



2020 Annual Report

A Year of Innovation.



Jovenes, Inc.

Empowering Youth to Succeed

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

03	A Letter from our Executive Director
04	About Us
05	Major Programs
06	Population & Geography Served
07	Youth Housing Success & Demographics
08	Adapting to COVID-19
09	The College Success Initiative
10	Implementing AB-74 Funding
11	Celebrating Student Success
13	<i>The Village</i>
14	Transforming Los Padrinos
17	Host Homes
18	Financial Overview
19	Thank You

A Message from our Executive Director

2020 marked my 10th year as Executive Director for Jovenes, Inc., and although it was one of the most challenging years for our community, it was also a year which reminded us all of how truly important our mission is. The pandemic has changed so much of about the approach we have to address the issues our youth face. Despite these challenges of these changes, I could not be prouder and more thankful for the way the entire Jovenes team - especially those who work in-person in our facilities and with our youth - have responded. We have seen firsthand how the most vulnerable have suffered the most consequences of the economic downturn, primarily stemming from lack of access to the community resources that are so important for their well-being.

We have responded to the pandemic by developing new resources to support our clients and fulfill their basic needs. We have increased our food deliveries and motel support program, and have provided our clients with personal protective equipment and educated them on safety protocols as we navigate this pandemic. We have added additional flexibility to our housing programs to allow our clients to stay safer-at-home. Lastly, we have worked with our community partners and volunteers to bring virtual resources and activities to our youth to help them cope with the isolation brought by the pandemic.

Despite all the challenges brought by 2020, Jovenes has continued to grow its capacity by starting new programs. Continuing to bring new housing opportunities to transitional age youth remains a vital task, now more than ever. We have expanded our *College Success Initiative* to new campuses while developing dorm-style living arrangements, opened a new crisis housing program for young women at *Los Padrinos*, and have seen the generosity of our community through the Hosts who have opened their home to youth through the Host Home program. Jovenes is committed to continuing to explore innovative models and partnerships to make sure homeless youth can find a place they can call home, and realize the vision they have for themselves.

Sincerely,



Andrea Marchetti
Executive Director
amarchetti@jovenesinc.org





ABOUT US



Our History and Mission

Jovenes (which translates to ‘youth’ in Spanish) was founded in 1989 by Father Richard Estrada on the core belief that every person deserves not only the right to safe housing, but also the opportunity to build a successful future. Now, over 30 years later, Jovenes has developed to offer a complete continuum of care that moves homeless youth off the streets and into their own apartments, with a mission to empower homeless and at-risk youth to become productive and integrated members of their communities. Jovenes works in-depth with each of our youth, implementing a plan that addresses their needs for housing, healthcare, education & employment, and trauma recovery.



Located in Boyle Heights and serving communities throughout Southeast LA County, Jovenes works deeply with our youth focusing on not only their needs for housing, but also healthcare, education, employment and trauma recovery. We empower those we serve because we believe that homelessness does not define our youth. Our mission is to help homeless youth become active and integrated members of our community. Together we work to develop pathways for personal and professional growth so young people can move into permanent housing and make meaningful contributions to the community we share.





MAJOR PROGRAMS



Jovenes operates a complete Continuum of Care that moves our youth off the streets and into stable housing with the skills and support they need to become self-sufficient and integrated members of the community. We serve youth experiencing homelessness through a variety of housing programs and supportive services in Los Angeles County, with the capacity to house over 400 youth on any given night. Youth are split into a variety of housing arrangements. Our housing programs include:

Short-Term Housing:

- Emergency Shelter: Youth may stay for 90 days – six months
- Host Homes: Youth living in people’s homes for up to six months
- Transitional Housing: 2 years maximum; all free housing

Long-Term Housing:

- Permanent Supportive Housing: Aiding youth with mental health challenges and high-risk of chronic homelessness via long term subsidization
- Rapid Rehousing/Rental Subsidies: Rental subsidy program
- Family Reconnection, Homelessness Prevention & Diversion: Short term assistance to either prevent evictions, quickly rehouse youth who don't have a lot of other challenges; support bills & utilities, and establish healthy relationships with their families



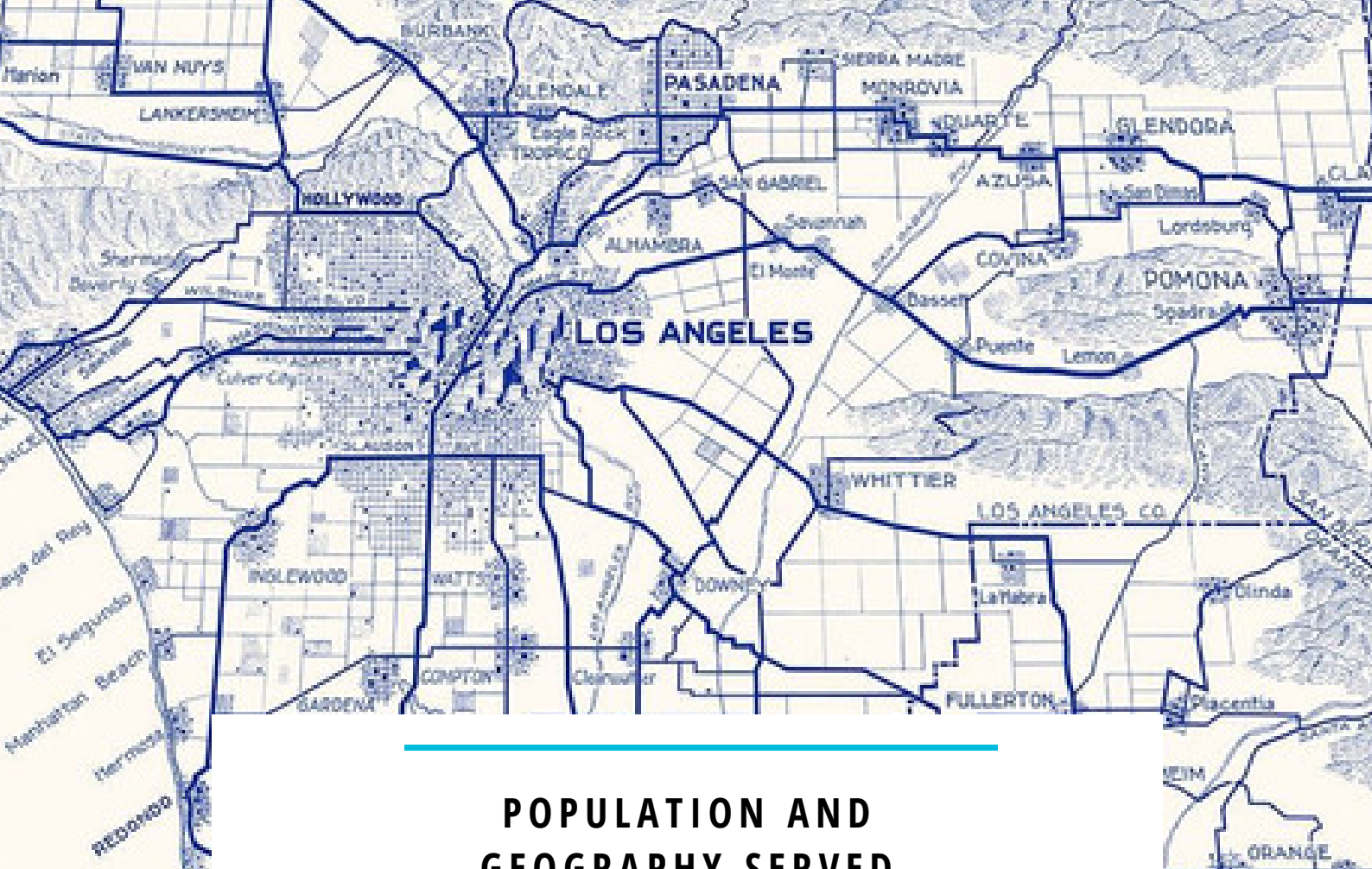
College Focused Housing:

- College-Focused Bridge Housing: Temporary shared housing designed to provide college students with a safe and stable place to focus on their educational goals
- College Focused Rapid Rehousing
- Off-campus dorm-style living



Throughout all of our programs, Jovenes’ core goal is to place youth into a stable housing situation that meets their needs and allows them to grow in order to become self-sufficient and independent adults. In order to accomplish this goal, we implement best practices such as: Housing First (no preconditions or barriers to entry), Harm Reduction (ideas and interventions to reduce associated harms from risks), and Trauma Informed Care (treating the youth as a whole, including addressing past traumas, to increase coping mechanisms and understand behaviors).





POPULATION AND GEOGRAPHY SERVED

Jovenes works with youth experiencing homelessness who are between the ages of 18-25. In recent years, our constituency has expanded beyond our traditional population of unhoused youth to also include the growing number of homeless students. Jovenes serves as the Regional Coordinator for the Youth Coordinated Entry System (CES) in the 23 independent cities that comprise Service Planning Area (SPA) 7, serving a geography that covers communities such as Boyle Heights and East Los Angeles, and cities such as Norwalk, Whittier, Downey, Montebello, Cerritos, and more. Jovenes has a leadership position that covers approximately 1/8th of LA County, and as the Lead for the Youth CES in SPA 7, we have the responsibility to coordinate resources, provide assessments, and move youth into housing. According to the 2020 Homeless Count, 4,673 youth are experiencing homelessness on any given night in Los Angeles County, with 19% residing in Jovenes' geographic area alone.

Youth Housing Success & Demographics

380

YOUTH HOUSED

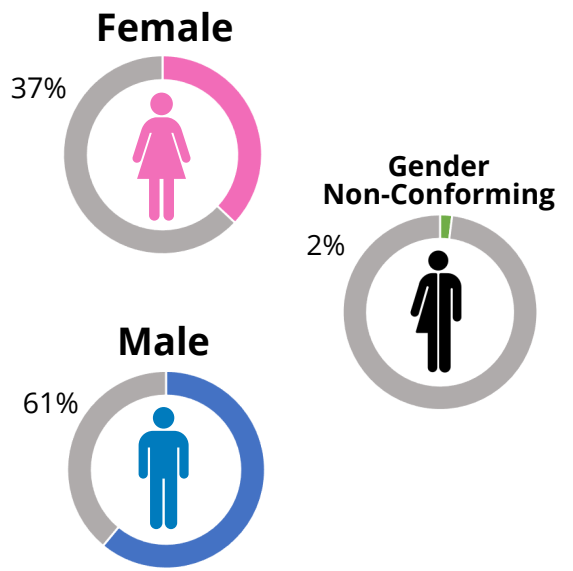
In the year 2020, Jovenes was able to house 380 unduplicated homeless or at-risk youth in Los Angeles County.

89%

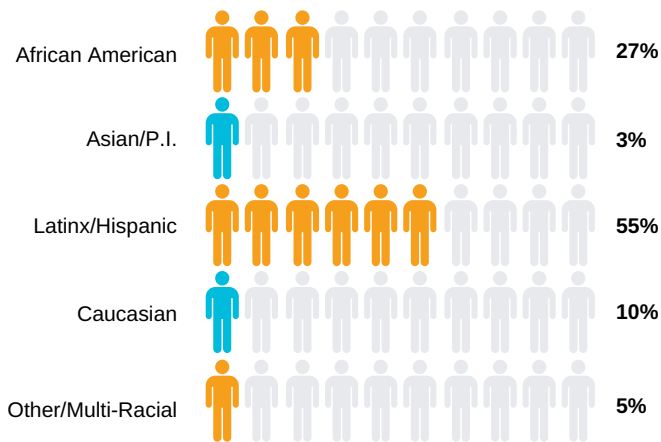
INCREASED OR MAINTAINED

their housing stability, a 4% increase from last year.

Gender Identification



Race/Ethnicity



30%

IDENTIFY AS LGBT+



34%

SYSTEMS INVOLVEMENT

Those who age out of foster care and/or are involved with the probation department make up 34% of the youth we serve

Adapting to COVID-19

HOW WE'VE SAFELY HOUSED YOUTH DURING A PANDEMIC


Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, our agency has taken a number of steps to keep our youth, staff, and community safe and well cared for. We have prioritized educating clients on the latest developments in order to keep them well-informed and able to make healthy decisions. We have instituted various procedures that allow our case management staff to employ social distancing while maintaining regular contact with youth, either at a safe distance or through phone/video chat.

Jovenes is employing numerous strategies to address the challenges related to food insecurity and motel placement. We have increased our ability provide meals and basic necessities to our youth to reduce their risk of exposure.

Motels are being used for youth who are in need of immediate housing, or who are showing symptoms of COVID-19 and require isolation. Called the *Motel Voucher Program*, this program has proven to be incredibly useful as we navigate through health measures set by both LA County and the CDC while safely housing youth.

We will continue to adapt accordingly in 2021.

THE COLLEGE SUCCESS INITIATIVE



In 2015, Jovenes began to notice a relatively unidentified and underserved population: **college students experiencing homelessness**. Over the past decade, the US economy has gained 11 million jobs require a post-secondary credential while losing 5 million jobs that can be secured with a high school diploma or less. In short, higher education is becoming more critical to help housing insecure and homeless college students exit poverty and end cycles of chronic homelessness. However, nearly 1 in 5 of LA's County community college students (and 10% of Cal State students) experiences homelessness, posing challenges to both entering college as well as maintaining enrollment. Certain subpopulations are especially at risk – while nearly half of California's former foster youth enroll in community college, less than 10% achieve graduation.

Noting the impact that higher education has on breaking the cycle of homelessness and poverty, Jovenes launched the **College Success Initiative** in 2016: an innovative, first-of-its-kind program to address the crisis of student homelessness that is now established at six college campuses in Los Angeles County. CSI combines traditional and academic case management in order to support students as they live in stable housing options tailored to their needs. Through the College Success Initiative, Jovenes provides three forms of housing:

- college-focused bridge housing
- college-focused rapid rehousing
- dormitory-style college housing.

By taking away the burden of housing costs, our students are able to focus on academic achievement.

EXPANDING OUR IMPACT

In July 2019, the California State Legislature passed the 2019-20 State Budget bill (AB74), which allocated new funding—the first of its kind—to address homelessness among college students. The state allocated \$19 million annually to the state's three public post-secondary institutions. Jovenes' College Success Initiative served as the foundational model for AB74 legislation, which has resulted in our approach being replicated throughout the State of California.

The funding is used to support rapid rehousing efforts that assist homeless and housing insecure college students. Campuses are establishing partnerships with community-based housing providers to provide wraparound services and rental subsidies for eligible students. Jovenes provides technical assistance to both the California State University and the California Community College systems as they implement this new funding stream. The funding from AB74 has allowed us to expand our College Success Initiative to now include the CSU system, in addition to the Cal Community College system, and is allowing Jovenes to execute new, three-year contracts (June 2020 – June 2023) with:

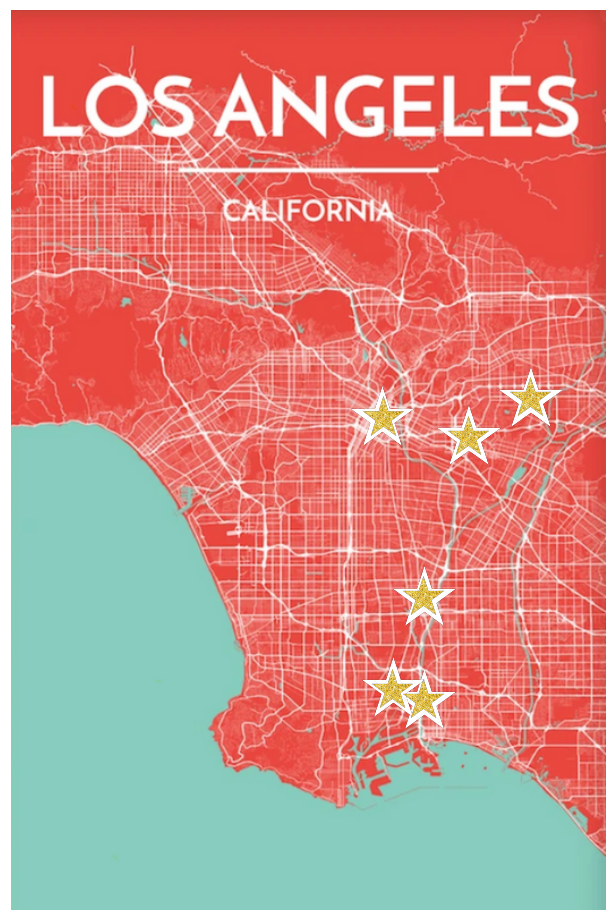
- **Cerritos College**
- **Long Beach City College**
- **CSU Long Beach**
- **Cal Poly Pomona**

Through support from private foundations, we will continue to work with our original CSI programs at

- **East LA College**
- **Rio Hondo College**

With combined public and private funding, Jovenes projects that we will be able to serve up to 170 students per year. By meeting youth where they are at through our College Success Initiative, Jovenes will be able to change lives by providing the significant, long-term investment each youth needs.

Jovenes has completed the pilot stage of our College Success Initiative, which covered a period of August 2016-June 2020. During this period, we housed 100 students experiencing homelessness from 12 schools in LA County. 61% of students served identified as female, 57% as Latino, and 25% as Black. 43% indicated that they had experienced placement within the Foster Care system. We have seen promising advances in our students' ability to succeed in school. 63% of our students either graduated/transferred from college, or remain enrolled in school, and 97% maintained their newfound housing stability.



Celebrating Student Success

2020 CSI Graduate Spotlight

This year, we celebrated the graduation of 15 students from our College Success Initiative. We are incredibly proud of the dedication and resiliency shown by each student as they overcame challenges and obstacles to complete their education, and would like to take a moment to highlight some of our youth's successes and future endeavours!



Deborah is a first-generation college student, first-generation Italian immigrant and former foster youth who just graduated from Los Angeles City College and will continue her education as a Physics major at UC Irvine.

"I wanted to end the cycle of poverty in my family and thus began pursuing a higher education. Because Jovenes stepped in early and helped support me financially and psychologically, I was able learn the skills that made me a successful long-term student!"

Congratulations, Deborah!

Congratulations to our CSU Long Beach Graduate, Crystal!

"I'm in my new space, and I'm so happy!" says Crystal, "I did have housing insecurity, and it's very stressful when you're trying to finish school. So I definitely felt like I had somebody on my team when I felt most alone."

She persisted through all the obstacles that came her way, and we are so thankful for her example!



Celebrating Student Success



Congratulations to our Los Angeles Trade Technical College graduate, Marvette Hardnett!

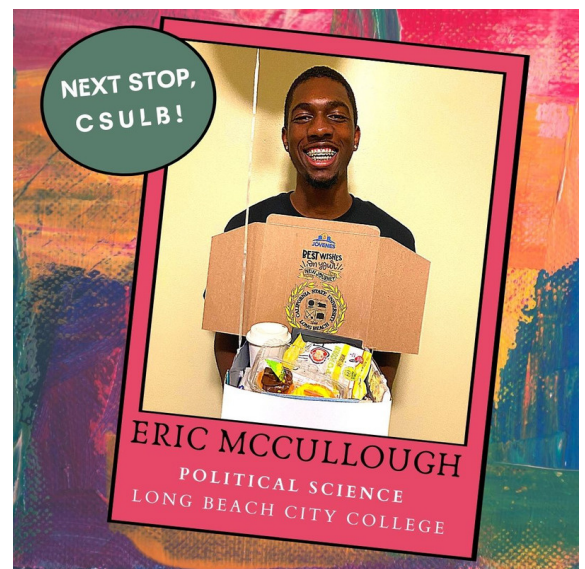
Marvette is graduating after studying Bio-Chemistry. Even though she faced self-doubt and low expectations from others, she was able to come through and find success.

We are so proud of all that Marvette has achieved, and we are so inspired by her!

Meet our Long Beach City College Graduate, Eric! Eric is the first college graduate of his family and will continue his education in Political Science at CSU Long Beach.

"All of us [at Jovenes] obviously experienced homelessness and poverty, and we're still finding a way to come out victorious. It's truly amazing and inspiring."

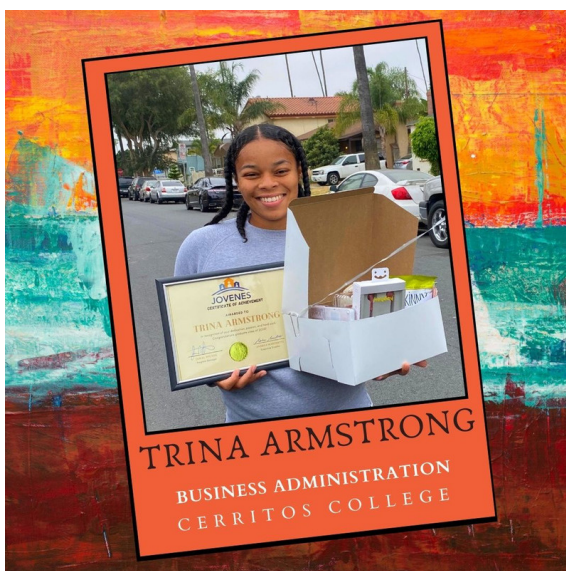
Congratulations, Eric!



Congratulations to our Cerritos College graduate, Trina Armstrong.

Trina studied Business Administration and aspires to open her own business!

We're rooting for you, Trina!



The Grand Opening of *The Village*

For the past four years, Jovenes and Cerritos College have been partnering together create housing solutions for students experiencing homelessness by placing Jovenes' staff on-campus to connect homeless students with housing support in the community. Recently, Jovenes and Cerritos have been working together to secure a new type of housing facility for homeless students. Called The Village, it is California's first community college housing project exclusively for homeless students.

After several months of hard work and dedication, we are pleased to announce that The Village successfully opened in June, and has the capacity to house 28 students at a time. The Village is located just two blocks from Cerritos College. Cerritos College purchased the property for The Village using general funds, and Jovenes is master leasing the units in order to provide no-cost or affordable housing options to these students. Jovenes is providing the day-to-day management, resident selection, on-site supervision, case management, and property maintenance.

The Village complements Jovenes' ability to house students in market rate apartments scattered throughout the community, using rental subsidies that allows them to move into apartments close to campus and continue receiving financial support along with social & academic services that help them maintain their enrollment in college, and ultimately graduate or transfer.



TRANSFORMING LOS PADRINOS

Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall is the second oldest juvenile hall in the county of Los Angeles, and is located in Downey, CA. Established in 1957, Los Padrinos served as a temporary holding facility for children awaiting court proceedings, and was one of three juvenile halls located in Los Angeles County and overseen by the Los Angeles County Probation Department. In addition to the detention center, Los Padrinos houses a juvenile court. For years, Los Padrinos operated as a place of incarceration for youth, with a mixed track record which highlights the challenges that come with high levels of juvenile incarceration.

After nearly six decades of operations, Los Padrinos closed its door in the summer of 2019.

Turning the Page

Jovenes & LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn's office began discussion a new future for Los Padrinos in early 2020. After touring the Hope Center (one of the newer buildings at Los Padrinos), and bringing along young women currently living in Jovenes' housing programs, we've come up with a plan to refurbish the facility and create a home that is welcoming and uplifting.

We hope this project represents a new opportunity for social justice- one that de-prioritizes incarceration and instead focuses on helping youth meet their basic needs and reintegrate into our community. We are excited to envision a new future for Los Padrinos while creating much needed housing support for young people who are experiencing homelessness, and look forward to partnering with LA County to make this transformation possible.





From Handcuffs to House Keys



"This project represents a new opportunity for social justice- one that de-prioritizes incarceration and instead focuses on helping youth meet their basic needs and reintegrate into our community."

Currently there are no crisis/shelter housing beds dedicated to female youth in Southeast LA County, so this program will meet an important need in our communities. As the youth lead for the Coordinated Entry System in the communities surrounding the facility, Jovenes will be able to integrate this program within its other housing programs in order to create a viable path to permanent housing placement. Up to 20 women can be housed in this program at a time, with an anticipated length of stay between three to six months. The proposed bridge housing is intended to respond to the immediate needs of homeless female youth in order to provide a safe and stable place to live while they develop a personalized service plan with their case manager.

Through housing and supportive services/case management, we seek to provide youth with the resources and support they need to access vital benefits and physical/mental health care, gather personal identification documents, obtain employment, further their education, and ultimately move into longer term stable housing. All youth staying in this facility will receive:

- Standardized assessment and data entry Case management
- Residential supervision, crisis intervention, and security
- Life skills development
- Educational or vocational supports
- Housing first and harm reduction
- Partnering with others, exits to permanent housing, and self-sustaining youth



Before



After

We seek to turn cells into bedrooms while creating spaces for our guests to learn, play, grow, and recover from trauma. Most importantly, we will continue to provide the individualized case management and supportive services that Jovenes is built upon in order to give our clients an opportunity to hope and embark on a new journey.

After several months of extensive renovations, outreach, and community engagement, we are pleased to announce that the former Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall has been transformed into:

The Mariposa House at Los Padrinos

The Mariposa House officially welcomed our first residents on December 31st, 2020, and we look forward to continuing to welcome more young women into the program.

Host Homes

Jovenes' Host Homes Program utilizes community members who have a spare bedroom and volunteer to host a youth (ages 18-24) experiencing housing instability for up to 6 months. During the 6 months, Hosts give youth a safe place to stay while the youth works closely with Jovenes Host Homes staff to achieve their short- and long- term goals, as well as identify a permanent housing solution.

Our Host Home program showed substantial growth and success during 2020 - a remarkable achievement during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the onset of the pandemic, we have housed 15 youth. Our hosts have opened their homes and heart and have allowed for a safe shelter for our youth to recover from trauma, grow, and achieve their goals.

"This is a message for those who lack hope - I want you to know that there is love and care out there, and Jovenes, Inc.'s Host Homes program is it." - *Andre Jones*



After six years of homelessness, Andre moved in with our wonderful host Renee for six months. With a roof over his head, he worked with Jovenes to obtain his own apartment. "It was an absolute pleasure hosting him and we got along really well," says Renee. Besides giving Andre a safe and stable place to sleep each night, Renee taught Andre about classic films and how to cook.

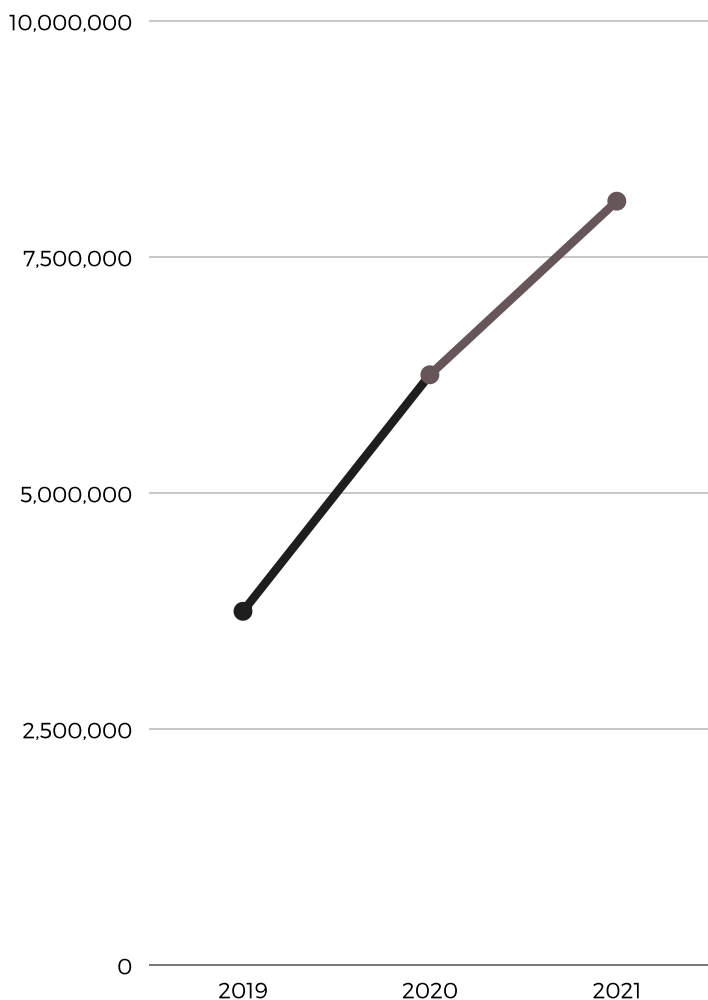
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Jovenes has seen substantial growth over the past year, as we have expanded our agency to access more youth.

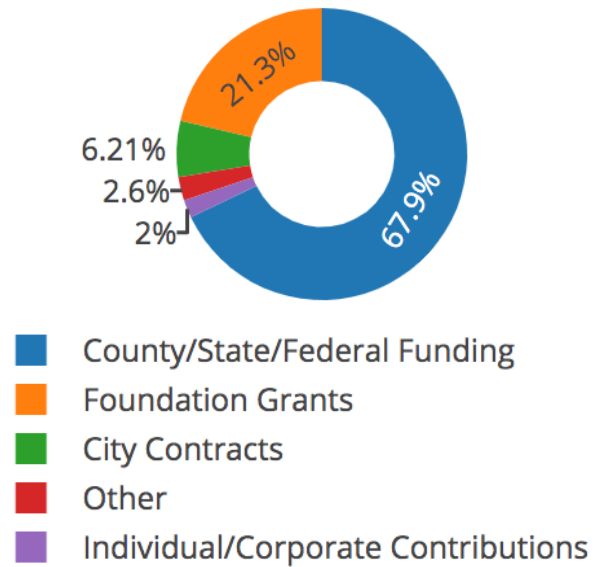
Our income for FY2020 increased 66% from FY2019 (from to \$3,745,940 to \$6,251,525*), and we have projected a 29% increase in income for FY2021.

The increase in income has resulted in our agency growing from 45 staff to 65 staff in FY2020.

Budget Increase Over Time



2020 Sources of Funding



New Funding

A major driver of Jovenes' growth in the previous year was through the implementation of AB74 funding from the State of California.

Annual Expenses Overview

Funding for Jovenes is predominantly distributed towards providing housing and supportive services to homeless and at-risk youth in Los Angeles, with administrative costs taking only 16% of total expenses in FY2020.

Thank you to all who made our innovation and accomplishments in 2020 possible!

The following list of names and organizations are to show appreciation for those who gave substantial donations to Jovenes - we are grateful for your donations and continued support as we serve homeless youth in Los Angeles.

- The Roth Family Foundation
 - The California Wellness Foundation
 - The Weingart Foundation
 - The Rose Hills Foundation
 - The Carl & Roberta Deutsch Foundation
 - The Hezlep Family Foundation
 - Wells Fargo
 - Capital Group
 - SoCal Gas
 - The Peter and Candis Doerken Foundation
 - Ballmer Group
-

We would also like to extend a thank you to our board members:

Dr. Yolanda Aguerrebere (*Vice Chair*); **Tina Birungi**; **Father Richard Estrada** (*Board President*); **Krystal Finkel**; **Kyshawna Johnson**; **Jess Montes**; **Deana Michelle Ng**; **Raphael Ramirez**; **Lucas Rivera**; **Eliseo Tenorio** (*Secretary/Treasurer*); and **David Valdez**.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to Eric Hubbard, Jovenes' Director of Development & Strategic Partnerships, at ehubbard@jovenesinc.org with any further questions or requests. Thank you for your support as we continue to transform the lives of homeless youth in Los Angeles.