



County of Fresno

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Chairman
Buddy Mendes
District Four

Vice Chairman
Garry Bredefeld
District Two

Brian Pacheco
District One

Luis Chavez
District Three

Nathan Magsig
District Five

Bernice E. Seidel
Clerk

October 21, 2025

Susan Holt, Director of Behavioral Health,
County of Fresno
1925 E Dakota Ave,
Fresno, CA 93726

SUPPORT FOR DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH *BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONTINUUM INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (BHCIP) ROUND 2: UNMET NEEDS GRANT APPLICATION*

Dear Susan Holt,

The Fresno County Board of Supervisors is pleased to express strong support for the County of Fresno Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) in their submission of a proposal to the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) 2025 Round 2: Unmet Needs Grant. The Crisis Residential Treatment (CRT) project, located at the northwest corner of Kings Canyon and Temperance in Fresno, CA, will include the construction of a new facility that will be licensed as a Social Rehabilitation Facility.

In January 2022, the Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS) published a study titled Assessing the Continuum of Care for Behavioral Health Services in California, which highlighted significant gaps in the behavioral health care services available to individuals receiving care. Since the study's release, DBH has actively sought ways to narrow the gap in behavioral health services not only for the county but also regionally. DBH submitted applications to DHCS for BHCIP Rounds 1-5 and Bond BHCIP Round 1. DBH's current application for the Bond BHCIP 2025 Round 2 Unmet Needs grant will continue advancing its efforts to improve access to behavioral health services.

DBH is a Fresno County government agency responsible for ensuring services are provided to Medi-Cal members residing in Fresno County who may be experiencing mental health or substance use disorders and additionally provides services to many persons who are indigent/uninsured. DBH provides direct services to children, adults, and families experiencing behavioral health challenges at multiple facilities. DBH services through our system of care include assessment, therapy, medication, case management, crisis intervention, treatment, and other services.

The construction of this new facility will add sixteen (16) beds and crisis residential treatment services to support adults experiencing an acute psychiatric crisis or episode. These services will serve as an alternative to hospitalization. CRT services will provide assessment, plan development, therapy, rehabilitation, collateral, and crisis intervention. The goal is to help individuals restore, preserve, and apply interpersonal and independent living skills while assisting in the development of a personal community support system. The CRT Temperance project aligns with all State criteria, priorities outlined in the Request for Applications, and DBH priorities and will help fill a gap in the continuum of services in the Central Valley.

The addition of this facility into the DBH portfolio will increase DBH's overall capacity to provide adequate and clinically appropriate services for this population, as there is a gap and unmet need for CRT services as an alternative to hospitalization. This proposal suggests the creation of a campus in conjunction with another of DBH's applications, which is to acquire the adjacent real property and construct a social rehabilitation facility and further develop this property to construct additional buildings and expand behavioral health care to create a warm and healing community for those we serve with mental health and/or substance use disorders. This CRT facility will also be open to accepting admissions from nearby counties, thus serving as a regional asset in the heart of the Central Valley. The CRT Temperance facility is close to the California State Route 180 Sequoia-Kings Canyon freeway and thus within a 4–6-minute drive to the Olive campus, which once completed will contain the Urgent Care Wellness Center, streamline access to care, and reduce barriers to engagement in treatment. This location will allow the DBH to connect and link the persons served to services as soon as possible, especially those experiencing homelessness.

The Fresno County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support DBH in their submittal of a proposal for the construction of a CRT facility to add capacity and provide the full continuum of services outlined above, with an emphasis on Medi-Cal beneficiaries, which aligns with DBH's ongoing commitment to provide quality, culturally responsive behavioral health services to promote wellness, recovery, and resiliency for individuals and families in Fresno County.

Sincerely,



Ernest Buddy Mendes

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Fresno