



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GRANTMAKERS

*Advancing Effective, Responsible Giving*

Christine Essel  
President & CEO

October 13, 2016

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The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
City of West Hollywood  
8300 Santa Monica Blvd  
West Hollywood, CA 90069

Dear Madam Mayor and Members of the City Council:

On behalf of Southern California Grantmakers (SCG), I write to express our enthusiasm to partner with the City of West Hollywood to improve the lives of LGBTQ youth through the Los Angeles County Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) Scan of Youth-Serving Areas study.

In 2014, the Williams Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles found that LGBTQ youth are disproportionately represented in our foster care system, making up almost 20 percent of youth in the system despite being only 10 percent of the general population. LGBTQ foster youth are more likely to have lived in group homes, experienced homelessness, and spent hospital time for emotional reasons.

Spurred by the report, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors initiated a first-in-the-nation scan of the eleven county departments who work with LGBTQ youth. The study establishes an inventory of LGBTQ-specific programs; identifies gaps in knowledge, policy, data collection and training in relation to LGBTQ youth; and develops recommendations to address gaps and strategically allocate resources.

In this work, interviews with departments indicated an interest for a deeper dive of services. Members of the philanthropic community, the Williams Institute, and Dr. Khush Cooper collaborated to support this expanded scope. Should the City Council adopt this item, the City of West Hollywood would join as a crucial partner.

Innovations in partnerships are a hallmark of Southern California Grantmakers. More than 300 members convene at SCG to learn, connect, and take action. Driven by the events resulting in the death of a foster youth, SCG and its members led the creation of the County's Center for Strategic Public-Private Partnerships (Center) in the Office of Child Protection to identify opportunities to improve the foster care system in the County. The Center is coordinating the LGBTQ youth study, and SCG is proud to serve as the fiscal sponsor to facilitate this collaboration.

We look forward to advancing this important study to improve the lives of LGBTQ youth in Los Angeles County.

Sincerely,

Christine Essel  
President and Chief Executive Officer