



## Spotlight on EPI Plus - Kern

### County Name:

Kern County

### Budget Allocation:

\$1,999,924 Million Dollars

### County Program Information & Summary:

KernBHRS' EP program is fragmented. Through the use of this grant, KernBHRS would like to piece together existing EP programming into a Hub and Spoke model that will streamline EP through a central access point and provide a warm handoff into the appropriate system of care within KernBHRS. The goal is to move towards a more organized system that has a strong emphasis on Coordinate Specialty Care (CSC) for EP. This approach will also create a means to track individuals receiving care more easily for EP.

Furthermore, this grant will allow KernBHRS to expand efforts in multiple areas. One area of focus is incorporating other minority subgroups. Currently, KernBHRS has only penetrated the Spanish Speaking and LatinX community for services. KernBHRS would like to also be able to focus on increased outreach to Asian & Pacific Islanders, African Americans & Blacks, LGBTQ, School aged Youth, etc. Another area for enhancement would be regarding the educational formats and opportunities, as mentioned with MHFA and NAMI for family/ caregiver psychoeducation.

Additionally, a large emphasis in expansion efforts will aim to add an EP bilingual outreach and education worker with lived experience and an EP system navigator to the KernBHRS Outreach and Education team. These two positions will be filled by individuals that have experience with KernBHRS and understand the complexities of programming within the department. Some of the responsibilities would include assist, with the support and oversight from the Medical Director, in knitting together the current EP programming. These tasks will help to create a more collaborative and streamlined EP program with extensive outreach, education, fast tracking into care for psychosis, and a follow-along care-through approach of a collaborative team.

Lastly, KernBHRS would like to expand efforts that include programming comparable to NAVIGATE. Additionally, KernBHRS would like to increase resources for individuals with EP or their first episode of psychosis (FEP) along with their family members to improve psychological and functional well-being.