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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 Social Rehabilitation Facility (SRF) Temprance project, located at 6744 E Kings Canyon Rd, Fresno, CA 93727, will include the acquisition of real property and the construction of a new facility, which 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 proposal is for the acquisition of real property and the construction of this new facility, which will add sixteen (16) beds and social rehabilitation services to support adults. The addition of this SRF would allow DBH to provide 24-hour-a-day nonmedical care and supervision in a group setting to adults recovering from mental illness who temporarily need assistance, guidance, or counseling. Services provided help individuals to develop the skills necessary to transition back to living independently within their communities. In the future, DBH intends to 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. The SRF Temperance project aligns with all State criteria, priorities outlined in the Request for Applications, and County of Fresno 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 SRF 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 construct a crisis residential treatment facility on adjacent county-owned property. The SRF 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 DBH to connect and link persons served to services as soon as possible, including those experiencing homelessness.

The Fresno County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support DBH in their submittal of a proposal for the construction of an SRF 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