



California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, CPA

News Release

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**Contact: [Mark DeSio](#)
(916) 651-6088**

Treasurer Fiona Ma Commends Counties for Expanding and Improving Mental Health Crisis Services

SACRAMENTO – California State Treasurer Fiona Ma recognized “Mental Health Awareness Month,” in May by thanking counties for expanding mental health crisis treatment using the \$128 million provided by the Investment in Mental Health Wellness Act of 2013.

“All over California people suffering from devastating mental health problems are now getting the care they need because our counties have wisely invested funds from the Mental Health Wellness Act,” said Treasurer Ma. “These programs and facilities save lives, keep people out of jail and hospital emergency rooms, and prevent needless suffering. They steer patients away from severe mental illness and toward the road to recovery.”

During the past five years, counties have added 110 mobile crisis support teams, 402 crisis stabilization and crisis residential treatment beds, and six peer respite care beds. In the next two and a half years another 365 beds will become available.

The grants are awarded each year by the California Health Facilities Financing Authority (CHFFA), which is chaired by Treasurer Ma.

Grants finance crisis residential treatment beds, where individuals receive therapeutic or rehabilitative services for up to 30 days; crisis stabilization beds, where individuals experiencing an acute psychiatric crisis can be stabilized and treated for fewer than 24 hours; and mobile crisis support teams consisting of mental health professionals who go into the field to evaluate whether people present a danger to themselves or to others.

In addition, they fund peer respite care beds, where individuals at risk of experiencing a mental health crisis can volunteer to stay and receive care in a supportive environment.

The grants are disbursed to counties or nonprofits and public agencies they designate. They fund capital improvement, expansion, and some start-up costs.

The Investment in Mental Health Wellness Act of 2013 was authored by former Senate President Pro Tempore and current Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg, a mental health care leader.

Frank Moore, Executive Director of CHFFA, said that mental health crisis services such as these reduce the costs associated with expensive inpatient and emergency room visits, while maintaining high quality, patient-centered care for individuals with mental health disorders.

Here are some examples of the facilities and services the Act has funded:

- **Alameda County** – The Jay Mahler Recovery Center Crisis Residential Unit in San Leandro opened in November 2015 and added 16 crisis residential treatment beds. This program serves about 150 unique clients a year and has demonstrated significant savings. One day at the center costs about 64% less than one day in the county inpatient center.
- **Fresno County** – The Exodus Recovery Crisis Stabilization Center in Fresno expanded its Center by 16 beds in April 2015. In one year, the center had about 4,600 admissions from about 3,500 unique adult clients and 1,100 unique youth clients. Also in Fresno, the Central Star Crisis Residential Treatment Facility opened and added 16 crisis residential treatment beds.
- **Imperial County** – Mobile Crisis Support Teams in El Centro began providing services in October 2017. The teams served about 130 individuals in one year who were brought to local emergency rooms for involuntary psychiatric holds by law enforcement. The teams reduced the time law enforcement spends with mental health clients by about four hours per patient.
- **Merced County** – The Adult Behavioral Health Campus in Merced opened in February 2019 and added 16 crisis residential treatment beds. It is a multi-county project that serves residents of Calaveras, Madera, Mariposa, Stanislaus and Tuolumne counties.
- **San Bernardino County** – The Windsor Crisis Stabilization Unit in San Bernardino and the Merrill Crisis Stabilization Unit in Fontana added 40 total crisis stabilization beds in July and August 2018. Also in San Bernardino County, a total of 48 crisis residential treatment beds were added at Morongo Oasis Crisis Residential Treatment Facility in Joshua Tree, the Desert Hill Crisis Residential Treatment Facility in Victorville, and the Wellspring Crisis Residential Treatment Facility in Fontana.
- **San Mateo County** – Serenity House in San Mateo opened in October 2018 and added 13 crisis residential treatment beds.
- **Trinity County** – The Cedar Home Peer Respite in Weaverville opened in April 2018 and added six beds. In five months since it opened, about 40 hospital beds were freed up and three out-of-county transports were averted. It also reduced law enforcement time spent on mental health crisis calls/contacts by about five hours per individual.

For more information regarding the Investment in Mental Health Wellness Grant Program or other grant funding opportunities, please visit [CHFFA's website](#).

Fiona Ma is California's 34th State Treasurer. She was elected on November 6, 2018 with more votes (7,825,587) than any other candidate for treasurer in the state's history. She is the first woman of color and the first woman Certified Public Accountant (CPA) elected to the position. The State Treasurer's Office was created in the California Constitution in 1849. It provides financing for schools, roads, housing, recycling and waste management, hospitals, public facilities, and other crucial infrastructure projects that better the lives of residents. California is the world's fifth-largest economy and Treasurer Ma is the state's primary banker. Her office processes more than \$2 trillion in payments within a typical year. She provides transparency and oversight for the government's investment portfolio and accounts, as well as for the state's surplus funds. Treasurer Ma oversees an investment portfolio of more than \$102 billion, approximately \$20 billion of which are local government funds. She serves as agent for sale for all State bonds, and is trustee on over \$100 billion of outstanding debt.

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