

America on Tech

Civic and Community Service

Los Angeles, CA

\$300,000

Established in New York City in 2014, America on Tech (AOT) prepared the next generation of technology leaders in order to decrease the racial wealth gap in under-estimated communities. In 2019, AOT expanded to Los Angeles to replicate its model, which includes a nine-month *Tech Flex Leaders* (TFL) program for high school juniors and seniors. This immersive out-of-school time program engages students interested in technology through weekly technical training sessions taught by industry experts; professional development designed to help them confidently pursue degrees and careers in technology; and career days/mentorship opportunities with representatives from leading tech companies. Students who finish the program earn a \$1,000 stipend and a subset of participants are matched with a corporate internship. A Keck grant will add staff capacity for the local expansion of TFL to serve 350 underrepresented youth over the next two years. The project has the potential to connect young people to well-paying tech jobs while also helping to diversify the sector. The impact of AOT's New York TFL program has been positive. 85% of participants have gone on to major in tech subjects in college and/or have obtained tech jobs.

CASA of Los Angeles

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\$300,000

CASA of Los Angeles' mission is to organize the community to take action and advocate for children and families in the county's child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Court appointed volunteers are at the core of the CASA advocacy model. Three out of every four youth referred to CASA are 12 to 20 years old and many of them are on a waitlist for a CASA volunteer. Often, they have open cases with both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems and/or are pregnant and parenting. These circumstances put them at higher risk of exiting system care without a transition plan or connections to caring adults. To address the complex needs of these youth, CASA launched the Prevention & Early Intervention (PEI) program. A Keck grant will enable CASA to expand its staff and formalize referral partnerships with providers to meet the needs of these youth in a timelier manner. A new team of resource navigators are expected to assess 800 youth and link over 80% of them to services and provide follow up. Youth will also be able to participate in peer support groups, attend parenting and financial literacy classes, and be matched with a CASA

volunteer. By intervening early, the project will help these highly vulnerable youth successfully exit care with long-term supports in place that can reduce the likelihood of homelessness, justice system involvement, and placement of their children in foster care.

Child Lane

Early Childhood

Long Beach, CA

\$250,000

Child Lane provides early care and education to nearly 290,000 low-income infants, toddlers, and preschool age children daily at five centers. Programming is designed to prepare children for success in kindergarten. With a focus on whole child development, services include early identification of learning and behavioral difficulties, therapeutic interventions during class time, and parent engagement activities. Recent data shows that Long Beach has a 77% shortfall in licensed childcare spaces for children under age three. To meet the need for care for these infants and toddlers, Child Lane is reconfiguring its Benedict Child Development Center in Long Beach. The first phase is complete and involved the conversion of two of four preschool classrooms to accommodate 24 toddlers. A Keck grant will support renovations that will transform an administrative office suite into a new infant care center that will serve 18 infants and enhance a portion of the playground for a younger age group. When the project is completed, the Benedict site will have the capacity to provide 74 young children with full-day childcare.

Da Vinci Schools

Precollegiate Education

El Segundo, California

\$500,000

Da Vinci Schools was established in 2009 in partnership with the Wiseburn Unified School District. It serves over 2,600 ethnically and economically diverse transitional kindergarten through 12th grade students through onsite and hybrid programs. The main campus in El Segundo houses three high schools that focus on science, design, and communications respectively. These schools together offer ten career pathways as part of a project-based, college-prep and career ready curriculum. To expand opportunities for young people to build core STEM skills through hands-on, real world learning experiences, Da Vinci is constructing a Career and Technical Education Studio on its campus. The Studio will consist of two adjacent but separate structures totaling 6,000 square feet. A Keck grant will support construction of the “Hangar”. This large facility is designed as a versatile space with a 20-foot ceiling where students will fabricate and assemble robots and test them on a full-size practice field. It will also accommodate students’ large-scale projects such as building tiny homes. A second structure will include fabrication spaces for wood, metal,

and composite materials supported through digital and CNC technology. The project will benefit Da Vinci students, local elementary and middle school students through summer programming, 600+ youth from local robotics teams who do not have access to a practice field, and 2400+ participants in yearly robotics competitions.

LA Family Housing

Civic and Community

North Hollywood, California

\$350,000

Established in 1983, LA Family Housing (LAFH) is unique among homeless services providers because it is also an affordable and supportive housing developer. It owns and operates 30 affordable, interim, and permanent supportive housing complexes. Last year, the agency served nearly 12,000 individuals and family members, and moved over 2,400 of them into permanent homes. This project focuses on the Antelope Valley, a region that is historically underserved and is facing a severe shortage of housing options for people experiencing homelessness. To address the need for housing and ensure a continuum of supports for people with high barriers to housing success, LAFH began identifying land to develop. *The Emerald* is the agency's first housing development in the Antelope Valley. The facility will feature 35 units of permanent housing for chronically homeless families and 36 units of affordable housing for low-income families at high risk of becoming homeless. On-site case managers will help stabilize residents and assist them with meeting their goals. Local public and nonprofit agencies will co-locate services, such as health and mental health care, domestic violence interventions, and educational and employment support. Public funding and long-term financing are covering the cost of construction. A Keck grant will be used to furnish and equip the units, a computer lab, and the playground. Many of the families will enter *The Emerald* straight from the street or an interim shelter and possess few belongings. Having access to a furnished apartment along with on-site services will provide them with the supports they need to stay housed, move toward self-sufficiency, and nurture their children's development.

Special Needs Network

Health Care

Los Angeles, CA

\$500,000

Special Needs Network, founded in 2005, provides education, direct services, and resources to children with autism spectrum disorder and developmental disabilities and their families. Last year, the agency served 2,500 individuals through its programs. Acutely aware of the disparity in access to services among low-income and minority families, SNN embarked on a journey seven years ago to establish a comprehensive diagnostic and

treatment center in South Los Angeles. In early 2023, the Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities (CADD) will open in a newly constructed facility paid for by the County of Los Angeles and located on the Martin Luther King, Jr. medical campus in Watts. Children will have timely access to a continuum of services during the crucial early years of their development. They will receive multidisciplinary assessments, speech, occupational, and physical therapies, and applied behavioral analysis. Art and music therapy along with life and social skills classes will also be available. Special Needs Network's educational programs for families will help them learn about other available resources and gain skills to advocate for their children in educational and social settings. Through St. John's Community Health, which will be located on the same floor as the CADD, children can receive primary medical and dental care. A Keck grant will be used to furnish and equip the new space.

Venice Arts

Arts and Culture

Venice, CA

\$300,000

Venice Arts was founded in 1993 to provide media-based arts education, career exploration, and mentoring to low-income youth throughout Los Angeles County. Youth gain creative and technical skills by learning to share their stories through film, photography, and multimedia applications. Considered a leader in the field, Venice Arts was approached and funded by the County of Los Angeles' Department of Economic Opportunity to design and pilot a digital media arts career pathway program that will prepare diverse young talent for jobs in the creative sector. The pilot was successful at reaching low-income youth of color age 16-24 with priority given to those who are or were recently unhoused, transition-age foster youth, and/or involved in the justice system. Hundreds of young people met with professionals in a variety of roles to learn about the field. In addition, 60 youth completed a newly developed, 160-hour video production and editing certificate program and 37 youth were placed in paid internships. Venice Arts will add certificate tracks in animation/visual effects or multimedia production and develop the first state-registered, 480-hour "earn and learn" pre-apprenticeship program to prepare participants for work as assistant editors in video, film, and animation. A Keck grant will support the program's growth. Over the next three years, the project will serve 375 youth through creative exploration with industry professionals and another 135 will participate in the certificate and pre-apprenticeship training.
