



Joint Hearing Assembly and Senate Select Committee on Nonprofit Sector

A Blueprint to Ensure Nonprofits are Supported and Thrive during Future Emergencies

NONPROFITS BACKGROUND

Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE)

CAUSE began as two separate organizations, CAUSE in Ventura County in 2001 and PUEBLO in Santa Barbara County in 2003, which both emerged during the nationwide living wage movement and won milestone victories to create a living wage region on the Central Coast, lifting wages for thousands of workers. In 2013, the two organizations joined forces, and CAUSE took on PUEBLO's work in Santa Barbara County, creating a regional organization for social, economic and environmental justice.

Mission

CAUSE is a base-building organization committed to social, economic, and environmental justice for working-class and immigrant communities in California's Central Coast. We build grassroots power through community organizing, leadership development, coalition building, civic engagement, policy research, and advocacy.

Vision

To create a global community where we all contribute to, and benefit from, a sustainable economy that is just, prosperous and environmentally healthy.

El Concilio of Stockton

Mission

To empower the region's diverse low-income, minority and marginalized communities by providing critically needed comprehensive and compassionate programs and services.

Vision

Our vision is to help people realize their greatest potential through outreach, education, engagement, counseling, job training, classes, so that they may acquire an awareness of their personal strengths and abilities, the knowledge of resources available to them, and advocate for the betterment of all.

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Santa Cruz Volunteer Center

The Volunteer Center has been working alongside the Santa Cruz community for over 50 years. The Volunteer Center started in 1967, when Marian McBee, Kathryn Merriam, and Marget Schaeffer, three remarkable women inspired by their passion for social work, set up shop at a loaned office space in downtown Santa Cruz to develop volunteer programs that would change the lives of residents in need. Their goal was to give a community voice to the most disenfranchised in Santa Cruz County.

They set the stage for a long history of volunteers working in partnership with local residents who desire a hand of support, a deeper connection with their community, and the opportunity to invest in outcomes that lead to greater prosperity for themselves and others.

Through their inspired beginnings, years of sweat equity by community members, and a growing collective of dedicated staff and leadership, the Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz County has evolved into what we now have today- 4 facilities, 19 programs, and over 15,000 volunteers who partner with nearly 9,000 community residents in need.

MEND (Meet Each Need with Dignity)

MEND was started in 1971 by a young couple, Ed & Carolyn Rose, who were motivated by the poverty they witnessed in the Valley to do something about it. They set about persuading others - primarily members of their congregation at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church - to help them collect and distribute food, clothing and furniture to poor families in the community. For years, the Roses were joined by several other families to serve the neediest people in the community, under the name they had started calling themselves: MEND - Meet Each Need with Dignity.

In 1976 they formalized their activities into a non-profit organization and in the mid-80s MEND established operations in Pacoima, where it continues to provide food, clothing, one-on-one case management and support services to low-income individuals and families. For 50 years, MEND has continuously served the most vulnerable in our community, including those who are homeless, unemployed/under-employed, very low income, and older adults.

The California Association of Nonprofits (CalNonprofits)

A statewide policy alliance of more than 10,000 member organizations, CalNonprofits brings nonprofits together to advocate for the communities we serve. CalNonprofits speaks with the voice of California nonprofits to the legislature, government agencies, philanthropy, and the public.

CalNonprofits works with legislators and nonprofit coalitions to develop legislation that will allow nonprofits to bring our full power to serving our communities and that will remove the obstacles to efficient contracting and high-impact work.

CalNonprofits brings nonprofits together to discuss and debate issues, to think through the implications of government and philanthropic actions, and to build networks that support our organizations and the communities we serve. We publish research, analysis, news, and opinion through our website, e-newsletter, and other media venues.

Californians for the Arts and California Arts Advocates

Californians for the Arts is the only comprehensive, multidisciplinary organization focused on advancing and building public awareness of the value and impact of arts, culture and creativity across California. With over 15,000 active subscribers and hundreds of members representing thousands of artists and arts and cultural organizations.

Mission

To ensure that the arts are accessible to all Californians; are an ongoing part of the public dialogue and to encourage Californians to care about the arts as a critical component of their own lives and the lives of their communities. We fight for arts resources and policies that benefit our members and all residents of California. Our work and support of civic engagement, arts education, cultural equity and the creative economy, positively impacts every community across the state.

Vision

Building a sustainable & vibrant California using arts and creativity as the driver for social change and wellness.

- Increase Arts Funding to Historic Levels
- Make Arts Accessible for All Californians
- Campaign for California to be the leading State of Creativity
- Strategize Policy Development
- Demonstrate Solutions to Socioeconomic Issues such as Artists as Second Responders, Arts & Corrections, Veterans, Neighborhood Revitalization, Health and Wellness
- Valuing the Sector with Equitable Pay and Cultural Equity

People Assisting the Homeless (PATH)

It all started with a letter written by Claire and Rev. Charles Orr, calling for the community to address the ever-increasing issue of homelessness. In response, on the night of December 8, 1983, 60 people gathered together to figure out how to help people who were experiencing homelessness in their neighborhoods. On that night, PATH was born.

The group started by distributing food and clothing to people living on the streets. As homelessness continued to grow nationwide, research revealed that Housing First—a best practice model that first connects people to permanent housing and then focuses on stabilization through voluntary supportive services, proved more effective. Now, over thirty years later, we provide services in more than 140 cities in six regions, and have more than 1,500 units of permanent supportive housing completed or in the pipeline.

Across the state, we help people find permanent housing and provide case management, medical and mental healthcare, benefits advocacy, employment training, and other services to help them maintain their homes stably. Since 2013, we have connected more than 9,000 people to permanent homes.

Mission

To end homelessness for individuals, families, and communities. PATH envisions a world where every person has a home. Our values include creative collaborations, strategic leadership, empowerment for all, and passionate commitment.

California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies (CBHA)

The California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies (CBHA) is a statewide association of non-profit agencies dedicated to providing mental health and substance use disorder programs and services to those in need across our state. Dedicated to the proposition that Californians deserve a rational and comprehensive community-based behavioral health system that is adequately funded to serve those in need.

Mission

The California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies (CBHA) promotes comprehensive, responsive and integrated service systems by enhancing the ability of nonprofit member agencies to provide behavioral health services that empower the people we serve to lead full and productive lives.

Vision

We are dedicated to the proposition that the people of California deserve a rational and comprehensive community-based behavioral health system that is adequately funded to serve those in need. Our purpose is to ensure that federal, state, and county programs can support integrated healthcare services for people of all ages.