



For Immediate Release

Aug. 21, 2024

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Alameda County Awarded Additional \$14 Million in State Funding to Expand Support for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness
Bridge Housing Funding to Enhance Services for Unhoused Residents with Complex Behavioral Health Needs

Alameda County, CA - Alameda County Health (AC Health) has been awarded an additional \$14 million as part of the Bridge Housing and Behavioral Health (BHBH) Program. This latest investment from the State will bolster Alameda County's strategy to support people experiencing homelessness with highly complex behavioral health needs.

The new funding of \$14,040,909, combined with the previous Round 1 award of \$46,782,359, brings the total BHBH funding for Alameda County to \$60,823,268. The time-limited nature of this block grant, which must be utilized by June 2027, underscores the urgency of the County's efforts to address the multifaceted needs of its unhoused population.

AC Health's Behavioral Health Department (ACBHD) and Housing and Homelessness Services program (AC Health H&H) will work together to focus this investment toward three key areas:

1. Expanding interim housing capacity with intensive, on-site services to quickly place individuals with high mental health needs.
2. Strengthening homelessness prevention efforts for unstably housed individuals by bolstering family and natural support systems.
3. Identifying and supporting individuals exiting the criminal justice system to prevent homelessness during critical transition periods.

"We are deeply grateful to Governor Newsom and the State for this crucial support," said Jonathan Russell, director of AC Health H&H. "We aim to end unsheltered homelessness and this funding will allow us to expand our capacity to serve individuals with behavioral health needs, complementing and supplementing our existing efforts to address the complex challenges of homelessness in our community."

The award comes as the County prepares to implement the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court program by Dec. 1, 2024. Mandated by the State, CARE Court is designed to provide comprehensive treatment and support for Californians with untreated schizophrenia spectrum or other psychiatric disorders.



"The upcoming start of CARE Courts adds another layer of urgency to our work," said James Wagner, deputy director of Clinical Operations for ACBHD. "This funding will help ACBHD build a bridge to housing for CARE Court participants who are homeless and struggling with severe mental illness, substance abuse, and trauma. We are committed to promoting rapid access to housing for people with complex needs, especially during critical transitions, and we'll continue to implement these proven strategies while deepening the integration of our partnerships across our agency."

The funding will support several key initiatives:

- Expansion of Forensic Access Points to enhance access to the Coordinated Entry system for justice involved individuals, including through in-reach at institutional settings like Santa Rita Jail and a mobile access point at the CARE Court site.
- Homelessness Prevention strategies focused on complex populations, including CARE Court participants and individuals exiting jail. This includes offering shallow subsidies in partnership with family and natural support services.
- Rehabilitation of existing interim housing to avoid closures due to deferred maintenance.
- Enhanced outreach, engagement, and housing navigation services.

"This additional funding allows us to build upon our Homeless Prevention Framework and create a more robust support system," added Russell. "By providing these services, we aim to move those who are homeless off the street and into safe, dignified housing, promote quick access to housing during critical transitions, and build capacity within both formal and informal support systems."

Bridge Housing in Alameda County is expected to come online in the fall through December 2024.

Click [here](#) to learn more about ACBHD's Strategic Plan. For more information about Alameda County's homelessness prevention and support strategies, you can read the [Home Together 2026 Community Plan](#).

About Alameda County Health

Alameda County Health is the local government agency that promotes and protects the health and well-being of all who live, work, learn, and play in Alameda County. Together with our Environmental Health, Behavioral Health, and Public Health Departments, we coordinate services and seek partnerships with community organizations and providers to help ensure access, be the safety net, build resilient communities, and improve health for all. We focus on health equity through programs and systemic solutions to reduce disparities for the people and communities we serve.

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