

MHSA Innovation Projects

- Launched Innovation Solicitation in January 2019
 - 35 ideas received, 20 reviewed by Selection Committee
 - Moving forward with 5 ideas



2019 MHSA Innovation Projects

Below are brief summaries of the proposed five Innovation Projects for San Mateo County.

1. Addiction Medicine Fellowship in a local community setting

Estimated Project Amount & Length: \$591,650 / 3.9 years

The proposed project is an accredited Addiction Medicine Fellowship sponsored by San Mateo County that is tailored to addressing the needs and priorities of the public sector including treating the most vulnerable communities with co-occurring substance use disorders, advancing equity on multiple levels and contributing to educational projects in clinical and community settings. This would also be the first Addiction Medicine Fellowship based in a local health safety net health system, serving as a model for California's 58 counties.

2. Co-location of Prevention and Early Intervention Services in Low-Income Housing

Estimated Project Amount & Length: \$925,000 / 3.9 years

The proposed project will provide prevention and early intervention services including behavioral health resources, supports, screening, referrals and linkages to young adults, ages 18-25, on-site at affordable housing properties, minimizing stigma and reducing barriers to accessing behavioral health care.

3. PIONEERS - College-Age Pacific Islander Mental Health

Estimated Project Amount & Length: \$925,000 / 3.9 years

The proposed project, Pacific Islanders Organizing, Nurturing, and Empowering Everyone to Rise and Serve (PIONEERS) provides a culturally relevant, college behavioral health program for NHPI youth that prioritizes the mental wellbeing of students and their respective communities through empowerment, leadership and advocacy.

4. Older Adult Homelessness Prevention due to Economic Stress

Estimated Project Amount & Length: \$750,000 / 3.9 years

The proposed project will reach-out and engage isolated older adults who may be at risk of becoming homeless. Trust and safety will be established to reduce shame/stigma. Older adults will be screened for economic stress, behavioral health issues, and connected to homeless, housing and behavioral health resources for planning, and support, to prevent acute homelessness and to slow the growing older adult homeless population trend. The innovation will create a new partnership between Human Services Agency Center for Homelessness providers, Older American Act programs, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, and Aging and Adult Services.

5. Social Enterprise Cultural and Wellness Café

Estimated Project Amount & Length: \$2,625,000 / 5 years

The proposed project is a cultural arts and wellness-focused social enterprise café that offers youth development and mental health programming on site. The social enterprise café will hire and train at-risk youth from Northern San Mateo County and serve as a culturally affirming space for Filipino/a/x youth and community. The social enterprise model has proven to be a more sustainable approach when it comes to stable and diversified funding streams. Most of the existing community organizations that offer some elements of the proposed project rely heavily on grant-writing and fundraising.

Public Comments Received – for MHSARC Review

➤ Innovation Project Proposals

Comments

Response

Older Adult Homelessness Prevention – 3 letters of support were received for the Older Adult Homeless Prevention proposal

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I would like you to consider older adult outreach to Board and Care residents who are at risk of homelessness, expansion of the senior peer program would be an alternative to a new homeless service.

Thank you for your input on including Board and Care residents, we will add this to the proposal. As for expansion of the senior peer program, this would not qualify for Innovation funding as it is a current program we have been successfully providing. But, we do agree with your comment and this past fiscal year did expand senior peer program services to address the waitlist of about 48 clients.

Addiction Fellowship - 6 comments were received in support of the Addiction Fellowship proposal.

The proposed project is an accredited Addiction Medicine Fellowship that is tailored to addressing the needs and priorities of the public sector including treating the most vulnerable communities with co-occurring substance use disorders, advancing equity on multiple levels and contributing to educational projects in clinical and community settings. This would also be the first Addiction Medicine Fellowship based in a local health safety net health system, serving as a model for California's 58 counties.

I would like you to consider collaborative care with peer certified addiction specialists, peers providing services and supports in the community

Thank you for your input on including a peer component and specifically involving Peer Certified Addiction Specialists, we will add this to the proposal. This is critical to recovery principles. Currently as proposed, the IMAT team will provide case management for patients seen by the fellow in the hospitals and clinics.

Why MHSA funding and not primary health or drug Medi-Cal dollars for a medical-based fellowship.

Addiction is a specialty that touches on all fields of medicine, including mental health. Substance use disorders and mental health disorders have a very high rate of co-occurrence (at least 50% in both directions). Given this, addiction specialist will receive training in the diagnosis and treatment of mental health disorders. We want people suffering from addiction to be served wherever they enter our health system. In San Mateo County Health, people with only the most serious of mental illnesses are treated in clinics purely devoted to mental health; all others with mild to moderate, and often severe, disorders are treated by primary care providers with the help of integrated behavioral health teams. Most primary care providers, hospitalists, and psychiatrists are not trained to treat substance use disorders. This is one reason that only ten percent of people with addictions receive any MH treatment and why MHSA can provide a great opportunity to fill this much needed gap.

One-year fellowship then what? Where are the certified addiction fellows housed, in hospital or BHRS clinics?

This proposal is for 3 years, so we would hopefully be able to train 3 fellows, adding to the workforce of physicians able to treat this very under-served population. If it is successful, we hope our positive findings will help us secure additional funding. The fellow will be rotating through various locations such as the integrated mental health team within primary care, the hospital wards, emergency department, and specialty clinics such as the Pain Clinic and Edison Clinic.

Social Enterprise Cultural and Wellness Café – 43 Comments received in support of the Social Enterprise proposal

The proposed project is a cultural arts and wellness-focused social enterprise café that offers youth development and mental health programming on site. The social enterprise café will hire and train at-risk youth from Northern San Mateo County and serve as a culturally affirming space for Filipino/a/x youth and community. The social enterprise model has proven to be a more sustainable approach when it comes to stable and diversified funding streams. Most of the existing community organizations that offer some elements of the proposed project rely heavily on grant-writing and fundraising.