

Immigrant and Refugee Stakeholder Advocacy Contracts

The Commission's budget includes approximately \$2 million in funding for competitive bid contracts to support mental health advocacy on behalf of immigrant and refugee populations. The intent is to ensure that there is meaningful stakeholder involvement at both the state and local level and that funds are provided to ensure advocacy, outreach, and education and training. Summaries of the current contracted stakeholder partners are included below.

Hmong Cultural Center of Butte County

Contract: Immigrant/Refugee (Superior Region)

<https://www.hmongculturalcenter.net/index.html>

Hmong Cultural Center of Butte County is a partnership with the Butte County Behavioral Health and California Department of Public Health, Office of Health Equity, California Reducing Disparity Project to help Hmong families and individuals recover from mental health illness through comprehensive and culturally appropriate interventions utilizing both Western and traditional support to reduce mental health. It also provides weekly recreational groups and direct services resulting in navigation of immigrants and/or refugees to community resources, Butte County Behavioral Health, and healthcare check-ups.

The specific outcomes that HCCBC is working toward are:

- Increase in culturally competent mental health care services;
- Increase in linguistic mental health resources;
- Increase in accessible mental health resources; and
- Mental health advocacy to community members.

African Communities Public Health Coalition

Contract: Immigrant/Refugee (Los Angeles Region)

<https://africancoalition.org/>

The African Communities Public Health Coalition (ACPHC) specifically works with communities of African descent, including populations such as refugees, asylum seekers, undocumented individuals, and human trafficked African-born immigrants. These populations have suffered the consequences of dislocation due to events such as war, natural disasters, and other dangerous conditions that have led them to flee their homeland and seek asylum in the United States. They represent the full spectrum of the African Diaspora: Ethiopian, Eritrean, Sierra Leonean, Ghanaian, Nigerian, Guinean, Liberian, Cameroonian, Sudanese, Somali, Kenyan, Ugandan, and those of Caribbean descent.

ACPHC advocates for African populations, with the goals of:

- Bridging the gap between these communities and the highly stigmatized physical and mental health services they need;
- Identifying the gaps and solutions to ease of access to services that are culturally competent and encourage resilient mental wellbeing.

- Advocating for a proficient system that allows refugees and immigrants to gain decision making powers; and
- Participation in formalized political structures in the interest of promoting policy-level changes that will benefit the accessibility and relevance of mental health services for African Americans, and African immigrants and refugees.

Vision y Compromiso

Contract: Immigrant/Refugee (Bay Area Region)

<http://visionycompromiso.org/>

Visión y Compromiso's (VyC) advocacy, training and education, and outreach and engagement programs reach primarily low-income, un/underinsured, and mostly Spanish speaking Latina/o women, men and multigenerational families originating from throughout Mexico and Latin America. VyC is committed to community well-being by supporting a network of health and community workers called *Promotoras(es)*, who are primarily Latina women immigrants and/or refugees. The network includes diverse job titles such as peer educators, system navigators, outreach workers, advocates, community health workers, and are collectively referred to as Promotores.

VyC reaches people in non-threatening and non-stigmatizing locations and provides the Promotores with culturally and linguistically relevant core skills training that supports them to deliver personalized, culturally responsive and in-language messages. Most Promotores are engaged in community outreach, education and resource sharing roles.

VyC's goal is to increase engagement and participation of immigrants and refugees that is client and family driven, culturally competent, and collaborative in design. This will be achieved through:

- A range of training, education, advocacy;
- Outreach activities that encourage systems change; and
- Increased engagement, access and linkage to quality mental health services and supports for the identified population.

Healthy House Within a MATCH Coalition

Contract: Immigrant/Refugee (Central Region)

<http://healthyhousemerced.org/index.html>

Healthy House provides local-level advocacy and a multidisciplinary approach to cross-cultural health to increase awareness of and access to mental health resources to the identified populations by providing professional interpreters, translators, and cultural brokers, offering services in 19 languages (Hmong, Mien, Lao, Mandarin, Cantonese, Tagalog, Portuguese, Spanish, Punjabi, Farsi, Dari, Marathi, Hindi, Urdu, Assyrian, Ukrainian, Russian, Arabic, and Japanese) to physical, dental and mental healthcare facilities. The goals of Healthy House include:

- Meeting with local Behavioral Health and Recovery Services to improve effectiveness of Awareness and Access Campaign to respective communities;
- Meeting with other county level decision-making entities to more effectively collaborate on MH needs of respective communities, and scheduling presentations for decision-making bodies on strategies/recommendations to meet those needs;

- Translating and trans-adapting culturally and linguistically responsive materials with clear, simple messaging to promote awareness of and access to mental health resources, in consultation with spiritual and community leaders for each respective community;
- Utilizing ethnic radio, ethnic television, cultural events and social media to promote increased Awareness and Access Campaign.
- Move cultural communities to incorporate their traditional healing practices into good mental health practices and physical health habits using the concept of “cultural cure”;
- Increase the number of culturally and linguistically responsive materials developed through translation and trans-adaptation of critical messaging around awareness of and access to mental health services;
- Increase the number of traditional spiritual and clan leaders willing to participate in mental health awareness and access campaigns;
- Increase the number of activities and programs that provide relief to cultural elders suffering from depression, isolation, and other mental health issues

Boat People SOS, Inc.

Contract: Immigrant/Refugee (Southern Region)

<https://www.bpsos.org/>

The overarching goal of Boat People SOS-Center for Community Advancement (BPSOS-CCA) is to reduce long-term negative impacts of mental health disparities on Vietnamese immigrants and refugees resulting from untreated serious mental illness.

The objectives for the three-year program are:

- To improve the capacity of mental health service providers to provide timely services for refugees and immigrants through local-level advocacy;
- To improve cultural and linguistic competency and the diversity of the health related workforce through training and education;
- Increase public awareness of the significance of health disparities, their impacts on the nation, and the actions necessary to improve health outcomes for racial, ethnic, and underserved immigrant and refugee populations, by providing culturally and linguistically appropriate outreach engagement and information;
- Improved quality of life;
- Decreased health disparities for underserved immigrant and refugees