



Spotlight on EPI Plus – Santa Barbara

County Name:

Santa Barbara County

Budget Allocation:

\$3,839,909 Million Dollars

County Program Information & Summary:

Currently the program serves clients aged 18 to 21 who are often moved from Children's System of Care to Adult levels, which may not meet all of the clients' needs. The goal of the program is to serve FEP clients ages 16 to 25 within a TAY-specific program that can offer support beyond two years.

While many staff members are trained on CBT, a goal is to have all staff who may encounter FEP clients be trained on CBT and other evidence-based tools, including screening tools to appropriately identify clients for the program to ensure appropriate coverage as the program grows. Areas that need specific attention include access to clozapine and other anti-psychotic medications with proper medication management supports, implementation of a peer provider program, explicit admission requirements, standardized screening procedures and creating opportunities for client support systems to receive education about psychosis and actively engage in the treatment process with their person. In addition, it is important for staff to gain specific training on providing family education and facilitating support groups for FEP clients and their families/support system members.

Additionally, grant funding will allow the program to expand services by hiring additional staff and securing training resources needed to support the activities outlined in the component descriptions below. The program will identify and train most of the CSC staff, establish the Multi-Disciplinary Team, improve the timeliness of contact with referred clients and outreach when they have missed an appointment. The program will also review pharmacotherapy process, increase education and initial outreach efforts, ensure there is sustainable and appropriate client to staff ratios, begin to enhance provisions for clients to access a full range of services including increasing family engagement/groups and building social and community living skills.

The current FEP program lacks formalized structure (due to a lack of appropriate staffing levels and coordination) and services are generally provided in an ad hoc manner. Current and new clients will benefit greatly from the implementation of a formalized CSC program, creating a foundation for providing services in a coordinated, integrated method.