



# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

ALLIANCE FOR PHARMACEUTICAL ACCESS

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# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Community,

2020 was a year unlike any other. The global pandemic changed our lives in many ways. Nonetheless, it has shed the spotlight into what is important: access to healthcare and overall wellness. This aligns with the vision which the APA Board of Directors, APA staff and supporting partners all dedicate their time, resources and expertise towards: a community in which patients are no longer encountering barriers to their quality of life because of the burden of high-cost essential healthcare services and medications.

## Operational Highlights

I want to thank my predecessor, Elizabeth Snyder, for the extraordinary commitment and leadership during the first quarter of this year. During her tenure with APA new and effective business practices were implemented which improved overall operations.

Having volunteered with APA two years prior to coming into this role, I knew the importance of continuing services amid the pandemic. Through strategic planning and thanks to the support of our supporters and sponsors APA services continued. Keeping in mind the importance of being accessible to our clients, we increased our service hours to include Fridays from 11am-5pm. We also consolidated our resources to the Santa Maria office and worked remotely with clients.

## Looking Ahead

These are trying times, and we know that providing access to essential medications to those in our community is a critical component for building a stronger, healthier and more equitable community. We will remain committed to doing our part to ensure our community has access to affordable life-saving medication.

With Gratitude,



**Emely Mendez**

**Executive Director, Alliance for Pharmaceutical Access**

*With your support, we can ensure APA continues to support those in need across Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties. Please visit [www.apameds.org/donate](http://www.apameds.org/donate) to contribute.*

# CLIENT SERVICES

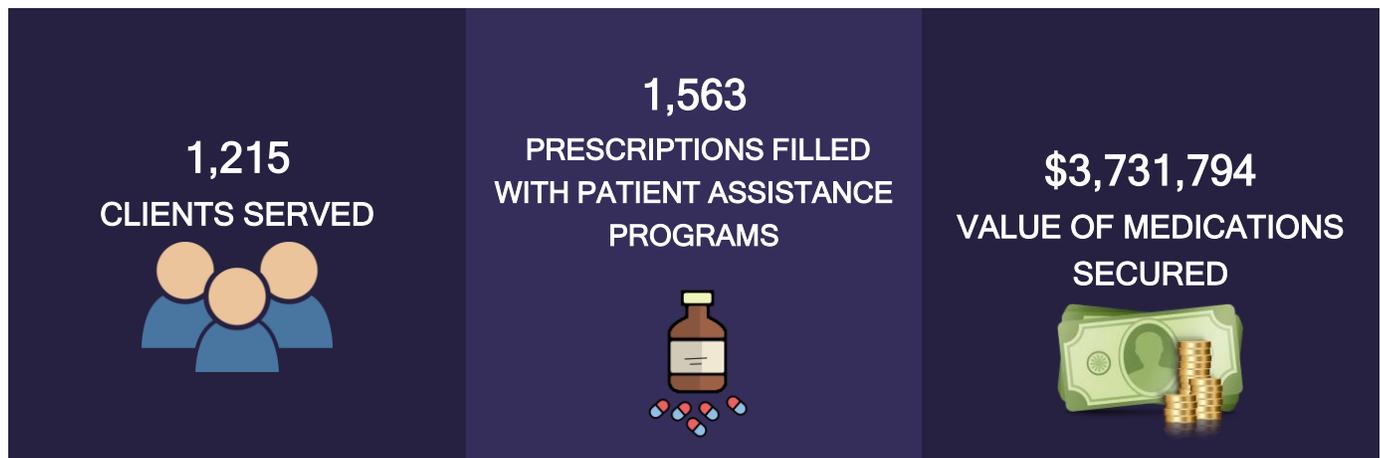
## MISSION

The mission of APA is to create access to essential medications by bridging gaps in medication coverage.

### APA ADVOCACY PROGRAM

APA fulfills this mission by diligently researching patient assistance programs, savings programs and healthcare foundations that can cover high-cost medications. The knowledgeable and caring APA Advocates research all available patient assistance programs, matching clients with the right program. We also partner with a nonprofit pharmacy, RX Outreach, which offers reduced-cost, generic medications that ship directly to the patient's home.

### 2020 CLIENT SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS



### TOP 5 PRESCRIPTIONS SECURED IN 2020

Medication	Health Condition	Average Cost for this Medication
Januvia	Type 2 Diabetes	*\$515 for 30 tablets
Invokana	Type 2 Diabetes	*\$554 for 30 tablets
Janumet	Type 2 Diabetes	*\$520 for 60 tablets
Trulicity	Type 2 Diabetes	*\$734 for 4 pens
Jardiance	Type 2 Diabetes	*\$529 for 30 tablets

\*2020 pricing <https://www.goodrx.com/>

## CLIENT TESTIMONIALS

*“For several years, I have received the services of APA. The staff is knowledgeable, friendly, and very respectful to me. I am treated with dignity. They are quick to respond to any questions or information that I am seeking. They are well informed and great advocates for their clients. I am so grateful to all of the staff (especially Sela), and I have praise to the invaluable service they provide to our community. I can’t say thank you enough!” - Respectfully, JoAnn Poteet*

JoAnn is a resident of Santa Maria and has been an APA client since 2018. She was referred to APA by her primary care physician at Dignity Health’s Orcutt Family Health Center. JoAnn is a Medicare Part A, B and D beneficiary and has encountered a high cost of \$475 for her critical inhaler medication. With the help of APA Client Advocate, Sela, JoAnn is now receiving her medication free of cost.

*“I am very grateful for the services APA provided and for helping me access this very expensive medication, this was a tremendous help! I hope you will be able to help others as well in these critical times.” - Eloisa Carmona*



Eloisa is a resident of San Luis Obispo. She visited the Emergency Department with a swollen foot and extreme pain. She was prescribed Xarelto for her condition which she filled at her local pharmacy. This medication cost her family \$500, and she unfortunately had no choice but to pay for this medication. She was then referred to APA by SLO Noor Clinic. Through the APA and SLO Noor Clinic partnership, Eloisa is able to have a physician office visit and obtain a prescription that is now filled for free using the APA advocacy services.

# 2021 OBJECTIVES

Our objectives for 2021 will incorporate the following areas:

- **Increase Awareness across Our Community.** As individuals and families experience the adverse economic and health impacts of the pandemic, APA will still be at the forefront. APA will continue offering free up-to-date resources and bilingual advocacy services to our underserved community members.
- **Strengthen Program Outcomes.** Our goal is to provide access to essential medication for all individuals in our community. We will continue to assess all referrals received and provide all referred clients with a complete and timely assessment. Measuring our program effectiveness by aiming to increase enrollment rate into assistance programs for all eligible clients.
- **Nourish Relationships With Current And Prospective Donors and Partners.** We would not be able to provide our services free of charge without the generosity of our donors and sponsors who share our vision.
- **Conduct Bilingual Self-Advocacy and Education Workshops** to empower those in our community interested in advocating for themselves when navigating the pharmaceutical industry.

*“APA fills a gap in care for our Central Coast community. The assistance provided to patients is critical as access to these vital medications is often what keeps people in better health, prevents unnecessary emergency department visits and hospitalizations, and allows for a better quality of life. I’m proud to be a part of this work!”- Calandra Park, RN, MSW, APA Vice Chair*

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Thank you to our corporate sponsors and donors who maintained their commitment to support the mission of improving access to essential medication in our community!

Dignity Health

Altrusa Foundation of the Central Coast

City of San Luis Obispo

City of Santa Maria

French Hospital Medical Center

Marian Regional Medical Center

Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Calandra Park, RN, MSW

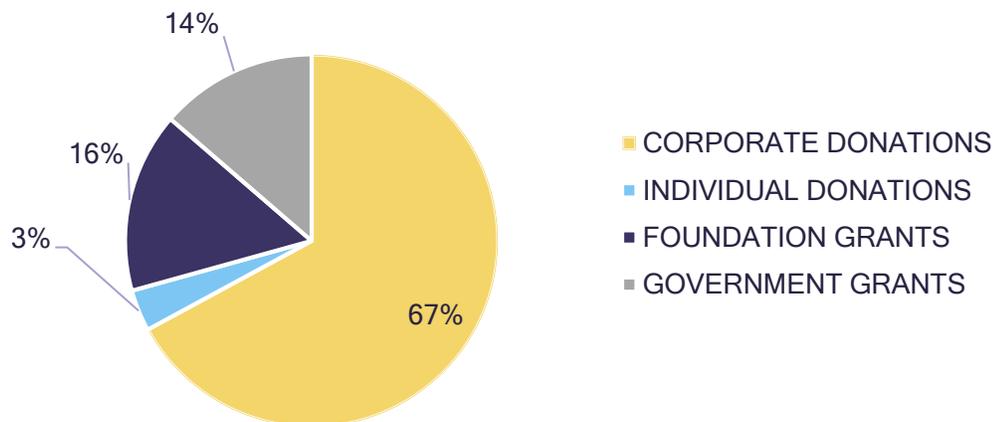
Dean Overland

Elizabeth Snyder

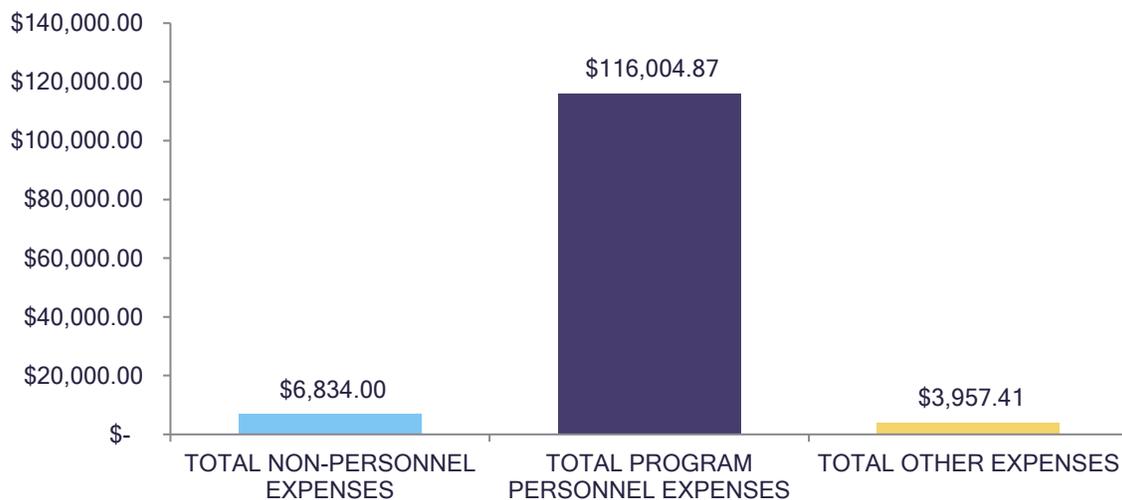
Everett F Merriam Jr.

Eleanore H Merriam

## 2020 Funding Percentages



## 2020 Program Expenses



# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTING SPONSORS AND PARTNERS!



## APA Staff

Emely Mendez, Executive Director  
 Claudia Lopez, Client Services Specialist  
 Rumisela Contreras, Lead Client Advocate

## 2020 Board of Directors

Adrienne Dodd, Chair  
 Calandra Park, RN, MSW, Vice Chair  
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## Board Member Emeritus

Francisco R. Mendoza, MD  
 William Roy Reed

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