

**Mia De Marzo**

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**From:** Amy Oden <aoden@casadeamparo.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 7, 2021 9:53 AM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Cc:** Heather Jenkins; Kathy Karpe; Nancy Melander  
**Subject:** Letter for City Councilmembers - Casa de Amparo  
**Attachments:** Carlsbad CDBG Letter to City Council\_5-7-21.pdf

All Receive - Agenda Item # 6  
For the Information of the:  
CITY COUNCIL  
Date 05/07/21 CA Y CC Y  
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Good morning Barbara,

Please find attached a letter to the City Councilmembers addressing an item that will be discussed at the next City Council meeting. If you could please ensure the Councilmembers receive this letter regarding CDBG funding, that would be appreciated!

Please let me know if you have questions.

Thank you for your assistance,  
Amy

**Amy Oden**

Director of Program Development  
Casa de Amparo

**Direct:** 760-566-3558

**Admin:** 760-754-5500

**Email:** [aoden@casadeamparo.org](mailto:aoden@casadeamparo.org)

**Address:** 325 Buena Creek Road, San Marcos, CA 92069

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

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## Treating and Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect

May 6, 2021

Dear Carlsbad City Councilmembers:

We are writing to request your attention to the CDBG Committee's recommendation to not fund Casa de Amparo's current grant request. (Please see attached for details of request). For the past four years, the City of Carlsbad has generously supported Casa de Amparo's capital requests in the following amounts:

- \$166,968 in fiscal year (FY) 17-18
- \$166,968 in FY 18-19
- \$95,000 in FY 19-20
- \$75,000 in FY 20-21

This support has significantly helped Casa de Amparo prepare to build a Teen Wellness Center (TWC). Construction will begin in the fall of this year, and take one year to complete. Once completed, the TWC will serve approximately 125 youth in foster care a year who have the highest level of mental health needs in the community. There are only two other centers of this type in the state of California, both of which are continually at capacity. Casa de Amparo would like to highlight three points that may validate your support of our request.

In the recent CDBG Committee Meeting, there was concern and discussion regarding the amount of Carlsbad residents Casa de Amparo serves. The proposal states 2% of Casa de Amparo's constituents served are Carlsbad residents. Of the 525 foster youth Casa de Amparo served last year, that equates to 10 youth from Carlsbad. While many organizations are clearly able to identify where their constituents originate from, this is not as easy for the population Casa de Amparo serves. Most youth in foster care have resided in up to eight different placements before entering care at Casa de Amparo. These placements can range from a few months to a couple years, and involve biological parents, kinship placements, foster families, and other group homes in various cities across the county or state. Casa de Amparo reviews placements based on the county of origin, and always prioritize San Diego County youth. The youth's city of origin is often not a part of the intake process.

Secondly, the TWC will provide the highest level of mental healthcare for youth in foster care. If any youth from Carlsbad needed this type of care, the only other placements in the state of California are in Los Angeles. Casa de Amparo will be the prominent choice for placement come 2022 after construction is complete. The TWC is truly revolutionizing how these local foster youth will receive trauma-informed care. The City of Carlsbad deserves much credit for their past support of this project and continued interest in transforming this issue.

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