



## Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) – Innovation Project Brief

### Project: Social Enterprise Cafe for Filipino/a/x Youth

#### Background

In San Mateo County, between February and March 2019, a broad MHSA Innovation Project solicitation was launched, which led to 35 ideas submitted by individuals, groups and community-based agencies across the county. Five proposed Innovation ideas were selected to develop into full Innovation project proposals for approval by the Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC). The Social Enterprise Cafe for Filipino/a/x Youth was one of the proposals approved. **The cafe is a culturally responsive wellness space that will address the mental health needs of Filipino youth via a promising and sustainable social enterprise approach.**

#### The Challenge

In San Mateo County, Filipinos make up 11% (80,349) of the county population and the City of Daly City has the highest concentration of Filipino/a/x Americans of any municipality in the U.S.; making up 32% of the city’s population. Research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found 45.6% of Filipina American adolescents have experienced suicidal ideation, the highest rate of suicidal ideation at among all racial and ethnic groups. In San Mateo County, 53% of youth clients in Probation and 43% in Behavioral Health and Recovery Services come from the same four zip codes, including the City of Daly City and South San Francisco (20% Filipino). Also, in San Mateo County, specialty mental health service penetration rates are lowest for both youth (1.8%) and adult (2.6%) Asian/Pacific Islander racial group. **Yet, there is limited published research on mental health challenges impacting Filipino/a/x and even less literature on promising practices for youth.**

#### The Proposed Project

The social enterprise cafe will hire and train at-risk Filipino/a/x youth to work in the cafe and eventually manage it. The cafe will also offer programming that is designed around social determinants of health, access to behavioral health services and issues important to youth. This holistic, cultural-based and integrated approach can lead to developing protective factors and positive mental health outcomes for at-risk Filipino/a/x youth.

This programming component of the cafe is represented in the CommuniTREE framework, which uses a tree as a metaphor to depict the values that ground this work (SOIL), the supports needed (ROOTS) for success, the strategies (BRANCHES), the resulting youth capacity (LEAVES) and health outcomes (FRUITS) we expect to impact.



### ***Target Population***

The social enterprise cafe will target at risk Filipino/a/x age youth (16-24 years) from northern San Mateo County cities of Daly City and South San Francisco and serve as a culturally affirming space for the Filipino/a/x youth community. More specifically, high school districts and colleges in these areas will be targeted.

This includes the Jefferson Union High School District (29.7% Filipino) in Daly City, South San Francisco Unified School District (24.2% Filipino) and Skyline College and other secondary institutions. While the cafe will primarily focus on the Filipino/a/x experience, any youth interested in learning about the Philippines will be welcome and encouraged to participate and collaborate in building multicultural awareness and community.

### ***The Innovation***

**MHSA Innovative Project Category:** Introduces a new mental health practice or approach.

**MHSA Primary Purpose:** Increase access to mental health services to underserved groups.

Using a culturally affirming, integrated approach to a social enterprise, the Social Enterprise Cafe will aim to improve mental health and quality of life outcomes for Filipino/a/x youth, increase access to behavioral health care services, and determine if a social enterprise model can financially sustain an integrated approach for behavioral health and youth development programming.

### ***Evaluation***

**Learning Goal #1:** Does an integrated approach to a social enterprise that includes on-site programming improve mental health outcomes for the Filipino/a/x youth engaged?

Possible measures: Number of youths in each programming, percent of participants develop cultural pride and sense of belonging, level of impact the cafe has had on the youth's cultural identification.

**Learning Goal #2:** Does a culturally affirming space increase access to behavioral health and services for Filipino/a/x youth?

Possible measures: Number referred to and receiving behavioral health and social services.

**Learning Goal #3:** Can a holistic social enterprise model improve quality of life indicators for Filipino/a/x youth?

Possible measures: Improved dropout rate, number that participate in job/internship, academic support and leadership programming, improved educational outcomes, demographics.

A contract provider will be selected through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to implement and manage the social enterprise cafe, including the administration, participant recruitment and data collection. A separate RFP process will select a qualified evaluator to develop a thorough evaluation, analysis and reporting. The evaluation plan will include meaningful and diverse Filipino a/x/ youth and stakeholder participation through the MHSA Steering Committee, which will also be the primary venue for vetting next steps and decisions related to continuation of the project.



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