

 **DHCS NEWS RELEASE**

NEW SITES BRING VITAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO TEENS AND ADULTS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Projects Expected to Serve More Than 900 Individuals Annually

SACRAMENTO — The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is expanding residential services for individuals with substance use disorders and co-occurring mental health needs at two locations in Los Angeles County.

The Whole Child—Mental Health and Housing Services celebrated the grand opening of a new community wellness center (below). On February 1, the center began providing trauma-informed, culturally sensitive mental health, family housing, parent enrichment, and nutrition education services. The center supports families in southeast Los Angeles who face barriers to accessing care, including youth and families experiencing homelessness.



Also, St. Anne's Family Services hosted a groundbreaking (below) for a new short-term residential therapeutic program (STRTP) called STRTP FOR ONE, which annually provides high-quality supportive housing programs, early childhood education, mental health, and family-based services to thousands of young women, children, and families in Los Angeles County.



Both projects were funded by Round 5 of DHCS' Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (<https://www.infrastructure.buildingcalhhs.com/>). (BHCIP). DHCS awarded The Whole Child—Mental Health and Housing Services more than \$6 million and St. Anne's Family Services more than \$2 million through BHCIP, which is part of California's ongoing commitment to expand behavioral health services for all Californians. With the passage of Proposition 1, even more behavioral health treatment facilities (<https://www.infrastructure.buildingcalhhs.com/grantees/bond-bhcip-rounds/>) will be funded and built in 2025 and 2026.

"Expanding community-based behavioral health care services is a top priority for DHCS," said **DHCS Director Michelle Baass**. "Residential facilities like these are a vital component of California's efforts to bring high-quality, trauma-informed care to individuals and families who need it most."

THE WHOLE CHILD—MENTAL HEALTH AND HOUSING SERVICES: The Trauma Healing and Wellness Center for Homeless Families and the Community project provides trauma-informed, culturally sensitive services to children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness in the Los Angeles area. In addition to outpatient counseling services, the center supports vocational, mental health, housing navigation, parent, and nutrition education. The center's comprehensive suite of mental health services includes individual, family, and group psychotherapy, medication management, psychological testing, psychiatric services, case management, crisis intervention services, school-linked services to provide assessment and therapy to students onsite in schools, multidisciplinary assessment teams, and specialized foster care. Evidence-based practices include trauma focused-cognitive behavioral therapy, individual cognitive behavioral therapy, a Triple P-Positive Parenting Program, managing and adopting practice, child parent psychotherapy, Incredible Years, aggression replacement therapy, and interpersonal psychotherapy.

"As a regional leader in children's mental health and wellness, we know firsthand how childhood trauma and pain can follow children into adulthood," said **The Whole Child CEO Constanza Pachon**. "However, we also know that treatment at an early age can have an enormously positive effect, providing children and teens with the tools and coping skills they need to begin their healing journey. This center, built with BHCIP funding, will be a beacon of hope for our community."

STRTP FOR ONE: St Anne's Family Services designed STRTP FOR ONE with one bed that offers highly individualized, comprehensive care to young mothers ages 13-17 who are at risk of multiple placements, homelessness, and incarceration due to their complex mental or behavioral health needs. The program is staffed by a team of highly coordinated and trauma-informed clinical professionals to provide strength-based, client-centered interventions within a home-like environment. The program aims to equip these youth with tools to address their

complex trauma, foster independent living skills, and develop real-time parenting skills with natural support.

"We are thrilled to collaborate with DHCS to address the critical mental health needs of young families in our community," said **Lorna Little, MSW, President and CEO of St. Anne's Family Services**. "We are uniquely positioned to provide specialized services to young women in crisis—women who are pregnant or parenting, seeking to reunite with family members, and learning to stabilize within our programs to make a successful transition."

WHY BHCIP IS IMPORTANT: Through BHCIP, DHCS awards eligible entities funding to construct, acquire, and expand properties and invest in mobile crisis infrastructure to further expand the range of community-based behavioral health treatment options for people with co-occurring mental health treatment needs and substance use disorders. BHCIP is addressing historic gaps in the behavioral health care system to meet the growing demand for services and supports throughout the lifespan of people in need.

DHCS has awarded \$1.7 billion in BHCIP competitive grants. In addition, DHCS will distribute up to \$4.4 billion in competitive Bond BHCIP funding, including \$3.3 billion for Round 1: Launch Ready grants as part of [Behavioral Health Transformation \(/BHT/Pages/home.aspx\)](/BHT/Pages/home.aspx), DHCS' work to implement [Proposition 1 \(https://www.mentalhealth.ca.gov/\)](https://www.mentalhealth.ca.gov/). DHCS holds regular public listening sessions on this effort. Updates and recordings of the sessions are available on the [Behavioral Health Transformation webpage \(/BHT/Pages/Stakeholder-Engagement.aspx\)](/BHT/Pages/Stakeholder-Engagement.aspx).

ABOUT BHCIP ROUND 5: CRISIS AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONTINUUM: [BHCIP Round 5 \(https://www.infrastructure.buildingcalhhs.com/grantees/crisis-and-behavioral-health-continuum/\)](https://www.infrastructure.buildingcalhhs.com/grantees/crisis-and-behavioral-health-continuum/) was developed, in part, through a statewide needs assessment that identified significant gaps in available crisis services. This assessment showed the need for a better crisis care system to reduce emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and incarceration. The 33 awards, totaling \$430 million, are being used to build and expand crisis care and behavioral health facilities statewide and will serve vulnerable Californians of all ages, including Medi-Cal members.

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