



## STAFF ANALYSIS - FRESNO COUNTY

**Innovation (INN) Project Name:** Community Program Planning Process  
**Total INN Funding Requested:** \$750,000  
**Duration of Innovative Project:** 5 Years

### **Review History:**

Approved by the County Board of Supervisors: June 2019  
County submitted INN Project: 5/30/2019  
MHSOAC consideration of INN Project: Delegated Authority

### **Project Introduction:**

Fresno County requests authorization to use up to \$750,000 of Innovation funding over 5 years (\$150,000 per year) to support the Innovation-related Community Program Planning Process (INN related CPPP). The County is proposing to contract with a marketing/communications firm to conduct focus groups on specific populations (African American adults and youth, Spanish speaking adults, Hmong speaking adults, older adults, LGBTQ TAY and adults, and caregivers) with whom the County has had difficulty engaging. Fresno County also will utilize social media as an additional strategy to engage local stakeholders who may be more comfortable using this form of media rather than providing input in person. Finally, the County intends to conduct ongoing evaluation of the INN-related CPPP in order to draw from and apply lessons to improve both the INN planning process and the program planning process in the other MHSA components.

### **Summary**

The Mental Health Services Act specifies that each county may spend up to 5 percent of their respective, total MHSA allocations on the CPP process. The Act and regulations further *require* every county to ensure that the CPP process is adequately staffed, that a diverse set of stakeholders participate in the process - including persons with lived experience, and that appropriate training is provided to participants to enable more meaningful participation. Additionally, authority to spend INN funds on INN-related CPPP has precedence. The California Department of Mental Health previously advised counties as to the maximum amount of INN funds they could apply to INN-related CPPP during the initial (2008-09 and 2009-10) roll-out of the Innovation Component. The Department

of Health Care Services is not opposed to counties using INN funds for the CPPP if the Commission approves budget authority for that purpose.

Fresno County has clearly stated in their proposal they have conducted community forums and paper and online surveys; however, they have struggled in obtaining adequate attendance or substantial community input despite these modified approaches.

Fresno's annual INN funding for 2019-20 and future years is approximately \$2.5 million to \$2.6 million ; \$150,000 per year equates to approximately 5.8-6.0 percent of that annual INN revenue.

Community program planning for Innovation is more difficult than community planning in other areas. Budgeting more than the 5 percent can be justified.

Fresno County's project plan does not indicate that a formal community planning process was conducted in support of this project, however, the County indicates that their stakeholders want to be included and that their input be considered in creating meaningful innovative projects. As a result, Fresno County proposes to develop a more robust and innovative stakeholder process that meets the needs of their communities.

If Fresno County's request is approved, they will create an amendment to their Annual Update which will be finalized by their Board of Supervisors in late June. The County also reports that they will reflect these expenditures for their community planning process for all components in their next annual revenue and expenditure report as well as the next three-year plan (FY 2021-2024).

This proposal was shared with the Commission list serve and stakeholder contractors on June 3, 2019. No letters of support or opposition were received.

Fresno County plans to share its learning from this new, and more informed community program planning process by sharing the following outcomes with their local communities:

- advertising that was utilized
- number of community members who participated
- number of community events planned
- target populations for those events
- projects that were supported
- efforts that ultimately yielded INN projects

### **Additional Regulatory Requirements**

*The proposed project appears to meet the minimum requirements listed under MHSA Innovation regulations; however, if Innovation Project is approved, the County must receive and inform the Commission of this certification of approval from the Fresno Board of Supervisors before any Innovation Funds can be spent.*