



# Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center

## Agency Profile

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**Organization:** Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with more than 60 years of experience providing mental health and substance abuse services in Los Angeles County. A leader in community mental health care, its current operating budget is greater than \$20 million. Program services are offered through five divisions—Emergency Services, Adult & Older Adult Services, Family Services, Substance Abuse Services and Training. Under these divisions, clients receive help from 46 distinct programs. The President/CEO, Kita S. Curry, Ph.D., and an 15-member Board of Directors oversee the agency's operations.

**History:** Founded in 1942 as Los Angeles Psychiatric Service, the agency was the first nonprofit mental health outpatient clinic for adults in Los Angeles. Its original mission was to help Los Angeles residents cope with the emotional aftermath of the Great Depression. Since its beginning, the Center has evolved in response to the needs of our increasingly complex community and expanded its service to include clients of all ages.

In 1965, the agency began contracting with the County of Los Angeles under the provisions of California's Community Mental Health Services Act. The next year, the agency developed a special program dedicated to serving under-served minority communities. The agency expanded even further in 1974 when it received federal designation as a comprehensive community mental health center.

At that time, the agency moved to newly constructed headquarters in Culver City and was renamed in honor of Didi Hirsch. A powerful advocate for the mentally ill, Didi Hirsch was a Board Member with training in social work and a generous supporter of the agency. Over the ensuing years, Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center has merged with several failing agencies in order to preserve vital community-based programs. Most recently, in 1997 Family Service of Los Angeles became part of Didi Hirsch, thereby maintaining services in Metropolitan and South Los Angeles.

**Mission and Accomplishments:** The mission of Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center is to empower our clients to maximize their potential by providing quality behavioral health care services to the community and those in need. Since 1942, the Center has treated more than half a million people, promoting a better quality of life for residents throughout Los Angeles. Literally thousands of individuals' lives have been saved because they received mental health and substance abuse treatment, delinquency prevention services, or crisis intervention. Many more have been able to resume productive lives—with decent shelter, meaningful work and a network of friends—because of the Center's services. Through advocacy and education, the agency also has made incredible strides in erasing the stigma, shame and ignorance that prevent over half of all individuals touched by such problems from seeking treatment. Didi Hirsch has also created a foundation for future care; hundreds of psychotherapists in Los Angeles County interned at Didi Hirsch.

**Professional Service:** Multidisciplinary teams—consisting of social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, marriage and family therapists and trainees from these professions—serve our community. Committed to providing culturally competent, client-centered services, the Center's diverse staff closely mirrors the County's demographic profile. With more than 400 employees and 9 community sites, last year the agency served more than 44,000 area residents. Didi Hirsch serves Los Angeles countywide. Spanning 50 cities and towns, program sites are located in the following neighborhoods:

Culver City	Mar Vista	Hawthorne
Downtown L.A.	Central L.A.	Inglewood
Pacoima	South L.A.	

**Support:** Major funding comes from the State of California, Los Angeles County, United Way, United Hostesses' Charities, private foundations, philanthropic contributions and other sources. The organization maintains 9 different facilities, of which four are owned.

**For more information:** Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center's main office is located at 4760 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Culver City, California 90230-4888. The central information number is 310-390-6612 and the fax number is 310-398-5690. Callers in crisis may also call the toll-free 24-hour Suicide Prevention Center Crisis Hotline at 877-7-CRISIS (877-727-4747).



Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center  
**VOLUNTEER APPLICATION**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: ( ) - \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: ( ) - \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: ( ) - \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency Contact Phone: ( ) - \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about volunteer opportunities at Didi Hirsch? \_\_\_\_\_

Education:  High School Graduate  College Graduate, Major: \_\_\_\_\_  Postgraduate, Degree: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Training: \_\_\_\_\_

**Have you been convicted of a crime in the last 7 years?**  
(Convictions will not necessarily disqualify an applicant)  Yes  No

If yes, please state conviction: \_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteer Experience** (include dates and level of involvement, i.e., board, committee/task force, direct service volunteer, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**School/Work Experience:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**School/Work References** (please give two and include phone numbers): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Are you currently or have you ever received services for yourself or a family member from Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center, and if so, when?** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What groups and activities interest you the MOST?** (check all that apply)

- Children       Adults       Older Adults       Children Activities       Clerical  
 Males       Females       Homeless       Planning Activities       Support Groups  
 Suicide Prevention  
Crisis Line      *\*\*You must be at least 21 years of age to volunteer on the Crisis Line \*\**  
 No Preference       Other (please list): \_\_\_\_\_

**What groups and activities interest you the LEAST?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Skills:**

Languages spoken: \_\_\_\_\_

Languages understood: \_\_\_\_\_

Typing: \_\_\_\_\_ Sign Language: \_\_\_\_\_ Licensed Driver: \_\_\_\_\_

Computer Skills: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Skills: \_\_\_\_\_

**Availability for Volunteer Work** (check all that apply):

- Monday       Tuesday       Wednesday       Thursday       Friday  
 Saturday       Sunday

**Time Availability** (check all that apply):

- All Day       Morning       Afternoon       Evening       Weekends Only

Special Interests: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer and we consider all employment and volunteer applicants without regard to race, religion, sex, sexual preference, national origin, age, marital status or veteran status, or any other legally protected status.