

## **Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI)**

### **General Overview**

In 2004, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) allocated \$444.5 million for WET. These funds supported counties and HCAI to enhance the public mental health workforce. In 2008, \$234.5 million was set aside from the total \$444.5 million WET allocation for the state administration of WET programs. From 2008 to 2013, the former Department of Mental Health administered the first Five-Year Plan of \$119.8 million. The responsibility for administering the Plan was transferred to HCAI in 2013. Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5820, HCAI develops and administers statewide programs to increase the number of qualified personnel in the Public Mental Health System (PMHS) serving individuals who have serious mental illness.<sup>9</sup>

HCAI and CBHPC collaborated to develop the 2020-2025 MHSA WET Five-Year Plan, which is the third in a series of required Five-Year Plans. The new WET Plan reflects best practices and frames a workforce development continuum ranging from grades K-12 through clinical graduate or medical school with increased coordination at the local level. In January 2019, CBHPC approved the 2020-2025 WET Five-Year Plan.<sup>10</sup>

The 2019 Budget Act allocated \$25 million in one-time MHSA funding and \$35 million in one-time General Fund to implement the 2020-2025 WET Five-year Plan. As of June 30, 2020, the Administration reverted \$20 million of the General Fund approved in the 2019 Budget Act for the 2020-2025 WET Program, and replaced the reverted General Fund with \$20 million in MHSA funding from the State Administration Account. This amount is available for encumbrance or expenditure until June 30, 2026.

To implement the 2020-2025 WET Plan, HCAI awarded \$40 million in grants for the Regional Partnership (RP) Grant Program and \$16.1 million for the Psychiatric Education Capacity Education (PECE) program.

The 2020 Budget Act reappropriated \$7.2 million to extend the encumbrance or expenditure period until June 30, 2021. The reappropriation continues support of the 2014-2019 WET Five-Year Plan.

### **Program Overview**

#### **Stipend Program**

#### **Program Description**

HCAI contracts with educational institutions to provide stipends for graduate students seeking to become mental health professionals in exchange for working 12 months in the PMHS. Beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21, HCAI administered this program through the MHSA RP Grant Program.

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<sup>9</sup> A percentage of positions are distributed among programs.

<sup>10</sup> The full WET Five-Year Plan is located [here](#).

## Program Outcomes

In FY 2019-20, HCAI supported two educational institutions that awarded 38 stipends, of which 50 percent of the students were from under-represented communities, and 52 percent spoke a language in addition to English.<sup>1</sup>

## Regional Partnership Grant Program

### Program Description

HCAI awarded \$40 million in grants to the MHSA RP in FY 2020-21 to implement the RP Grant Program. HCAI required RPs to commit to a 33 percent match of local funds to support the activities in the RP Grant Program. The RP program funds five WET RPs responsible for administering programs that oversee training and support to the PMHS workforce in their region.

Each RP has one or more of the following components: pipeline development, undergraduate college and university scholarships, clinical Master and Doctoral graduate education stipends, loan repayment programs, and retention activities.

### Program Outcomes

In FY 2020-21, RPs have begun ramping up their programs. In FY 2021-22, RPs are projected to award 64 scholarships, 162 stipends, 762 loan repayment grants, and support 1,110 pipeline participants and 7,890 retention activity participants.

## Psychiatric Education Capacity Education (PECE) program: *Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)*

### Program Description

HCAI developed a new PECE program for increasing the capacity of Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) training programs. HCAI funds PMHNP education training programs to increase their capacity to train PMHNP students and provide clinical rotations in the PMHS.

### Program Outcomes

In FY 2019-20, the program supported six training programs to co-locate 108 PMHNP students and staff in the PMHS. HCAI awarded \$4.4 million in PECE grants to four training programs in FY 2020-21 that are projected to add 296 PMHNP slots over a five-year period.<sup>2</sup>

## Psychiatric Education Capacity Education (PECE) program: *Psychiatry Residency Program*

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<sup>1</sup> Awarded in FY 18/19 using ENY 2018 appropriation

<sup>2</sup> Awarded in FY 18/19 using ENY 2018 appropriation

### Program Description

HCAI funds psychiatry residency training programs to increase their capacity to train residents/fellows and provide clinical rotations in the PMHS.

### Program Outcomes

HCAI awarded \$11.7 million in PECE grants to three training programs in FY 2020-21 that are projected to add 36 residency/fellowship slots over a five-year period.<sup>11</sup>

### *Peer Personnel Training and Placement Program*

#### Program Description

HCAI funds organizations that support individuals with lived experience as a mental/behavioral health services consumer, family member, or caregiver placed in designated peer positions within the PMHS. Grantees conduct recruitment and outreach, career counseling, training, placement, and six months of support services.

#### Program Outcomes

In FY 2019-20, HCAI awarded grants to five organizations to recruit, train, and place a projected 508 individuals in peer personnel positions across 27 counties. In FY 2020-21, HCAI awarded grants to five organizations to recruit, train, and place a projected 557 individuals in peer personnel positions across 40 counties. HCAI intends to award more grants in FY 2021-22.

### *Mental Health Shortage Designation Program*

#### Program Description

The Mental Health Shortage Designation Program identifies communities experiencing mental health professional shortages as defined by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration. The shortage designation allows mental health sites and individuals to draw down federal and state funds to support workforce development through student loan repayment programs: National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program and the State Loan Repayment Program.

#### Program Outcomes

As of February 2021, HCAI facilitated federal approval of 8 new Mental Health Professional Shortage Area (MHPSA) designations, bringing the total to 273. There are 13.6 million Californians living in these designated MHPSAs.