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The Catalyst Center Launches New Catalyst for Wellness in Community Apprenticeship Program for Behavioral Health Workers

Sacramento, CA - The Catalyst Center (a collaboration with the CA Alliance of Child and Family Services) is excited to announce the launch of its new apprenticeship program for behavioral health workers in partnership with Chabot-Las Positas Community College District. The program aims to provide aspiring professionals with the training and experience needed to enter the field and make a positive impact in the lives of vulnerable children and families.

The apprenticeship program is designed to help bridge the gap between traditional academic training and the on-the-job experience that is essential for success in the child welfare and behavioral health fields. Participants will have the opportunity to work with experienced professionals and gain hands-on experience in a variety of settings. The program will be piloted in Alameda County with goals of expanding to other counties in 2024.

"We believe that the best way to prepare future behavioral health workers for the challenges they will face in the field is to give them real-world experience," said Christine Stoner-Mertz, CEO, California Alliance of Child and Family Services. "This program will help ensure that the next generation of professionals is well-equipped to meet the needs of the children and families they serve."

The apprenticeship program is open to all individuals who have not had the opportunity to earn an associate degree or a bachelor's degree. Participants will receive access to a variety of resources, free college tuition while attending Chabot College, and a paid job placement for the duration of the program, which is expected to last approximately 3 years.

"We are thrilled to be able to offer this opportunity to aspiring behavioral health professionals," said Cornelle Jenkins, Director of Strategic Initiatives for the Catalyst Center. "We know that this program will help to strengthen the child welfare and behavioral health workforce and ultimately improve outcomes for the children and families who depend on these vital services."

Applications for the apprenticeship program are now being accepted. For more information, please visit the Catalyst Center website at www.catalyst-center.org/cwcapprnticeship.

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The California Alliance: *The collective voice for organizations that serve children, youth, and families. For those dedicated to improving the lives of these at-risk populations, the California Alliance stands apart as the champion and leading voice for organizations that advocate for children, youth, and families and for advancing policy and services on their behalf.*

About Chabot-Las Positas Community College District

CLPCCD serves students in the San Francisco East Bay Area, particularly southern Alameda County, through its two colleges: Chabot College in Hayward and Las Positas College in Livermore. CLPCCD is governed by a seven-member board of trustees which is responsible for all policy decisions. Board members are elected from trustee areas by the registered voters of nine communities: Castro Valley, Dublin, Hayward, Livermore, Pleasanton, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Sunol, and Union City, California.