



Sí Se Puede Behavioral Health Center IN WATSONVILLE

161 Miles Lane, Watsonville, CA 95076

We're on a mission to make health equity a reality in our community!

THE FUTURE IS IN OUR HANDS. LET'S MAKE HEALTH EQUITY A REALITY!

About Encompass

Encompass Community Services is the largest 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.

Three years ago, Encompass embarked on a strategic planning process that reoriented our work as a **health equity organization**. We identified where and how our organization had disproportionately invested in infrastructure in the North County region, when the greatest health disparities in our community were found in South County.

Project Overview

Encompass's Sí Se Puede Behavioral Health Center is a new state-of-the-art building that will continue to address health inequities in Santa Cruz County by expanding our capacity to deliver high quality, accessible and personalized substance use and mental health treatment services to those in our community who need it most.

Our program model is exceptional, but the spaces do not reflect the quality of care we provide. The current Sí Se Puede facility is a 1940s-era remodeled family home that is at capacity and does not provide the appropriate spaces for the level of care clients need and deserve. Our current outpatient treatment building is located in a leased space in a strip mall that is two miles from the residential facility.

The new all-in-one center includes benefits like warm hand-offs for individuals stepping down from residential treatment and Medication Assisted Treatment in both residential and outpatient settings.

Why Now?

We know that health is not just something we get at the doctor's office. The path to better health includes integrated behavioral healthcare that centers individuals' mental, social, and emotional health.

Quality behavioral healthcare is not accessible to all. Currently, those in our community who need the most support have the least access to quality care. Accessing substance use disorder (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.

Additionally, COVID-19 is delivering a devastating blow to the nation's already dire 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. Among people ages 18-24, one in four (25.5%) "Seriously considered suicide in the past 30 days."

Substance use disorder and untreated mental illness are chronic diseases. Just like diabetes or hypertension, they require ongoing care and support from medical and behavioral health experts, and in some cases, medication-assisted treatment.

Simply put, 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 will be able to break ground and expand our services.

What's at risk?

Many of our community members will continue to go untreated. Untreated substance use and mental health issues have far-reaching negative community impacts: costs to our community include ongoing resources dedicated to law enforcement and emergency response, mental health crisis response, avoidable hospital emergency visits, and finally the cost of the lost gifts and contributions of individuals who could have achieved their personal goals, been employed, and contributed to our local economy and community. In fact, data gathered from comparable programs in many parts of the nation demonstrate a savings ranging from \$1.81-\$7.45 for every dollar spent on substance use treatment.

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

For 30 years, Encompass has provided person-centered behavioral health care services to more than **2,300 adults each year**. We provide residential and outpatient SUD treatment and counseling services, as well as SUD-related counseling and educational programs in North and South Santa Cruz County.

We have done the work to integrate services for co-occurring disorders so we can provide the comprehensive, individualized treatment our community members deserve.

The new center will allow us to provide a continuum of integrated services **with connected programs and facilities on one campus**. We provide the tools, resources, and varying levels of care – from residential and outpatient SUD and medicated-assisted treatment (MAT) to mental health counseling. **We meet each individual where they are in their recovery journey, all in an atmosphere of dignity and respect where they can thrive.**

Evidence shows better treatment outcomes when people are in a place where they feel valued, comfortable, and are treated as the expert of their own story with the power to choose their path forward.

Sustainability

The new Center will allow us to continue operating our financially sustainable fee-for-service programming while also presenting new opportunities for revenue diversification through commercial payment options.

Timeline and Goals

Our goal is to complete fundraising by October 2022, break ground in January 2023, and open our new center in July 2024.

We are shovel ready. The land purchase for the project and the entitlements through the City of Watsonville have been completed. We are currently working on designs for the building permits to begin construction and we are launching our fundraising campaign.

Our fundraising goal is \$12M. To date, we have reached almost \$5.5M from individual donors, major gifts, foundations, grants, and loans.

Your Investment

A gift to Encompass's Sí Se Puede Behavioral Health Center is an investment in our community. By making a significant investment in our community's future, you will bring us all closer to realizing a goal of providing everyone in our community with access to the benefit of good health through high quality care that treats them with dignity and respect. In time, your investment will multiply in communities across the nation.

Our Gratitude

We recognize that you have the opportunity to support many organizations doing incredible work across the world. We thank you for investing in the future of our community. You are giving them the benefit of good health that is equally accessible to everyone so that they can live a long healthy life.

For more information please contact:

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