

# Peninsula Health Care District Approves Three-Year Funding Extension of Sonrisas Dental Health

*Agreement provides dental clinic with \$2.7 million over three years*

**Burlingame, Calif., (May 20, 2020)** – Last month, the Peninsula Health Care District, unanimously approved a three-year extension of their current agreement with Sonrisas Dental Health. The agreement would provide Sonrisas with \$2.7 million of funding over three years.

Focused on providing dental services to San Mateo County's most vulnerable, Sonrisas Dental Health is a non-profit dental clinic that opens access to care for thousands of residents previously blocked from basic oral health services.

“Sonrisas’ mission of providing dental care to San Mateo County’s most vulnerable is aligned with our district’s mission of achieving optimal health through prevention,” said Lawrence Cappel, PhD, Board Chair of Peninsula Health Care District. “Through our investment, we are seeking to strengthen Sonrisas’ long-term position to allow them the space to continue supporting our community.”

Peninsula Health Care District’s investment comes at a critical time for Sonrisas, as the dental care community has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the necessary shelter-in-place orders.

The investment will allow for Sonrisas to have working capital as they navigate through the unknown of how dental clinics will be allowed to operate once shelter-in-place orders have been lifted. For example, in the event, there is a surge in Medi-Cal Dental patients, as a direct result of being unemployed due to the pandemic, Sonrisas will be in a much better position to absorb new patients.

“The support of the Peninsula Health Care District allows Sonrisas to continue providing dental services to low-income children and adults in San Mateo County. Oral health is an important component of overall health. Sonrisas is a part of the safety net of health services in San Mateo County. We want to thank the District for their support of our mission,” said Tracey Fecher, CEO of Sonrisas Dental Health.

**About the Peninsula Health Care District:** Founded in 1947, the Peninsula Health Care District (PHCD) serves the communities of San Bruno, Millbrae, Burlingame, Hillsborough, San Mateo, and Foster City by supporting the unique health and wellness priorities of our Peninsula communities, and safeguarding access to health services, today and in the future. PHCD fulfills its commitment to the community through oversight of District assets and infrastructure, planning for future health care needs, and investing taxpayer dollars in local health-focused organizations and programs.

To learn more about PHCD, visit [www.peninsulahealthcaredistrict.org](http://www.peninsulahealthcaredistrict.org)