

Policy Landscape and Recommendations for a Healthy LA

Presented by AltaMed Health Services



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Who We Are: Rooted in Social Justice

“Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane”

– *Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

Born out of the Chicano Civil Rights Movement, AltaMed Health Services was founded as the East Los Angeles Barrio Free Clinic in 1969, as a volunteer run storefront clinic.

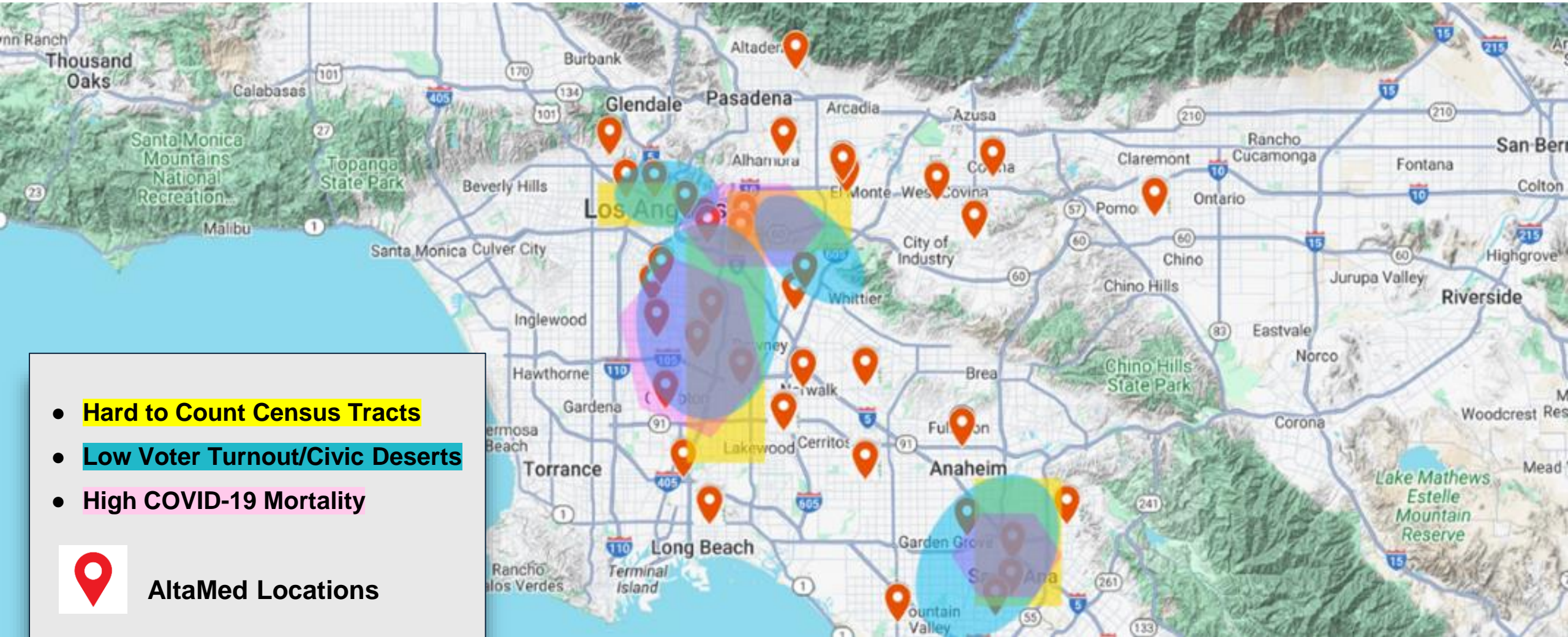
Our mission is to eliminate disparities in health care access and outcomes by providing superior quality health and human services through an integrated world-class delivery system for Latinx, multi-ethnic and underserved communities in Southern California.

Our Core Values:

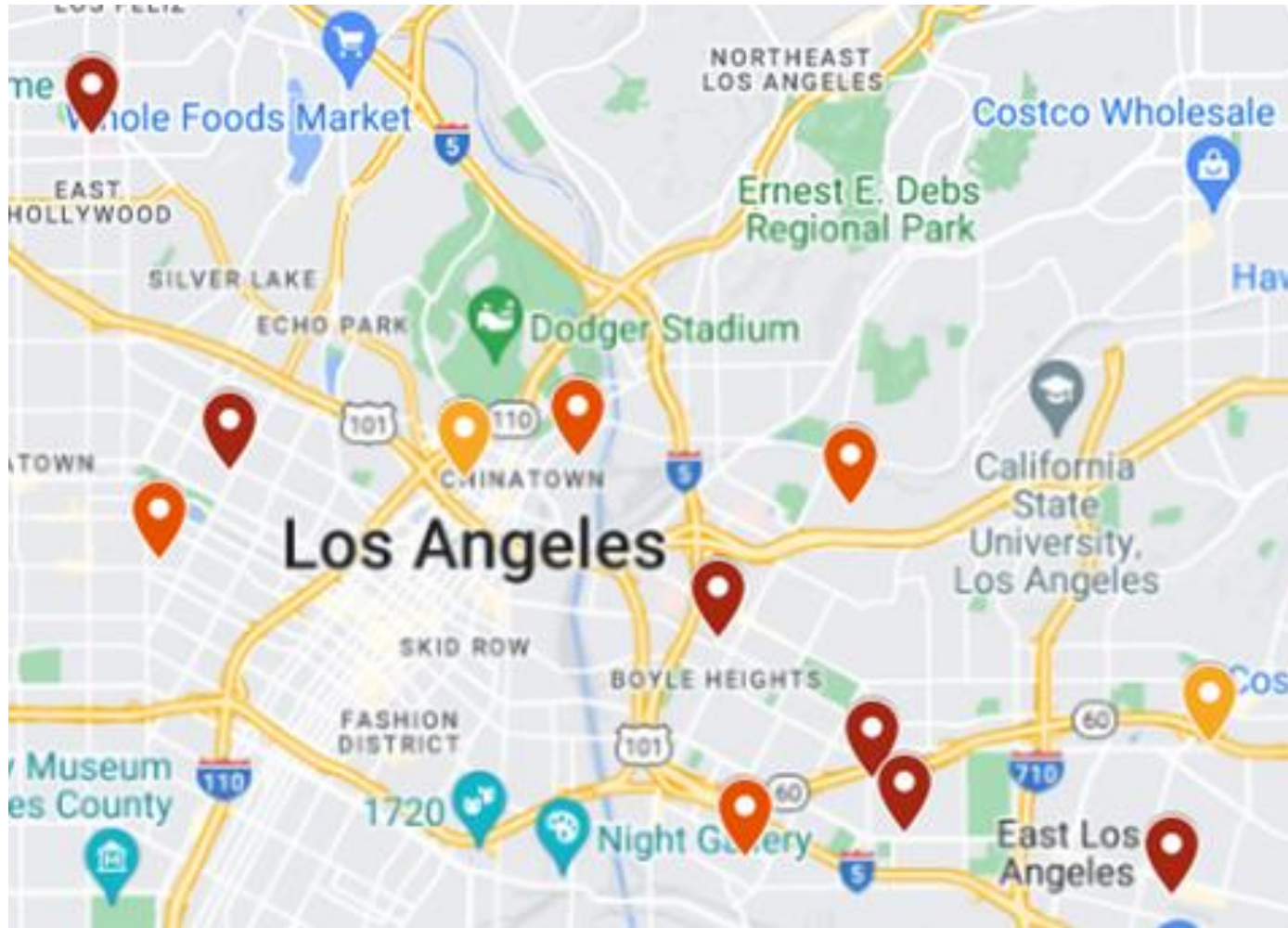
- Patients always come first
- Employees are our most valuable asset
- Encourage excellence and innovation for quality outcomes
- Promote wellness and advocate for strong and healthy communities
- Integrity, honesty and respect in all of our endeavors
- Commitment to teamwork



Where We Serve: LA & OC



Where We Serve: City of LA



12 Service Sites in City of Los Angeles:

- Goodrich, Los Angeles
- Westlake, Los Angeles
- First St., Los Angeles
- William Mead (Satellite)
- Ramona Gardens (Satellite)
- Estrada Courts (Satellite)
- Northgate Market, Olympic (Satellite)
- Indiana Youth Services
- CHLA (Sunset)
- Boyle Heights
- East LA - PACE
- South LA - PACE

Who We Serve: Patient Demographics

Serving Medi-Cal Patients in Los Angeles and Orange Counties

500K Patients

40% Language Other than English

72% Spanish Encounters (City of Los Angeles)

84% Medi-Cal

62% Spanish Language Preference

61% In Person Visits
39% Telehealth

74% Hispanic/Latinos

0.937 Social Vulnerability Index

0.87 Housing Stability Score

In the past 12 months, at our LA City Locations, we have:

- Cared for **81,000** unique patients
- Provided **554,000** complete health care appointments

How We Serve: Services & Specialty Care

Primary Care – 60+ sites total

- Pediatrics
- Senior Care
- Complex Care
- Women's Health
- Family Medicine
- Health Education
- Laboratory
- Radiology Services
- Urgent Care

Dental Care – 14 sites and over 100 schools in LA and OC

- Restorative Services
- Preventative Services
- Extractions
- Examinations and X-Rays
- 5 Mobile vans
- 6 Oral Health Units (Satellite/Portable) – limited scope

Clinician Home Visit Program

- Six clinical teams serving more than 650 chronically ill patients at home

Pharmacy Services – 12 sites

- Online refills and text reminders
- Price matching
- Same day delivery

Behavioral Health – 18 sites

- Individual Psychosocial Therapy

HIV Services – 4 sites

- Hepatitis C Treatment
- HIV Prevention and Testing
- Mental Health, Case Management

Mobile Health Clinics (10)

- 4 Mobile Health
- 6 Mobile Dental

Onsite Specialty Care

- *Pediatric:* Neurology, Urology, Dermatology, Gastroenterology, Orthopedics, Ophthalmology, Allergy/Immunology, Cardiology
- *Adult:* Psychiatry, Podiatry, Dermatology, Sports Medicine, Cardiology, Obstetrics/Gynecology, Palliative Care

Youth Services – 3 sites

- Cal-Learn
- Adolescent Family Life Program
- Youth Services Linkages to Care
- Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Certified Parenting Classes
- Family Planning
- CalFresh

Highlight: Largest PACE Provider in California

9 Full Service PACE Sites (Program of All Inclusive Care of the Elderly) 4 Alternative Care Setting (ACS) in Los Angeles

LA City Locations

- **Grand Plaza***
- **South Los Angeles***
- **Westlake (ACS)***

What is PACE?

The Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly, or PACE, helps independent seniors with complex medical needs **to avoid nursing homes** and instead, receive the care and services necessary to help them stay safe, comfortable, and healthy living in their own home.

What is an ACS?

A program where a PACE participant receives some (but not all) PACE center services. Located near a full PACE center.



**PACE/ ACS sites located in the City of LA*

Addressing Health Disparities and Advocating for Health Equity



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Where We Are: Current Landscape

State

- **Health 4 All expansion** of Medi-Cal regardless of immigration status and DACA Covered CA eligibility. Focus on funding advocacy to make access a reality.
- Movement to **value based care** as an equity solution. Focus on data access and integration is key.
- **Healthcare workforce crisis**, including shortage of Latino physicians and nurses.

Local

- **Ensuring Medi-Cal coverage truly equals access!**
- Cultural and linguistic connection and competency in providing care.
- Focus on healthcare workforce pipeline programs and training for doctors and nurses.

Immediate Opportunities

- **Proposition 1:** Housing support and expansion of behavioral health services for Angelenos.
- **Proposition 35:** Provides stable, predictable funding for Medi-Cal providers including community health centers, ensuring consistent access to care in LA.
- **Measure A:** Approximately \$1 billion sales tax revenue annually to combat homelessness.

Value Based Care & Expanded Access

Historic Medi-Cal Expansion in California

- **Medi-Cal expansion: 700,000 newly eligible patients.**
- FQHCs serve the uninsured, regardless of insurance coverage or ability to pay
- Ensuring support for FQHCs is essential.

Value Based Care: An Equity Solution

- **Value Based Care (VBC) is a health care delivery model that restructures health systems to focus on the health outcomes of their patients and the quality of services rendered.**
- Organizes care around medical conditions, health outcomes, reimbursement, and integrates data and IT systems.
- Together—this ensures patients receive the right care at the right time which more closely addresses issues of healthcare equity and results in savings for the healthcare system.

AltaMed's Transition to VBC

- Since 2015, AltaMed has been an early adopter of VBC —self-funding our VBC journey by investing \$80 million in people, infrastructure, and information technology to transform our primary care model and business model.

Policy Issues and Advocacy Work

Proper payment incentives focused on addressing needs

- **Medi-Cal payment parity** to cover full-cost of care for our most vulnerable patients. This includes but is not limited to Medi-Cal Target Rate Increases—state annual FQHC and PACE rate-setting process that accounts for growing cost of care.
- **Primary care and Community Health Worker investments** for greater focus on preventive care.
- **Delivery system integration:** Integration and coordination of Primary, Specialty, Acute Care, and Behavioral Health .
- Invest in CBO and public-private partnerships to **integrate social needs** including but not limited to: housing, transportation, healthy foods, and addressing environmental issues.

Data, IT, System Interoperability

- **Targeted investments in data infrastructure and training** across the state's Data Exchange Framework so participants have complete and full data for the state to properly and fairly finance alternative payment models and incentives focused on health outcomes and addressing health disparities.

Quality Measurement & Reporting

- Advocate for unified **quality measures across programs** at the state level to more accurately measure program success and minimize provider administrative burden.
- **Incentivize preventive care**, such as immunization and screenings.

Policy Issues and Advocacy Work (Continued)

Advocate for Medi-Cal Parity Initiatives to Secure Proper Funding to Serve Medi-Cal Patients

- **Ensure that Medi-Cal coverage is on par with private insurance.** AltaMed continues to meet with federal and state regulators to advocate for Medi-Cal parity.

Enrollment and Coverage

- Support access to Medi-Cal, Covered California, PACE, and senior services for Angelenos.
- **Funding for enrollers and navigators;** advocate for redetermination flexibilities and continuous coverage for the most vulnerable, starting with children 0-5.
- Advocate for PACE to be program of choice for Medi-Cal patients.

Timely Access to Care

- **Address healthcare and language deserts:** Extend and expand telehealth flexibilities at all levels of government to increase access to telehealth and telemedicine.
- Protect and increase access to behavioral health, reproductive health, and specialty care for Medi-Cal.

Healthcare Workforce and True Access to Care

Making Health for All a reality requires more investments in our healthcare workforce
COVERAGE DOES NOT EQUAL ACCESS



- **Los Angeles County faces a critical shortage of nurses**, with a vacancy rate of 10-15% in hospitals and clinics as of 2023.
- **A survey in 2023 found that 60% of healthcare workers in Los Angeles reported symptoms of burnout**, with many considering leaving the field.
- **Despite Latinos comprising nearly 48% of the population in Los Angeles County, only about 6% of physicians identify as Latino** (UCLA LPPI, USC Center for Health)

AltaMed Healthcare Workforce Initiatives

The **AltaMed Institute for Health Equity** is an incubator for targeted research in underserved communities and is training and developing the next generation of physicians and medical providers.

Medical Residency Programs

- Family Medicine (FM) Residency Program
- Nurse Practitioner Fellowship
- Sports Medicine Fellowship
- Community Medicine Fellowship
- CHLA Pediatric Residency Rotations
- USC FM Residency Rotations
- White Memorial FM Residency Rotation
- UCLA, UCI, USC Med Student Rotations

Continuing Medical Education

- Medication Assisted Treatment/Opioid Use Disorder Training for Primary Care Providers
- PrEP/PEP HIV Training for Primary Care Providers
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Screenings
- Phlebotomy Skills Training Program

The AltaMed School of Nursing Collaborative

- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Program
- Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) Program
- LVN to Associates Degree Nursing (ADN) Program
- ADN to Bachelors Science Nursing (BSN) Program
- Bachelors Science Nursing (BSN) Leadership Program

Clinical Training Programs

- USC Pediatric Dentistry Fellowship
- Masters of Public Health (MPH) Field Study Program
- Masters of Social Work (MSW) Field Study Program
- Associate Clinical Social Worker (ACSW) Program

Policy Issues and Advocacy Work

Partnerships with Academic Institutions

- **Ensure more FQHCs become training ground for future physicians.** Medical residency training programs anchored in FQHCs can help increase the number of physicians interested in working at community clinics.
- **Prioritize funding and support partnerships to train culturally aligned nursing workforce.**
 - *For example: The AltaMed Nursing Collaborative aims to train 250 Licensed Vocational Nurses, Certified Nursing Assistants, and Registered Nurses within the first 3 years of the program in partnership with University of La Verne and Annenberg School of Nursing*

Primary Care Residency Programs

- Support solutions that address the unprecedented provider shortage in CA and the nation, including **deeper investment** in UC PRIME.
- Support **funding** for Community health Centers
- Support preservation and increase funding for **healthcare pipeline** and development programs, like the Song Brown Primary Care Residency Program.
- National Health Service Corp (NHSC) expansion to include prioritization of providers in “**language deserts**”

Doctors and Dentists from Mexico Pilot Program: AB 1045 (Firebaugh)

Support implementation to increase medical provider capacity to serve Angelenos:

- The Mexico Pilot Program brings licensed physicians from Mexico to provide medical care in underserved areas at nonprofit Community Health Centers throughout California. **AltaMed is currently the only participant in Los Angeles.**
- AB 2860 (Garcia): Pilot program expansion. This bill includes psychiatry to the list of doctors that can participate in the pilot program and has potential to address the state’s growing behavioral health needs.

Senior Services

Senior Population Growth

- **Los Angeles County's 2M residents aged 60+ are expected to grow to 2.5M** (26% of the County's population) by 2030. Expected to continue to increase to nearly 3 million by 2060 (35% of the County's population).

Homelessness

- 45% of homeless individuals in California are age 50+. 57,715 older adults statewide interacted with the homeless response system.
- **In Los Angeles County, 17,937 adults age 55+ interacted with the homeless response system.**

According to The Guardian Newspaper:

- Thousands of senior citizens died in Los Angeles county while homeless in the past 10 years, **residents age 60 and over representing a quarter of all deaths of unhoused people** in that period.
- More than **3,000 of the 11,500 people who died while unhoused in Los Angeles county between 2014 and 2023 were 60 and older**, highlighting the vulnerability of older residents in one of the US's most expensive regions.
- Last year, the Los Angeles county medical examiner recorded a record high of **496 deaths of older and elderly unhoused people**, nearly four times the fatalities from 10 years earlier.

Senior Services: Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)

AltaMed aims to create an environment where seniors can thrive, enjoying better health and a higher quality of life as they age.

In 1996 AltaMed opened its first PACE center in LA.

Since then, we have grown to the largest PACE provider in California with 15 PACE sites.

In the City of LA we have 2 PACE sites and one Alternative Care Setting (ACS) site, where we care for over 1,000 seniors.

Viva Gold (Viva Oro): A specialized care program for seniors age 62+.

The infographic for AltaMed PACE features a central photograph of a smiling elderly man playing chess with a caregiver. Surrounding the photo are icons and text boxes for various services: Primary Medical and Specialty Care, Physical, Occupational, Speech, and Aquatics Therapy, Prescription Drug Coverage, Hospital and Doctor Visits, Social Activities and Nutritious Meals, Vision, Adult Day Health Care Services, Dental, No Cost Transportation, and Home Care Services.

Policy Issues and Advocacy Work

Enrollment and Coverage

- Advocate for PACE to be program of choice for Medi-Cal patients.

Address Housing Challenges Experienced by Seniors Living in Los Angeles

- The City of LA and the County has an opportunity to **support development of affordable housing and housing supports for seniors** through various state programs, such as CalAIM and Proposition 1 funding.
 - *Note: Government programs like PACE, require housing for eligibility.*
- **Zoning reform for innovative solutions;** explore provision of on-site medical and social services in senior housing development. PACE or ACS.
- Partnerships with CBOs to further identify regional and neighborhood level priorities for seniors, their caretakers, and families.

Behavioral Health: Proposition 1 Partnership



AltaMed Behavioral Health Services

- **Clinic Services:** 16 clinic sites in Los Angeles County offering prevention and early intervention services for all ages by a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), or a Licensed Clinical Psychologist (PsyD) available in-person or through telehealth.
- **School-Based Services:** Servicing 8 schools in Los Angeles County, providing counseling services to students onsite and refer students to AltaMed clinics and agencies for additional services.

Models for Addressing Homelessness & Behavioral Health Needs at City Level

- **City of Vernon:** AltaMed to serve as behavioral health provider through a SAMHSA grant partnership.

Immediate Opportunities

Proposition 1: \$6.4 billion investment in behavioral health and housing.

Round 1 complete.

Opportunity: City and Round 1 awardees partnership with FQHCs like AltaMed to successfully expand Behavioral Health services to Angelenos experiencing housing insecurity.

Measure A: Approximately \$1 billion sales tax revenue annually to combat homelessness.

Opportunity: Partner with the City, County, and administering partners to identify ways to invest in expansion of services for homeless individuals, including substance use treatment, and primary care through our clinic and provider network.

Proposition 35: Provides stable, predictable funding for Medi-Cal providers including community health centers, ensuring consistent access to care in LA.

Opportunity: Upon passage in November, we would like to partner with City leaders to draw down funding for our public health and safety net health systems, including healthcare workforce investments.

Thank you!



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