

Sí Se Puede Behavioral Health Center

The future is in our hands. Let's make health equity a reality in our community!

Encompass Community Services is building a new, state-of-the-art Sí Se Puede Behavioral Health Center in Watsonville to deliver high quality, accessible and personalized substance use disorder (SUD) and mental health treatment to **more than 1,300 community members a year**.

Our all-in-one campus will allow us to meet every individual where they are in their recovery journey through connected programs with varying levels of care – from residential and outpatient treatment to family therapy – **all in an atmosphere of dignity and respect where they can thrive.**

We are developing the Center with MidPen, Housing, Inc. who is simultaneously building 72 affordable homes next door. Co-locating our beautiful campuses will increase access to treatment and housing while also reducing the stigma around seeking treatment.



Increasing access to substance use treatment is essential to the well-being of our community.

Santa Cruz County is in the midst of an SUD epidemic, and it will take our entire community to create real solutions. Of the thousands of community members experiencing SUD, a small fraction successfully enter treatment due to high costs, limited program openings and stigma. Our Center will address all of these factors by increasing access to affordable, evidenced-based, culturally aware programming that supports community members' lifelong recovery.

Communities like Watsonville are at greater risk.

Rural communities like Watsonville are being disproportionately impacted by the national opioid epidemic. According to a recent national poll, nearly **half of rural adults say they have been directly impacted by the opioid epidemic** either by knowing someone, having a family member addicted, having taken an illegal opioid, or dealing with addiction themselves.

Our new center promotes whole-person health, reduces stigma, and improves outcomes.

Providing bright, new, fully outfitted facilities sends a message that those seeking treatment are worth investing in and reduces stigma around seeking treatment – for individuals, for their families and for their communities. **Substance use disorder is a chronic disease.** It is not a moral failing or a personal weakness. Just like diabetes or hypertension, it requires ongoing care and support from medical and behavioral health experts, and in some cases, medication-assisted treatment. That is exactly what our new Center will provide.

The campus is also designed with dedicated spaces for family therapy, a 30-seat classroom to provide ongoing educational programming for family and community members, and a synthetic turf children's play area to welcome families for visits with program participants. **Helping individuals and their family members better understand SUD and how treatment works helps keep families together and improves outcomes for our whole community.**

Together, we can make high quality behavioral healthcare accessible to all.

Currently, those in our community who need the most support have the least access to quality care. Accessing SUD and mental health services is especially difficult for Medi-Cal beneficiaries and uninsured individuals who must rely on limited openings at Drug Medi-Cal certified programs, such as Encompass's Sí Se Puede program. Our new Center will allow us to expand our bilingual program to serve more than 1,300 community members per year, the vast majority of whom will be low-income.

The need is great.

COVID-19 is delivering a devastating blow to our community's already urgent mental health and substance use issues. According to a 2020 CDC survey, 40% of U.S. adults reported struggling with mental health or substance use in the prior 30 days. We are feeling the impact locally, too. According to an annual report by the Santa Cruz County Coroner, drug-related deaths are on the rise in our community. Alarming, the rate of accidental drug deaths among Latinx community members doubled between 2019 and 2020. We urgently need to expand bilingual treatment capacity in the historically underserved and predominantly Latinx community of Watsonville.

This project cannot wait.

Our community needs a new behavioral health center now to address critical and growing health needs that are only becoming more acute in the wake of COVID-19. The sooner we reach our project fundraising goal, the sooner we can break ground and expand our services.

Encompass is uniquely positioned to bring equitable behavioral healthcare to our community.

The Center expands on the successes of our long-running treatment programs.

Our program model is exceptional, but the spaces do not reflect the quality of care we provide. Our current 23-bed bilingual and mono-lingual Spanish Sí Se Puede residential program was developed and is led by Latinos with lived experience with SUD and has been serving our community for more than 30 years. The facility is an aging 1940s-era home that is at capacity, in need of significant structural repairs, and does not provide the appropriate spaces for the level of care clients need and deserve. If we cannot build a new center to replace aging structures and expand our capacity, we are at risk of having to close our program. Even continuing services out of current spaces will require significant investment in structural repairs. Building a new Center will allow us to bring treatment into the future for our community and **serve nearly seven times more people onsite each year** through an expanded residential program and the addition of outpatient services for more than 1,055 per year.

We have a long history of supporting those in greatest need.

Encompass Community Services is the largest community-based provider of health and human services in Santa Cruz County. We have been delivering culturally appropriate and evidence-based safety net services in Santa Cruz County for nearly 50 years. We are over 90% publicly funded with an annual budget of \$32M.

For 30 years, Encompass has provided person-centered behavioral healthcare services to our community. We provide residential and outpatient SUD treatment and therapy services, as well as SUD-related therapy and educational programs in North and South Santa Cruz County to more than **2,300 adults each year**. We have done the work to integrate services for mental health and SUD, also known as co-occurring disorders, so we can provide the comprehensive, individualized treatment our community members deserve.

The project is shovel ready, financially sustainable, and well supported by the community.

We are shovel ready. We have purchased the land and completed project entitlements through the City of Watsonville. Once the campus is built and outfitted, Encompass will operate **financially sustainable** fee-for-service programming.

Our goal is to break ground in January 2023 and open the Center in July 2024. We are finalizing designs for the building permits to begin construction and our fundraising campaign is well underway. Our fundraising goal is \$12M. To date, we have reached nearly \$5.5M from individual donors, major gifts, foundations, grants, and loans. To reach our goal, we are seeking contributions from a variety of private and public sources.

Our project enjoys **significant community support** from community leaders and elected officials who are intimately familiar with the critical needs of South Santa Cruz County. Letters of support are available upon request.

Your Investment

A gift to Encompass's Sí Se Puede Behavioral Health Center is an investment in our families and community that will multiply over time. We project that over 10 years, our Center will serve:

- **2,450 people with severe SUD**
- **10,500 people with outpatient-treatment needs** through outpatient SUD treatment, Medication Assisted Treatment, recovery support services, mental health therapy and Drinking Driver programs

By making a significant investment in our community's future, you will bring us all closer to realizing our goal of providing everyone with access to the benefit of good health through high quality care that treats them with dignity and respect.

For more information please contact:

Liz Burkhardt | Director of Development & Community Relations

Liz.Burkhardt@encompasscs.org | 831-753-3099

www.SiSePuedeCenter.org