

# **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PROGRAM**

## **Abstracts for Grants Awarded in December 2021**

*All Peoples Community Center*

*Civic and Community*

*Los Angeles, CA*

*\$250,000*

*December 2021*

All Peoples Community Center (All Peoples) is an anchor organization in the Vernon-Central neighborhood just south of downtown Los Angeles. It serves as a trusted community hub. Low-income people of all ages access a wide range of services that meet basic needs and focus on improving academic outcomes for youth and financial self-sufficiency for individuals and families. Last year, All Peoples served 5,300 individuals, 25% of whom were children and youth. A W. M. Keck Foundation capital grant will help upgrade the agency's 40-year-old facility to meet the federal Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. Construction, including the installation of an elevator, will be completed by fall 2022. This work is crucial because almost 9% of residents in the area identify as having a disability. The project will benefit an estimated 575 people of all ages per year – primarily low-income people of color – increasing their access to best-practice anti-poverty programs at All Peoples.

*Casa Colina Hospital & Centers for Healthcare*

*Early Childhood*

*Pomona, CA*

*\$250,000*

*December 2021*

Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare is a nonprofit provider of specialized medical, surgical, and rehabilitative care for people of all ages with disabling conditions resulting from accidents, disease, or illness. The Casa Colina Children Services Center (the Center) offers outpatient therapeutic services, case planning, and coordination for children with a broad range of conditions, including autism spectrum disorder and other developmental and acquired disabilities. Last year, the Center served 449 children, nearly 80% of whom were age 10 and under. To enhance its therapeutic services, Casa Colina has begun construction on a multi-sensory, Interactive Musical Playground. The playground will offer a new therapeutic tool to improve children's social, emotional, and behavioral skills, areas in which those with autism spectrum disorder in particular struggle. A W. M. Keck Foundation grant will support the

development and installation of several of the playground's novel structural components, including child-sized sonic flowers, a musical water harp, and conductor pads at the top of a musical staircase. The project can serve as a model for other nonprofit healthcare providers. Music has been found to have a therapeutic effect on children with autism and behavioral challenges, helping to regulate emotions, alleviating anxiety, and producing an optimal level of alertness that promotes learning. It is anticipated that 400 children at the Center will benefit annually from structured therapeutic sessions utilizing the new playground.

*Children Now*  
*Civic and Community*  
*Los Angeles, CA*  
*\$300,000*  
*December 2021*

Children Now is a California-based research, policy development, and advocacy organization dedicated to improving children's health, education, and overall well-being. Children Now brought together a coalition of child welfare and behavioral health agencies and advocates to develop the Family Urgent Response System (FURS). Enacted in 2019, this new program consists of a statewide 24/7 hotline and local mobile response systems. It will provide early in-home, trauma-informed support to children and youth currently and formerly in foster care and their caregivers in situations of instability to prevent a change in living situation, hospitalization, institutionalization, and law enforcement involvement, and promote healing. A W. M. Keck Foundation grant will support the implementation of the FURS program in Los Angeles County, where about one-third of California's more than 60,000 children and youth in foster care reside. Over the next two years, Children Now will build awareness of this new resource, and will create and support inclusive opportunities to address needed programmatic improvements and ensure these efforts are informed by data. Technical assistance will also be provided to stakeholders as they work to successfully implement FURS countywide.

*The Children's Clinic*  
*Health Care*  
*Long Beach, CA*  
*\$500,000*  
*December 2021*

The Children's Clinic (TCC) is a Federally Qualified Health Center. Its network of 13 community clinics provides comprehensive primary health care, behavioral health, and dental services to over 40,000 low-income patients annually, half of whom are children. A W. M. Keck Foundation capital grant will support the establishment of a Family Health and Wellness Center

(the Center) in the Cambodia Town community of Long Beach. The 18,000-square-foot Center will be located on the ground floor of a new 88-unit affordable housing development for families and formerly homeless seniors. The area is home to a mix of Cambodian, Latino, and Black residents dealing with poverty, social isolation and trauma, and multiple chronic health conditions. All these challenges have been heightened by the pandemic. TCC partnered with affordable housing developer BRIDGE Housing to acquire a vacant property from the City of Long Beach and to design a five-story building. TCC will own the space occupied by the Center. What is unique about this TCC site is that half of the space will be dedicated to health promotion and wellness services, allowing residents and the community-at-large to connect with each other, heal, and enhance their lives. The Center is expected to open in early 2024 and serve 9,000 patients through 28,800 medical visits, and 9,600 social service interactions per year.

*Destination Crenshaw*

*Arts and Culture*

*Los Angeles, CA*

*\$500,000*

*December 2021*

Destination Crenshaw (DC) is a nonprofit created to support the construction of a 1.3-mile-long outdoor art and cultural district celebrating Black Los Angeles. The district will flank both sides of 12 city blocks along the new Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority light rail line, which will run down Crenshaw Boulevard to the Los Angeles International Airport. DC is an unprecedented community-led project in the largest Black community west of the Mississippi River. It will celebrate the 200+ year history of Black culture and activism in LA. Through education and the arts, DC will cement itself as a cultural hub to facilitate economic security and entrepreneurship for residents as a method of place-keeping and community building. When completed, there will be ten pocket parks connected by sidewalks and bike lanes to create needed greenspace and safety improvements. Landscaping and more than 800 trees will enhance the environment. The project will also build a pipeline for careers in the construction trades and the cultural sector and nurture small businesses and entrepreneurs. A W. M. Keck Foundation capital grant will support construction and landscaping of the I AM Park at the south end of the district. Lending the park its name, LA artist Brenna Youngblood's interactive sculpture will consist of letters that spell "I AM." The piece will serve as an object of beauty, and a climbing jungle gym to promote children's play and exercise. Overall, the park and related "I AM" sculpture will encourage visitors to think about the power of identity and being a Black Angeleno.

*EduCare Foundation*

*Education*

*Van Nuys, CA*

*\$300,000*

*December 2021*

The EduCare Foundation provides in-school and after-school programs that serve 30,000 middle and high school students annually. In 2017, EduCare developed the Achievement and Commitment to Excellence Initiative (AI) to deepen its impact. AI incorporates the keys of successful social-emotional learning (SEL) into a comprehensive year-round program of integrated student services, professional development, and parent engagement. Goals include increasing student attendance and teacher retention and improving academic outcomes and graduation rates. This project will expand AI to four additional Los Angeles Unified School District high schools serving a minimum of 6,000 students. At the nine high schools where EduCare's AI is currently operating, school administrators confirm that EduCare advances student well-being and success by providing students, parents, and educators with the essential support, programming, and resources they need to create school and home environments defined by increased caring, collaboration, and achievement. These services are timelier than ever as students are now returning to school after more than a year of online distance education, and in many cases, deep family hardship and trauma resulting from the pandemic. A W. M. Keck Foundation grant will partially support a full-time AI site administrator at each new school to implement the program.

*Get Lit – Words Ignite*

*Education*

*Los Angeles, CA*

*\$250,000*

*December 2021*

Get Lit – Words Ignite, Inc. (Get Lit) was established to increase teen literacy and reduce school dropout rates. For over 15 years, it has lifted the voices of low-income, underrepresented students through its in-school and after-school poetry programs, contests, troupe performances, and media studio. Over 50,000 youths annually, including 6,000 from Los Angeles, have accessed Get Lit's *Words Ignite* curriculum and spoken word events. Spurred by the pandemic and the shift to learning via a virtual environment, Get Lit developed an interactive, online poetry platform called Uni(verse). The platform has three components: a Teacher Portal with interactive training, instructor guides, and an educator community; a Student Portal with the *Words Ignite* curriculum online and video modules featuring Get Lit alumni, peer-to-peer scoring, contests, a resource library, virtual visits between classrooms, and a poetry exchange; and the Poetry Collaboration Community where poets of all skill levels can upload videos and texts and give and receive feedback. A W. M. Keck Foundation grant will support the expansion

of Uni(verse) to 190 middle and high schools, with a focus on those in under-resourced areas where students are significantly impacted by learning loss. During the grant period, Get Lit will beta test Uni(verse) for the in-school program, add five to ten new schools each month, train teachers, and assess improvements in students' engagement in learning and confidence in public speaking.

*Hope of the Valley*  
*Civic and Community*  
*Mission Hills, CA*  
*\$300,000*  
*December 2021*

Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission was established in 2009 to prevent and reduce poverty, hunger, and homelessness through immediate assistance and long-term solutions. It has become one of the largest providers of homeless services in the San Fernando and Antelope Valleys. Hope of the Valley purchased a 23,000-square-foot commercial building in Northridge that it is transforming into a 107-bed interim housing facility for single adults. Named the Trebek Center, it is expected to be move-in ready by March 2022. The new facility addresses the unmet need for interim housing for single adults west of the 405 Freeway in the San Fernando Valley where there are approximately 2,300 unhoused people. A W. M. Keck Foundation grant will be used to pay down the mortgage and leverage public funding committed for the cost of renovations and services.

*John Tracy Center*  
*Health Care*  
*Los Angeles, CA*  
*\$250,000*  
*December 2021*

John Tracy Center (JTC) provides parent-centered services for children with or at risk for hearing loss. A W. M. Keck Foundation grant will support the expansion of its Speech Language Pathology program to children with normal hearing. The program will serve children up to age 18 who have a wide range of communication delays and disorders. Deafness is a low-incidence disability, affecting less than 1% of children nationally. However, communication disorders affect between 3% to 16% of all children. Untreated, communication disorders can negatively impact children's academic performance, psychological well-being, and future employment opportunities. Those from lower income homes and underrepresented ethnic groups are less likely to be screened in a timely manner, receive a diagnosis, and be provided with early intervention services. Therapeutic interventions will address speech and language disorders such

as articulation, stuttering, putting words together, and chewing and swallowing. Services will also be provided for children with autism and those who are deaf and have additional disabilities. Over the two-year grant period, JTC expects to serve 100 children.

*Root & Rebound*

*Civic and Community*

*Los Angeles, CA*

*\$300,000*

*December 2021*

Root & Rebound (R&R) is a legal aid organization focused on families and communities harmed by mass imprisonment. Services include public education, direct legal representation, and policy reform. A W. M. Keck Foundation grant will support the hiring of a Youth Justice attorney to expand legal services to help young people up to age 26 make a successful transition from incarceration back to their communities. The new attorney will be embedded in the downtown Los Angeles office of the Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC), a county-wide peer support, member network of formerly incarcerated individuals. R&R has partnered with ARC since 2018 and has provided legal services to its members. For this project, R&R's new attorney will provide legal services to ARC's younger members both inside detention facilities before their release and after they return to the community. Support will focus on helping youth navigate legal issues that prevent them from qualifying for housing, getting a job, enrolling in school or a training program, and reunifying with their children. ARC's life coaches working alongside the R&R youth attorney will provide peer mentorship, case management, and linkages to housing and other basic needs services. R&R has provided more than 5,500 system-impacted people throughout California with direct legal support and ARC's members' recidivism rate is 10% compared to the state's average rate of 50%.

*Westside Infant-Family Network*

*Civic and Community*

*Los Angeles, CA*

*\$300,000*

*December 2021*

The Westside Infant-Family Network (WIN) focuses on helping young children and their families heal from trauma. It provides parent/child mental health therapy, referrals to childcare and supportive services, and training for professionals in the field. WIN's "Resources for Resilience" project is building a comprehensive trauma-informed Network of Care on the Westside and in South Los Angeles. The Network's goal is to mitigate toxic stress by screening families for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), connecting them to support, and

strengthening family relationships through evidence-based services. With a planning grant from the state as part of the California Surgeon General’s ACEs Aware initiative, WIN has expanded the network of providers who can deliver care to children who score positive on an ACEs screening administered by a federally qualified health center (FQHC). Since then, the initial Network of two FQHCs and three “Health Neighborhoods” on the Westside has grown to include three more FQHCs and 37 providers serving South Los Angeles. Often families screened for ACEs don’t access the support that can mitigate the effects of adversity because of stigma, insufficient information, and lack of follow up. To bridge these gaps, WIN will formalize referral pathways among the Network’s providers and embed Community Health Workers at FQHCs. These workers will educate families about the symptoms and impact of toxic stress as well as about protective factors and resilience, and ultimately connect them to supportive resources. A W. M. Keck Foundation grant will support WIN’s project leadership team, community health workers, and clinical staff. Over the three-year grant period, WIN expects that each year 240 families will be provided with ACEs-related psychoeducation and connection to services, and 48 will receive group-based support, and/or intensive child-parent psychotherapy based on their needs.