



For Immediate Release

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Alameda County Health’s Behavioral Health Department Awarded \$8.25 Million For Critical Diversion Program

Funding from Department of State Hospital will support the creation of 88 beds for individuals convicted of felonies who have been found incompetent to stand trial

Note: This updated press release reflects a corrected statement from AC Health Behavioral Health Department Director Dr. Karyn Tribble.

Alameda County, CA— Alameda County Health, Behavioral Health Department, (ACBHD) has been awarded an \$8.25 million grant by the Department of State Hospitals (DSH) to expand residential care opportunities for up to 88 individuals who have been found incompetent to stand trial after being charged with felony offenses.

The funding will support ACBHD in its multi-pronged effort to ensure that individuals involved in the criminal justice system with serious mental illness, receive the most effective behavioral health services in non-carceral settings.

“Diverting individuals with serious mental illnesses and substance use disorders from jail is a critical step toward embracing the countywide policy of Care First, Jails Last,” said Dr. Karyn Tribble, Behavioral Health Department Director. “This generous funding support from the Department of State Hospitals will allow us to expand our network of behavioral health services to provide people with the care they need in more appropriate settings.”

The Behavioral Health Department will use the funding to create 88 supportive treatment beds by purchasing and/or renovating existing facilities. Those sites include beds for Mental Health Rehabilitation Center, Adult Residential Treatment facilities and supportive housing site with onsite clinical and other supportive service. ACBHD will embark on a Request for Proposals (RFP) process to support the purchase, rehabilitation and expansion of these sites. The funding must be spent by June 30, 2028.

“This investment will help us break the cycle of incarceration and ill health,” said Nate Miley, President of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. “People in need of serious support and assistance are better served in residential housing sites and mental health centers, not jail.”

In many jurisdictions, including Alameda County, individuals with serious mental illness are more likely to be booked into jail and to inconsistently engage with treatment.



AC Health Behavioral Health Department released a [Forensic Plan](#) in 2021 to address challenges with ensuring care in appropriate settings. The department has been systematically working through the short, mid, and long-term actions set forth in the plan. Those efforts include creating an arrest diversion and triage center, establishing a forensic crisis residential treatment program and reducing parole and probation violations for individuals with mental health challenges, among other initiatives.

Funding for the 88 beds comes from the DSH's Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) Infrastructure Project, which aims to increase access to diversion and community-based treatment for eligible individuals. This project provides \$468.8 million in one-time funds specifically designated to develop residential housing settings in support of these individuals who are participating in DSH-funded diversion programs. DSH estimates that approximately 3,000 of the individuals identified as IST on felony charges annually are eligible for participation in community-based treatment programs.

[Learn more about Alameda County Health at Health.AlamedaCountyCA.gov.](https://www.health.alameda-county.ca.gov/)