



1000 San Leandro Boulevard, Suite 300 | San Leandro, CA 94577 | (510) 618-3452

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Noemy Mena-Miles
Public Information Manager
Behavioral Health Care Services
Alameda County Health Care Services Agency
eoc-pio@acgov.org

Alameda County and Community Partners Expand Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services for Adults and Transition Aged Youth

The County teamed up with La Familia, Telecare Corporation, and Seneca Family of Agencies to apply for State funding to add 69 treatment beds for adults and youth with behavioral health and housing needs

ALAMEDA COUNTY, CA – Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services (ACBH), a Department of the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, is pleased to announce a total of \$18 million has been awarded to local service providers by the California Department of Health Care Services. This funding will add 69 treatment beds in the county, expanding capacity to serve people with mental illness and/or substance use disorders.

“These awards are an excellent reflection of how Alameda County is working with partners across the behavioral health spectrum of care to provide compassionate and culturally-sensitive services,” said Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Director, Colleen Chawla. The four projects are funded by the State’s Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP). The BHCIP initiative provides capital and other infrastructure funding for service providers to increase their physical capacity, and the County will support behavioral health services for the foreseeable future. In partnership with La Familia, Telecare Corporation and Seneca Family of Agencies, ACBH will expand services into communities including Oakland’s Fruitvale, East Oakland, and South Hayward to primarily serve individuals with serious mental illness and substance use needs. This expansion will increase services for communities of color, justice-involved individuals, and adults who are at risk of, or are experiencing a mental health crisis.

“These services will be an invaluable addition to our programs to support our most vulnerable residents and address historic gaps in the behavioral health, homelessness and long-term care continuum,” said Dr. Karyn L. Tribble, Director of Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services. “We look forward to working with the awarded partners to expand access to community-focused behavioral health services in areas of high and expanding need.”

La Familia’s Crisis Center, located in South Hayward will house a Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) and a Crisis Residential Treatment (CRT) with 16 crisis stabilization beds and 16 crisis residential treatment beds. The Crisis Center will serve individuals 18 years and older who are at risk of or are experiencing a mental health crisis. The site is intended to provide a safe space where individuals can receive the services needed to support their recovery. It is expected to serve approximately 5,000 individuals per year in the CSU and approximately 700 individuals in the CRT.

La Familia’s TAY Wellness Campus will develop a social rehabilitation residential program with co-located outpatient services for TAY individuals ages 18-25. This program will provide 24/7 mental wellness services and supports that address mental health, substance use, and criminal behavior. In the residential program, the average length of stay will be up to 6 months. This project is a renovation of an existing outpatient facility and will add up to 16 residential treatment beds to the County’s continuum. The TAY Wellness Center, located in Oakland’s Fruitvale is expected to serve approximately 700 individuals in the residential program and an additional 300 individuals in outpatient services annually.

“This crisis residential treatment is long overdue and is a game-changer,” said Aaron Ortiz, CEO of La Familia. “Funding will bring equitable services to Central and Southern Alameda County and provide an alternative to psychiatric hospitalization where we are giving families a new option and helping individuals navigate decompensation.”

Telecare Corporation’s Forensic Crisis Residential Treatment (CRT) project includes the renovation of an existing outpatient facility and the addition of 15 crisis residential treatment beds to the County’s continuum program for adults who have significant mental health needs involved with the criminal justice system. This program will also provide 24/7 mental health services in an unlocked residential environment where individuals will receive supportive services needed to engage in ongoing care and resolve issues contributing to crisis. The program offers housing services for up to 30 days and is expected to serve approximately 660 individuals annually.

“Telecare is exceptionally proud and honored to partner with Alameda County on the BHCIP-funded 16-bed crisis residential treatment (CRT) center that will be developed on the Gladman campus in Oakland, CA,” said Anne Bakar, President and CEO of Telecare Corporation. “These 24/7 mental health services will serve those experiencing a mental health crisis, requiring a safe, warm and welcoming home-like setting to stabilize while we assist them in becoming linked to

services. We are very excited to be a part of this vital expansion of mental health services in our community.”

Seneca Family of Agencies' project will convert one of the three existing structures on the campus into a highly individualized Children's Crisis Residential Program (CCRP), adding six crisis residential beds at Seneca's Golf Links Road Campus. This program will have the capacity to serve up to 6 youth at a time, ages 6-20, with up to 312 youth served annually. The population served in Seneca's CCRP will be young people experiencing heightened or persistent mental health needs, but who do not require treatment in an inpatient hospital setting.

“Seneca Family of Agencies is pleased to announce the renovation of part of our Golf Links Road Campus” said Leticia Galyean, Chief Executive Officer at Seneca Family of Agencies. “The intended outcome of the crisis residential program is to increase accessibility and decrease the utilization of locked inpatient settings for young people, including psychiatric health facilities or hospitalization.”

The BHCIP initiative is a part of California's \$518.5 million response in grants to help provide behavioral health services and housing options as part of a \$2.2 billion statewide effort to expand mental health housing and services, especially for people experiencing homelessness. The funding will provide treatment beds across the state for more than 1,000 people at a time, plus behavioral health services for many more. Treatment beds provide an alternative to psychiatric hospitalization both for individuals who can safely participate on a voluntary basis and do not require services in a locked environment.

About Alameda County Health Care Services Agency

The Health Care Services Agency (HCSA) is the local health jurisdiction (LHJ) for Alameda County, the seventh most diverse county in the nation. With a total area of more than 800 square miles and a population of 1.6 million residents, Alameda County encompasses urban, suburban, and rural geographic areas as well as a large unincorporated area, for which County agencies have jurisdictional responsibility. HCSA holds responsibility for various state and federal health mandates operated through the Behavioral Health, Environmental Health, Office of the Agency Director, and Public Health departments. HCSA also leads Emergency Medical Services in Alameda County, the Center for Healthy Schools and Communities, the Office of Homeless Care and Coordination, and Health Program of Alameda County (HealthPAC).

About La Familia Counseling Service

La Familia has been serving in the Bay Area for over 45 years, providing tools and support to build resilience, wellness, and economic power with underserved communities. Through culturally responsive, peer-led and peer-oriented services, La Familia is committed to ensuring that all community members have what they need to get to a better place in their lives. La Familia provides mental health, substance use treatment, community support (including housing, workforce, and basic needs), and helps individuals raise their voices on issues that matter most. La Familia provides an array of services to a broad range of community members, including individuals who may have additional barriers to access services, such as monolingual individuals, newly arrived immigrants, individuals who are re-entering their communities from incarceration, and individuals with developmental disabilities.

About Telecare Corporation

Telecare Corporation is a leading provider of behavioral health services in the United States, serving more than 35,000 individuals each year, in 150+ programs across five states. Since 1965, we have specialized in serving people with serious mental illness and complex needs, and we've worked in partnership with health plans, hospitals, and state and county agencies to deliver innovative, recovery-centered services, that help people to recover their health, hopes, and dreams. Telecare is a family- and employee-owned company with 4,500+ staff organization-wide. Learn more at www.telecarecorp.com.

About Seneca Family of Agencies

Seneca's mission is to help children and families through the most difficult times of their lives. We are driven by the fundamental belief that children and families do not themselves fail, but rather are failed by systems unable to meet their complex needs. Guided by our core agency values of love and compassion, hope and courage, respect, curiosity, joy, equity and justice Seneca refuses to fail the young people and families we serve. We offer each child and family a profound promise: you will be supported every step of your journey, no matter what challenges you face along the way.

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