

Counties are uniquely positioned as regional providers of the full range of services needed by homeless individuals and those on the brink of homelessness. Addressing homelessness remains a top legislative priority for the California State Association of Counties (CSAC).

## Spotlight: Placer County

# Delivering Whole Person Care

### What is Whole Person Care?

A five-year county-lead pilot program, **Whole Person Care (WPC)** provides coordinated health, behavioral health and social services for at-risk clients. Specific target populations include individuals recently released from institutions or incarceration, those with mental illness or substance use disorders, and those who are currently homeless or at risk of homelessness. There are currently 24 WPC pilot programs in 26 counties across the state, with more than 130,000 individuals receiving services as of June 2019.

In Placer County, a concerted effort is underway to focus on chronically homeless individuals who have traditionally needed assistance from a variety of agencies and programs.

As one of 26 counties participating in the State's Whole Person Care pilot program, Placer County has developed a custom-designed program to provide intensive case management through four different service bundles:

- ▶▶ **Complex Comprehensive Care Coordination** – Comprehensively assessing each participant and develop a treatment plan so participants can focus on goals that are meaningful to them.
- ▶▶ **Housing** – Assisting participants in finding housing, training them on how to become good tenants and other assistance as needed.
- ▶▶ **Engagement** – Focusing on building a positive relationship with program participants so they will be open to receiving additional services as needed.
- ▶▶ **Medical Respite** – Offering a six-bed facility that provides individuals a place to stay after being discharged from the hospital so they can heal and not have to return to the hospital or end up on the street.



"Placer County gave us the strength to move forward. They helped us out when we needed it and they were there for us."

*Donovan,  
Program  
Participant*



### Counties with WPC Programs:

Alameda, Contra Costa, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Riverside, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Solano, Sonoma, and Ventura.



"It's a client-centered program. If they are looking for help with mental health issues, with substance abuse issues...if they are looking to improve social-support systems, if they want help getting a job, there's a wide range of things we are willing to help them with."

*Geoff Smith, Program Manager for Whole Person Care, Placer County*



Finding affordable housing can be extremely difficult, especially for individuals who have been homeless and may be dealing with mental health or substance abuse issues. Whole Person Care staff help individuals search for appropriate housing within their budget, fill out applications and meet with landlords, and help them learn how to be good renters. Once a client has obtained housing, county staff connect them to community resources to help them achieve independence and maintain stable housing.

## FACTS

- The 2019-20 State Budget allocated \$100 million in the General Fund to counties to continue to invest in flexible housing services for those living with mental illness and who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- Currently, 26 counties are participating in the State's Whole Person Care pilot program.
- Placer County's WPC program focuses on individuals with unique needs – focusing on only about 100-150 at any one time, projecting to serve about 450 high-risk individuals over the first five years of the program.



**California Counties – Driven to Serve** is an ongoing profile of the important work of California's counties: helping Californians most in need. California's 58 counties deliver critical services to 39 million residents, including public health and social services, homeless supportive services, juvenile and foster care, behavioral health and addiction treatment, public safety, criminal justice and emergency services.

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Farah McDaid Ting  
CSAC Legislative Representative, Health Policy  
(916) 327-7500 Ext. 559 | [fmcting@counties.org](mailto:fmcting@counties.org)



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