

President, Board of Supervisors
District 10



City and County of San Francisco

SHAMANN WALTON

華頌善

March 25, 2021

The Honorable House Speaker Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Letter of Support for the Positive Resource Center

Dear Honorable House Speaker Pelosi:

I am writing in support of Positive Resource Center (PRC)'s request for appropriations through the Office of the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives. PRC is a well-known and highly-respected nonprofit organization that has served the San Francisco community for 57 years. Their unique integrated continuum of services that includes emergency financial assistance, legal advocacy, behavioral health treatment, and workforce development is unparalleled in its positive impacts on the well-being of some of the most vulnerable individuals in San Francisco. PRC reaches adults with substance use and mental health disorders as well as those living with HIV/AIDS. PRC's clients are often homeless or unstably housed, have limited income, and are unable to adhere to treatment regimens when entering services. With PRC's support, clients are empowered to manage their health, access income, and move toward long-term stability.

PRC's dramatic and efficient impact is best described by their proven outcomes. These include:

- Diverting homeless individuals that are the hardest to engage in treatment and the most frequent users of crisis and inpatient services from emergency psychiatric wards that cost \$2,192 per day per client to PRC's homeless navigation center that provides psychiatric respite services and linkage to community-based treatment for an average of \$341 per day per client.
- Saving \$11 in local health and emergency services costs for each \$1 invested in PRC's community-based detoxification program.
- Achieving a net reduction in public expenditures on health and crisis services of \$28,000 for each \$1,300 spent to advocate for and provide legal representation to adults that are too ill or disabled to work and in need of public benefits.
- Generating \$4 for every \$1 that PRC spends on employment readiness, training, placement, and retention for disabled individuals.

I strongly support an appropriation allocation to PRC.

In particular, their request for a Department of Labor provision would allow them to enhance the delivery of the Workforce Development program which provides comprehensive employment and vocational rehabilitation services to adults, moving them toward self-sufficiency. Workforce Development provides individualized career planning, resume and job search assistance, interview preparation, job retention support, group trainings in computer literacy and clerical skills, and a peer

training program that prepares diverse individuals with lived experience to work in social services positions.

In particular, their request for a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services provision would allow them to enhance the Hummingbird Place Homeless Navigation Center with wraparound support services. Hummingbird Place is a low-barrier entry point into the San Francisco system of care for individuals with severe mental health disorders, most of whom have co-occurring conditions. Providing immediate connections to wraparound support such as emergency financial assistance and legal advocacy to secure public benefits is a proven strategy to quickly stabilize this population and increase the likelihood that they will engage in further treatment. This is particularly critical as the majority of Hummingbird Place clients are experiencing homelessness therefore this program is tackling one of San Francisco's most challenging and important issues.

Sincerely,



Shamann Walton
President, Board of Supervisors

**MATT HANEY**

March 18, 2021

McKenzie Fields
Policy Advisor
Office of the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives
1236 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Fields,

I am writing in support of PRC's request for appropriations through the Office of the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives. PRC is a well-known and highly-respected nonprofit organization that has served the San Francisco community for 57 years. Their unique integrated continuum of services that includes emergency financial assistance, legal advocacy, behavioral health treatment, and workforce development is unparalleled in its positive impacts on the well-being of some of the most vulnerable individuals in San Francisco. PRC reaches adults with substance use and mental health disorders as well as those living with HIV/AIDS. PRC's clients are often homeless or unstably housed, have limited income, and are unable to adhere to treatment regimens when entering services. With PRC's support, clients are empowered to manage their health, access income, and move toward long-term stability.

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- Diverting homeless individuals that are the hardest to engage in treatment and the most frequent users of crisis and inpatient services from emergency psychiatric wards that cost \$2,192 per day per client to PRC's homeless navigation center that provides psychiatric respite services and linkage to community-based treatment for an average of \$341 per day per client.
- Saving \$11 in local health and emergency services costs for each \$1 invested in PRC's community-based detoxification program.
- Achieving a net reduction in public expenditures on health and crisis services of \$28,000 for each \$1,300 spent to advocate for and provide legal representation to adults that are too ill or disabled to work and in need of public benefits.
- Generating \$4 for every \$1 that PRC spends on employment readiness, training, placement, and retention for disabled individuals.

I strongly support an appropriation allocation to PRC.



In particular, their request for a Department of Labor provision would allow them to enhance the delivery of the Workforce Development program which provides comprehensive employment and vocational rehabilitation services to adults, moving them toward self-sufficiency. Workforce Development provides individualized career planning, resume and job search assistance, interview preparation, job retention support, group trainings in computer literacy and clerical skills, and a peer training program that prepares diverse individuals with lived experience to work in social services positions.

Additionally, their request for a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services provision would allow them to enhance the Hummingbird Place Homeless Navigation Center with wraparound support services. Hummingbird Place is a low-barrier entry point into the San Francisco system of care for individuals with severe mental health disorders, most of whom have co-occurring conditions. Providing immediate connections to wraparound support such as emergency financial assistance and legal advocacy to secure public benefits is a proven strategy to quickly stabilize this population and increase the likelihood that they will engage in further treatment. This is particularly critical as the majority of Hummingbird Place clients are experiencing homelessness therefore this program is tackling one of San Francisco's most challenging and important issues.

Sincerely,

Matt Haney
San Francisco Board of Supervisors, District 6

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Haney", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.