



Keeping the Doors Open

Why the San Joaquin Pride Center Needs Your Help

Beginning in 2024, the Board of Directors, staff, and leadership of the San Joaquin Pride Center committed themselves to strengthening the Center's foundation. Together, we improved financial oversight, strengthened governance, rebuilt internal systems, expanded partnerships, invested in long-term sustainability, and worked to restore trust with our community.

Those efforts have resulted in a stronger, more accountable organization that is better positioned than ever to serve San Joaquin County.

Some members of our community know that the San Joaquin Pride Center has experienced periods of organizational instability during its history. That history is real. Rather than ignoring those challenges, we chose to address them directly. The progress we have made over the past two years reflects the commitment of our Board, staff, volunteers, partners, and supporters to build an organization worthy of our community's trust.

What We Have Accomplished Since 2024

Since late 2024, the San Joaquin Pride Center has:

- Secured more than **\$1.2 million in competitive grant awards** intended to support services over the next three to four years.
- Expanded LGBTQ+ affirming mental health, substance use prevention, recovery, youth, and community support services.
- Strengthened partnerships with schools, healthcare providers, government agencies, and community organizations.
- Improved financial oversight, governance, organizational planning, and internal accountability.

- Invested in systems and partnerships that support future Medi-Cal reimbursement and long-term sustainability.
- Continued providing essential services while rebuilding the organization's foundation.

These accomplishments reflect the confidence that funders, partners, and community members have placed in the Center and its future.

Then the Funding Landscape Changed

Just as these improvements were positioning the Center for greater stability, several significant funding changes occurred at the same time.

California's long-running investment in reducing behavioral health disparities came to an end as the state transitioned to a new behavioral health funding structure.

The Center anticipated that new funding opportunities would become available during this transition. However, several expected opportunities were delayed, changed, or did not become available in time to replace the funding that was ending.

At the same time, a two-year, \$400,000 grant supporting substance use prevention and related services ended after only one year because of changes in federal policy. Although the Center has been encouraged to apply for replacement funding, the early termination created an immediate and unexpected loss of revenue that the organization had every reason to expect would continue.

These events created a significant gap between funding that ended and replacement funding that has yet to begin.

How We Have Responded

The Center has taken difficult and responsible steps to protect the services our community depends on. We have:

- Pursued additional public and private grant opportunities.
- Reduced organizational expenses.
- Eliminated two staff positions in order to preserve as many services as possible.
- Strengthened fundraising and community outreach.
- Continued developing healthcare and community partnerships.
- Continued preparing for future Medi-Cal reimbursement.
- Continued serving community members while planning for long-term sustainability.

We have not stopped planning. We have not stopped advocating. We have not stopped serving our community.

Why We Are Asking for Help Now

The Center now faces a temporary but urgent funding gap.

Without additional community support, our Board of Directors will need to determine this fall whether the Center has sufficient resources to continue operating while replacement funding opportunities are pursued. We are not asking our community to overlook our history. We are asking our community to recognize how much has changed.

The San Joaquin Pride Center today is stronger, more accountable, and better positioned for the future than it was two years ago. We have done the difficult work of rebuilding the organization's foundation. We are asking for help to ensure that this progress is not undone by an extraordinary series of changes in the public funding landscape.

This is not simply about preserving an organization. It is about protecting mental health care, recovery support, youth services, school partnerships, advocacy, and a safe place for LGBTQ+ people and their families throughout San Joaquin County.

How You Can Help

You can help the Center bridge this funding gap by:

- Making a one-time or recurring contribution.
- Introducing us to potential donors, sponsors, or funding partners.
- Sharing our story with your friends, colleagues, and networks.
- Supporting community fundraising efforts.
- Advocating for continued investment in LGBTQ+ health and well-being.

Every donation, every introduction, every sponsorship, and every act of advocacy helps protect the services our community still needs and deserves.

Together, we can keep the doors open and preserve the progress our community has worked so hard to build.