

## ***Communication from the Office of the ACBH Director -***

**DATE: June 26, 2023**

**TO: ACBH Employees & Stakeholders**

**FROM: Karyn L. Tribble, PsyD, LCSW | Director**



**SUBJECT: DHCS Awards Updates – BHCIP & Bridge Housing (\$72M)**

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Greetings Colleagues, Partners, & Team Members:

It is with great pleasure that on behalf of our Executive Team, I announce the award of approximately *\$72 Million dollars from the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)* to our County System.

As you may already be aware, ACBH has been actively pursuing **Behavioral Health Community Infrastructure Program (BHCIP)** awards over the past two years in order to increase mental health and substance use disorder treatment infrastructure (facilities, construction, expansion, etc). To that end, we are pleased to report that we were notified by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) on the afternoon of Friday, June 23, 2023 that approximately \$430 Million dollars of BHCIP funding was provided for [projects](#) in 21 counties.

Alameda County received two **Round 5** BHCIP awards (**\$26M in total**), made directly to *Bay Area Community Services* and *La Familia* (dba Alliance for Community Wellness).

- *Bay Area Community Services* received **\$18.65M** for the behavioral health portion of the St. Regis program, a new behavioral health and housing program in Hayward. This BHCIP award will support BACS to renovate three existing buildings at the St. Regis to develop a behavioral health urgent care center where individuals can receive care on demand, a Mental Health Rehabilitation Center for individuals with significant mental health issues who require 24/7 services in a secure treatment setting, a withdrawal management program and residential treatment for individuals experiencing substance use issues, and a community wellness center.
- *La Familia* (dba Alliance for Community Wellness) received **\$7.6M** to purchase property and renovate the existing structures to become a multi-level substance use program in Livermore. The program will include a sobering center where individuals can go as an alternative to jail or the Emergency Department when they need a safe



space to sober, a withdrawal management program to support detoxification, and residential substance use treatment. Together, these programs provide the full continuum of services for people struggling with substance use including a “front door” sobering location and police drop off; a program where people can withdraw from substances and prepare for treatment; and a longer-term treatment program.

**DHCS also announced that it awarded more than \$900 Million dollars in Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) Program funding** to California county behavioral health agencies, including Alameda County. The primary focus of BHBH (or Bridge Housing) is to help people with serious behavioral health conditions to increase their ability to access help and move out of homelessness – enabling them also to pursue more stable, permanent housing options in the meantime.

Out of the \$900M in Bridge Housing funds available, the county received **\$46M in Bridge Housing** to support our residents who are experiencing behavioral health challenges and homelessness. Our Department is partnering with the HCSA Office of Homeless Care and Coordination (OHCC) to provide a range of emergency, short-term, and interim housing through the BHBH program, serving an estimated 1,554 people and creating 252 beds.

This includes:

- Emergency motel vouchers, budgeted for 15 people for a 2- week stay;
- 55 rental subsidies at the fair market rate for the County;
- 68 new beds in a non-congregate shelter environment with on-site support services, similar to the hotel model used during the pandemic;
- Operational costs of 68 interim housing beds at the St. Regis; and
- Funding to acquire a 6-bed Forensic Peer Respite, which is a newly approved MHSOAC Innovation project.

ACBH’s overarching goal is to develop bed space and resources throughout the continuum of services that can be accessed quickly so that there is capacity on-demand for individuals based on their unique needs and preferences and to begin to create the infrastructure to support CARE program participants. Our department is also committed to actively pursuing any and all available resources to support the Behavioral Health needs of those experiencing mental health or substance use challenges.

We believe that these awards are evidence of the application of our ***ACBH True North Metrics of: Quality, Accountability, and Financial Sustainability*** and highlight an opportunity to support the needs of our behavioral health clients and families across the county. We look forward providing further updates in the months to come.

Please join us in celebrating this expansion to our system!