

[ChangeLives.org](https://www.ChangeLives.org)

January 17, 2024

Orange County Board of Supervisors  
400 W. Civic Center Dr.,  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Orange County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to express our support for Vice Chairman Doug Chaffee's Agenda Item 33 to fund \$500,000 towards a Fourth District Emergency Rental Assistance Pilot Program with the Friendly Center. Chrysalis serves people navigating barriers to the workforce by offering a job-readiness program, individualized supportive services, and paid transitional employment. We empower our clients on their pathway to stability, security, and fulfillment in their work lives.

Just over one-third of our clients in Orange County are currently experiencing homelessness, often due to job loss, high housing costs, health issues, or other challenges. The remainder of our clients are at risk of homelessness and may be one crisis away from losing their housing. By prioritizing preventative measures to address extreme situations before they escalate, we can create better comprehensive and broader approaches to address homelessness.

Homelessness prevention initiatives are crucial because they address the root causes of homelessness, aiming to stop individuals and families from becoming homeless in the first place. Our work falls into this category; we provide job training and supportive services to individuals so they can secure the jobs needed to maintain and obtain stable housing. But we cannot reach all individuals who need support. As such, we support the expansion of this work in Orange County and look forward to partnering with the Program once launched.

Preventing homelessness not only preserves the dignity of individuals but also has broader societal benefits such as reducing the strain on emergency shelters, healthcare systems, and social services. It is a cost-effective and humane approach that fosters community stability and well-being, and I urge you to vote in favor of the Program.

Sincerely,

Mark Loranger  
President and CEO, Chrysalis