



City of Santa Barbara

Community Development Department

Memorandum

DATE: 8/27/2024

TO: Community Development Human Services Committee

FROM: Housing and Human Services Staff

SUBJECT: SANCTUARY CENTERS GRANT AMENDMENT REQUEST

Formal request letter from Sanctuary Centers, Integrated Health Clinic requesting grant amendment.

Dear Members of the Community Development Human Services Committee,

In 2022, Sanctuary Centers of Santa Barbara applied for a CDBG Human Services grant to provide free psychiatry and therapy services to mentally ill adults in Santa Barbara. We were awarded \$12,000, intended to partially fund the salaries of a full-time Psychiatrist and a part-time bilingual therapist for our *Integrated Health Clinic*, formerly known as the Integrated Care Clinic. This grant represents less than 3% of the salaries for these critical positions and less than 1% of the entire *Integrated Health Clinic* budget. (See budget narrative below and budget attached).

Sanctuary Centers has embarked on an ambitious initiative to tackle the dual challenges of housing instability and mental illness. As part of this initiative, we are constructing a 34-unit building at 115 W Anapamu St to provide housing for adults living with mental illnesses. This facility will include an Integrated Health Clinic that offers medical, dental, and behavioral health care to both residents and the broader community. The new building is being constructed behind the Hollister Apartments, the former location of our Integrated Care Clinic. During this construction period and our efforts to establish a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), the clinic has been temporarily relocated to 23 W Micheltorena St and renamed the *Integrated Health Clinic*.

The initial intent of the grant was to use the *Integrated Health Clinic* as a pathway to identify and support community members in need of behavioral health services. However, the relocation process was significantly prolonged due to difficulties in finding a suitable space. We were rejected by no fewer than 16 landlords, a stark reminder of the pervasive stigma surrounding mental illness. Given these challenges, Sanctuary Centers' CEO, Barry Schoer and the City of Santa Barbara staff (Lindsey Drewes) convened and agreed that the awarded funds would be utilized to provide free psychiatry and therapy to adults in Santa Barbara through community referrals. These referrals are received and processed through our Outpatient Mental Health Center which was the only location these services could be offered while waiting for licensing of the Clinic. Since the commencement of the grant, 12 adults have received over 48 hours of free behavioral health/psychiatric support. In early 2024 Barry Schoer and Stephanie R. Drake, PhD (Grants and Development Manager) met with a member of the Human Services Committee to tour the new Integrated Health Clinic and explain the delay in the reopening. Unfortunately, the clinic was further delayed in its full capacity until June.

Our collaboration with Premier Valley Medical Group (PVMG) was instrumental in overcoming the numerous challenges faced during this transition. PVMG's expertise was crucial in purchasing and renovating a new building, achieving necessary staffing and licensing, and ensuring the clinic's participation in commercial health plans. They facilitated the acquisition of essential services like the NextGen Electronic Health Record system and billing services. Additionally, PVMG managed the procurement and pricing of medical equipment, supplies, and

tenant improvements. Sanctuary Centers, in turn, employs the Clinic Director, bilingual medical assistants, case managers, behavioral health specialists, and ECM enrollment specialists, who are pivotal in delivering comprehensive care to our patients. This partnership enhances and expands our previous collaboration with Santa Barbara Neighborhood Clinics, with each entity focusing on their areas of expertise.

The summer and fall of 2023 presented further challenges with staff turnover and certification delays, impacting our reopening timeline. Nevertheless, the provision of free adult psychiatry and therapy services continued temporarily operating within in our Outpatient Mental Health Center, with only medical and dental care being temporarily suspended. Despite these obstacles, the clinic became fully operational on 6/21/2024 with the approval of our new CenCal contract, providing medical and behavioral health care to the Santa Barbara community. Although it is currently not feasible to offer dental care at this temporary location, dental services will resume once the clinic reopens in the new building. The timeline for the completion of the new building is hopeful for the Fall of 2026. Therefore, the clinic will operate in this temporary location until the new clinic facility is fully certified.

A new feature of our Integrated Health Clinic is the Enhanced Care Management (ECM) program, which delivers comprehensive, whole-person care to Medicare recipients. This robust service connects clients most in need with essential services they may be unaware of or find difficult to access. The ECM program bridges the gap between individuals and the support they require, encompassing medical care, supportive services, behavioral health care, and dedicated case managers. It particularly supports high-utilizers of emergency services who have mental illnesses or substance use disorders. Every person who enters the clinic will be asked about enrolling in ECM as well as complete an anxiety and depression screening using evidenced based evaluation (GAD-7 and PHQ-9). To date, 167 individuals have been enrolled in the ECM program, each receiving personalized attention to manage health conditions and access necessary services. In the third and fourth quarters, 138 primary care patients were seen at the clinic, with 51 of them enrolling in ECM. In the third quarter, 14 clients screened for anxiety and depression are now receiving ongoing behavioral health support in the Integrated Health Clinic. In the fall of 2024 we anticipate the beginning of telehealth psychiatry, primarily to the child/adolescent Medi-Cal population. This will be available within seven (7) days of a request for services, as opposed to the current County wait time of 12 months.

Sanctuary Centers understands that the combined impact of the pandemic, the relocation of our clinic, and staff turnover—both within our agency and among our community referral partners—necessitates a strong outreach strategy. To effectively address these challenges, we are implementing a comprehensive outreach plan designed to significantly enhance awareness of our clinic and its services.

Our approach leverages a variety of communication channels to reach a broad audience. This includes strategic placements of newspaper advertisements, engaging TV commercials, widespread distribution of informative fliers, and active participation in community tabling events. Each of these efforts is crafted to ensure maximum visibility and engagement with our target populations. In addition to these outreach efforts, we are enhancing our digital presence through targeted online campaigns and social media initiatives. These digital strategies are designed to complement our traditional outreach methods, providing a cohesive and far-reaching communication plan.

Moreover, our dedicated in-house outreach specialists are proactively engaging with community-based organizations (CBOs) and other referral partners. Through these direct meetings, we are ensuring that key stakeholders are fully informed about the comprehensive services available at our Integrated Health Clinic, including our Enhanced Care Management (ECM) program. These meetings are essential for fostering strong collaborative relationships and ensuring that our partners can effectively guide those in need to our services.

By implementing this multi-channel outreach strategy, Sanctuary Centers is committed to bridging the gap created by recent challenges and ensuring that the Santa Barbara community is well-informed about the vital mental health and supportive services we provide. Our goal is to make certain that no individual in need of our services is overlooked, and that our clinic remains a cornerstone of support and care within the community.

To this end we are seeking to amend our current outcomes for the next grant cycle. These outcomes will continue the provision of behavioral health support utilizing the Integrated Health Clinic as a pathway for referrals.

Current Measurable Outcomes

1. 2,000 mentally-ill adults will receive preventative medical, dental and behavioral care and 15% of those adults treated will decrease unnecessary emergency visits and hospital stays over the course of one year.
2. 2,000 mentally ill adults will receive preventative medical and dental health care and 50% will report increased health and well-being.
3. 2,000 mentally ill adults will receive preventative medical and dental care; of those, 20% will be identified as needing psychiatric evaluation and potentially ongoing treatment

Proposed Measurable Outcomes

1. 500 individuals living in the medically underserved area of downtown Santa Barbara will be provided with primary medical care and 90% of those will be screened for anxiety and depression using the GAD-7 and PHQ-9.

2. 500 individuals living in the medically underserved area of downtown Santa Barbara will be provided primary medical care and 20% will be identified as needing a behavioral health evaluation.
3. 500 individuals living in the medically underserved area of downtown Santa Barbara will be provided primary care, 15% of which will receive ongoing therapeutic and/or psychiatric services through the clinic.

The \$11,870 will be used to partially fund the **Salaries & Wages** expenditure, which is essential to ensure the continuous and effective operation of our organization. The salaries and wages category represent a significant portion of our budget, indicating our commitment to compensating our staff fairly for their hard work and dedication.

Justification:

1. **Critical to Operations:** Salaries and wages are the backbone of our organization. This category includes compensation for our dedicated staff who carry out the essential functions of our services.
2. **High Expenditure Area:** The total amount allocated for Salaries & Wages in our budget is \$619,200. It is clear that a significant portion of our budget is allocated to maintaining our workforce. The \$11,870 will help alleviate the pressure on our budget, allowing us to sustain current staffing levels and continue delivering quality services. The \$11,870 represents approximately **1.9%** of the total salaries and wages and approximately **0.72%** of the total budget

We appreciate your understanding and support as we navigate these challenges and continue to serve the Santa Barbara community. The flexibility in the use of grant funds has been crucial in ensuring uninterrupted access to vital mental health services during this transitional period.

Thank you,

Stephanie R. Drake, PhD

Grants and Development Manager

Integrated Health Clinic 24-25

Expenditures	CDBG FUNDS	
Automobile Expense	2,500.00	
Operating Materials & Supplies	3,000.00	
Salaries & Wages	619,200.00	\$11,870
FICA Payroll Tax	43,344.00	
Rent	120,000.00	
Professional Consultants	67,000.00	
Clinical Consultants	260,000.00	
Integrated Care Clinic Mgmt	240,000.00	
Advertising & Marketing	20,000.00	
Professional Conferences	1,500.00	
Dues & Subscriptions	1,500.00	
Furnishings & Equipment	2,000.00	
Insurance, Prop/Auto Liability	4,916.00	
Computer Supplies/Maintenance	2,000.00	
Office Supplies	2,500.00	
Printer Toner Cartridges	500.00	
Postage Expense	500.00	
Maintenance & Repair	10,000.00	
Janitorial Service & Supplies	5,500.00	
State Unemployment Ins	443.38	
Telephone Expense	6,000.00	
Travel	32,000.00	
Utilities	4,000.00	
Administrative Overhead	133,333.00	
Staff Events	500.00	
Employee/Volunteer Related Exp	5,000.00	
Staff Training & Development	500.00	
Worker's Compensation Ins	1,542.60	
Health Insurance	40,000.00	
Miscellaneous Expense	500.00	
Legal/Acctg Consultants	1,000.00	
Total Expenditures	1,630,778.98	