

# **Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency**

*Healthy People, Healthy Communities*

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## **Press Release**

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### **MHSA Funds \$1.2 Million for Ukiah Housing Mendocino County Homeless With Serious Mental Illness To Benefit**

The County of Mendocino Health and Human Service Agency, Mental Health Branch has an initial Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) allocation of \$1.2 million in housing acquisition funds to award to a qualified applicant. The purpose of the funds is to acquire and operate permanent supportive housing in the Ukiah area for adults with severe and persistent mental illness who are homeless or are at-risk of becoming homeless, or are coming back home to Mendocino County from higher levels of care (hospitals and out-of-county board and care).

“We are very excited to be moving forward with the purchase of permanent housing and with providing MHSA recovery and community integration services to those who have, in the past, had no other choice but to be “institutionalized” due to lack of local services, “ said Susan Era, Director of the Adult and Older Adult System of Care.

Era went on to explain, “President Obama, through the *American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)*, has made available additional funding for low-income housing development through the California Department of Housing and Community Development. The timing is perfect in order to match MHSA housing dollars with ARRA funding to increase the amount of units we can create for our clients. “

In order to award the MHSA funds to a qualified applicant, HHS Mental Health Branch is issuing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) on August 31, 2009. The RFQ has two components. The primary component of \$1.2 million dollars is for entities interested in owning and managing

the housing. The secondary component is for provision of MediCal funded supportive services for the tenants. An applicant can submit qualifications for one or both components.

The MHSA Housing RFQ is available at <http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/mh/> starting August 31. There will be a pre-submission Question and Answer Meeting on September 15, 2009, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM, at the County of Mendocino Social Services, Adult and Older Adult Division, located at 747 South State Street, Ukiah. Written responses to the questions will be posted on the website.

The Mental Health Services Act was passed by voters as Proposition 63 in 2004 with services funded via a 1 percent annual tax on individual net income over one million dollars. Services are for those with the most serious types of mental illness. Services are voluntary and the type of support is decided by the consumer. Hope, responsibility and recovery are key elements of the Act and services.

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