CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY LOS ANGELES

What We Do: Cancer Support Community Los Angeles (CSCLA) supports the mental health, long-term resilience, and survivorship of cancer patients, their families, and loved ones.

Who We Are: Founded in 1982, CSCLA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing evidence-based psychosocial support at no cost to all persons impacted by cancer in the Los Angeles area.

Mission: Our mission is to uplift and strengthen people impacted by cancer by providing support, fostering compassionate communities, and breaking down barriers to care.

Who We Serve: We serve all persons affected by cancer, including cancer patients of all ages and all diagnoses at all stages, cancer survivors, and their families and loved ones.

Our programs and services include:

- Counseling sessions and support groups
- Child, teen, and family programs
- Healthy lifestyle classes
- Education workshops
- Online video library of cancer-related topics
- Social events

Our Programs and Approach:

Led by licensed mental health professionals, our programs and services are provided in virtual, in-person, and hybrid settings to meet the unique needs of our participants, with many programs available in Spanish. Our services are designed to be inclusive, with a focus on those facing limited access to psychosocial support. We work with a robust network of community-based partners to enhance the reach and impact of our services.

CSCLA is the only cancer support agency in the Los Angeles area that:

- Provides psychosocial cancer care that is free, culturally competent, and linguistically accessible to promote health equity and accessible care.
- Serves both cancer patient *and* their family members, caregivers, and loved ones.
- Actively works to bridge the digital divide for under-resourced patients through its digital access libraries and free access to tablets and hotspots.

We also partner in hospital-initiated and community-based Participatory Research and advocate on the intersectionality of cancer care and health equity.

Healing Equitably through Action, Resiliency, and Teamwork (HEART) Initiative

The HEART initiative provides free, culturally congruent, and **inclusive care** by partnering with organizations knowledgeable of our communities' unique challenges and employing therapists who are from within our local communities and speak their language. HEART caters to community members of **diverse socioeconomic levels, races, ethnicities, ages, sexualities, gender identities, and immigrant statuses, including those with low income and limited or no insurance.** Services include one-on-one therapy sessions, support groups, educational workshops, healthy lifestyle classes, and social events for participants. We also maintain digital access libraries and facilitate free access to tablets and hotspots. Currently, HEART primarily serves Latinx and **Spanish-speaking** and **LGBTQ+** participants, as well as under-resourced **Korean, Chinese, and Black communities.**

Expansion to Coachella Valley and Palm Springs

CSCLA expanded its programming to the Coachella Valley and Palm Springs in Riverside County in 2024, particularly for the LGBTQ+, Spanish-speaking, and age 55+ communities. Despite lower cancer incidence, **Riverside County experiences higher cancer mortality** rates compared to the state average. CSCLA recognizes local health challenges such as transportation and **distance from services**, a **lack of providers and affordable coverage**, knowledge needed to access care, and **insufficient bilingual and culturally competent services.** We directly address these needs through virtual and in-person programs and services that are no-cost, culturally competent, and linguistically accessible through partnerships with established local health organizations. We aim to expand the existing virtual programming to offer in-person support groups for Coachella Valley residents in the coming years.

Media Contact:

For media inquiries and requests for logos, photos, videos, PSAs, or other materials, contact:

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