

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 stigma around seeking treatment.



Our community and families need and deserve this center.

Untreated substance use disorder tears families apart.

It causes irreversible trauma and generational poverty. Witnessing the trauma of a parent suffering from addiction has long-term effects on a child, as does parental absence or neglect due to untreated SUD. All these scenarios negatively impact the child's ability to form secure attachments, contribute to developmental delays, and can lead to prolonged mental and emotional disorders. Unfortunately, SUD among parents and caregivers is extremely common. According to the National Surveys on Drug Use and Health, **1 in 8 children live with at least one adult who has an SUD**. The majority of these children are younger than age 5. Children of parents with untreated SUD also face increased risk of developing an SUD themselves.

Simply put, substance use treatment intervention for parents is essential to the well-being of their children and the whole family. Well-supported scientific evidence shows that when individuals get the care they need and deserve, they can reach their recovery goals. Unfortunately, high costs and stigma create significant barriers to accessing treatment.

Our new center promotes whole-person and whole-family health.

Providing bright, new, fully outfitted facilities sends a message that those seeking treatment are worth investing in and reduces stigma around seeking treatment – both for individuals and for their families. **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 624-square-foot synthetic turf children’s play area to welcome families for visits with residential program participants. **Helping individuals and family members better understand SUD and how treatment works helps keep families together and improves outcomes for everyone.**

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. Of the thousands of community members experiencing SUD, a small fraction successfully enter treatment due to lack of access, stigma, and prohibitive costs. 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 program capacity 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 the nation’s already critical 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. Additionally, according to an annual report by the Santa Cruz County Coroner, drug-related deaths are on the rise in our community. Alarming, among all accidental drug-related deaths, the rate of deaths among Latinx community members doubled between 2019 and 2020—from 7% to 15%. Given this data, it is especially urgent that we expand our bilingual treatment capacity in the historically underserved and predominantly Latinx community of Watsonville.

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 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 bilingual and mono-lingual Spanish Sí Se Puede residential program was developed and is led by Latinos with lived experience and has been serving our community for more than 30 years. The 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 program operates out of a leased space in a strip mall that is two miles from the residential facility. Offering bilingual, connected programs and facilities on one campus will help us provide our community members with the custom treatment, therapy and ongoing support they need and deserve over time.

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

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.

For 50 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 2024 and open the Center in 2026. We are finalizing designs for the building permits to begin construction and our fundraising campaign is well underway. Our fundraising goal is \$14M. To date, we have reached nearly \$13M from individual donors, major gifts, foundations, grants, and loans, which has allowed us to move forward with breaking ground on our project by early 2024. To secure the critical funding needed to complete our project and open the center, 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 30 years, our Center will serve:

- **7,350 people with severe SUD**
- **28,800 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:

Monica Martinez | CEO

Monica.Martinez@encompasscs.org | 831.469.1700 x1045

www.SiSePuedeCenter.org