

SOLACE CRISIS TREATMENT CENTER

LOAN HELPS CRISIS TREATMENT CENTER SUPPORT DISTRESSED COMMUNITY MEMBERS DURING COVID-19

For more than 45 years, the nonprofit Solace Crisis Treatment Center has provided therapy to victims of sexual and criminal violence and other traumatic experiences in the Santa Fe, Rio Arriba, Los Alamos and central-northern New Mexico communities. Many clients are children who have been neglected and sexually abused. They also provide sexual abuse prevention education in schools, religious organizations, nonprofit agencies and other groups.

The work they do is critical to the communities they serve, but when the COVID-19 outbreak hit New Mexico, Solace's revenue decreased and its costs increased, resulting in the possibility of staff layoffs.

"We needed help to make sure we could pay our staff. Our billings were decreasing due to client meetings and fundraising event cancellations," said Solace Crisis Treatment Center Executive Director María José Rodríguez Cádiz. "Meanwhile, we had an increase in costs like IT to set up our staff working remotely and for sanitation at our facility for our essential in-person services."

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Solace’s challenges didn’t just impact its staff — they affected its clients and communities who were faced with potentially losing vital mental health resources at the most critical time.

“A pandemic is universally stressful, but for survivors of sexual and criminal violence, it surely can be more traumatizing,” said Cádiz. “The therapy we provide routinely includes screening for risk of suicide, which is critical for people who are isolated by the shelter-in-place order.”

It was crucial that Solace obtained funding to not only maintain their payroll and cover rising costs, but to help people in need of therapy. Cádiz and her team turned to their bank for guidance. Enterprise Bank & Trust helped the nonprofit apply for a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan. PPP is a government-backed loan designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses and nonprofits to keep their workers on the payroll.

“Enterprise, who I’ve banked with for more than 18 years, sent an application in the first two hours that funding was available, reviewed it within 48 hours and approved the loan in less than a week,” explained Cádiz. “It is easy for financial institutions to claim that they are locally oriented, but it is not easy to be true to that message.”

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Enterprise is helping us **save lives!**

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The loan enabled Solace to maintain their payroll, manage rising costs and shift their therapy services to an approach that is more conducive to the current situation. Their staff now assists most of their clients by telephone and via video conference. They also have moved their fundraising online, allowing them to continue to secure donations, which is critical for nonprofits.

Solace is now working diligently to provide important services such as forensic interviews for the investigation and prosecution of crimes against children, advocacy services and a 24/7 hotline to support distressed community members during the COVID-19 crisis.

“Thanks to Enterprise, our clinical team is able to continue providing essential services to the community. Clinicians are operating a 24/7 hotline that allows us to help new clients who are in need of immediate support. Enterprise is helping us save lives!”

To learn more about the Solace Crisis Treatment Center, visit www.findsolace.org. If you own a business or run a nonprofit organization and are in need of help, contact your banker for guidance.



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