



**ORANGE COUNTY**  
**HIGH IMPACT OPIOID ABATEMENT**  
**STRATEGIES**  
**Funding Proposal Application Form**  
**Application Due Date: February 21, 2025**

Applicant Agency: General Information				
<b>Legal Name</b>	El Futuro, Inc.			
<b>Address</b>	2020 Chapel Hill Rd. Suite 23			
<b>Type of Agency (check one)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Government/ Public Authority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit	<input type="checkbox"/> For-Profit Business	
<b>Telephone</b>	919-688-7101			
<b>Website</b>	Elfuturo-nc.org			
<b>Primary Contact Full Name</b>	Kerry S. Brock			
<b>Title</b>	Associate Director			
<b>Email</b>	kbrock@elfuturo-nc.org			
<b>Telephone</b>	828-688-7101 ext. 632			
<b>Name of Project</b>	Orange County Latino Early Intervention Program			
<b>Total Application Funding Requested</b>		\$ 74,115.29		
<b>Funding Period Requested (MM/DD/YYYY)</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	07/01/2025	<b>End Date</b>	06/30/2026
<b>Selected NC MOA Option A Strategy (Number and Name)</b>	6. Early Intervention			
<b>Agency Mission and Vision Statements</b>	El Futuro's mission is to nurture stronger familias to live out their dreams, with a vision that all Latino families who seek mental health support can access appropriate services and function at their most vibrant at home, work, and school, strengthening our entire community.			

## 1. Proposal Summary

El Futuro respectfully requests support to implement its Orange County Latino Early Intervention Program, expanding Community Mental Health Worker's (CMHW) capacity to prevent and address substance use disorder (SUD) and co-occurring mental health conditions among historically marginalized Latino individuals in Orange County. Strengthening early intervention efforts, reducing stigma, and strengthening community coordination will improve outcomes for Latino youth, young adults, and their caregivers.

Through recent investments, El Futuro launched CMHWs trained in culturally responsive interventions for depression and anxiety. However, they lack SUD training and must refer out when clients present with SUD concerns, increasing obstacles. This project closes that gap by training CMHWs in Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) and motivational interviewing (MI), expanding their service array and increasing access to culturally and linguistically responsive services.

Expected impact includes:

- Overdose Prevention: Partner with two agencies to provide harm reduction education, overdose recognition training, and distribute 50 bilingual naloxone kits.
- Early Intervention: Screen 180 young adults (18+) and/or caregivers of younger youth for substance use risk factors and SDOH needs annually.
- Referrals & Treatment: Connect individuals to El Futuro services, Freedom House, or other county providers for treatment, behavioral health, or SDOH resources.
- Community Capacity: Strengthen early intervention infrastructure through CMHW training and integrated services.
- Community Engagement: Enhance local partnerships, including the [Orange County Partnership Coalition](#), faith sites (St. Thomas More, Chapel Hill United Church, etc.), El Centro Hispano, and Orange County Rape Crisis Center, among others, through psychoeducation, expert training, resource development, and outreach events.

## **2. Project Narrative**

### **A. Assessment of Community Need**

#### **Geographic Area and Overdose Burden**

El Futuro’s proposed Latino Early Intervention Program will serve Latino youth, young adults, and caregivers in Orange County, North Carolina (NC). In 2021, NC saw its highest overdose deaths in a single year (4,041), a 22% increase from the prior year, with over 77% linked to fentanyl ([The Daily Tar Heel, 2023](#)). While NC saw some relief in 2022-23 due to expanded harm reduction efforts, opioid misuse remains a critical public health concern. Orange County alone reported 48 opioid-related ED visits and five heroin overdoses in 2023 ([Orange County CHA, 2023](#)), highlighting the need for expanded prevention strategies.

#### **Need for This Work and Gaps in Services**

Data and experience prove that Latino communities face disproportionate barriers to substance use and mental health care, including cultural stigma, lack of bilingual providers, and systemic inequities. Substance use is underreported in Latino populations due to fear and lack of culturally competent services ([SAMHSA, 2021](#) and [2023 National Survey on Drug Use](#)). Research confirms early intervention for alcohol, marijuana, and other drug misuse significantly reduces the risk of opioid dependency ([Society of Adolescent Health and Medicine, 2023](#)). Given that co-occurring mental health disorders are a primary risk factor for opioid misuse, targeted early intervention is crucial.

El Futuro has provided culturally responsive mental health services for over 20 years, observing a rising demand for substance use prevention and treatment. Nationally, 22% of Latino youth experience depression, the highest rate except for Native Americans, yet only 8% receive treatment, compared to 14% of white youth ([University of Texas, 2017](#)). Limited Spanish-language behavioral health services in Orange County further exacerbate this disparity.

When services are available, financial barriers prevent many from accessing care. While Latinos make up 10.5% of Orange County’s population ([Census.gov, 2023](#)), a disproportionate number (28.7%) of Latinos under 65 lack health insurance—over three times the rate of uninsured non-Hispanic whites (9.4%) ([NC DHHS, 2023](#)). Additionally, 20.7% of Latino residents in NC live below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), further limiting access to treatment ([NC Budget and Tax Center, 2023](#)). Expanding affordable, culturally competent mental health services is essential.

#### **Priority Population & Determination of Needs**

Targeted populations include Latino youth and young adults at risk for substance use, caregivers, CMHWs, and community leaders. Latino youth often navigate complex cultural stressors, such as serving as family interpreters in medical and educational settings, increasing mental health burdens. 12.6% of Orange County residents are foreign born and 4.7% report limited English proficiency ([Orange County CHA, 2023](#)). Needs assessment findings include:

- Client feedback surveys showing significant substance use concerns among Latino clients with limited access to SUD treatment.
- Community engagement events, including La Mesita, where Latino families repeatedly emphasize the need for Spanish-language education and resources.
- Collaborations with local health and social service providers, who report a growing number of Latino individuals seeking behavioral health support for SUD without culturally competent access.

### **Evidence for Early Intervention**

Rising fentanyl-related overdoses and substance misuse underscore the urgency for prevention-focused, culturally competent programming. National research consistently confirms early intervention significantly reduces long-term dependency risks ([2023 National Survey on Drug Use](#)). Early intervention for alcohol, marijuana, and other drugs can prevent opioid misuse by up to 40% in at-risk populations ([SAMHSA, 2016](#)). Despite this evidence, Latinos remain far less likely to seek treatment([SAMHSA, 2021](#)).

SBIRT is a proven, effective intervention. SAMHSA evaluations show that clients receiving brief interventions *reduced substance use by 128.8% within six months*. Additionally, 99.6% of clients reported fewer negative social consequences related to substance use following SBIRT implementation ([SAMHSA, 2023](#)). Integrating SBIRT screening and early intervention will bridge critical service gaps, expand access to culturally responsive prevention efforts, and reduce opioid misuse risks, ensuring long-term health equity for Latino families in Orange County.

## **B. Project Description and Program Sustainability**

### **Implementation Strategy**

El Futuro proposes to implement “Strategy 6: Early Intervention Services” from the NC MOA’s Option A list of eligible strategies to enhance early identification and prevention of SUD among historically marginalized Latino youth and young adults in Orange County. This initiative will train CMHWs in SBIRT and Motivational Interviewing (MI) to strengthen early intervention efforts and expand access to culturally and linguistically appropriate services. By embedding SBIRT and early intervention into El Futuro’s existing mental health framework, the proposed project will expand access to screening, education, and intervention while ensuring seamless linkages to care.

### **Project Overview and Expected Impact**

El Futuro recognizes the gaps in opioid-related prevention and recovery support for Latino individuals in Orange County. To strengthen early intervention efforts, this proposal will expand support for Latino youth and young adults at risk of substance use disorders by:

- Implementing SBIRT screenings: Training all CMHWs in SBIRT and MI to identify substance use risk factors and co-occurring mental health concerns at key entry points

within El Futuro's services. CMHWs will use Spanish-language materials and a culturally tailored approach to ensure accessibility and encourage engagement.

- Enhancing coordination with local providers: Strengthening partnerships with hospitals, clinics, harm reduction programs, and behavioral health services to ensure wraparound support and expand access to care, including pain management alternatives.
- Collaborating with schools and community centers to provide SBIRT screenings and prevention-focused workshops for youth.
- Engaging caregivers in psychoeducation workshops to equip them with knowledge about mental health, substance use prevention, and harm reduction strategies.
- Expanding early intervention services for young adults (18+) experiencing early signs of depression, anxiety, or trauma, which can be precursors to substance use disorders (SUDs), through the Strong Minds curriculum.
- Culturally and linguistically responsive outreach and education: Developing and distributing Spanish-language educational materials and conducting bilingual workshops, social media campaigns, and youth-focused community engagement that increases knowledge of opioid risks, improves awareness of behavioral health services, and ensures targeted populations receive accurate, stigma-free information and access to early intervention services. This will include education on the dangers of medication sharing and harm reduction strategies. Expected impacts include:
  - Early Identification: Screen 180 individuals annually for substance use risk factors and SDOH concerns.
  - Timely Intervention: Offering SBIRT and MI to increase engagement in mental health and substance use services.
  - Increased Treatment Access: Comprehensive referrals for mental health and substance use treatment, including via Freedom House or other local providers.
  - Community Capacity Building: Strengthening local capacity for early intervention through CMHW training, integration with behavioral health services, and expansion of culturally responsive care.

### **Community Engagement and Development**

El Futuro has actively engaged community members, clients, and local partners in the development of this project through:

1. Focus Groups, Feedback, and Surveys: Latino clients consistently express a need for accessible and culturally competent substance use prevention services.
2. Collaboration with Healthcare and Community-Based Organizations: Partnerships with health clinics, schools, harm reduction programs, and faith-based organizations have informed service delivery needs and outreach strategies.
3. Staff Training and Professional Development: CMHWs will receive training in SBIRT, opioid harm reduction, and culturally competent early intervention strategies to ensure effective, linguistically appropriate care.

### Alignment with El Futuro’s Goals

This project directly advances El Futuro’s mission to provide accessible, culturally responsive mental health and substance use treatment for Latinos in North Carolina. By expanding early intervention screenings and strengthening provider coordination, El Futuro enhances its commitment to integrated behavioral health, reducing stigma, and fostering a community-driven approach to opioid prevention.

### Implementation Timeline

PHASE	KEY ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE	STAFF RESPONSIBLE
PHASE 1: PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT	Train CMHWs in SBIRT and MI	July-Aug 2025	Program Director
PHASE 2: PROGRAM LAUNCH & OUTREACH	Integrate SBIRT screenings into intake process	Sept-Oct 2025	Clinical team
	Launch community-based early intervention services	Oct 2025	CMHWs and Project Manager
PHASE 3: EXPANSION & EVALUATION	Conduct impact evaluation and adjust strategies	Nov 2025 - May 2026	Project Manager & Program Director

### Capacity Building and Long-Term Sustainability

This project will strengthen El Futuro’s capacity and Orange County’s behavioral health infrastructure to better support opioid-affected individuals. Training bilingual, culturally responsive CMHWs in SBIRT will create a sustainable workforce equipped to identify and address substance use risks in Latino communities. By embedding SBIRT screenings into standard clinical practice, El Futuro ensures that early intervention becomes a permanent part of service delivery.

### Obstacles and Solutions for Sustainability

POTENTIAL CHALLENGE	PROPOSED SOLUTION
Limited funding for CMHWs	Seek diverse funding, expand insurance reimbursement, and advocate for sustainable early intervention funding.
Need for higher-level care for clients requiring specialized treatment	Develop a referral guide and strengthen connections with higher-level care providers
Limited awareness of among Latinos	Implement culturally tailored outreach via trusted peer networks, Spanish-language materials, and social media campaigns.
Workforce burnout and retention challenges	Provide ongoing training, group supervision, and operational feedback sessions to support CMHWs in their roles.

### Other Funding Sources

El Futuro is actively pursuing additional funding sources to sustain and expand these services.

- **State and Federal Funding:** Exploring new and continued funding via state/federal programs as they are available and accessible, including NC DHHS and SAMHSA grants for Latino early intervention and substance use prevention.
- **Private Foundations:** While this proposal seeks Orange County Opioid Settlement Funds, El Futuro is actively pursuing additional funding sources to sustain and expand these services, including: We will also continue to seek funds from the Orange Co ABC Board (a regular funder) and other private foundations as appropriate.
- **Insurance Reimbursement:** SBIRT is an existing Medicaid-billable service in North Carolina under the T1015 HCPCS code, including HI and SC modifiers when appropriate. El Futuro will ensure its CMHWs are trained in billing and documentation to maximize Medicaid reimbursement opportunities.

### **C. Equity Impact**

At the heart of El Futuro is improving access for historically marginalized Latino individuals. The Early Intervention Program will address health inequities for Latino young adults and parents/caregivers in Orange County, who face language barriers, stigma, and a lack of culturally competent providers, delaying care and increasing reliance on costly emergency services. This initiative will provide free, bilingual SBIRT screenings, identifying individuals at risk early and preventing crisis situations. Additionally, El Futuro will leverage its referral network to connect un/underinsured individuals to affordable addiction treatment, behavioral health resources, primary care, and other essential services.

### **Addressing the Needs of the Uninsured and Underinsured**

When services are available, financial barriers cause additional access challenges. While Latinos make up 10.5% of Orange County’s population ([Census.gov, 2023](https://www.census.gov)), a disproportionate number (28.7%) of Latinos under 65 lack health insurance—over three times the rate of uninsured non-Hispanic whites (9.4%) ([NC DHHS, 2023](https://www.ncdhhs.gov)). With your support, El Futuro will improve access to services, regardless of insurance status. Bilingual and free early intervention services and support will help young people overcome administrative barriers to accessing care.

### **Addressing Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)**

Substance use risk is closely linked to social determinants of health (SDOH) such as housing, employment, transportation, and social support. Unmet basic needs increase substance use rates and create barriers to treatment. Addressing these factors through targeted interventions promotes health equity and improves outcomes.

El Futuro’s case management program has strong ties to local resources in Orange County. This program will expand CMHWs' capacity to screen for SDOH concerns and provide care navigation, connecting individuals with housing assistance, workforce development,

transportation support, and culturally tailored psychoeducation to reduce stigma and increase community-wide support for early intervention and recovery.

#### **D. Organizational Readiness**

##### **Capacity for Fiscal, Reporting, and Grant Compliance**

El Futuro, a trusted nonprofit serving Latino communities in North Carolina since 2004, has a proven track record in grant management, financial compliance, and program sustainability. The organization has a proven track record in grant management, financial compliance, and program sustainability, successfully managing federal, state, and private funding, including from NC DHHS, the Governor's Crime Commission, the FM Kirby Foundation, and the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of NC, among other reputable funders. El Futuro has effectively administered multi-year, high-impact grants, such as a \$900,000 general support grant from the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust and a \$600,000 general support grant from the Oak Foundation to expand culturally responsive, community-based programs. Additionally, El Futuro's local LME/MCO committed \$3.4 million to support its expansion of behavioral health services, further demonstrating the organization's ability to scale programs and sustain services beyond initial funding periods.

El Futuro's finance and grants management team ensures rigorous fiscal oversight, reporting accuracy, and compliance with all funding requirements. The organization undergoes an annual independent financial audit, reinforcing transparency and accountability. El Futuro also employs a robust data tracking system to monitor client engagement, program outcomes, and expenditures, ensuring timely and accurate reporting for funders.

##### **Culturally Appropriate Service Delivery and Community Engagement**

El Futuro's service model is community-centered, linguistically responsive, and culturally competent, ensuring programming aligns with the lived experiences of Latino youth, young adults, and their caregivers. Over 75% of El Futuro's staff identify as Latino, ensuring deep cultural competence in engaging young people and families struggling with substance use and mental health concerns. Bilingual, bicultural CMHWs and Peer Support Specialists (PSSs) deliver services in a culturally humble and sensitive manner, deepening trust and improving accessibility.

El Futuro actively partners with youth-serving organizations, schools, and faith-based groups to reach historically marginalized populations and young people experiencing early signs of substance use. Sin Ataduras, El Futuro's substance use prevention and treatment initiative, reached 830 community members in FY2024, highlighting the growing need for substance use services.

Additionally, El Futuro's LAYA Advisory Council (Latino Adolescents and Young Adults) plays a key role in shaping youth-centered programming. The LAYA Advisory Council is comprised of young Latino leaders who provide ongoing feedback on mental health, prevention, and intervention

programs. Their insights have been instrumental in: Identifying the need for psychoeducation workshops for caregivers to better understand mental health, substance use prevention, and harm reduction; reducing stigma around seeking mental health and substance use support through peer-led engagement and community outreach initiatives; leading prevention activities, such as Simulacros (mock emergency drills), where they educate their peers on substance use risks and intervention strategies; and providing quarterly feedback to enhance programming and outreach efforts. Their input ensures services remain relevant, engaging, and effective for Latino youth.

### **Experience Serving Historically Marginalized Populations**

El Futuro has successfully served historically marginalized populations with culturally-responsive, bilingual services since inception. The organization and its staff are committed to promoting the health and dignity of Latino youth, young adults, and caregivers impacted by mental health and substance use challenges. By leveraging its deep community relationships and culturally tailored programming, the organization's early intervention approach will expand early intervention strategies to empower Latino youth, young adults, and their caregivers to seek support, reduce substance use risks, and build a strong foundation for mental well-being and recovery.

### **E. Evidence of Collaborations/Partnerships**

El Futuro has a long-standing commitment to collaboration, partnering with key community organizations across Orange County and North Carolina to ensure Latino youth, young adults, and their caregivers have access to culturally responsive mental health and substance use services. Through this project, El Futuro will strengthen existing partnerships and establish new collaborations to enhance early intervention.

#### **Key Partnerships and Collaborative Efforts**

- Orange County Health Department (OCHD): Collaborating with OCHD's Harm Reduction Program and the county's Harm Reduction Coordinator to provide culturally appropriate harm reduction education and distribution of naloxone, increase awareness of resources, integrate SBIRT into community-based settings, and provide referrals for Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) as needed.
- UNC Health and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs): Strengthening existing partnerships with UNC Health clinics and local FQHCs to ensure that individuals identified through SBIRT receive timely referrals to addiction treatment, primary care, and mental health services. These providers will also serve as referral pathways for individuals needing more intensive care.

- Alliance Health (Local Managed Care Organization - MCO): This partnership will help connect uninsured and Medicaid-eligible individuals to substance use treatment services covered by Medicaid, supporting long-term sustainability for the program.
- Faith-Based and Grassroots Organizations: Many Latino families turn to churches and grassroots organizations for support before seeking formal treatment. El Futuro will work with Latino-led churches, community groups, and trusted leaders to increase awareness, reduce stigma, and promote culturally competent prevention and intervention services.
- Behavioral Health & Crisis Services: Coordinating closely with behavioral health partners such as Piedmont Health Services, Freedom House Recovery Center, and local crisis response teams to facilitate referrals for individuals requiring higher levels of recovery support and specialized care.

### **Avoiding Duplication of Services**

El Futuro is committed to complementing – not duplicating – existing opioid response efforts in Orange County. To ensure efficient resource allocation and prevent service duplication, the organization will:

- Actively participate in the Orange County Opioid Response Task Force to align activities with county-wide prevention and intervention strategies and contribute to broader strategies.
- Maintain strong referral networks with behavioral health and substance use providers to ensure that clients receive the most appropriate level of care.
- While El Futuro currently uses multiple internal data tracking platforms (IMS, Monday.com, and soon RedCAP), efforts will be made to streamline communication between program teams to ensure continuity of care and avoid service redundancies.
- Engage the community through focus groups, surveys and feedback mechanisms like the LAYA Advisory Council to continuously assess service gaps and adjust programming to meet evolving needs.

### **F. Performance Measures and Program Evaluation**

El Futuro will implement a comprehensive evaluation plan aligned with SAMHSA and NIH best practices to measure client progress, program impact, and community engagement. This program follows SAMHSA's SBIRT framework, which has been shown to increase early identification of substance use risks, reduce long-term addiction rates, and improve access to treatment. Research highlights that early intervention prevents escalation to severe opioid use and co-occurring mental health disorders, reinforcing the need for structured evaluation measures. To assess progress and effectiveness, El Futuro will track the following key indicators:

- SBIRT Screening Metrics: Number of individuals screened for substance use risks, interventions delivered, and referrals made to behavioral health services.
- Pre- and Post-Assessment Surveys: Client-reported changes in substance use behaviors, mental health status, and service access.

- Client Tracking via NCTOPPS: Demographic, service utilization, and treatment outcome data collected per state reporting requirements.
- Program Utilization and Retention Rates: Attendance and engagement in SBIRT screenings, psychoeducation, and early intervention services to assess long-term impact.
- Community Feedback and Stakeholder Input: Focus groups, youth advisory meetings, and satisfaction surveys to improve culturally responsive service delivery.

**Data Collection and Monitoring Plan**

PERFORMANCE METRIC	TARGET MEASURE	DATA SOURCE	COLLECTION FREQUENCY
# of clients screened using SBIRT	180+	Intake records	Monthly
% of screened clients receiving early intervention support	65%	SBIRT Tracking Forms	Quarterly
% of clients reporting improved substance use outcomes	70%	Pre/Post client surveys	Quarterly
% of clients referred to treatment services	50%	Referral documentation	Monthly
% of clients screened for SDOH concerns	100%	SDOH Assessment	Monthly

**Engaging the Priority Population in Evaluation**

To ensure that evaluation methods are informed by the lived experiences of Latino youth, young adults, and caregivers, El Futuro will integrate culturally relevant feedback mechanisms into the assessment process.

- Community-Led Feedback Loops: Latino youth will help shape evaluation tools and service improvements to ensure relevance, accessibility, and effectiveness.
- Culturally Responsive Data Collection: Surveys and assessment tools will be available in Spanish and English, ensuring linguistic and cultural accuracy.
- Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Process: Program evaluation findings will be reviewed quarterly to refine intervention strategies based on participant feedback, increase engagement in SBIRT screenings and psychoeducation, and ensure equitable access to services for all priority populations.



Orange County  
Rape Crisis Center  
Support. Education. Advocacy.

February 20, 2025

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G. Montez Thomas

Rachel Valentine  
*Executive Director*

Tonya Stancil, Harm Reduction Coordinator  
Orange County Government  
[tstancil@orangecountync.gov](mailto:tstancil@orangecountync.gov)

E: Letter of Support for El Futuro's Early Intervention and Prevention Program

Dear Ms. Stancil,

I am pleased to provide this letter of support on behalf of Orange County Rape Crisis Center for El Futuro's application to the Orange County opioid settlement funds. Addressing the opioid crisis within Latino communities requires innovative, culturally responsive approaches, and El Futuro is uniquely positioned to implement such a program through their Early Intervention and Prevention Initiative.

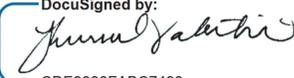
El Futuro's proposal, which integrates Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) within their existing mental health services, aligns seamlessly with Orange County's strategy to mitigate opioid-related harms. By providing early intervention and ensuring accessible referral pathways, this initiative will expand support for individuals and families impacted by substance use.

As a longstanding partner of El Futuro, OCRCC recognizes their proven track record in delivering high-quality, culturally competent behavioral health services. We strongly believe that their approach will be instrumental in reducing barriers to treatment and ensuring that more individuals receive the support they need before reaching crisis points.

OCRCC is committed to supporting this initiative by engaging providing referrals for OCRC clients who are a good math to the SBIRT program and fielding any relevant referrals for El Futuro SBIRT clients who may benefit from the case management and peer support services offered by our agency. Many victims of the opioid crisis are also victims of trauma, and a collaborative approach to addressing the complex trauma care needs of these clients is part of our commitment. We are also looking forward to continued serving as a mobile advocacy and counseling site for El Futuro community health workers who may be engages in identifying eligible clients for the SBIRT program. . Our partnership with El Futuro underscores our shared commitment to promoting health and wellness in the Latino community and beyond.

We urge Orange County to support this vital initiative, which will play a critical role in expanding early intervention and prevention efforts. Thank you for your time and consideration, and we look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts with El Futuro.

Sincerely,  
Rachel Valentine  
Executive Director  
Orange County Rape Crisis Center

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CDE9938FABC7493...



February 19, 2025

Tonya Stancil, Harm Reduction Coordinator Orange County Government [tstancil@orangecountync.gov](mailto:tstancil@orangecountync.gov)

RE: Letter of Support for El Futuro's Early Intervention Initiative

Dear Ms. Stancil,

I am writing on behalf of Orange Partnership to express our strong support for El Futuro's proposal to implement the Orange County Latino Early Intervention Program through the opioid settlement funds. As a key collaborative organization in youth substance use prevention, Orange Partnership recognizes the *urgent need for early intervention strategies tailored to the Latino population in Orange County*.

El Futuro's proposed initiative aims to bridge critical service gaps by incorporating Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) within their culturally competent mental health framework. This approach aligns closely with the county's priorities in addressing opioid use and related behavioral health challenges, particularly among underserved Latino residents who often face language and systemic barriers to care.

Orange Partnership collaborates regularly with El Futuro in various capacities, and has witnessed firsthand their dedication to holistic, community-centered care. By working together, we aim to strengthen referral networks, enhance service accessibility, and promote proactive intervention strategies that prevent early initiation and interventions of opioid misuse, and support long-term wellness in our community.

As a committed partner in support of El Futuro's work to serve the Latino communities of Orange County, we will contribute to this initiative by encouraging coalition members in cross-referrals, co-hosting educational events, provide training resources, or other needed supports. We believe this initiative will provide much-needed resources and support to individuals and families impacted by substance use.

We hope Orange County will invest in this important initiative to provide these needed services, which will benefit Latino individuals and families navigating substance use and mental health challenges. We look forward to continuing our partnership with El Futuro in improving health equity and access to essential service

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gayane Chambless'.

Gayane Chambless, M.A. NCC  
Program Director  
Orange Partnership



# Freedom House Recovery Center

*Integrated behavioral health care for children and adults*

February 18, 2025

Tonya Stancil, Harm Reduction Coordinator  
Orange County Government  
tstancil@orangecountync.gov

RE: Letter of Support for El Futuro's Early Intervention Initiative

Dear Ms. Stancil:

I am writing on behalf of Freedom House Recovery Center, Inc. to express our strong support for El Futuro's proposal to implement the Orange County Latino Early Intervention Program through the opioid settlement funds. As a key provider of behavioral health services for children and adults in Orange County we recognize the urgent need for early intervention strategies tailored to the Latino population in Orange County.

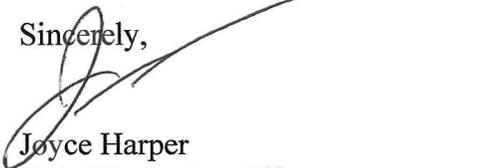
El Futuro's proposed initiative aims to bridge critical service gaps by incorporating Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) within their culturally competent mental health framework. This approach aligns closely with the county's priorities in addressing opioid use and related behavioral health challenges, particularly among underserved Latino residents who often face language and systemic barriers to care.

Our organization has collaborated with El Futuro in various capacities, and we have seen firsthand their dedication to holistic, community-centered care. By working together, we aim to strengthen referral networks, enhance service accessibility, and promote proactive intervention strategies that prevent opioid misuse and support long-term wellness in our community.

As a committed partner, Freedom House will contribute to this initiative as a service provider of SUD, OUD and mental health services for individuals and families referred through El Futuro. We will also make referrals to the organization to ensure individuals and families receive culturally competent care and treatment. We believe this initiative will provide much-needed resources and support to individuals and families impacted by substance use.

We highly encourage Orange County to invest in this important initiative, which will provide significant benefits to Latino individuals and families navigating substance use and mental health challenges. We look forward to continuing our partnership with El Futuro in improving health equity and access to essential services.

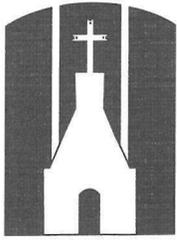
Sincerely,

  
Joyce Harper  
Chief Executive Officer

104 New Stateside Drive Chapel Hill, NC 27516 Phone: 919-942-2803 Fax: 919-942-2126

[www.freedomhouserecovery.org](http://www.freedomhouserecovery.org)

Federal Non-Profit Tax ID 56-1082674



-THE-  
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
of ST. THOMAS MORE

February 17, 2025

Tonya Stancil, Harm Reduction Coordinator  
Orange County Government  
[tstancil@orangecountync.gov](mailto:tstancil@orangecountync.gov)

RE: Letter of Support for El Futuro's Orange County Latino Early Intervention Program

Dear Ms. Stancil,

On behalf of St Thomas More Church at Chapel Hill NC, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for El Futuro's proposal for the Orange County Opioid Settlement Funds. As a dedicated partner in addressing the opioid crisis in our community, we recognize the critical role El Futuro plays in ensuring that Latino individuals and families receive culturally and linguistically appropriate substance use and mental health services.

El Futuro's Orange County Latino Early Intervention Program is uniquely positioned to meet the needs of historically marginalized Latino residents by integrating early intervention strategies, such as Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT), into their existing mental health services. This initiative directly aligns with Orange County's priorities for opioid response, expanding access to early intervention, treatment referrals, and recovery support for individuals at risk of opioid use disorder (OUD) and co-occurring mental health conditions.

St Thomas More Church has a long-standing collaborative relationship with El Futuro, working together to improve behavioral health outcomes for Latino communities. Through this partnership, we have witnessed firsthand El Futuro's commitment to providing high-quality, culturally competent care to Latino families facing significant barriers to treatment, including language access, stigma, and lack of healthcare coverage.

Our organization is eager to support El Futuro's proposed project by making referrals, sharing resources they should have, and co-hosting educational workshops. We firmly believe that this initiative will enhance the county's capacity to respond effectively to the opioid crisis by engaging trusted community health workers to work with Latino individuals affected by substance use.

We strongly urge Orange County to fund this important initiative, which will have a lasting impact on improving access to care and supporting long-term recovery for Latino residents in our community. Thank you for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with El Futuro in addressing substance use and mental health disparities in Orange County.

Sincerely,

Rev. Fr. Rafael Leon Valencia  
Pastor



Orange County Justice United  
PO Box 9484  
Chapel Hill, NC 27515

February 20, 2025

Tonya Stancil, Harm Reduction Coordinator  
Orange County Government  
tstancil@orangecountync.gov

RE: Letter of Support for El Futuro's Orange County Latino Early Intervention Program

Dear Ms. Stancil,

On behalf of Orange County Justice United, I am honored to provide this letter of support for El Futuro's proposal for the Orange County Opioid Settlement Funds. Orange County Justice United is a coalition of 22 congregations and nonprofits working to ensure Orange County residents can thrive. Improving behavioral health is consistently a top priority for our membership, which includes over 3,000 Latino households. Our partnership with El Futuro has been essential for making real change for these members. We see firsthand the critical role El Futuro plays in ensuring that Latino individuals and families receive culturally and linguistically appropriate substance use and mental health services.

We believe that El Futuro's Orange County Latino Early Intervention Program is uniquely positioned to meet the needs of historically marginalized Latino residents by integrating early intervention strategies, such as Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT), into their existing mental health services. This initiative directly aligns with Orange County's priorities for opioid response, expanding access to early intervention, treatment referrals, and recovery support for individuals at risk of opioid use disorder (OUD) and co-occurring mental health conditions.

Orange County Justice United has a long-standing collaborative relationship with El Futuro, working together to improve behavioral health outcomes for Latino communities. Over 100 Latino community members in our organization worked together with El Futuro to create a vision and strategy for expanding behavioral health services in Orange County. One of the primary results, the "Strong Minds-Mentes Fuertes" community health worker program, has been a stunning success and already measurably improved the mental health of over 200 residents. Through this partnership, we have witnessed El Futuro's commitment to providing high-quality, culturally competent care to Latino families facing significant barriers to treatment, including language access, stigma, and lack of healthcare coverage.

Our organization is eager to support El Futuro's proposed project by connecting the Latino community leaders in our organization to promote this work within their networks, and by continuing to ensure full financial support for the community health worker program. We firmly believe that this initiative will enhance the county's capacity to respond effectively to the opioid crisis by engaging trusted community health workers to work with Latino individuals affected by substance use.



We strongly urge Orange County to fund this important initiative, which will have a lasting impact on improving access to care and supporting long-term recovery for Latino residents in our community. Thank you for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with El Futuro in addressing substance use and mental health disparities in Orange County. Please be in touch with any questions, if needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julia Sendor".

Julia Sendor  
Lead Organizer/Executive Director  
Orange County Justice United  
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