

Collaborate PASadena COVID-19 Impact Report

Pacific Oaks College Center for Community & Social Impact

collaborate
PASadena

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COLLEGE

Center for Community
& Social Impact

This report and its data covers March 13, 2020 (the day schools stopped in-person learning) to June 4, 2021 (the last day of the Pasadena Unified School District 2020-2021 school year).

About Collaborate PASadena

In 2014, thanks to the groundwork laid by the Community Schools Initiative by Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD), Invest in PUSD Kids program, and the Pasadena Education Network (PEN), the city of Pasadena and the Pasadena Unified School District adopted the School/City/Community Work Plan in order to foster 21st century skills to improve student outcomes.

Based on the Collective Impact model, **Collaborate PASadena** was established to benefit the children of Pasadena, Altadena, and Sierra Madre by bringing together the city, school district, and community partners and organizations.

Collaborate PASadena was previously funded by the city, PUSD, and Los Angeles County. However, in 2018, due to PUSD's budget prioritization, funding for Collaborate PASadena was curtailed. Collaborate PASadena now receives sole funding from the city. This resulted in a restructuring and adoption of Collaborate PASadena under Pacific Oaks College's Center for Community & Social Impact to sustain this important work.

As a backbone organization, **Collaborate PASadena** has focused on initiatives in **five domains** that impact the lives of those who are our future, from our youngest learners aged 0 to 5, to individuals just starting their careers:

- Healthy families
- Family and caregiver engagement
- Early learning
- Student success
- Supportive communities

About Pacific Oaks Center for Community & Social Impact

Pacific Oaks College & Children's School has a long and distinguished history of service, training, and advocacy for the needs of children and families. Adopting **Collaborate PASadena** into the Pacific Oaks family is a convergence of two similar missions.

The mission of **Pacific Oaks Center for Community & Social Impact** (CCSI) is to work alongside communities to identify systemic inequities, facilitate support and resources, as well as advance impactful and meaningful change. Much of CCSI's work during the pandemic has been focused on providing remote coaching, using a strengths-based approach, for struggling PUSD students, their families, and their teachers.

COVID-19 Pivot

As with all aspects of our lives, the pandemic has had a profound impact on what we do and how we do it. COVID-19, and the changes in response to the pandemic, made strikingly clear the already existing inequities in our community and our collective difficulty in communicating with, and determining the specific needs of, many members of our community. Collaborate PASadena needed to change its focus and the way the organization operated to best serve the children of Pasadena and to aid in the work of its partners. Rather than focus on all children in PUSD, Collaborate PASadena concentrated on those in most of need of immediate support, particularly those most impacted by the pandemic, by using a [Targeted Universalism Framework](#).

Working under the organizational theory of **mutual aid**, Collaborate PASadena focused on three main domains on impact:

- Assisting in the distribution of needed resources
- Maintaining and strengthening community connections despite physical separation
- Advocating for equal access to information and participation for all community members

 **We've worked with Collaborate PASadena since its inception, but never has its mission been more important than over this past year of the pandemic."**

— Staff member at Pasadena Education Network



New Mission and Vision

The pandemic highlighted and amplified the vast inequities that already existed in our community. In response, at the end of May 2020, Collaborate PASadena's Leadership Council met and worked on adopting a new mission—one that would prioritize its work to specifically focus on addressing the root causes of so many of the problems our community faces: **structural racism** and **systemic inequities**.

Vision

Every child in our community grows up in a safe, stable, and supportive environment that prepares them for success in school and in life.

Mission

To eliminate disparities in outcomes for children by partnering with the community and advocating to reduce structural racism and systemic inequities.

Guiding Principles

- 1.** We expect equitable outcomes for all children. It is important to remove barriers in systems and institutions rather than expecting children to overcome those barriers to succeed.
- 2.** To amplify the beneficial impact of the programs and efforts of our partners, we work to eliminate inequities in systems, structures, and policies that serve as a barrier to our partners' success.
- 3.** We co-create our common agenda and share measurements with the community. We share power with the people of the community and help to develop community leaders.
- 4.** We recognize that collaborative work is based on trusting relationships and take the time needed to develop them. We use culturally responsive communication to help build trust.

I. Meeting the Needs of Community and Partners

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Stars, Pasadena/Altadena Coalition of Transformative Leaders (PACTL), and PUSD Food & Nutrition Services quickly responded to make sure families who were unable to get to one of the seven PUSD designated food distribution locations, known as Grab n' Go sites, received much needed food. On May 13, 2020, this movement expanded into a collective network of agencies and community members that continues to deliver food to this day.

Collaborate PASadena became involved in the first week of home delivery and quickly took on a leadership role in facilitating the meal delivery process. Collaborate PASadena's impact included developing a database of families and their needs, as well as utilizing mapping software to help expand and add drivers as families were added. Within weeks, Collaborate PASadena developed 10 routes of meal delivery seven days a week.

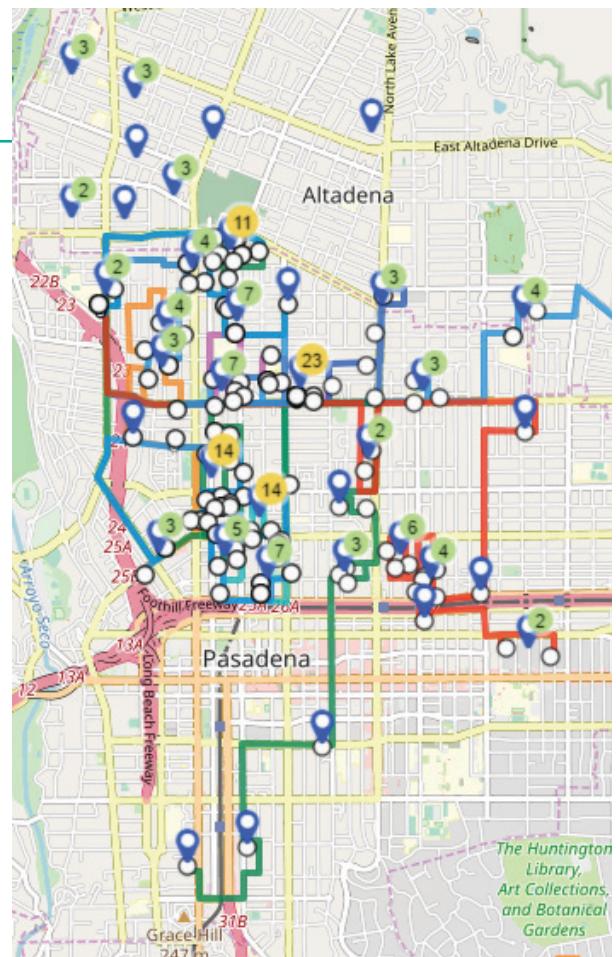
Throughout the pandemic, new partner organizations and drivers rotated in, but Collaborate PASadena continued to lead the database, case management, and route organization.

Currently, a handful of families continue to need home delivery. Collaborate PASadena committed to organizing meal delivery through the summer of 2021.

Utilizing data and logistics software setup for meal deliveries, Collaborate PASadena has also been able to assist organizations such as PEF, Stars, Young & Healthy, as well as PUSD staff and teachers with optimizing distribution of household, hygiene, and school supplies to families.

“Thank you so much for the use of the mapping software! It worked wonderfully! The app made it so easy and probably saved me a lot of time and us a lot of headaches!”

— Beth Winton, Director of Engagement, Stars



Meal Delivery for PUSD Children and Families: Spring 2020 to June 2021



410

families served



68,400

meals



2,310

volunteer hours

Partner organizations: Stars, PACTL, Tournament of Roses, Pasadena Educational Foundation (PEF), Leadership Pasadena, Young & Healthy, Mosaic Church, Pacific Oaks College, and many community members.



II. Supporting Communities and Digital Needs During COVID-19

Before COVID-19, Collaborate PASadena and Pacific Oaks Center for Community & Social Impact offered a neutral space for organizations and community members to meet on a regular basis or as specific needs arose. Knowing early in the pandemic that maintaining a sense of solidarity would be vital for the communities' health, Collaborate PASadena opened its online Zoom platform and provided technical support. This support and resource were available for any group, so long as the gathering was open to all and in service to the benefit of the community.

 In times of hardship, uncertainty, and fear, community is more important than ever. We rely on those around us for solidarity, support, guidance, information, and empathy."

— PhilanthropyU.org

Digital Connections by the Numbers

- 37 Parent Information and Support Meetings (Pasadena Education Network, Parent University, College Access Plan)
- 35 Parent Group Meetings (African American Parent Council, District English Learner Advisory Committee, District Parent Advisory Committees, Parent Teacher Association)
- 18 Organizational Meetings (Growing Together PASadena, Pasadena Educational Foundation)
- 6 Town Halls (PUSD, District Meetings, Community Meetings)
- 10,674 Views (People Served)
 - 3,924 (Live)
 - 6,750 (YouTube)

III. Building Inclusive Spaces: Spanish Translation

Knowing that a significant number of PUSD families and caregivers prefer to receive information in Spanish, Collaborate PASadena prioritized Spanish interpretation to be available in as many hosted meetings as financially possible. When we became aware of limitations with Chromebooks and the Spanish interpretation channel, we developed methods to live stream directly to YouTube so that everyone could participate in real time. For those who were not able to attend live, many of the meetings and information sessions were posted in both English and Spanish to the Collaborate PASadena [YouTube Channel](#) for later viewing.

Spanish Translation and Community Impact

- 38 meetings and events with live Spanish interpretation
- 2,302 served
- 5,381 students who have non-exclusively English language households (32%), indicating that 1 out of every 3 families in PUSD may need some support in the form of Spanish Translation

“At a time that parents of English Learners needed more access than ever, Collaborate PASadena jumped in and hosted 12 of our parent programs, so we could make them available to both English and Spanish speakers. As a result, a larger and more diverse group of parents accessed important information about remote learning, school enrollment, navigating PUSD, parent engagement, and more.”

— Staff of Pasadena Education Network



IV. Making Connections for Partners

The role of a backbone organization such as Collaborate PASadena is critical to the success of every collective impact initiative. In order to sustain and scale lasting systemic change, Collaborate PASadena knows that the success of its partners is essential to achieving community-level progress. Facilitating collaborations, supporting funding for partners, and being named as a grant partner are some of the critical roles Collaborate PASadena serves as an effective catalyst for positive change.



“Connections and relationships matter. Last fall at a Collaborate PASadena meeting, I mentioned that I was trying to find a location to bring COVID-19 testing to our community. By the end of the evening, Collaborate PASadena Leadership Council member Gloria Sanyika had connected me to Veronica Jones, a member of the Altadena Town Council who in turn connected me to the 7th Day Adventist Church. By the very next day we had a site. More than 11,000 people received free COVID-19 testing. Connections really matter!

— Mary Donnelly Crocker, Executive Director, Young & Healthy

“We received the California Community Schools Partnership Program grant! \$3,000,000 over approximately 18 months. From the moment I submitted this, I believed that our chances were good because we already had a structure in place: Collaborate PASadena.”

— David Spiro, Grants Director, Pasadena Educational Foundation

Collaborators

- Altadena Coalition of Neighborhood Associations
Adelante Youth Alliance
African American Parent Council
Altadena Library District
Altadena Town Council
Armory Center for the Arts
Be Strong Families
Boys and Girls Club of Pasadena
Caltech, Center for Teaching, Learning & Outreach
Caltech Y
ChapCare
City of Pasadena
City of Sierra Madre
Clergy Community Coalition
College Access Plan
Day One
First 5 LA
Flintridge Center
Fuller Seminary Urban Initiatives
Gender Nation
Growing Together PASadena
Jericho Road Pasadena
Leadership Pasadena
Learning Works
New Abbey
No Future Café
Office of Assemblyman Chris Holden
Office of Congresswoman Judy Chu
Office of Senator Anthony J. Portantino
Office for Creative Connections
Options for Learning
Pasadena/Altadena Coalition of Transformative Leaders
Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families
Pasadena City College
Pasadena Community Foundation
Pasadena Complete Streets Coalition
Pasadena Educational Foundation
Pasadena Education Network
Pasadena Foursquare Church
Pasadena Office of the Young Child
Pasadena Playhouse
Pasadena Police Department
Pasadena Department of Public Health
Pasadena Public Library
Pasadena Service Federal Credit Union
Pasadena Unified School District
Pasadena Youth Ambassadors
Peace Over Violence
Planned Parenthood Pasadena & San Gabriel Valley
PTA Council of Pasadena
Reading Partners
Rosebud Coffee
Side Street Projects
Stars
Tournament of Roses
Young & Healthy
YWCA Glendale and Pasadena
Western Justice Center

Collaborate PASadena Leadership Council

Pasadena Unified School District

Kim Kenne, Board of Education
Elizabeth Blanco, Chief Academic Officer
Steven Miller, Chief Human Resources

City of Pasadena

Victor M. Gordo, Mayor
Michelle Perera, Director of Libraries & Information Services
Carla Hegwood, Office of the Young Child

Altadena Town Council

Gloria Sanyika, Town Council Member

Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) Community Schools Initiative

John Lynch, PHS Community Schools Coordinator

Parent Representative

Natasha Mahone

Higher Education

Mitch Aiken, California Institute for Technology

Faith-Based Organizations

Eric Johnson, New Abbey Church, Director of Partnerships & Collaborations, STARS

Nonprofit and Community-Based Organizations

Mo Hyman, Executive Director, College Access Plan
Mary Donnelly-Crocker, Executive Director, Young & Healthy

Pacific Oaks College Center for Community and Social Impact

Johanna Atienza, Associate Vice President of Advancement and External Relations
Donald E. Grant Jr., Executive Director

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