



June 18, 2021

Board of Supervisors, San Mateo County
Hall of Justice & Records
400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063

Honorable Supervisors:

Thrive Alliance, along with SMC Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Contractors' Association, urge you to make investing in strengthening and sustaining nonprofits a priority in the FY2021-23 budget.

Nonprofit partners have proven during the pandemic how valuable and adaptable their services can be. Nonprofits are *critical infrastructure* for the County, which depends on them for so many essential activities. Their services will be needed at even higher levels of activity for the foreseeable future due to the lingering effects of the economic crisis and the disproportionate impact on vulnerable communities.

Thrive and the Contractors' Association urge investment in three priority areas for nonprofit recovery:

- **Priority 1. Fund nonprofits in a way that covers their true costs.** Creatively expand administrative rates for nonprofits with the goal of transitioning to funding the full cost of nonprofit operations. Allocate funds for initiatives outlined in the County-CBO Effort Recommendations document to improve the County-CBO contracting process. Provide nonprofit agencies with a COLA commensurate with increases in the County Union contracts on an annual basis.
- **Priority 2. Invest in strategic alliances to increase impact and sustainability.** Incubate a shared services hub for nonprofits in a pilot program co-designed by participants. Fund technical assistance on government funding streams. Support nonprofit collaboration and coordination in the creation of a COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disaster), a neighborhood-driven entity sorely missing in our community. Expand financial support for alliances that emerged to respond to the crisis like the Learning Hubs Initiative.
- **Priority 3. Let nonprofits lead the way in social and racial equity work across the County.** Invest in environmental justice work of BIPOC-led nonprofits – they are leading the way, so it's time to provide funding for this work. Support anti-bias trainings for San Mateo County nonprofit boards; boards need to reflect the values and the composition of the communities they serve. Integrate nonprofit recruitment and retention solutions into the economic recovery plan; nonprofit compensation is a growing equity issue.

On behalf of Thrive and the Contractors' Association, we request that you work alongside nonprofit partners to incorporate these recommendations into this year's budget before it is finalized and approved.

Sincerely,

Georgia D. Farooq, Executive Director,
Thrive Alliance

Susan Cortopassi, Executive Director,
Behavioral Health and Recovery Services
Contractors' Association of San Mateo County



Addendum: Co-Signers of the Letter Dated 6/18/2021

Thrive Alliance Policy & Advocacy Steering Committee

Bart Charlow
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Samaritan House

Heather Cleary
Chief Executive Officer
Peninsula Family Service

M. Stacey Hawver
Executive Director
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County

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