



Southern California
Counseling Center

We change lives and strengthen communities by providing
affordable mental health care to people in need.

Impact Report 2025

“SCCC helped me learn the skills I needed to make the changes I needed, and to find the strength to make the changes. They showed up with no judgement, just support.

This course was pivotal to learning the skills I now use in the community organizing work I do now. It was a life changer for me.”

-- Celina

“Here at SCCC, I connect with Spanish-speaking clients, I can help break cycles of generational trauma, and feel a true sense of belonging.

I’m excited for the future—integrating therapy with native culture and spiritual practice—and continuing this journey of healing and connection.”

-- Heidi

“For the first time, I saw a path where my lived experience could become a tool for helping others instead of hurting myself.

This program didn’t just train me—it transformed me. It turned my story of survival into a story of service, and it’s a gift I carry with me every single day I show up for my clients.”

-- Anonymous

IN THIS REPORT: Director’s Message Impact By The Numbers Personal Impact Financial Overview Donor Recognition



Director's Message

This year marked a period of tremendous program growth and deepened community engagement for Southern California Counseling Center. Guided by our mission to provide accessible and culturally responsive behavioral health services, we expanded our reach and impact across Los Angeles and beyond.

SCCC advanced equity and access through the continued growth of the CalMHSA Peer Support Specialist Certification Training, preparing a diverse workforce of peers with lived experience to serve communities where the need is greatest. We strengthened our Black Maternal Health Center of Excellence collaboration, addressing critical disparities in maternal and infant health by offering trauma-informed, culturally affirming care for Black mothers and families.

When wildfires devastated parts of Southern California, SCCC responded swiftly, delivering trauma-informed counseling and support to families facing loss and displacement. Our Watts Community Healing Center initiative continued to grow as a vital hub for healing, resilience, and connection, providing both counseling services and peer-led support in one of Los Angeles' most under-resourced communities.

Amid significant shifts in both federal and local environments, SCCC has remained nimble and resilient. We are committed to ensuring that all people, regardless of race, income, or circumstance have access to affordable, high-quality mental health and wellness services.

Looking ahead, we will continue to innovate, expand partnerships, and advance equity so that every individual and family we serve has the opportunity to heal, grow, and thrive. Together, with our community and supporters, we are creating lasting change.

Michael Koch,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IMPACT By the Numbers

\$25*

Average fee paid by clients per counseling session. \$70 is the cost to deliver the services, which is why we rely on funding support to fill the gap.

*Average counseling session cost in SoCal \$160-\$225.

2,300

Individuals, couples, teens, and families receive counseling services annually.

30,000

Hours of counseling services provided annually.

\$2.3M*

Annual budget, where 57% is donated by foundations and individuals, 30% comes from client fees, and the remainder is from partnerships.

*excludes Donated Services

Community Counselor Course (CCC)

The Community Counselor Course (CCC) is one of SCCC's signature training programs that equips community members with the skills to provide peer support, active listening, and practical tools for navigating life's challenges. Participants learn how to set boundaries, strengthen communication, and foster resilience — all within a supportive, judgment-free environment.

CCC graduates not only transform their own lives but also bring these skills back to their families, workplaces, and neighborhoods, creating a ripple effect of healing and connection across the community.

LEARN MORE: <https://sccc-la.org/ccc/>

100

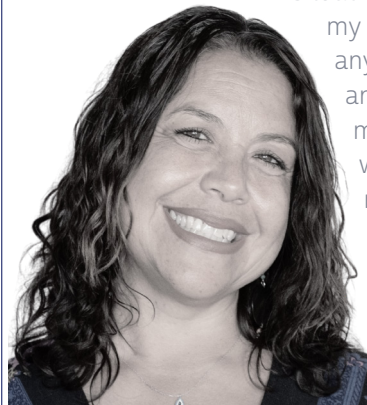
Students graduate from our Community Counseling Course annually.

Community Counselor Course PERSONAL IMPACT

"I first learned of Community Counselor Course (CCC) because my life was unraveling. I was in an emotionally abusive relationship with someone who was an active gang member and both of us active substance users...but he was lost in his addiction. I knew I had to be functional, since I was the one with a job, supporting us and two children. I lived with the threat of physical violence. I hadn't realized how desperate I was. It finally came down to the only way I thought I could leave him was to kill him. That's the only way I could get away from him safely, without having him coming back to hurt me.

I asked someone at work to make sure that if I went to prison or if I died, that my kids would not go to his family. She took the radical step to make me promise not to do anything that night, and we would figure out something the next day. When I came in the next day, she had already made arrangements for me to start the CCC. Within weeks, I started. Every Friday.

For the first 3 months, I just listened and watched. I said nothing. It wasn't until I listened to an older woman in our group who was in same dire situation. It clicked. If I don't get myself out of my situation, I will be her. I couldn't hold it in anymore. That was the turning point. I was sick and tired of being sick and tired. I didn't want my children to grow up to think this lifestyle was normal. CCC helped me learn the skills I needed to make the changes I needed, and to find the strength to make the changes. They showed up with no judgement, just support.



This course was pivotal to learning the skills I now use in the community organizing work I do now. It was a life changer for me."

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Counselor Training Program

This comprehensive program provides the clinical skills and supervised hours necessary for licensure in the state of California. The counselors in our program are working toward earning their LMFT*, LPCC* or LCSW* licenses. Each counselor commits to maintain a caseload of at least 8 clients with whom they meet weekly over the course of their two-year commitment. Many counselors serve longer than two years and complete advanced training.

We also offer a paraprofessional counselor track for counselors who want to volunteer their time but are not working toward licensure.

In addition to the core curriculum, counselors explore multiple specialties and serve diverse clients with a wide range of presenting issues as they master our strengths-based, non-pathologizing, and culturally sensitive approach to mental health care.

130

Pre-licensed MFTs
and Social Workers
trained each year.

Counselor Training Program

PERSONAL IMPACT

"I am a native Spanish speaker, and I learned English from TV and my older brother. By third grade, I was proficient in school. I loved school, it was my safe place. My teachers were my protectors, and afterschool programs kept me away from conflict at home. I thrived, graduated high school, and went on to a big UC school.

College was a different experience; as the only Latina in my dorm, I felt out of place. By my second year, I moved out, and then the pandemic hit. I was isolated. My on-campus daycare job closed, and I struggled until I found another job working with kids, a role I discovered I loved.

After graduation, I worked in a psychiatric hospital doing risk assessment and research. The exposure was invaluable, but I felt stuck. I started therapy. My first experience didn't fit, but finding a Latino therapist changed everything. He understood my cultural context, helped me face my trauma, and showed me how stigma and identity shape mental health. That breakthrough inspired my career path.

I earned my MFT at Antioch, where I felt safe, connected, and seen. When it came time for my practicum, nothing clicked until I found Southern California Counseling Center. SCCC's deep commitment to cultural awareness, equity, and social justice resonated with me. Here, I connect with Spanish-speaking clients, help break cycles of generational trauma, and feel a true sense of belonging.

I'm excited for the future, integrating therapy with native culture and spiritual practice, and continuing this journey of healing and connection."



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-- Heidi

LEARN MORE: <https://sccc-la.org/counselor-training-program/>

*Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
*Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor
*Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification

SCCC was approved by CalMHSA (California Mental Health Services Authority) in 2024 to provide training for the Peer Support Specialist Certification program. To date, SCCC has trained more than 200 peers to provide essential behavioral health support skills. Peers come to the training program with lived experience in substance abuse and/or mental health issues. Peers complete training in 17 Core Competencies to receive the Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification.

The course includes training in social justice, peer values, enhancing self-advocacy skills, self-reflection, hands-on exercises, and group collaboration. The program is designed to train peers to share their journey in support of others facing similar challenges.

200

Individuals completed
Medi-Cal Peer Support
Specialty Certification
in 2024.

Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification PERSONAL IMPACT

“I was basically raised in the prison system, serving more than 20 years behind bars. As a former addict, criminal, and gang member, I had to face the wreckage of my past, every destructive and violent choice, to become the person I am today. It wasn’t easy, but through hard work and commitment, I’ve now been clean and sober for over 15 years. That freedom has allowed me not only to rebuild my own life, but to truly connect with others who are struggling and help them find a way out of addiction.

When I was released, a mentor told me about the Peer Support Program. For the first time, I saw a path where my lived experience could become a tool for helping others instead of hurting myself. The program gave me the foundation to step into a new role, as a case manager at a family service agency, where I now work with people from every background who are dealing with mental health and substance use challenges.

What made SCCC’s Peer Support Program stand out was how intensive and practical it was. The curriculum didn’t just skim the surface, it covered everything we needed to be effective in the field. The material was dynamic, and the hands-on exercises gave me confidence and real skills I could use right away. Our cohort built such strong bonds through the process that, even over a year later, we are still in close contact, supporting one another.

This program didn’t just train me, it transformed me. It turned my story of survival into a story of service, and it’s a gift I carry with me every single day I show up for my clients.”

LEARN MORE: <https://sccc-la.org/peer-support-specialist-certification/>

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-- Anonymous

COMMUNITY IMPACT

HEALING

Watts Community Healing Center Initiative

Watts Community Healing Initiative is providing access to behavioral health and wellness for youth and young adults ages 18-30.

The Initiative employs a broad range of activities to engage youth including drum circles, group therapy, and individual therapy provided by our trauma-informed therapists.

More than 900 youth, foster youth, and young adults have participated in the Initiative and the feedback received indicates youth are benefiting and self-report that their participation has contributed to them having less anxiety, less anger, and fewer feelings of hopelessness.



SCCC Watts Drum Circle

RAPID RESPONSE

LA Fires

When Los Angeles was struck by two devastating fires this past January, the staff at SCCC were quick to respond. Our trauma-informed therapists offered 4 free counseling sessions for anyone affected by the fires. More than 100 free counseling sessions were provided.



COLLABORATION

Black Maternal Health Center of Excellence as part of Charles R. Drew University in collaboration with SCCC

SCCC is honored to collaborate with Charles R. Drew University's Black Maternal Health Center of Excellence (BMHCE) to provide mental health support to pre and post-natal clients in Black and other BIPOC communities, as well as support current mothers and families.

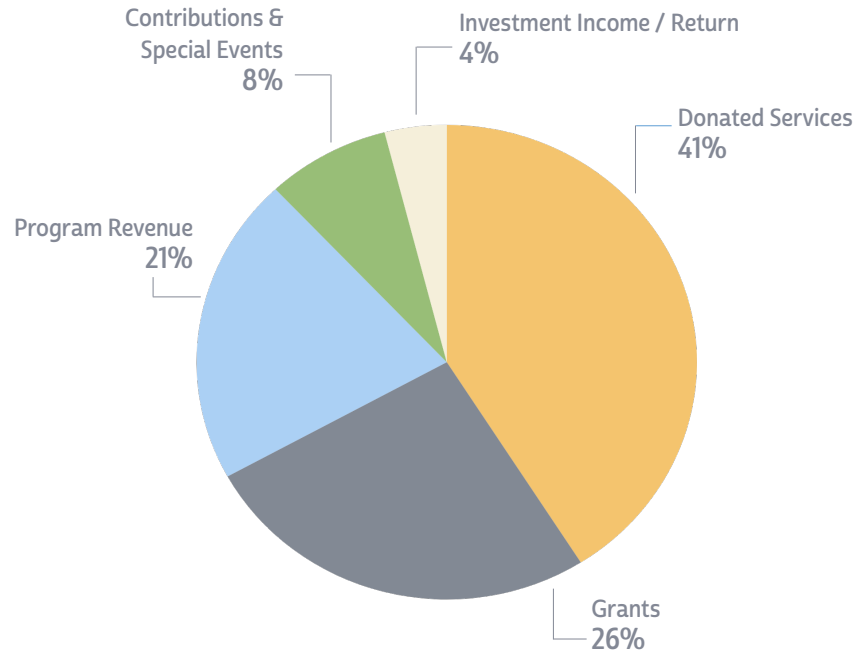
The goal of BMHCE is to improve birth outcomes for Black women and birthing persons in Los Angeles County, and address the structural racism, specifically anti-black racism, at the root of the birth disparities gap. In Los Angeles County, Black infants and mothers are 3-6 times more likely to die than other races, primarily from preterm birth and preeclampsia.

Supporting these communities through mental health support empowers marginalized communities by fostering resilience, reducing stress related to systemic inequities, and promoting healthier pregnancies and long-term wellbeing for both parents and children.



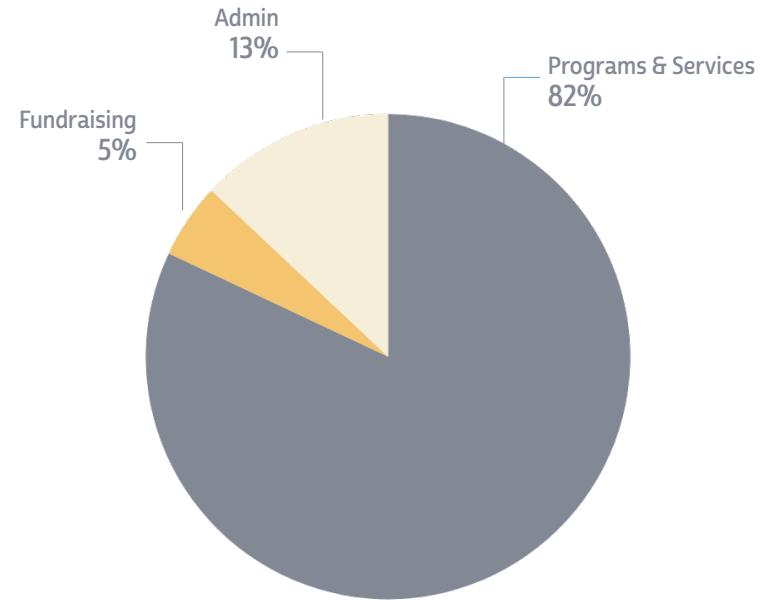
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2024 Revenue (unaudited)



Donated Services	\$	1,710,375
Grants		1,080,000
Program Revenue		864,218
Contributions & Special Events		318,434
Investment Income/Return		171,664
Total	\$	4,144,691

2024 Expenses (unaudited)



Programs & Services	\$	3,289,943
Admin		537,101
Fundraising		207,096
Total	\$	4,034,140

2024 SCCC Honor Roll...

\$100,000 or more

Ballmer Group
Anonymous Donor (The California Community Foundation)
Weingart Foundation
Miriam Muscarolas directed gift,
Weingart Foundation

\$50,000 to \$99,999

The California Endowment
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
The Rose Hills Foundation

\$25,000 to \$49,999

QueensCare
Albert & Bessie Warner Fund
Max and Pauline Zimmer Family Foundation

\$10,000 to \$24,999

Ann and David Archie
County of Los Angeles
Kristen Finney
Marin Community Foundation
The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Grant Abramson and
Miriam Muscarolas
Patricia Artigas
Mason Funk
Roz and Abner Goldstine
LA Care Health Plan

\$2,500 to \$4,999

Community Action Partnership
of Orange County
Hilary Henson
Dorothy Jackson
Stevon Lewis
Sandra McClean
Plutsky Family Fund
Eliza Steel
Rosalie Villapando
Candace Yoder
Jennifer Kim Zeller
\$1,000 to \$2,499
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Kim Cookson
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Ramani Durvasula
The Law Office of David

Edsall
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Mason Funk
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Brittney McCarthy
Kathy Mojibi
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National Philanthropic Trust
Susan Neisloss
Susan Reichwald
Ross Ruffin
Sepideh Saremi
Gillian Scott
The Siegel Charitable Fund
Joko Tamura
Mark Winitsky
Larry Zucker

\$500 to \$999

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Bobbie Boggs-Miller
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Boots Bueno
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Albert de la Tierra
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Wendy Burke
Emilie Chu
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Libby Costantino
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Michael Goslin
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Kathleen Hernandez
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David Zink
Ronen Zipkin

**We are deeply grateful to our donors
for your support and generosity.**

We do our best to accurately acknowledge all gifts. If there is an error, please let us know. Contact us at 323-937-1344 or info@sccc-la.org

2024 In-Kind Donations

Angelini Ristorante	Kali Health and Fitness
Bacari	Knotts Berry Farm
Balletto Vineyards	Mike Koch
Barkbox	LACMA
Bellacures	LA Conservancy
Birdie G's	Lazy Dog
Bowers Museum	Bruce Lee Foundation
The Broad	Malibu Wine Hikes
Janis Cohen	Sandra McClean
The Class Corp	Karen McWilliams
Vivian Dugre	Kathy Mojibi
Earthwise Pet	Kristina Moot
Gregory Economou	Corinne Murphy
Mason Funk and Jay Edwards	Medieval Torture Museum
Emerald Isle Golf	Murchison-Hume
Flight Deck Air	The Now Massage
Combat Center	Mrs Fish Restaurant
Fogo de Chao	Pacific Park
Kristen Garemani	Joko Tamura and Stig Pedersen
Got Your Back	Perch
Grammy Museum	Pine and Crane
Laura Grier	Radiance Wellness Spa
Halper Fine Art	SCCC Staff
Handpicked Floral Company	Six Flags
The Haunt Ghost Tours	Skirball Center
Hollywood Wax Museum	Titos Vodka
Pam Hope	Total Wine and More
Huntington Library	Universal Studios
Battleship Iowa Museum	Wilson Creek Winery

We are deeply grateful for
your support and generosity.

Smart Giving, Lasting Impact

As 2025 comes to a close, we're reminded of a powerful truth: *mental health care is a right, not a privilege*. Thanks to your support, Southern California Counseling Center (SCCC) has provided access to mental health services for thousands of individuals, couples, families, and teens for nearly 60 years.

Your year-end gift—cash or non-cash—helps ensure affordable, accessible care for those who need it most. Many of our donors are turning to Smart Giving options that make a huge impact and offer valuable tax advantages including:

- **Gifts of stock and securities**
- **Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs)**
- **Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) from IRA**
- **Matching Gifts from your Organization**

These non-cash gifts can often provide greater benefits to both you and SCCC. For example, a gift of appreciated stocks may allow you to avoid capital gains taxes and claim a charitable deduction.

This year, please consider making a gift that's not only generous but strategic. Talk to your advisor, or reach out to us directly to explore the smartest way to give.

Tracey Hughes, Advancement Director
thughes@sccc-la.org

Ways to Give

Send a check to SCCC 5615 W. Pico Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90019

Sign up for monthly giving—Become a monthly donor and show your support for the most vulnerable! Sign up here <https://www.sccc-la.org/donate/>

Make a Tax Smart Gift: Donate from your DAF, IRA or make a gift of stock to support SCCC-LA and save on taxes this year.

Connect with mkoch@sccc-la.org.



Make your tax-deductible gift online at
<https://www.sccc-la.org/donate/>
or use the QR code

2024 Counselors and Supervisors

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Rachel Adler
Nikki Alston
Ricki Archie
Leonie Arter
Damani Atiba
Nicola Barone
Punam Bean
Desi Belizarova
Lizabeth Belli
Alex Beltran
Zachary Benezra
Jobenei Benjamin
Sara Benowitz
Nechama Berkowitz
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Mavis Bortey-Fio
Karen Boulanger
Derek Bourdess
Melissa Brodie
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Marissa Carter
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Michael Cowen
Sterling Cox
Yohanna Cruz
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Luca DeSanto
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Kevin Finn
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Robert Fuentes
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Rivka Hayman
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Amber Island
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Megan Plotkowski
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Alexa Wagner
Scott Wagner
Alyce Waxman
Kaley Wheless
Victoria White
Na'Keithia Whitney
Melissa Willis
Samuel Wilson
Hayley Wright
Alison Wright

Aziz Yehia
Candace Yoder
Harold Zapata
† In memoriam Ricky Caldwell

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Roshni Chabra
Marianne Diaz
Alexander Dorsey
Marni Glick
Arianne Groth
Benjamin Hall
Nattan Hollander
Brooke Knaack
Lincoln Madley
Veronica Marshall
Brittany McCarthy
Megan McGuinness
Matthew Shima
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Kristen Welke
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Sharon Hanson, Finance Director

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Nicholas Fisher, Technology Director

Advancement

Tracey Hughes, Advancement Director

Communications

Maureen Finan, MA, Communications Director

Clinical

Marni Glick, MBA, MA, LMFT, Associate Clinical Director
Benjamin Hall, MA, LMFT, Associate Clinical Director
Farah Zerehi, MA, LMFT, Associate Clinical Director
Soren Nilsson, MA, AMFT, Watts Clinical Advisor

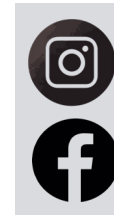
Office Managers

Marisa Rios, Pico
Tina Espinzo, Watts

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Martin Pettis, Vice Chair
Kristen Finney, Treasurer
Jamico Elder
Ron Franco
Dorothy Jackson
Stevon Lewis
Sandra McClean
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Angela Yee

Follow us online



SCCC turns 60!

1966

Changing lives and strengthening communities by providing affordable mental health care to people in need.

2026

Stay tuned for news about celebration events coming in 2026!

LOOKING AHEAD....

Partnerships and Programs

Medi-Cal

Earlier this year, SCCC began partnering with L.A. Care Health Plan to provide behavioral health services to its Medi-Cal plan members. SCCC and LA Care Health are committed to promoting access to accessible, affordable and high quality care. L.A. Care serves more than 2.6 million members across Los Angeles County. SCCC is proud to be a provider of mental health care services to L.A. Care's plan members.



Pacific Wellness Collective

The Pacific Wellness Collective (PWC) is dedicated to providing high-quality psychotherapy services through our compassionate team of Associate Marriage and Family Therapists (AMFT), Associate Clinical Social Workers (ACSW) and Associate Professional Clinical Counselors (APCC).

Our mission is to provide clients with meaningful and client-centered mental health care services that empower individuals to discover their strengths, embrace growth, and foster positive change in their lives.

Through PWC our therapists have the opportunity to build a thriving private practice.

LEARN MORE: <https://pacificwellnesscollective.com/>

