

Prevention and Early Intervention Fast Facts

- **The Mental Health Services Act (Proposition 63 or MHSA)** was approved by voters in November 2004 and enacted into law on January 1, 2005.
- **Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI)** support services, funded by MHSA dollars, are designed to prevent mental illness and emotional disturbance from becoming severe and disabling and improve timely access for persons underserved.
- **Currently**, 49 counties have approved funding for PEI totaling over \$338 million.
- **As a result of PEI funding**, all counties with approved PEI Plans are establishing prevention and early intervention programs for children and youth.

PEI programs are focused on:

- Children and youth in stressed families
- Trauma exposed individuals and families including veterans
- Underserved ethnic and cultural populations
- Individuals experiencing the onset of serious mental illness

PEI Programs are intended to improve access to mental health services for persons underserved and reduce the negative effects of untreated mental illness such as:

- Suicide
- Incarceration
- School failure or drop out
- Removal of children from their homes
- Homelessness
- Unemployment
- Prolonged suffering

Since the passage of Prop. 63, more than 100,000 Californians have participated in community planning efforts to identify local mental health needs and program priorities. Maintaining PEI funds over the next two years is critical to the successful realization and implementation of these local programs.

Examples of current PEI Programs include:

- **Los Angeles County** has a School-based Services Project that includes building resiliency among children, youth, and their

families; identifying children early on who have risk factors for mental illness; and providing on-site services to address non-academic problems that impede successful school programs.

- **Stanislaus County** has expanded access to mental health services by locating clinicians in primary health care clinics serving underserved cultural communities. To ensure continuity of care to children/youth, adults, and older adults at risk of depression and suicide, this integration project will also interface with the county's other PEI projects.
- **San Francisco County** has La Cultura Casa, a project that provides trauma recovery services to youth under 18 and their families to reduce the negative outcomes of street and gang violence.
- **Orange County** established programs for children in stressed families to keep children in the home and in school. These include programs for children living in families that are impacted by domestic violence, trauma, homelessness, divorce, and unemployment.
- **Butte County's** Older Adult Suicide Prevention, and Education Program reaches out to older adults who are experiencing depression, anxiety, complicated grief and/or loss, trauma, medication misuse, overuse or mismanagement to help people remain in their homes and reduce negative outcomes such as suicide and hospitalization.
- **San Luis Obispo County** has established the Launch Program for at-risk youth, including homeless youth. This program provides connections to housing and other critical services to support youth gaining and maintaining employment.
- **San Diego County** has a PEI Veterans, Active Duty Military, Reservists, National Guard and Their Families (VMRGF) Program to provide confidential peer-supported services to the VMRGF community for those at risk for developing mental illness. The program includes peer counseling, linkages to additional mental health services, and a VMRGF hotline with the goal of increased referrals to mental health organizations.