

DRAFT

May XX, 2021

The Honorable Alex Padilla
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Humboldt County Crisis Stabilization Unit Youth Treatment Project

Dear Senator Padilla:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I'm writing to urge you to support our County's request for \$575,000 in Congressionally Directed Funding for the Crisis Stabilization Unit Youth Treatment Project.

Funding for this project would be used to rehabilitate Humboldt County's Crisis Stabilization Unit and inpatient Psychiatric Health Facility in order to accommodate the treatment of minors. The County currently has waivers from the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to treat minors at the Crisis Stabilization Unit and Psychiatric Health Facility but is unable to exercise them due to constraints with the physical layout of the units. Moving the Crisis Stabilization Unit downstairs and converting the vacated space into a wing of the Psychiatric Health Facility available to youth will allow the County's Health & Human Services Department to securely separate minors from adults patients, increase overall bed capacity, optimize bed utilization, and allow the County to stay in compliance with the conditions of the waiver from the state DHCS.

This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars as it would address unmet needs for youth mental health crisis services, which are of critical importance to the local community. Currently, Humboldt County must transfer minors out-of-county for inpatient mental health treatment. Transferring minors for out-of-county care is extremely costly and separates youth from their families and support systems, increasing trauma and inhibiting recovery.

Again, Humboldt County strongly supports this project and we urge you to seek fiscal year 2022 appropriations to help fund this important work.

Sincerely,

Virginia Bass, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

Requesting Entity Staff Contact Information – Phone Number and Email:

Connie Beck, Director
Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services
cbeck@co.humboldt.ca.us
707-441-5400

Title of Project:

Humboldt County Crisis Stabilization Unit Youth Treatment

Departmental Priority:

1. Project Name

Humboldt County Crisis Stabilization Unit Youth Treatment

2. Amount of Federal Funding Requested for the Project

\$575,000

3. Total Cost of Project and breakdown of funding sources (Detail all local, state and/or private funds. Are these funds secured, expected, or you are still seeking?).

County/state realignment funds: in-kind staff time \$120,000 (secured)
Federal funding request: \$575,000 (seeking)

4. Possible Congressional Subcommittee

Rural Development / Rural Community Facility Grants

5. General Project Description

Expand the county crisis stabilization unit in order to accommodate minors.

6. Project Justification (Need for the project).

The project is needed in order to treat minors at the county Crisis Stabilization Unit and inpatient Psychiatric Health Facility. Currently, the county must transfer minors out-of-county for inpatient mental health treatment. Transferring minors for costly out-of-county care separates them from their families and support systems, increasing trauma and inhibiting recovery.

The county currently has waivers from the California Department of Health Care Services to treat minors on the Crisis Stabilization Unit and inpatient Psychiatric Health Facility but is unable to exercise them due to constraints with the physical layout of the units. Moving the Crisis Stabilization Unit downstairs and converting the vacated space into a wing of the Psychiatric Health Facility available to youth would

securely separate minors from adults patients, increase overall bed capacity, optimize bed utilization and allow the county to stay in compliance with the conditions of the waiver from the state DHCS.

7. Justification for why the project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds and is a public benefit.

The unmet need for youth mental health crisis services is of national importance.

8. Explanation of how federal funds will be spent (for example on equipment, construction, labor, etc.)

Direct construction costs, labor, materials, permitting fees.

9. List of Any Stakeholder Groups or Elected Officials Who Support the Request

Humboldt County Behavioral Health Board
State Senator Mike McGuire (likely support)
Local hospitals and Emergency Departments (likely support)

Agency: Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services

Project: Crisis Stabilization Unit Youth Treatment

Budget Breakdown:

Revenue Source		Project Budget	Comments
Fed	\$482,000	Construction	Constuction materials and labor
Fed	\$53,000	Arctitectural design	Schematic and design development
Fed	\$40,000	Building fees, permits and inspections	Water, sewer, hazmat, inspections, licensing, fees and permits
Local	\$120,000	Staff	County staff for RFP development, constuction oversight and administration
	\$695,000	Total	
	-120,000	County match	
	\$575,000	Federal aid needed	