



**OFFICE OF THE AGENCY DIRECTOR**  
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November 26, 2019

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
Administration Building  
1221 Oak Street  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Board Members:

**SUBJECT: APPROVE A FISCAL YEAR 2020 NEW PROCUREMENT CONTRACT WITH CENTER FOR EMPOWERING REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS FOR PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR UNSERVED AND UNDERSERVED ASIAN ETHNIC AND LANGUAGE POPULATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$290,000**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- A. Approve an agreement (Master Contract No. 900869; new Procurement Contract No. 19356) with Center for Empowering Refugees and Immigrants (Principal: Mona Afary; Location: Oakland) to provide prevention and early intervention mental health services to unserved and underserved Asian ethnic and language populations in Alameda County, for the period of 1/1/20 – 6/30/20 in the amount of \$290,000;
- B. Delegate authority to the Agency Director or designee to execute the agreement subject to review and approval as to form by County Counsel, and submit to the Clerk of the Board an executed copy for filing; and
- C. Authorize the Auditor-Controller to make the related budget adjustments

**DISCUSSION/SUMMARY**

Under this program, Center for Empowering Refugees and Immigrants (CERI) will provide low-intensity preventive counseling to over 40 unique clients annually in addition to conducting 20 events to provide education about mental health and related community resources that support individuals experiencing mental health challenges. CERI provides mental health, prevention and early intervention services to traumatized refugee and immigrant youth and adults with focus on serving persons from Southeast Asia including the following countries: Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Brunei and respective languages including: Vietnamese, Khmer, Lao, Burmese, Karen, Thai, Malay, Indonesian, Hmong, and Mien.

Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services (ACBH) initiated prevention and early intervention (PEI) services for unserved and underserved ethnic and language populations (UELPE) in fiscal year 2010, following an extensive community input process for Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) PEI funding and the convening of an Ethnic/Language Disparities workgroup to look specifically at how to support underserved populations with behavioral health services as directed by the MHSA Oversight and Accountability Commission.

A more recent review and evaluation of existing ACBH-contracted PEI programs to support UELP, including an analysis of client responses from the 2015 Health and Wellness Survey, indicated an increased need for linkage and access to services. The data indicated that of 547 clients, only 18 percent had previously received services through the ACBH system. ACBH acknowledges the persisting and expanding need for services in Alameda County as UELP communities experience population growth and demographic changes.

Your Board’s approval of this contract will allow CERI to begin delivering culturally sensitive prevention and early intervention mental health services. The service delivery will accomplish the following goals: increase access to culturally responsive, strengths-based services. Provide mental health outreach, education, preventive counseling, and treatment services; and build individual, community and organizational capacity. Improving client’s knowledge, and skills that contribute to the prevention of mental health disorders. This program will decrease stigma and discrimination toward individuals experiencing mental health issues in these communities and prevent mental illness from becoming more severe and disabling. CERI will improve timely access to related information, services and supports; and increase collaboration with community stakeholders and organizations to serve Asian communities.

**SELECTION CRITERIA**

*ACBH released Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 18-09 on November 29, 2018 for the provision of PEI outreach and education, mental health consultation, and preventive counseling to families and individuals of all ages. The RFP specified that services will be offered to Southeast Asian communities. The RFP was advertised for over six weeks using the General Services Agency (GSA) advertising guidelines by posting on the ACBH and GSA websites. In addition, a courtesy email was sent to ACBH contracted providers and other ACBH contacts via existing email distribution list. ACBH held two conferences on December 11, 2018 in Oakland and December 12, 2018 in Fremont with bidder representation from six agencies.*

*An evaluation panel consisting of four subject matter experts from Alameda County, Stanislaus County, and City and County of San Francisco was conducted on February 20, 2019. The Evaluation Panel invited all bidders for oral interviews. CERI was recommended for contract award as the highest scoring vendor that met all the requirements of the RFP. The bidders were notified of the Evaluation Panel’s recommendations on February 28, 2019. ACBH received a bid protest from Community Health for Asian Americans (CHAA) on March 7, 2019 to which the Department responded on April 2, 2019. CHAA submitted an appeal to the Alameda County Auditor-Controller’s Agency, Office of Contract Compliance and Reporting (OCCR) on April 9, 2019. OCCR issued a response on July 5, 2019 denying the appeal and upholding ACBH’s recommendation to award CERI for this contract. The table below summarizes the results of this RFP and the Evaluation Panel’s recommendations for contract award.*

<b>Bidder</b>	<b>Certified, Small, Local or Emerging</b>	<b>Score</b>
Asian Health Services	No	339
<b>CERI</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>435</b>
CHAA	Yes	375

*CERI is a certified Small, Local, and Emerging Business (SLEB) provider (Certification No. 17-00085; Expiration Date: July 31, 2020).*

**FINANCING**

Funding for this contract is from the Mental Health Services Act, per the attached Financial Recommendation. Approval of these recommendations has no impact on net County cost.

**VISION 2026 GOAL**

Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) mental health services for underserved or unserved Asian communities meet the 10x goal pathway of preventive health care under **Healthcare for All**, in support of the shared vision of a **Thriving and Resilient Population**.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Colleen Chawla, Director  
Health Care Services Agency

CC/RL/kw/ma