



## Early Psychosis Intervention Plus Issue Brief

### Purpose

The Early Psychosis Intervention (EPI) Plus Advisory Committee will consider options for the allocation of the remaining \$5,565,000 in EPI Plus funding.

### Background

The Commission's 2019-2020 budget includes \$19,452,000 to expand the provision of high quality, evidence-based early psychosis and mood disorder detection and intervention services in California. These funds will support the goal of moving California from a stage 4 crisis response system to a stage 1 early intervention system of care. Individuals who have experienced a first episode of psychosis benefit from early intervention, which can reduce the negative outcomes of untreated mental illness.

In January 2020, the EPI Plus Advisory Committee developed strategies for the allocation of funds, including scaling up effective programs which are successfully implementing the core components of the Coordinated Specialty Care model with fidelity and providing technical assistance and training to support the successful adoption of the model. The Coordinated Specialty Care model is a recovery-oriented treatment program which promotes shared decision making and uses a team of specialists who work with clients to create individualized treatment plans.

The Commission approved the RFA outline on February 27, 2020 and a total funding of \$15,562,000 with each grantee receiving \$2,000,000. The approved outline also included \$3,890,000 set aside for evaluation, training, and technical assistance efforts. The RFA was released on April 20, 2020 in a competitive bid process. In response to the challenges brought on by COVID-19, the due date was extended from June 26, 2020 to July 17, 2020.

In August of 2020 it was determined that the applicants with the highest scores were Kern, Lake, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, and Sonoma county. The Commission awarded grants to these five counties at their August 27, 2020 meeting. While it was anticipated that the Commission would provide eight awards, only five applications were received. As a result, the Commission asked that the EPI Plus Advisory Committee reconvene to consider options for allocating the remaining funds and to provide the Commission with a recommendation at the October 22, 2020 meeting.

County	Grant Amount	Undistributed Amount
Kern	\$1,999,924	
Lake	\$1,999,966	
San Francisco	\$2,000,000	
Santa Barbara	\$2,000,000	
Sonoma	\$1,996,144	
No applicant	\$0	\$2,000,000
No applicant	\$0	\$2,000,000
No applicant	\$0	\$1,562,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$9,996,034</b>	<b>\$5,565,966</b>

Several options could be considered to support the goals of the EPI Plus program. Some of these options include:

- Issue another procurement and release the RFA again in hopes that additional counties would be in a better position to apply.
- Allocate the funds equally to each of the five awarded counties. This would be an additional \$1.1 million each and would increase their funding from \$2 million or \$3.1 million.
- Allocate additional funding to technical assistance efforts. TA funding is currently set at 20% of the overall budget.
- Use the funds to incentivize current grantees toward program implementation goals.
- Utilize the 10% of EPI Plus funding that can be dedicated to clinical research on EPI programs.
- Issue another procurement which allows counties who have no previous EP program experience to apply.
- Invest in the development of early psychosis regional centers of excellence.