



Spotlight on EPI Plus – San Francisco

County Name:

San Francisco County

Budget Allocation:

\$6,341,655 Million Dollars

County Program Information & Summary:

The San Francisco Early Psychosis Plus program will utilize the funding to enhance, expand, and fill gaps in the quality and capacity of its existing early psychosis system. The program has several significant gaps and unmet needs. Among the most significant of our region's current gaps are the following:

- There are many more young people experiencing or at risk for early psychosis who could benefit from our program's services.
- Because of the high level of ethnic and linguistic diversity in our region, the addition of new bilingual / bicultural staff would provide effective services to more youth and families whose primary language at home is not English.
- Our program could benefit from the expanded incorporation of substance use assessment and treatment at all levels of project services.
- While youth and family peers are already extensively involved in the development and implementation of early psychosis services at Felton, this involvement could be significantly increased, in turn supporting even greater engagement, participation, and retention in project services by both young people and their families.
- Expanded and enhanced community education and outreach would help more families and youth-serving agencies and adults identify young people exhibiting symptoms of early psychosis, while informing them of the resources available through Felton Institute and the SF TAY System of Care.
- The use of emerging telehealth and telepsychology approaches - including systems available through smart phone-based apps - has the potential to greatly expand both the participation and the long-term retention of young people and families in early psychosis intervention programs.

The overarching goal of the proposed Early Psychosis Intervention Plus program is to reduce the Duration of Untreated Psychosis (DUP) in youth, TAY, and young adults living in San Francisco, California. Among other outcomes, the proposed reduction will lead to a significant decrease in the severity of early psychosis symptoms, an overall reduction in client suffering, and an increase in the chance for clients to achieve full recovery and remission of symptoms, and to experience a meaningful and happy life.