



## STAFF ANALYSIS - FRESNO COUNTY

<b>Innovation (INN) Project Name:</b>	<b>Full-Service Partnership Multi-County Evaluation</b>
<b>Total INN Funding Requested:</b>	<b>\$950,000</b>
<b>Duration of Innovative Project:</b>	<b>4 Years</b>

### **Review History:**

Approved by the County Board of Supervisors:	June 18, 2019
County submitted INN Project:	May 30, 2019
MHSOAC consideration of INN Project:	Delegated Authority

### **Project Introduction:**

Fresno County is requesting approval of \$950,000 to participate with other counties in an evaluation of full-service partnership (FSP) programs in order to determine if there are any best practice models for successful FSPs. To date the State has not successfully engineered a learning community across FSP implementations to drive collective learning and improvement. This project aims to include multiple counties to examine how FSPs can focus on an “outcomes-oriented” yet client-centric approach. Additionally, the project will support systematic statewide learning that will identify and drive wider adoption of proven approaches to reduce FSP consumers’ rates of criminal justice involvement, homelessness, unnecessary hospitalizations, and other negative consequences of unmet or under-met mental wellness needs.

### **The Need**

Within the Community Services and Supports (CSS) component of the MHSA there are three service delivery systems. One of them, Full-Service Partnerships (FSPs) is integrated, “whatever it takes” combinations of community-based, voluntary services and strategies, built around the needs and goals of mental health consumers themselves. The core goals of these programs are to improve wellness and reduce the negative outcomes associated with severe mental illness through active partnership between clients and their service providers.

FSPs represent the greatest single program expenditure category and serve the populations with the highest mental health needs in the community. Each County is required to allocate 80% of its MHSAs funds to CSS programs, 51% of that is required to be allocated to FSPs. Nearly \$2 billion has been allocated statewide to FSPs in 2018-2019, including \$41.6 million in Fresno County across eight FSP programs. Yet despite this large expenditure for MHSAs programs there is no statewide effort to describe best practices for FSP programs, and no clear model for data collection or analysis.

## **The Response**

Fresno County is currently participating in a Commission-sponsored FSP Classification “proof of concept” study with three other counties. However, this study is not looking at the full range of FSPs and does not include studying FSPs serving children. This innovation project proposes to support multiple counties to reframe their FSPs around an “outcomes-oriented” yet client-centric approach to support statewide learning. The new evaluation is intended to have a broader scope and it is anticipated that information from this study will serve all counties in terms of developing, designing and operating, (p 3) best practice FSPs.

This Innovation project will establish a process for collecting and analyzing data to allow counties to make outcome-driven decisions, provide incentive-based services, and improve the quality of FSP services. Fresno plans to join a collaborative of approximately 10 other counties that will contract with Third Sector Capital Partners to develop a process for the following:

1. The project will support counties in establishing an FSP framework for data collection and evaluation that demonstrates a consistent FSP service model across all counties;
2. This project will assist counties in planning for the implementation and piloting of outcomes, focused changes to FSP data practices (e.g., changes to data reporting requirements, new continuous improvement processes, service design improvements, outcomes-oriented contracting, and outcomes measurement);
3. Facilitate ongoing cross-county collaboration and learning through training, workshops, and webinars;
4. Explore opportunities to connect and validate FSP outcomes using data from state agencies with databases and/or oversight of criminal justice, homelessness and health;
5. Create a cohesive vision for recommended changes to state-wide FSP data requirements that will better support counties in understanding who FSP services, what services they receive, and the outcomes that the clients ultimately achieve.

LA County Department of Mental Health has already begun a project to research FSPs with Third Sector Capital Partners with support from UCLA.

## **The Community Planning Process**

The Commission's recent analysis of criminal justice involvement among FSP partners shows a reduction in arrests during partnership. But much is still not understood about what components of FSPs reduce criminal justice involvement. Innovation funding could be invested to explore models to strengthen FSPs so that criminal justice involvement is prevented.

Fresno County leadership discussed the possibility of developing this plan to evaluate FSP programs and contract with Third Sector and other counties in January 2019. Fresno County submitted a letter of support advising the Commission of its interest in joining the FSP Multi-County collaborative on March 8, 2019.

On April 30, 2019, this project was included in a Summary of Changes to the Annual Update, which had originally been posted for public comment on April 15. The County then held a public hearing of its Behavioral Health Board on the Annual Update, including the project, on May 15, 2019. There were no public comments or objections to the intent to use of Innovation funds on this project. The draft is scheduled to go before the Fresno County Board of Supervisors for final approval and adoption on June 18, 2019.

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

## **Learning Objectives and Evaluation**

Fresno County seeks to support a number of counties in the development of a learning collaborative centered on improving full-service partnership projects through the development of improved data collection methods and metrics. This project is administrative in scope, and will target the FSP population, however, no estimated number of individuals that will be served was identified.

A number of envisioned activities and deliverables have been identified by the County, such as developing formal criterion for best practices for FSP models, fidelity evaluation processes, as well as the development of a blueprint for data collection. These activities will be further developed with Third Sector Capital Partners.

Fresno County states that the evaluation for the Full Services Partnership is still being developed, but that the evaluation will be developed through a "consensus" with partnering counties. Without the full scope of the full-service partnership plan, it is difficult to determine whether the evaluation steps proposed by Fresno County are in line with or meet the evaluative needs of the partnership.

## **The Budget**

The County is seeking authorization to spend \$950,000 for this Innovation project over a 4 year period. The County is allocating \$40,000 (.04% of the total budget) for staff travel and \$69,963 (.07% of the total budget) for county administration. The balance (\$840,037)

of the innovation funds currently being requested are allocated for the multi-county project and evaluation.

## **Comments**

**As part of the regulatory requirements, the County should ensure that the following items are included in the innovation proposal to be submitted by Third Sector Capital Partners in partnership with the counties:**

- **Provide a timeline with milestones**
- **The County is encouraged to discuss their community planning to include the extent of their involvement in all initial conversations, plans, and development of the evaluation needs of the Full-Service Partnership innovation plan**
- **The County is encouraged to discuss how the findings and lessons learned from this project will be disseminated and shared statewide**

## **Additional Regulatory Requirements**

The proposed project appears to meet the minimum requirements listed under MHSA Innovation regulations.

## **References**

[Link to Fresno County Three Year Plan](#), retrieved June 1, 2019

Statewide Full Service Partnership (FSP) Outcomes Report, can be provided upon request