latina survivors of domestic and sexual violence and their children in 30 communities in East and Southeast Los Angeles. Designed to end the cycle of violence and homelessness, ELAWC provides a comprehensive continuum of services at six locations, including outreach offices at two community colleges and The Wellness Center at LAC+USC Medical Center. These include a 24-hour bilingual hotline, crisis intervention, therapeutic services, advocacy, and case management. Staff conduct street outreach to victims of human trafficking and a sexual assault response team accompanies survivors at three hospitals to provide them with support and advocacy. The agency also operates an emergency shelter and a transitional housing program. A Keck grant will support the renovation of a recently purchased 9,700-square-foot building that will serve as the organization’s permanent headquarters and main resource center. The new, larger facility will enable ELAWC to provide trauma-informed, culturally responsive services to 10,000 individuals and their children annually.

Girls Athletic Leadership School of Los Angeles*Precollegiate Education**Panorama City, CA**\$350,000*

Founded in 2016, the Girls Athletic Leadership School (GALS) is the first all-girls charter middle school in the Los Angeles area. The school currently serves 168 girls, ages 11-14, the majority of whom are low income, students of color. Research shows that minority students who attend single-gender schools do better academically on average than their peers in a co-ed setting. Every morning, GALS' students and teachers work out together and health and wellness activities are infused throughout the day. Combined with a strong academic program that encourages a college-going mindset, students in GALS' all-girls setting are empowered to develop greater self-confidence and broader interests in all areas of their lives. Since its founding, GALS has had to move three times and is now in temporary quarters at a traditional co-ed public high school campus. The single gender nature of the program warrants GALS having its own permanent facility. A Keck grant will support the construction of a new campus that will accommodate up to 330 students. GALS expects to open the campus in January 2023.

Japanese American Cultural & Community Center*Civic and Community**Los Angeles, CA**\$250,000*

Founded in 1971, the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center (JACCC) is one of the largest culturally-specific centers of its kind. JACCC weaves Japanese and Japanese American arts and culture into the fabric of its communities. JACCC remains firmly rooted in Little Tokyo, providing a vital place to build connections between people and cultures, locally and internationally. Through inclusive programs and authentic experiences, JACCC continues its traditions and nurtures the next generation of innovative arts, culture bearers, and thinkers. The campus comprises a five-story main building, the 800-seat Aratani Theatre, a plaza and outdoor sculpture design by Isamu Noguchi, the award-winning James Irvine Japanese garden, and the recently completed Toshizo Watanabe Culinary Cultural Center. Prior to the pandemic, it hosted over 121,000 visitors annually for programs, performances, and exhibitions. JACCC has worked closely with a cohort of elder culture-bearers for the past 40 years. Currently, these artists are working out of their own homes or in ad hoc community spaces. A Keck grant will help establish the Kosaka Center for Community Art and Crafts in JACCC's main building to provide a dedicated space for these elders to pass traditional Japanese cultural practices to the next generation of students from across Los Angeles County. The Kosaka Center – named to honor JACCC's long-tenured and highly esteemed Master Artist in Residence, Hirokazu Kosaka – will provide classes in Shōdo (Japanese calligraphy), Ikebana (flower arranging), Chadō (tea ceremony), Bonsai, and traditional dance and music. Additional classes will be developed in partnership with other local arts groups. All will be offered free of charge to children and youth. The Kosaka Center will serve 2,100 students annually, providing deep learning opportunities that cannot be found under one roof anywhere else in Southern California.

The People Concern*Civic and Community**Los Angeles, CA**\$350,000*

The People Concern reaches more than 12,000 individuals experiencing homelessness across Los Angeles County each year. As part of a continuum of services, they have placed and supported nearly 3,000 people in permanent supportive housing (PSH). Ninety-three percent of these individuals were still living in their homes after one year. Relying on a handful of existing staff and volunteers, The People Concern has been testing different ways to accelerate the development of PSH, one of the most effective interventions for homeless individuals. To significantly expand its efforts, The People Concern plans to establish a dedicated housing development department over the next three years. A Keck grant will provide seed funding to support the hiring of a full-time director and a construction manager to provide the expertise needed to launch the unit. The team will focus on strategies that leverage private capital to bring new housing units online faster and less expensively than traditional developments funded by tax credits and government funding sources. Eighteen new builds and adaptive reuse projects will be initiated or completed, and 500 units are expected to be added through master leasing. New prefabrication construction technologies will be explored. The region requires an “all in” approach to solve the housing and homelessness crises. With its new team, The People Concern will be able to demonstrate the efficacy of its proposed strategies.

Providence Holy Cross Medical Center*Health Care**Mission Hills, CA**\$250,000*

Providence Holy Cross Medical Center is a 377-bed nonprofit hospital providing inpatient, outpatient, and community health services to residents living in the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys. The hospital is a federally designated “safety-net” medical provider for poor and vulnerable patients. Women living in the area have a higher percentage of high-risk pregnancies than the national average. Each year, more than 400 infants delivered at Providence Holy Cross require specialized treatment in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). Due to the rise of premature births, more of these infants are spending ten weeks or more in care. Yet with only 12 NICU beds, the hospital is faced with transferring as many as 100 infants each year to other facilities. To reduce transfers, avoid maternal-infant separation, and handle more complex cases, they are redesigning and expanding the NICU to accommodate 18 beds total. The new space will feature private patient/family bays; a larger, centralized nurses’ station and several smaller ones to improve workflow; and advanced equipment and technology. New treatment capacities will also be added. A Keck grant will cover the cost of six state-of-the-art GE/Phillips Giraffe care stations that support neonatal development.

Universal Community Health Center*Health Care**Los Angeles, CA**\$300,000*

Universal Community Health Center (UCHC) is a Federally Qualified Health Center that provides culturally competent medical care to 7,700 low-income individuals and families in South Los Angeles. UCHC operates four community-based sites, a school-based health center, and a mobile clinic. Services are provided through a patient centered medical home model to address unmet, chronic health care needs and social determinants of health. This approach has been shown to have a significant impact on the collective health of high-need patients who do better when integrative care is well coordinated and accessible at one location. A Keck grant will help UCHC renovate a 13,000-square-foot warehouse just south of downtown Los Angeles to create a state-of-the-art health center that will also significantly expand dental services. The new center is scheduled to open in late fall 2022 and will feature 14 exam rooms, four dental operatories, a behavioral health room, and a food pantry. UCHC anticipates caring for 2,500 patients annually at this site.

Villa Esperanza*Precollegiate Education**Pasadena, CA**\$250,000*

Founded in 1961, Villa Esperanza (Villa) provides a lifeline of comprehensive programming, including educational and therapeutic services, to 700 children and adults annually with intellectual and developmental disabilities such as autism, cerebral palsy, and Down syndrome. However, its physical campus has not kept pace with the growth of its programs and educational and technological advances. In 2012, Villa embarked on a multi-phase campaign to modernize its campus and create purpose-built facilities to provide students with enhanced learning environments. The first phase was completed in 2018 and included a new school building for Villa's students and a new facility for the adult day program. Since its opening, the updated campus has significantly added to the quality of Villa's services, with open spaces that are functional, flexible, and light-filled. For the second phase of the campaign, a Keck Foundation grant will support the construction of a new Occupational Therapy Clinic, a Sports and Therapeutic Center, and three additional classrooms. Enrollment is expected to grow from 85 to 120 students and Villa will expand its early childhood intervention program.

Wellnest*Civic and Community**Los Angeles, CA**\$400,000*

Through a holistic approach to emotional well-being, Wellnest provides counseling and other supportive services to nearly 4,600 children, youth, and families annually. To help end homelessness for young adults, including those with young children and those transitioning from foster care, Wellnest is building a 50-unit permanent supportive housing complex in South Los Angeles. COVID-19 has created enormous housing challenges for young people who are grappling with increased trauma, illness, anxiety, and instability. In South Los Angeles, the number of homeless youths increased by 70% in 2020, with a 42% increase in young families with children living in shelters. Until people have stable housing, it is difficult, if not impossible, to direct their attention to attaining goals such as finishing school, securing a job, and becoming independent. A Keck grant will go toward the final construction and development costs for the housing complex. The Nest on Florence will provide residents with safe housing and comprehensive services onsite and nearby at Wellnest's newly renovated life learning center to forge pathways to housing stability, independence, and long-term health. Peer support specialists who themselves have recovered from addiction or mental illness will be available to walk alongside residents on the same journey. Wellnest estimates that 85% of residents will remain stably housed at The Nest one year after moving in.
