



February 3, 2023

Michelle Baass
Director
Department of Health Care Services
P.O. Box 997413, MS 0000
Sacramento, CA 95899-7413

To: California Department of Health Care Services and Advocates for
Human Potential
Re: BHCIP Round 5: Crisis and Behavioral Health Continuum

Letter of Support for the Los Angeles County High Desert CRTP
and Children and Youth CSU/Hub Grant Proposal

Dear Director Baass:

I am writing to support Los Angeles County's BHCIP High Desert Crisis Residential Treatment Program (CRTP) and Children and Youth Crisis Stabilization Unit (SCU)/Hub grant application for the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) BHCIP Round 5: Crisis and Behavioral Health Continuum funding. SoCal Grantmakers supports the role the County system of care fills for our most vulnerable residents in need of mental health services.

SoCal Grantmakers connects grantmakers across Southern California to advance transformative change by collaborating with communities and across sectors to create a more equitable and thriving society. Our community of philanthropists and funders works in partnership with community leaders and nonprofits to make a difference in California. SoCal Grantmakers also houses the *Los Angeles Veterans Collaborative*, a structured network of public, private, and government agencies working together to reduce suffering and improve the lives of veterans, service members, and military families in LA County. We support work, such as the development of these treatment and stabilization centers, that increase access to crucial care.

The Antelope Valley has the highest rate of children in the LA County public healthcare system, and is home to a fast growing population of children and families in need of crisis services. The proposed project would be the first in the Antelope Valley; although there are over 100 CRTP beds in the county system, none are in Service Area 1 (Antelope Valley). The nearest programs that are slated to open later this year are 50 miles away at the Olive View Medical Center campus in Sylmar. The proposed project would be a complement to the adjacent High Desert Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center (HDBHUCC), which saw over 3,500 client visits in its first year of operation. Ten percent of HDBHUCC clients were readmitted to the UCC within 30 days, and it is



expected this number is high due to the lack of connectivity to nearby step-down residential treatment services. The High Desert CRTP would address a massive service gap in the LA County behavioral health system.

SoCal Grantmakers is acutely aware of the behavioral health crisis Los Angeles County is facing and fully supports BHCIP Round 5 Crisis and Behavioral Health Continuum funding to help build critical capacity gaps in the County's behavioral health facilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Essel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christine Essel
President and CEO
SoCal Grantmakers