

California Legislature



Brett J. Feldman, MSPAS, PA-C, is the Director and co-founder of USC Street Medicine and is an Associate Professor of Family Medicine. Mr. Feldman is the outgoing Vice Chair of the International Street Medicine Institute and has practiced street medicine since 2007.

In Mr. Feldman's role with USC and the Street Medicine Institute, he participated in the establishment or expansion of over 150 street medicine programs internationally. He has led advocacy efforts to integrate street medicine into mainstream healthcare while keeping its values and philosophy intact.

Mr. Feldman's work has been featured on the BBC, Channel News Asia, Washington Post, LA Times, CNN, the Associated Press, and other outlets across Europe, Asia and the Middle East. A PBS documentary featuring Brett and the street medicine program which he founded, Close to Home: Street Medicine, won an Emmy award in 2018.

University of Southern California – Street Medicine Program

Vision: All Unsheltered People in Los Angeles have Access to Basic Healthcare

USC Street Medicine has established itself as a leader in the state and nation through innovations in the clinical delivery of street medicine, training and equipping learners and the healthcare workforce, publishing sentinel papers, and changing care for people experiencing homelessness statewide through our policy and advocacy efforts in collaboration with USC Government Affairs.

USC Street Medicine's clinical arm currently has 5 full-time street medicine teams providing care in the City of Los Angeles, funded by the City. These teams provide full-scope primary care on the streets, in the riverbeds, under bridges, or anywhere people experiencing homelessness reside. It also includes a full-scope HIV street medicine team and a USC Psychiatrist. Because healthcare is more than a provider visit, the teams dispense medications and perform phlebotomy and other essential procedures to

ensure patients receive necessary care on the street. Each team cares for approximately 400 unique patients a year and provides around 2,500 patient visits per year. Our clinical operations are primarily funded through contracts with the City of Los Angeles. The program has been shown to decrease hospitalizations by over 70%. It's also an effective housing tool with almost 40% of all patients seen placed in housing with the help of community partners, including the Mayor's office.

USC Street Medicine's second arm is Workforce Development and Education. Education refers to programs within USC including a Street Medicine Track within the Family Medicine Residency and Street Medicine Occupational Therapy Doctoral Program training site, both the first of their kind in the country. We have electives for physician assistants and medical students. Workforce development refers to training programs outside of USC with the goal of creating a pipeline of providers ready to do this work and seeding new programs. These include training the existing workforce of street medicine providers and staff as well as acting in a consulting role to assist other organizations in creating their own programs. Workforce development and education is funded through grants, including HRSA, and contracts from Health Net, the California Department of Public Health, and the CDC. Within the last year, we trained over 350 people from almost 150 different organizations across CA. In addition, we are contracted by the CA Department of Public Health to establish new street medicine HIV programs in 5 counties throughout the state, and by HealthNet to establish four new street medicine programs in CA. In all, 9 new programs in 2023. Lastly, we host the CA Street Medicine Collaborative, the operating state body for street medicine. This includes over 130 member organizations of street medicine providers, developing street medicine programs, health plans, and government agencies.

In the last two years, USC Street Medicine has taken a leadership role in policy and advocacy, in collaboration with USC Government Affairs. In 2020, USC was a co-sponsor of AB 369, the Street Medicine Act, which resulted in street medicine becoming a high priority for CA DHCS. Although the bill was vetoed, we continue to be leaders in advocacy efforts around street medicine. Efforts have resulted in street medicine being reimbursable in California, an All-Plan Letter allowing street medicine to be PCPs and Direct Access Providers, and Hospital Presumptive Eligibility being extended to the streets. It has also led to street medicine being named an area of focus in the state's new CalAim initiative and CA Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program (HHIP), which incentivizes health plans to contract with street medicine providers. Recently, USC and the Street Medicine Institute sponsored an effort with over 600 signatures to petition the Center for Medicare and Medicaid to create a new Place of Service Code for Street Medicine, opening up reimbursement for street medicine nationwide. This was approved a few weeks ago and will take effect on October 1st. This is an essential step to long-term sustainability and scalability to serve our unhoused neighbors.