



Safer Together receives Grant from The Center at Sierra Health Foundation

Funding will support the Safer Care harm reduction program

San Francisco, CA – Safer Together has been selected by The Center at Sierra Health Foundation to receive funding through the Opioid and Stimulant Use Disorder Prevention and Education in Communities of Color (OSUD-PCC) grant. Safer Together will use this grant to build out its Safer Care harm reduction initiative and develop an ecosystem of trauma-informed care for communities who use drugs in the Bayview/Hunters Point neighborhoods of San Francisco.

Safer Care aims to restore humanity and provide agency to community members affected by drug usage. It will combine free resource distribution with peer groups, leadership development, and one-on-one care navigation services to ensure community members can receive any type of support they need. In doing so, Safer Care equips the community with the tools, knowledge, and confidence it needs to stay alive. This program will be situated in the Bayview and Hunters Point neighborhoods, two historically underserved communities in San Francisco densely populated by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) families, though individuals from all neighborhoods are welcome to participate.

“There’s still so much negativity attached to drugs, drug usage, and our loved ones who use drugs. We want the community to understand that drugs don’t make anyone a ‘bad person’ and that there are resources out there so nobody has to go through anything alone,” noted Cheyenne Cambri, Safer Together’s Program Lead. “Safer Care replaces shame with humanity and opens a care network for those who need it most.”

Communities of color have been disproportionately impacted and unfairly stigmatized by drugs. They are more likely to be criminalized for drug usage than White counterparts and less likely to be referred to treatment and recovery services. 2020 only worsened this situation, with the COVID-19 pandemic deepening many of the long-standing health issues and economic disparities in communities of color borne from histories of institutional inequity and environmental racism. The consequences are grim: deaths in our communities from overdose have reached historic levels.

Safer Together conceptualized Safer Care as a response to this crisis and an extension of our commitment to community uplift. Since inception our organization has gone directly into San Francisco’s most divested neighborhoods to help navigate BIPOC communities through the pandemic’s twists and turns. Support from The Center at Sierra Health Foundation enables us to expand our capacity to care by providing those impacted by drug usage with the resources, insight, and support essential to a strong and sustainable future.



“From the start we have guided our work with a vision of a world free from barriers to well-being,” noted Mariana Fraga, Safer Together’s co-Founder and co-Executive Director. “Support of this magnitude brings us closer to making that vision a reality. We look forward to all we can accomplish together, for this year and the years to come.”

About Safer Together:

Safer Together is a 501(c)(3) organization and CLIA-waived lab committed to dismantling barriers to wellbeing for San Francisco’s most underserved communities. Our organization was formed in 2020 in response to the impact of COVID-19 on low-income and BIPOC communities in San Francisco, and has worked since then to build a robust community care infrastructure intentionally outside of clinical settings. To do this we hire directly from the communities we serve and collaborate with over thirty partners to mobilize resources, share knowledge, and build new leaders. We work toward a world free from racism, where everyone has access to quality care.

About The Center at the Sierra Foundation:

The Center is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit that brings people, ideas and infrastructure together to create a collective impact. With offices in Sacramento and Fresno, The Center was developed by Sierra Health Foundation at a time when nonprofits and public agencies throughout California faced diminishing resources and rapidly increasing needs. Leveraging leadership, operational and funding support from Sierra Health Foundation and its partners, The Center establishes investment partnerships with public and private funders, community members, community organizations, nonprofits, businesses, and national, state and local government agencies. Taken together, each partner’s unique insights, perspectives and resources make the work of The Center possible and clear the way for a healthier California.

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