



NEWS RELEASE

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April 24, 2014

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Treasurer Lockyer Announces \$75.3 Million of Grants to Expand Community-Based Mental Health Crisis Care *Grants will fund 827 beds, mobile crisis teams*

SACRAMENTO – State Treasurer Bill Lockyer today announced approval of \$75.3 million of grants that will strengthen California’s mental health crisis care system by adding 827 residential and crisis stabilization beds, and providing 39 vehicles and 60 staff for mobile support teams.

“This funding will significantly improve California’s mental health care system by strengthening community-based services that help those experiencing crises,” said Lockyer. “These programs will save lives, help keep mental health patients out of jails and hospital emergency rooms, and prevent needless suffering.”

The 20 grants were approved today by the California Health Facilities Financing Authority (CHFFA), which Lockyer chairs. The money will fund new or expanded services in 28 of California’s 58 counties.

The \$75.3 million represents the first funding round from the \$149.3 million allocated by the Investment in Mental Health Wellness Act of 2013 (Act). The Act was created by SB 82, sponsored by Senate President Pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento.

“These grants begin the process of saving more lives, and saving more money in our mental health care system,” said Steinberg. “Our criminal justice system and hospital emergency rooms are packed full of people who end up there because they were arrested or hospitalized during a mental health crisis and had nowhere else to go. More crisis residential beds and mental health crisis teams can make the difference between recovery and a downward spiral into severe mental illness.”

The Act sets the maximum amount of money each region can receive. Regions not awarded their maximum allocation in the first round can apply for additional funds in subsequent rounds. A second round of funding is expected to begin soon.

(more)

The Act allotted money to crisis residential treatment beds, where patients stay less than 30 days; crisis stabilization beds, where patients receive treatment for fewer than 24 hours; and mobile crisis support teams that provide intervention and family support and evaluate whether people present a danger to themselves or to others. The Act designated CHFFA as the agency to implement the grant program.

Los Angeles County was awarded \$40.9 million to create 35 crisis residential programs, four crisis stabilization units and 16 mobile crisis support teams. Overall, Los Angeles County will add 560 residential beds, 72 stabilization beds, and five vehicles and 17 staff for mobile crisis support teams.

San Francisco Bay Area counties were awarded \$8.8 million for residential beds, \$2.7 million for stabilization units and \$990,000 for mobile crisis support. Counties that received funding are Santa Clara, Alameda, Sonoma, Marin and Contra Costa.

Southern Region counties were awarded \$7.9 million for residential beds, \$4.7 million for stabilization units and \$1.8 million for mobile crisis support. Counties that received funding are Riverside, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura.

Central Region counties received \$2 million for residential beds, \$2.6 million for stabilization units and \$1.1 million for mobile crisis support. Counties that received funding are Fresno, Merced, Sacramento, San Joaquin and Yolo.

Superior Region counties received \$867,000 for residential beds, \$500,000 for stabilization units and \$296,000 for mobile crisis support. Counties that received funding are Butte, Nevada, Lake and Mendocino.

Several projects serve multiple counties. A 12-bed crisis residential center to be located in Merced County also will serve Madera, Tuolumne, Calaveras and Mariposa counties.

Four counties - Sonoma, Fresno, San Joaquin and Los Angeles - plan to reserve some stabilization beds for adolescents.

CHFFA awarded funds to applicants who demonstrated projects would expand access to community-based health crisis services, be integrated with health, social services and law enforcement programs, and be able to start operations within six months.

For staff reports describing the funding allocations and projects, please check the CHFFA website <http://www.treasurer.ca.gov/chffa/staff/2014/20140424/index.asp>.

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