



## **County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors Agenda Item Submittal**

**From:** Health Services Agency: Behavioral Health Division  
(831) 454-4000

**Meeting Date:** February 27, 2018

### **Recommended Action:**

Adopt a resolution authorizing the Health Services Agency to apply for funding to the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission for the Investment in Mental Health Wellness Act of 2013 - Mental Health Triage Personnel grant program to expand crisis services to youth and young adults.

### **Executive Summary**

The Health Services Agency (HSA) seeks approval to submit a grant application to an Investment in Mental Health Wellness Act of 2013 - Mental Health Triage Personnel competitive funding program (Crisis Triage Grant) administered by the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) to expand crisis services for youth and young adults in the community. The term of the grant period is three years from June 30, 2018 to June 30, 2021.

### **Background**

The California Mental Health Wellness Act of 2013, Senate Bill 82 (SB-82), provided statewide grant funding for hiring mental health workers as triage personnel to provide crisis support services diverting people from incarceration and lessening the use of hospital emergency rooms and psychiatric beds. On December 29, 2017, MHSOAC released a Request for Applications for Round Two of the SB-82 funding (Attachment 1) in the amount of \$48 million for all years statewide, including \$6.7 million for the fourteen medium-sized counties in California, with populations between 200,000 and 750,000. The application process is highly competitive, and it is anticipated that the majority of counties will be applying for these funds.

### **Analysis**

This grant program funds a three-year pilot project. Specified outcomes and deliverables will be set forth in HSA's upcoming grant application. The grant application deadline is March 9, 2018. This grant program requires a resolution from the governing body authorizing a county to apply (Attachment 2). HSA's grant application budget will be finalized once the number of applicants is better known, allowing HSA to better determine a fiscal amount commensurate with an approximately equitable share of the \$6.7 million available for the 14 medium sized statewide counties.

As part of HSA's efforts to be more responsive to the needs of our community, and in accordance with the goals and objectives of HSA's Mental Health Strategic Plan adopted by the Board, HSA intends to apply for funds for the Behavioral Health Division to fully cover an expansion of crisis services provided through HSA's Crisis Stabilization Program and crisis services system of care specifically targeting youth and young

adults.

**Financial Impact**

If the application is successful, the resulting expansion of crisis services for youth and young adults is expected to be fully funded through this grant for a three-year period. This expansion is anticipated to include one (1) full time equivalent Senior Mental Health Client Specialist for HSA and additional contracts with community partners.

**Submitted by:**

Giang T. Nguyen, Health Services Agency Director

**Recommended by:**

Carlos J. Palacios, County Administrative Officer

**Attachments:**

- a Resolution Authorizing grant application to MHSOAC
- b Notice of Funding Availability, Grant Application instructions