



OEPA FACT SHEET

Light and hope are burning brightly in East Palo Alto (EPA). This light is manifest at the very grassroots level, where all meaningful change must begin. *One East Palo Alto* is helping to drive that process of change, and keeping the light and hope alive.

One East Palo Alto is:

- a broker and developer of resources and services to the community;
- a vocal and constant advocate for positive community change; and
- a trainer and capacity-builder that helps EPA residents and community-based organizations (CBO) work together more effectively to improve quality of life.

One East Palo Alto provides an array of vital support services, capacity and connections to local CBOs and grassroots leaders working to:

- prepare EPA's youth for success in school;
- create jobs and positive, pro-social activities for EPA's youth;
- provide EPA youth and families with resources and supports needed to build resilience and empower themselves to create a better life and future.

One East Palo Alto is a youth-focused, community-based intermediary established 16 years ago with lead support – a six year grant – from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation's Neighborhood Improvement Initiative. OEPA's vision is to transform EPA into a community where residents are celebrated for their diversity -- a community in which residents are engaged, informed and empowered to develop all the resources they need to enjoy a good quality of life for themselves and their children. Accordingly, OEPA's mission is to develop resident leadership, broker resources and services, build the capacity of individuals and organizations, and advocate for change leading to the improved social, physical, spiritual, educational and economic well-being of East Palo Alto, CA.

At *One East Palo Alto* we are proud of accomplishments achieved during the last 16 years, such as these:

- brought in over \$5 million in new grant funding for local CBOs;
- incubated Nuestra Casa, now a thriving Latino parent support organization;
- launched and provided sustained leadership of East Palo Alto Digital Village, a partnership whose work since 2000 has brought in over \$10 million in support of technology infrastructure-building projects in EPA and eastern Menlo Park/Belle Haven, including keystone funding from Hewlett-Packard Company, Cable Co-op Legacy Grant and the California Emerging Technology Fund;
- created and built the capacity of several local networks of youth-serving organizations;
- spearheaded a community-wide, grassroots crime prevention effort which established the Sponsored Employment Program as a summer jobs initiative for EPA youth and young adults with multiple challenges to employment;
- created key advocacy relationships with public policymakers, bureaucracies and EPA leaders to promote and sustain improvements in local education and youth violence prevention;
- developed and secured multi-year funding for EPA-based mental health initiatives implemented in partnership with San Mateo County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) including the East Palo Alto Behavioral Health Advisory Group, the East Palo Alto Partnership for Mental Health Outreach, The Barbara A. Mouton Multicultural Wellness Center and the Behavioral Health Advisory Group Ambassador Team project, and
- developed and secured multi-year San Mateo County and federal funding for community-wide and youth-led substance abuse prevention efforts including the East Palo Alto Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition and the YouthEastPaloAlto Drug Free Communities initiative.

In 2009, One East Palo Alto completed a strategic planning process through which it redefined the overall aim of its intermediary work as that of **Building Youth and Family Resilience via Mega-network Continuum of Care (MCOC) Development**. MCOC was launched in May 2011 as a partnership between the East Palo Alto Youth and Young Adults Serving Agencies Consortium and the East Palo Alto Crime Reduction Task Force, both of which are convened by OEPA. Now named Youth Empowerment Strategies for Success (YESS), this initiative attracted 41 member organizations during its 2015-2016 fiscal year, including four (4) institutional entities – East Palo Alto Police Department, Ravenswood City School District, San Mateo County's Office of Supervisor Warren Slocum and Sequoia Union High School District – and 37 local nonprofits, representing most of EPA's strongest service providers. YESS operates as a strong network of collaborating youth-serving and family-focused entities that share common goals, objectives, work standards and data, as well as pursue joint funding opportunities. The strategic planning process also redefined OEPA's core programmatic operations as community organizing/convening and conducting projects addressing selected MCOC impact areas (see accompanying programmatic organizational chart for details).