



Peer Workforce Investment (PWI) and Expanding Peer Organization Capacity (EPOC) Grant Closeout Celebration

Presented by: PWI/EPOC Administrative Entity (AE) Team
Behavioral Health Workforce Development (BHWD)

Monday, December 9, 2024



Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

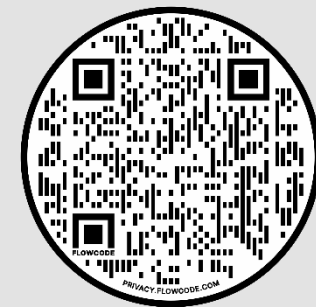
- We respectfully acknowledge that we live and work in territories where indigenous nations and tribal groups are traditional stewards of the land. Our California office resides in Tongva territory.
- Please join us in supporting efforts to affirm tribal sovereignty across what is now known as California and in displaying respect, honor, and gratitude for all indigenous people.

Whose land are you on?

Option 1: Text your ZIP code to 1-907-312-5085

Option 2: Enter your location at <https://native-land.ca>

Option 3: Access Native Land website via QR Code



Community Agreements

- Be present and be an active listener.
- Remember: One mic, one voice.
- Practice inclusivity.
- Honor pronouns and gender identity.
- Show respect (this may look different for each person).
- Allow conflicting perspectives to exist.
- Assume best intentions.
- Take space, make space.
- Share what you are comfortable sharing.
- Protect individual privacy.
- Practice self-care.
- Encourage growth of self and for others.
- Support resource sharing.



BHWD Initiative: PWI and EPOC AE Team

Advocates for Human Potential (AHP)



Susan Lange
BHWD
Program Director



Tammy Bernstein
PWI/EPOC
Project Director



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PWI/EPOC
Lead Grantee Coach



Rosy Larios
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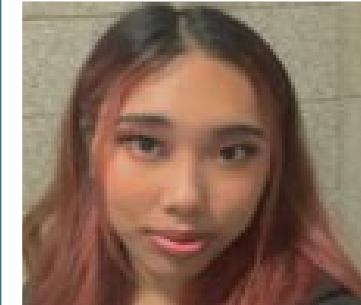
Rachael McDavid
PWI/EPOC
Grantee Coach



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Operations Specialist



Krislyn LaCroix
BHWD
Operations Specialist

Agenda



1. Moment of Silence
2. Grant Overview
3. Data Highlights
4. Grantee Accomplishments
5. Thank You and Good Luck
6. Important Reminders
7. Q&A and Final Reflections

1. Moment of Silence



Moment of Silence

Please join us in taking a brief moment of silence to acknowledge those who are no longer with us but have impacted our time with the PWI/EPOC grant. This includes former staff or board members, volunteers, community members, and clients. We are grateful for each of them and the meaningful contributions they made to this important work. Thank you for participating in a pause of quiet reflection.



2. Grant Overview



PWI/EPOC Grant Funding Purpose

The **PWI** and **EPOC** grant programs are components of the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) BHWD Initiative and funded with American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funds granted to California from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

PWI and EPOC are part of DHCS' broader efforts to **expand California's behavioral health workforce** through the BHWD Initiative, which seeks to improve access to and productive participation in behavioral health services across the state.

PWI and EPOC are part of DHCS' charge to implement SB 803 to help ensure that behavioral health peer providers are prepared to become **state-certified Peer Support Specialists (PSS)**.

Priority was given to PWI and EPOC applicants who were working with **underserved communities, individuals with high needs, and marginalized groups**.

PWI/EPOC Rounds 1 and 2 Grantee Map



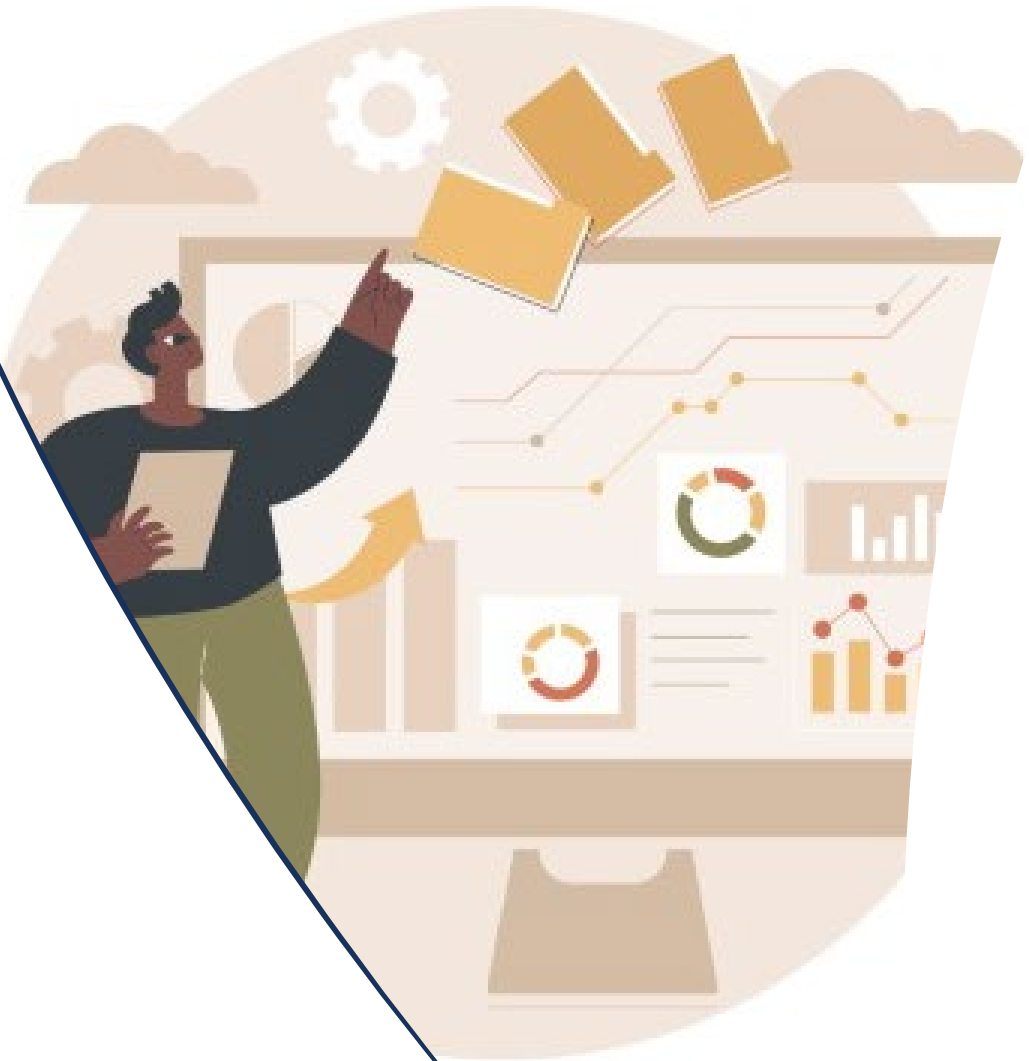
PWI/EPOC Project Overview

Projects were designed to:

- Expand **peer-run organizational capacity** to provide peer services for mental health and substance use disorder recovery supports and behavioral health services.
- Build the preparedness of established and emerging peer service providers so they are ready to **deliver services under the Medi-Cal Peer Support Services benefit** in every California community.
- Empower peer-run programs to realize their full potential, including through **strategic planning and management support**.
- Elevate the recognition of peer-run behavioral health organizations as **critical extensions of care and essential components of California's behavioral health workforce** to extend peer services and impact throughout the state.



3. Data Highlights



Our data tells us that, during your time as PWI and EPOC grantees, your organizations successfully . . .



1)
Increased
recruitment and
retention of
behavioral health
staff in your
organizations.



2)
Increased quality
of behavioral
health services
and service
providers through
staff training/cert.



3)
Increased
accessibility of
behavioral health
services in your
communities.



4)
Increased
utilization of
behavioral health
services by
vulnerable
populations.

HOW did PWI and EPOC grantees successfully increase RECRUITMENT and RETENTION of their staff?



- 1)
Increased recruitment
and retention of
behavioral health staff in
your organizations.



Increasing Staff Retention and Recruitment

1,333
Total Staff Onboarded

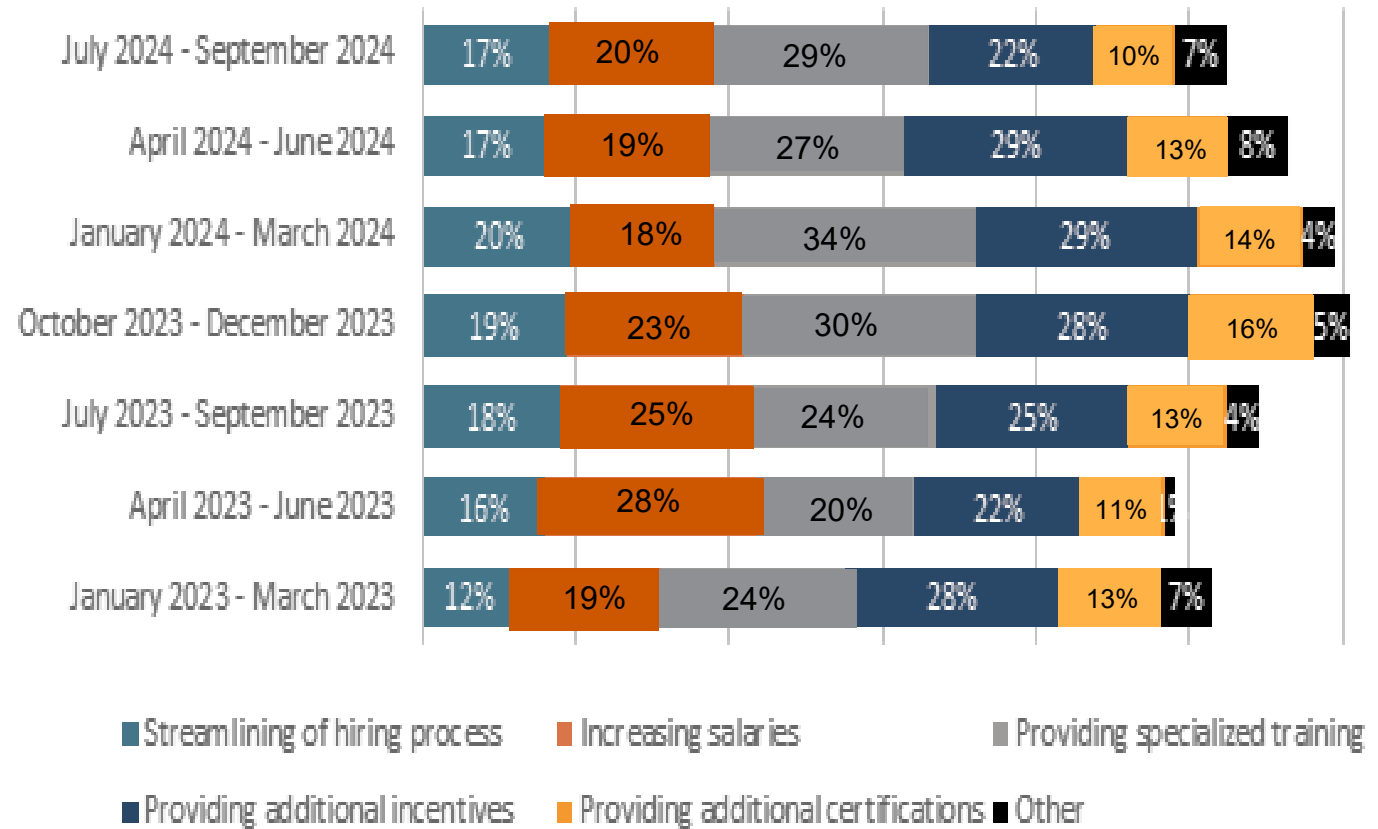
152
Total Staff Promoted

Overall increase in full-time staff identifying as peers (comparing Round 2 to beginning of Round 1).

Increase in number of staff receiving promotions in Round 2 compared to Round 1.

More specialized trainings implemented as a strategy to increase staff retention in Round 2 compared to Round 1.

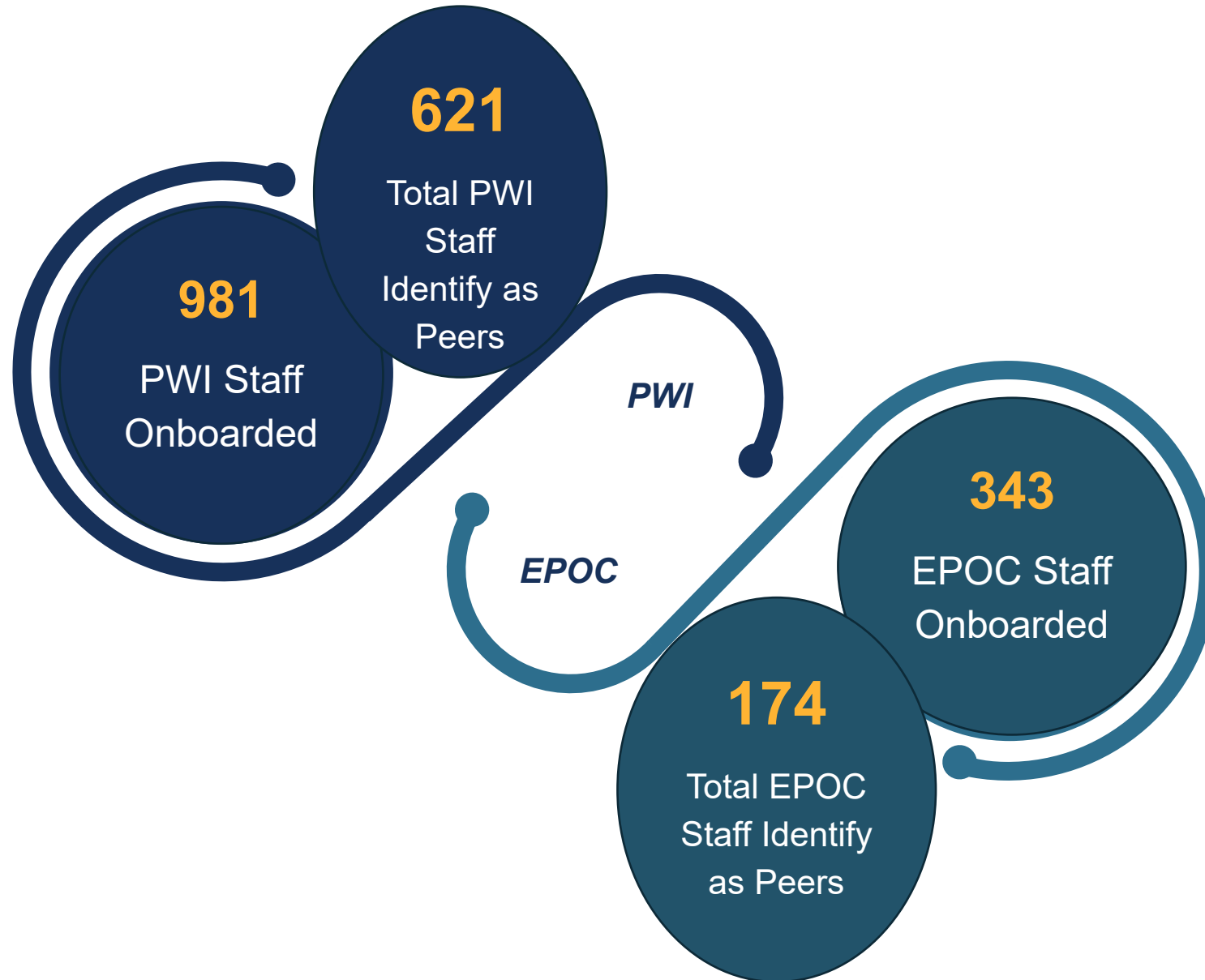
Retention Strategies by Reporting Period





Increasing Staff Recruitment

981 PWI staff onboarded from April 2022 to September 2024, with 330 staff onboarded in Round 2 alone!



343 EPOC Staff Onboarded from April 2022 to September 2024, with 162 staff onboarded in Round 2 alone!

HOW did PWI and EPOC grantees successfully increase behavioral health service QUALITY provided to their communities?

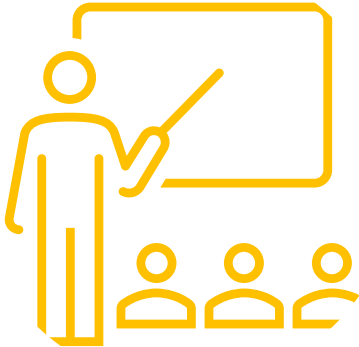
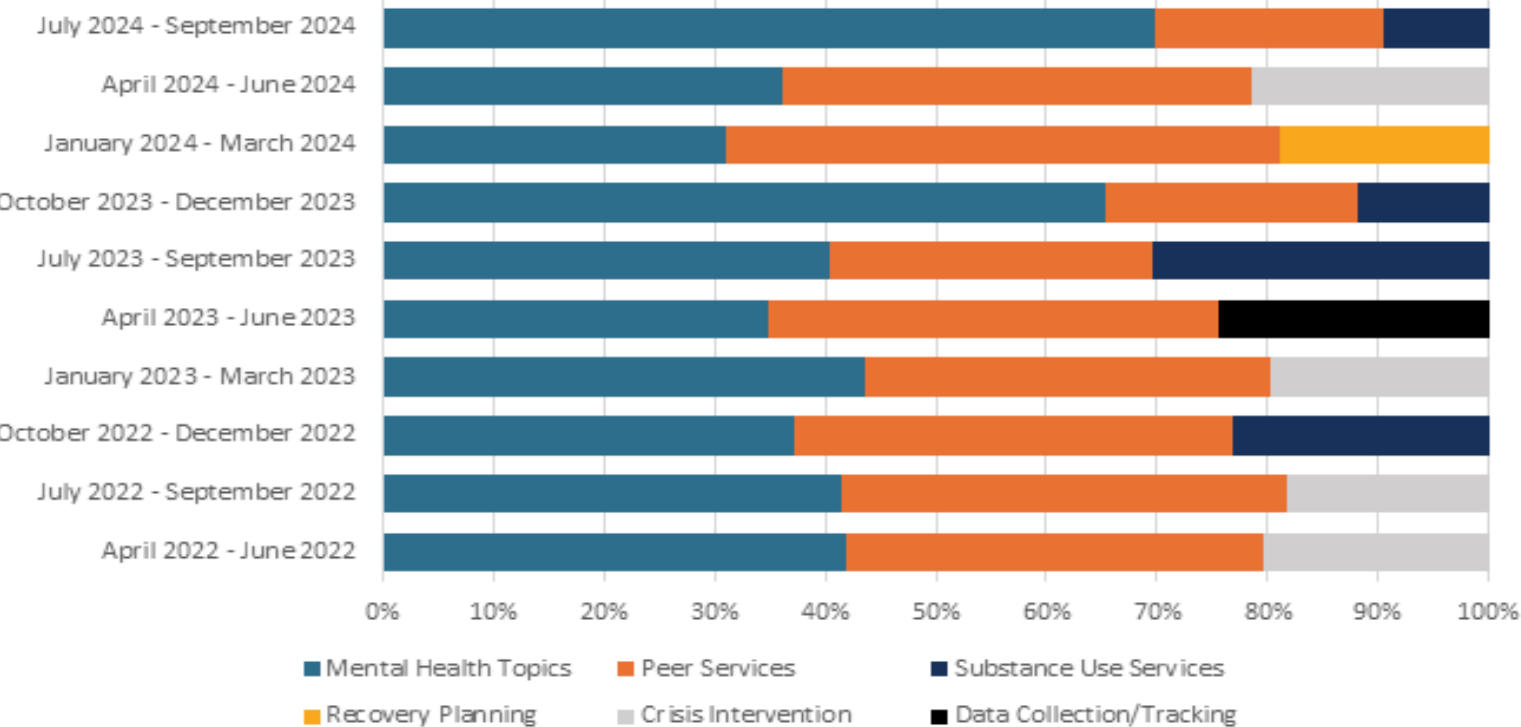


**2)
Increased quality of
behavioral health
services and service
providers through staff
training.**

Increasing QUALITY Through Staff Training

13,102
Total Staff Attending Individual Trainings

Top 3 Staff Training Topics by Reporting Period

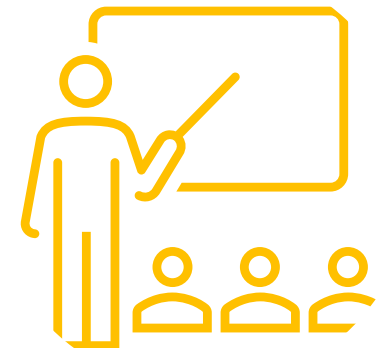


Increasing QUALITY Through Peer Certification

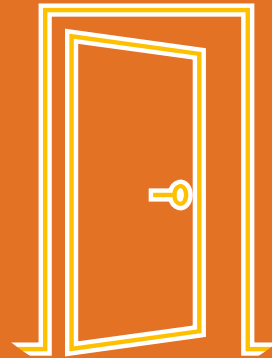
In **October 2024**, PWI sites reported 134 of their site staff received PSS Certification through the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA), and EPOC sites reported certifying 19 of their site staff.

19
Peer Staff
Certified at
EPOC Sites!

134
Peer Staff
Certified at
PWI Sites!

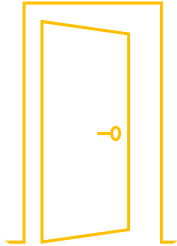


HOW did PWI and EPOC grantees successfully increase ACCESSIBILITY of services in their communities?



**3)
Increased accessibility
of behavioral health
services in your
communities.**

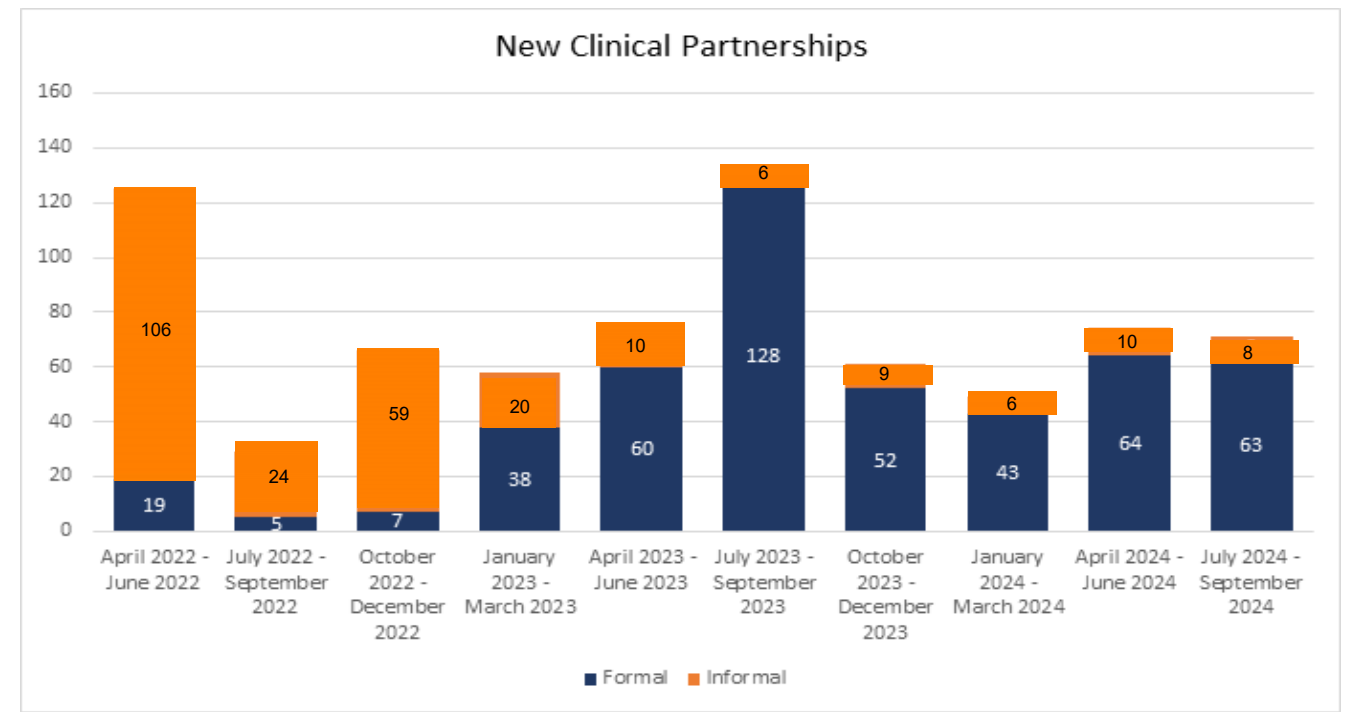
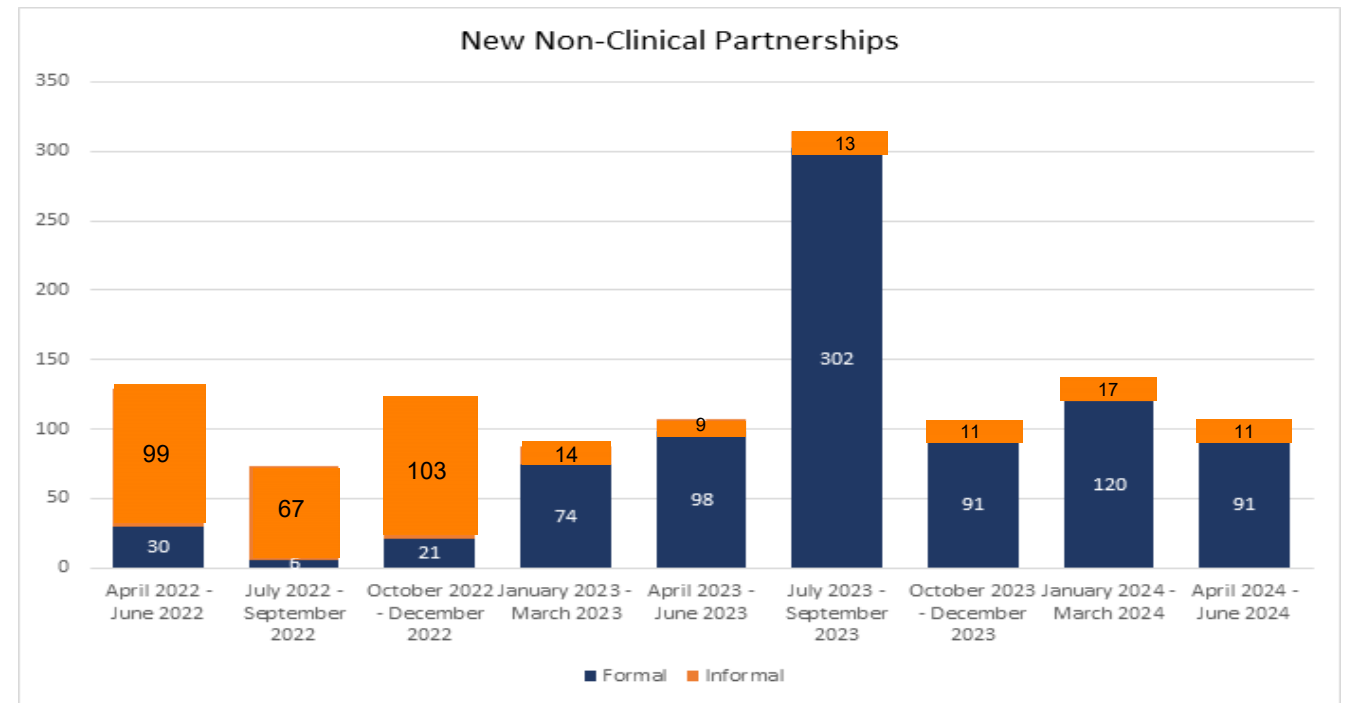
Increasing Behavioral Health Partnerships



Partnerships more than doubled in mid-2023 service periods of PWI/EPOC!



Grantees increased formal partnerships over the two years.



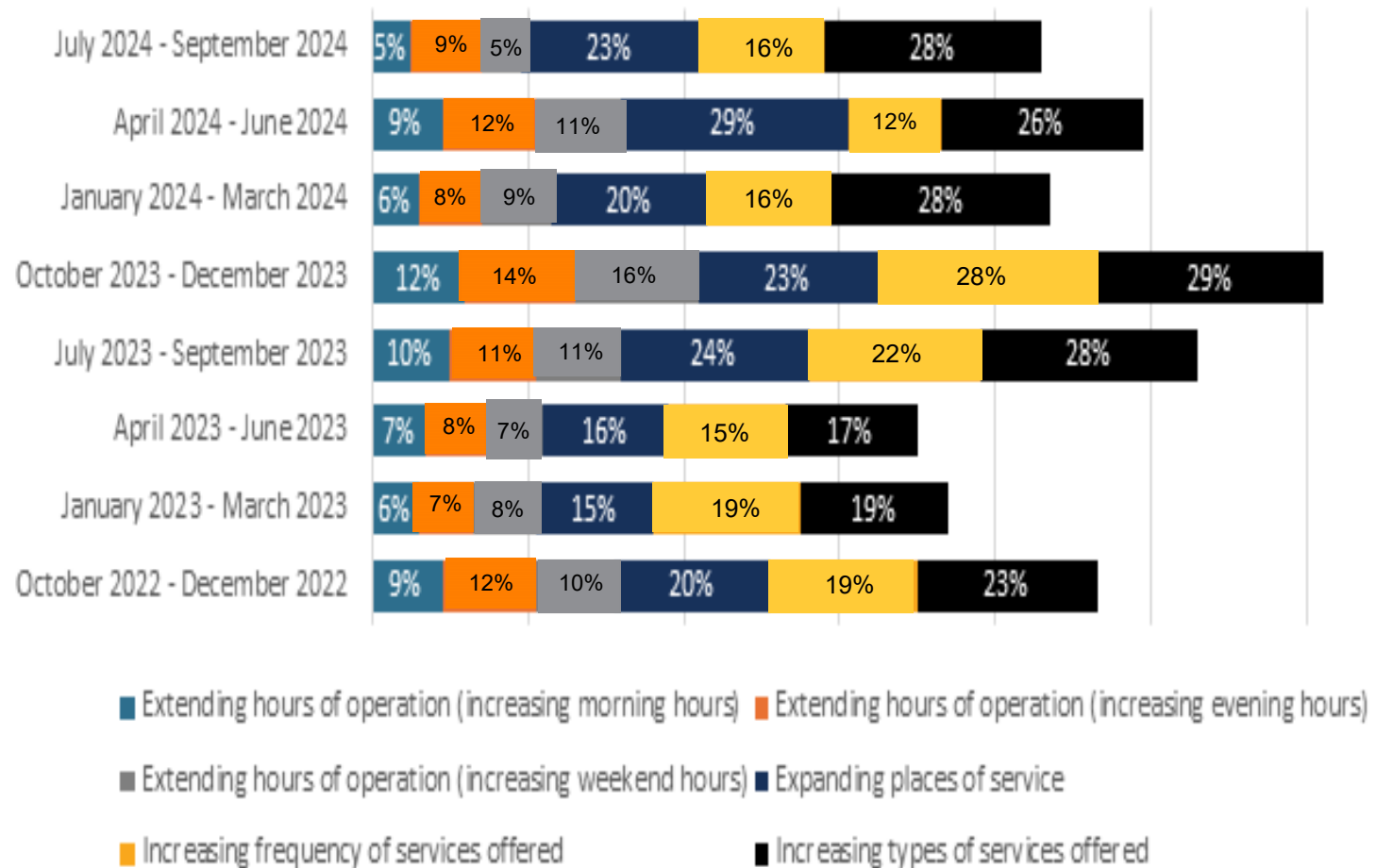
Implementing Specific Organizational Changes

Over the two years, more grantees increased service accessibility by increasing the types of services they offered.

They also increased accessibility by expanding places of service.

More grantees increased accessibility by increasing the frequency of their services in Round 2 compared to Round 1.

Efforts Implemented to Increase Accessibility of Services by Reporting Period



Increasing Diversity and Languages Spoken Among Your Staff to Better Reflect Your Communities

Individuals



PWI/EPOC Individuals Served

Staff



PWI/EPOC Staff

HOW did PWI and EPOC grantees successfully increase UTILIZATION of services in their communities?



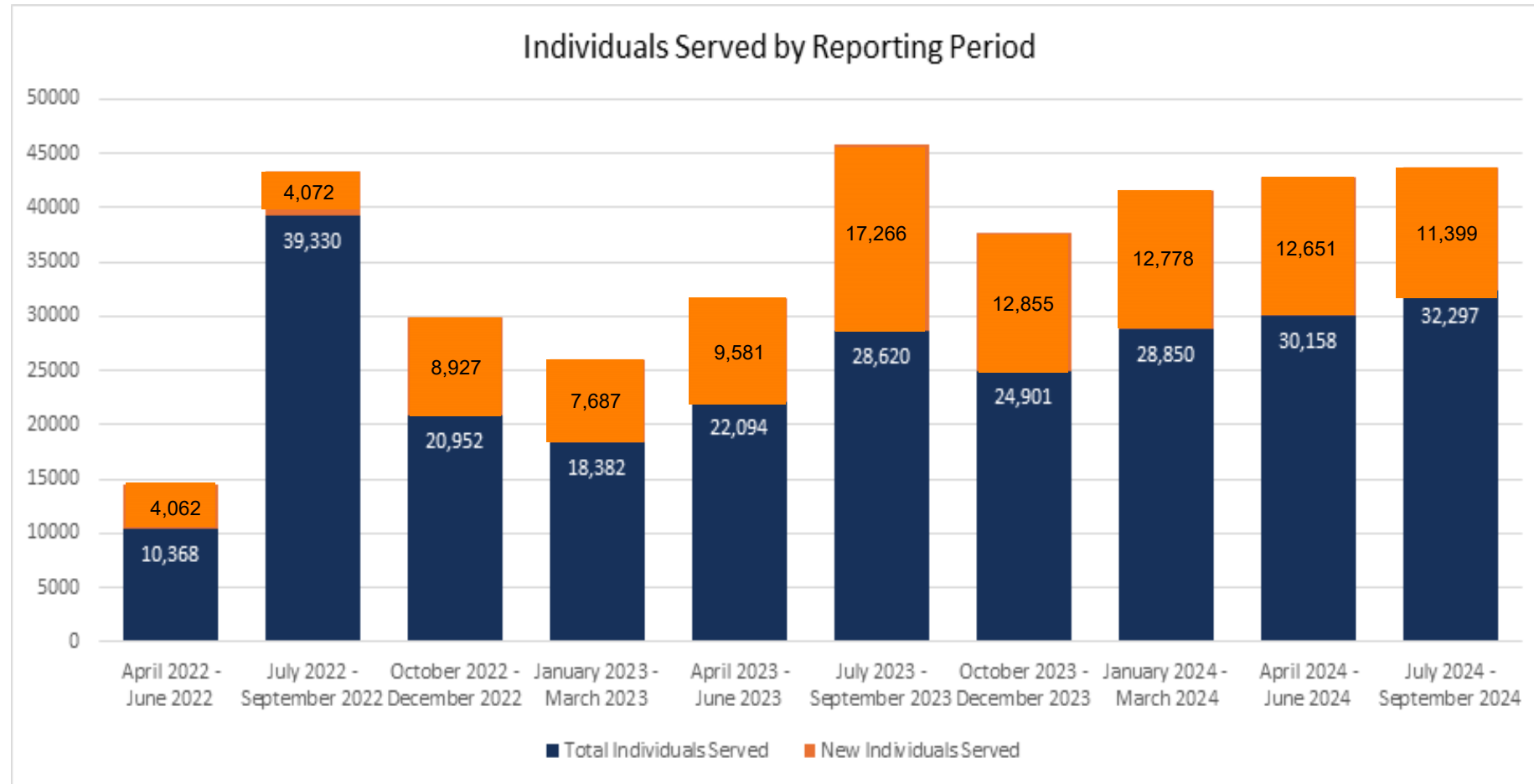
**4)
Increased utilization of
behavioral health
services by vulnerable
populations.**



Service Utilization

The number of new individuals served more than doubled from 04/2022 to 07/2024.

The number of individuals served increased over the last two years, with **166,920** individuals served in Round 2 alone!





Services Received from PWI and EPOC Organizations

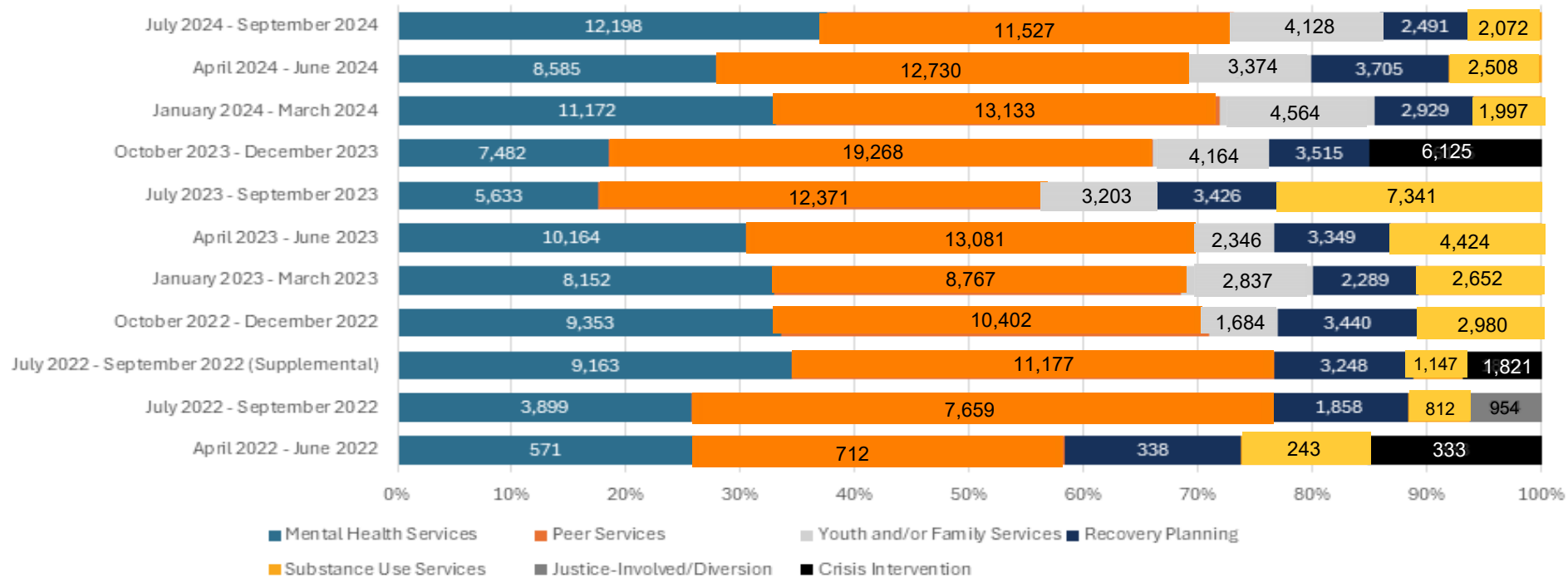
Several services offered to individuals directly saw a steady increase over the two years:



Mental Health Services, Youth and/or Family Services

All services saw an increase in individuals using them in Round 2 compared to Round 1.

Top 5 Services Received by Individuals Directly



4. Grantee Accomplishments



Grantee Accomplishments

To celebrate the culmination of the PWI and EPOC grant, we will now take some time to acknowledge some of the successes from the past few years!

Each of the following slides will include one Grantee Accomplishment and one Grantee Coach Kudos.

Please feel free to use Zoom reactions and send praises in the Zoom chat, but remain muted for the duration of this section.

Thank you!



LA Recovery CONNECT



Grantee Accomplishment

“LARC is expanding its Programs/Workshops. We’ve trained and educated 2000+ people to reverse an overdose and distributed 5000+ doses of naloxone. Due to the hire of our Development Director, we were able to find and secure the [Nonprofit Sustainability Initiative] Exploratory Grant in collaboration with The Happier Life Project. Together our orgs are exploring the most effective way to provide grief support to those who have lost a loved one to substance use related death.”



Kudos from Grantee Coach

“LA Recovery Connect broadened its community through board recruitment, relationship building with external stakeholders, and holding a successful LARC LIFE Annual Event in September.”





MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH NOW
supporting the well-being of growing families

Grantee Accomplishment

“In Round 1, we were able to hire and train a peer supporter allowing us to have the capacity to provide peer support in both English and Spanish Monday through Friday. Now with two certified Medi-Cal peer supporters we are able to better meet community needs in a culturally congruent manner. We have also seen a large increase in callers as we have partnered with other community-based organizations and entities in Los Angeles County, offering ourselves as a free non-clinical option to birthing people and their families. This includes formalizing relationships via [memoranda of understanding].”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“Maternal Mental Health NOW expanded its technology and follow up data collection to better evaluate its programs while utilizing partnerships to branch further out into the community.”





Grantee Accomplishment

“Successfully had 10 staff complete the certified peer specialist training to prepare to take the certified Medi-Cal PSS exam.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“Consumers Self Help Center has expanded its community by developing 10 new partnerships as well as hosting a Wellness Summit for the Sacramento Area.”





 **Grantee Accomplishment**

“We enthusiastically provided guidance and support to our hired coaches, ensuring they received the necessary educational resources and assistance. This empowerment enabled them to gain the qualifications needed to thrive and succeed in their roles within this dynamic and rewarding field.”

 **Kudos from Grantee Coach**

“Compatior largely enhanced their organization’s efforts on community advocacy leading to many new county, local, and state partnerships, and received additional resources for recovery support. Compatior was able to become [Drug Medi-Cal] certified and opened a new site to promote employee well-being and workplace culture.”





KINGS VIEW

Grantee Accomplishment

“Kings View is a part of the Warm Line team, which was able to present numbers for call volumes and contacts increased so negotiations with Tulare County and Kings County went well. The County has given us a new contract with additional staff for both Counties with additional funding for salary increases and a year of funding which at that time we will revisit to see about including some Medi-Cal billing to the program.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“Kings View-Porterville, has been persistent in pipeline creations and workplace culture for their staff which has led to having a high increase in staff retention. Kings View has also been working on negotiating a county contract to increase the number of staff in the organization, after this grant ends.”





KINGS VIEW

Grantee Accomplishment

“In response to the work that has been done, we received an offer from Tulare County to expand the PATH Outreach Team contracted by Tulare County opening up more positions and being funded for an additional year which will absorb the current PWI staff and promote them to Outreach Specialists becoming financially stable.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“Kings View-Tulare successfully established partnerships with local community organizations to increase services by providing housing, mental health, and job placement services. Tulare was able to house over 20 individuals experiencing homelessness.”





We've been there. We can help.

Depression and Bipolar
Support Alliance

CALIFORNIA

Grantee Accomplishment

"We have hosted hundreds of vital peer-facilitated support groups. We have recruited, trained, and mentored several dozen peer mentors from across the state."

Kudos from Grantee Coach

"Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance California has made significant strides in organizational development, improving many of their systems and processes. They have hired several important positions, recruited new board members, established a centralized electronic repository for grant-funded expenditures, implemented a financial management policies and procedures manual, created a monthly newsletter, and updated their mailing system, website, and reporting procedures."





 **Grantee Accomplishment**

“We are proud to announce the successful development and implementation of a series of mental health activities tailored specifically for students. These activities include, but are not limited to, the ‘Bliss Challenge’ and ‘Daily Check-Ins.’ These initiatives were carefully crafted to address the unique challenges faced by young individuals, promoting mental resilience, emotional intelligence, and overall well-being within our educational settings.”

 **Kudos from Grantee Coach**

“HCIS has shown tremendous commitment to developing their staff and equipping them with knowledge, skills, and abilities to be able to better serve their community. These professional development opportunities have included trainings for CalMHSA Peer Support Specialist certification, [California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI)] wellness coach certification, CalAIM cultural awareness, naloxone, functional therapy, NHSA baby safe surrendering, and more. They also complete a course breakdown after completion and share with other staff members for continued learning.”





Grantee Accomplishment

“In Round 2, we achieved Clubhouse International accreditation, supported by grant funding that covered the cost of essential training and outreach materials needed for effective distribution.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“BPSR Escondido Clubhouse has worked hard to increase their community presence through the collaboration of both staff and members through various creative outlets including a Scavenger Hunt fundraiser, clubhouse tours, Halloween window painting partnership event, Art Show Open House, lunch and learns, and various community outreach efforts.”



Helping Youth Learn, Heal & Thrive!

Grantee Accomplishment

“Fulfilling our goal of hiring, training, and certifying ten Certified Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialists.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“After fulfilling their goal of hiring and supporting the certification of 10 Peer Support Specialists, Gateway recognized the value of peers in the community, connecting with partnering organizations for outreach and services to youth offering groups in schools.”





Mental Wellness Center
FOR YOUTH, ADULTS, FAMILIES & COMMUNITY

 **Grantee Accomplishment**

“We were able to have all of the staff take the California Peer Certification class. All but one staff have completed and passed the state exam. We are proud to say 5 staff are certified and we are working with the one staff who still needs to complete some of the requirements.”

 **Kudos from Grantee Coach**

“Mental Wellness Center expanded their services to include art classes, support groups and field trips for their clients while enhancing [Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP)] and utilizing a satisfaction survey for program evaluation.”





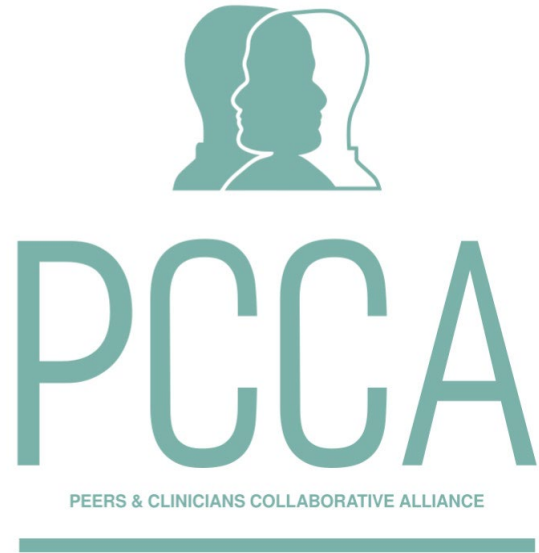
Grantee Accomplishment

“With the support of this grant, we have full staffing and were able to hire significant leadership staffing (Operations Manager, Human Resources). We also launched a new website, rebranding of organization and launched a data collecting management tool.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“Peer Wellness Collective has made many advancements in its infrastructure from board development to creating Operations Manuals, hiring for multiple positions and formalizing staff training.”





Grantee Accomplishment

“Through this grant, we were able to launch a new learning management software, a new website and start on a marketing campaign.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“Peers and Clinicians Collaborative formed as a nonprofit just this past year and increased their presence in the community through presentations and outreach.”





Grantee Accomplishment

"We have expanded our employees by double."

Kudos from Grantee Coach

"Mission Merced N. Street was able to contract with CalAIM-Central CA Alliance for Health, to build N. Street's outreach program and increase funds for Enhanced Care Management (ECM)."



Grantee Accomplishment

“Heart & Soul Inc. worked on enhancing our funding strategies for the organization.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“Heart and Soul Inc. is mission driven and passionate about peer mentorship. Not only have they made an impact and touched the lives of the community they serve but also promote a sense of unity and well-being within the staff of the organization.”





 **Grantee Accomplishment**

“Our [Zuckerberg San Francisco (ZSF)] General Hospital program is now fully funded by the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SF DPH). Our partnership with ZSF General’s psychiatric units was an initial pilot project funded by the Round 1 PWI grant award.”

 **Kudos from Grantee Coach**

“MHASF utilized the financial management worksheets to explore the future fiscal objectives and a reorganization/refocusing on how to best utilize funds and ensure sustainability. MHASF is working on establishing a referral pathway for Medi-Cal eligible participants.”



A Friend in Deed (FIND)



Grantee Accomplishment

“Materials that had been shared by FIND about engaging with ‘difficult to engage’ individuals experiencing long-term homelessness were incorporated as an addendum to a Guide to Supportive Services for Supported Housing providers created by the Ventura County Continuum of Care.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“FIND: A Friend In Deed has successfully represented their community as a strong voice for individuals with lived experience of mental health concerns, substance misuse, experience being unhoused/homeless, and justice-system involvement by organizing advocacy opportunities on the city, county, state, and national level.”

EPOC





Grantee Accomplishment

“HHMA made substantial progress in securing long-term sustainability through strategic contracts and grants, including a contract with LA Care for Asthma Remediation and ECM for 6 populations of focus, and submitted applications for other significant grants like Youth Access, BHCIP, and HRSA. The Health Heroes fundraising campaign was initiated, with major events planned to raise funds for expanding the community clinic and supporting long-term operational goals. We are also awarded COVID-19 R3 Mitigation through early 2025, contract pending execution.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“HHMA has successfully implemented a training pipeline for peers by recruiting youth mentees to participate in their internship program. HHMA has made it a priority to then hire those mentees on as behavioral health peer providers. This has allowed them to expand their services to additional school campuses and build up a diverse staffing pool.”





Grantee Accomplishment

“We were able to contract and partner with San Diego Workforce Partnership to become an internship training program for Peer Support Specialists.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“Peer Professionals of California became an independent 501c3 organization and successfully reconstructed their leadership and organizational structures with a focus on long-term sustainability. They have been able to partner with Neighborhood Networks & San Diego Wellness, which has allowed them to subcontract with Managed Care Plans and DHCS for Medi-Cal Community Health Worker billing.”





Grantee Accomplishment

“Created a peer training program, which is being modified to be presented as valuing peer-run lived experiences and multiple pathways to recovery from mental health and substance use challenges. We learned about the whole MediCal billing fiasco, and did not support this approach, which literally focuses more on money issues and not healing issues. Focusing on our strengths as a peer run organization gives us the grateful empowerment and resilience, which cohesively occurs when we stop insisting, ‘Peer Support Everywhere’ when the most valuable place for it is within each and every peer.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“MHCAN has been expanding in so many ways and adapting as needed such as developing new support groups, providing transportation while internally developing its fundraising abilities to continue its work towards sustainability.”





Grantee Accomplishment

“Teaching Peer Parents how to advocate for themselves in their communities.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“By building community, California Peer Parent Network has created excellent opportunities for parents to act as leaders while advocating for the needs of their families.”





Grantee Accomplishment

“The amount of peer success stories that are directly tied to the funds from EPOC are countless. We had two transgender peers that came in needing services. After seeing the atmosphere that we provide both began volunteering and eventually working on staff. Both employees have moved on to new opportunities due to the experience and references we were able to give them. We partnered with Amazon to help with job placement in our communities. One of our unhoused peers was able to secure a job there and eventually get housing.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“CalPride has done a great job utilizing this grant to fulfill its purpose of creating sustainability by applying for grants, building partnerships and working towards becoming Medi-Cal billable.”

EPOC





Grantee Accomplishment

“The graduation rate for our Mentorship Program has improved to 76%, of whom the eligible clients have completed the steps towards stronger recovery from mental health conditions.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“NAMI Sacramento was able to create a partnership with a Medi-Cal Billable organization and started working with their clients. NAMI Sacramento was also able to certify a few peer staff as Peer Support Specialists.”





mental health recovery
a community • a path • a purpose

Grantee Accomplishment

“We completed the strategic planning and budgeting for the 2024 - 2025 Fiscal Year as a whole clubhouse.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“Through continuous efforts of expanding services, onboarding new staff, and enhancing the training plan for the organization, California Clubhouse was able to receive a three-year upgrade accreditation. California Clubhouse also had a successful fundraising campaign that raised \$20k!”





Grantee Accomplishment

"We were able to start Enhanced Care Management (ECM) service in this department. This will bring in additional revenue for our organization."

Kudos from Grantee Coach

"Mission Merced Pinnacle Drive was able to rent another house to expand bed use and capacity with up to 32 beds. This site has been able to help 25 peers get the necessary documents to obtain permanent housing."

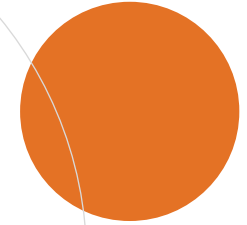


Grantee Accomplishment

“We engaged participants, staff, board, and community stakeholders in developing our organization’s first five-year strategic plan. The process included refining our mission and vision statements and refreshing our core values as well as identifying strategic priorities to guide our leadership in the coming years.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“PEERS leveraged PWI funding to build capacity within their organization. They were able to hold multiple staff retreats to team build, plan for the future, provide training, and monitor progress of ongoing goals. They were also able to support more than 20 staff in getting their Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification.”





Grantee Accomplishment

“Cal Voices was able to revamp the WISE U peer training academy to align with the Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Training core competencies and curriculum requirements. With these updates, Cal Voices was able to apply for and was approved to be a Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Training provider through CalMHSA.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“Cal Voices founded the California Association of Peer Professionals (CAPP), which created a network and support system for Peer Support Specialists in California. Through their dedication to this effort, CAPP now has over 675 members and is able to provide free training and education to peers throughout the state. Cal Voices has been able to leverage PWI funds to market, outreach, develop, and sustain CAPP long-term.”





Community Whole Health Alliance

Grantee Accomplishment

“We have maintained a working relationship with Valley View supportive housing for 2 years and provided ongoing peer support groups, empowering the community with self-compassion, creativity, meditation, dance, and more.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“Community Whole Health Alliance has not only empowered the community with support, advocacy, and resources, they have also been very successful in supporting a diverse staff with varying backgrounds and levels of lived experience. This has had its challenges, but throughout the EPOC grant they have maintained their commitment to being a peer led organization, and fostering a culture that values the whole person, recovery, and wellness.”





Contra Costa County

Grantee Accomplishment

“We’ve advanced our work for African Americans with our continued advocacy for an African American Holistic Wellness Hub. Our staff members have spoken at county meetings and joined decision-making committees, leading to an allocation of \$8.5 million. We are continuing advocacy efforts at Board of Supervisor and Equity Committee meetings to ensure our goal is met.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“NAMI Contra Costa has been a leading voice in their community ensuring representation and resource dedication to African Americans while building their Peer team through partnerships and ongoing training.”





 **Grantee Accomplishment**

“Surmounting the county-wide hiring challenges and hiring full cohorts of interns, some of whom have gone on to work full time for TMHA and achieve Medi-Cal PSS certification.”

 **Kudos from Grantee Coach**

“Transitions Santa Maria has utilized an excellent partnership to train 7 staff as Peer Support Specialists during this past round.”



National Alliance on Mental Illness

Santa Cruz County

Grantee Accomplishment

“With BHWD/PWI funding, NAMISCC was able to strengthen our free mental health services for peers by hiring peer volunteers, thus creating a new paid Peer Leader position at our organization. Through this new employment pathway, peers receive compensation, job support, leadership training, and mentorship. Several Peer Leaders joined NAMISCC’s Ambassadors program, in which they speak to the community about mental health issues and provide guidance and hope to peers early in their recovery journey. NAMISCC now has 14 Peer Leaders facilitating peer programs in English and 2 Peer Leaders facilitating programs in Spanish.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“In addition to offering weekly support groups in Spanish and English, NAMI Santa Cruz dedicated a great [deal] of time growing its partnerships and created a communication plan to branch out further into the community.”





Grantee Accomplishment

“The PWI grant funded 3 new peer positions. The addition of these 3 Cultural Liaisons allowed us to translate our materials, website, resource guides, and training materials to reach diverse communities. The growth of these programs allowed us to secure funding from our county to continue providing culturally congruent services.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“Through this grant, NAMI San Francisco grew its organization and team including the development of an internship program which led to 14 interns graduating, preparing them to further grow in the behavioral health field.”





Grantee Accomplishment

“Painted Brain became an approved Medi-Cal vendor and secured a contract with a Managed Care Plan for Enhanced Care Management services.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“Painted Brain was able to relocate to a larger Community Center space. Painted Brain was also able to implement a Psychiatric Advance Directive educational program across all seven targeted counties. Out of 200 students from their Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) 1 program, [Painted Brain] was able to support 61 students gain/retain placement, with five going from volunteer to paid positions.”





 **Grantee Accomplishment**

“Teens4TeensHelp started out with 5 youth board members and now have over 30 active members and have worked with over 155 teens and young adults during the EPOC grant. Our site has been seen in over 60 countries and used by schools, therapists, and treatment centers. We have gone from having a couple hundred views on our site and informational videos a month, to over 1600 views per month.”

 **Kudos from Grantee Coach**

“Teens4TeensHelp created a Healthy Coping Skills Toolbox aimed to go into wellness rooms across high schools in California. Teens4TeensHelp has also produced monthly ‘Teen Talks’ live webinars and therapy explained videos for youth. These webinars have increased the number of youths seeking services at Teens4TeensHelp and has contributed to a growing number of students wanting to participate in the youth board.”





Grantee Accomplishment

“Schrank’s Clubhouse was able to get over 25 staff and volunteers to complete the Peer Support Specialist Training.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“Schrank’s Clubhouse launched a statewide Peer Support Connect & Collaborate Coalition and created a network partnership with over 200 leaders from community-based peer organizations. This space allowed peers throughout California to advocate, share information, and support each other.”





NOROOZ CLINIC FOUNDATION
NON-PROFIT MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC

Grantee Accomplishment

“We expanded our services to include peer support, now offering 10 peer support groups covering a wide range of topics, including anxiety, depression, anger management, trauma, post-divorce, and addiction recovery. We’ve also partnered with various peer-led groups, most notably Peer Voices United. Together, we co-founded the Peers and Clinicians Collaborative Alliance, which focuses on training both peers and clinicians to collaborate effectively.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“Norooz Clinic Foundation has been dedicated to community outreach throughout the duration of the grant period, hosting free educational webinars, attending community events, and providing affordable and accessible mental health services. Since the start of PWI, they have educated and reached nearly 20,000 community members and participated in & hosted over 400 events!”





Grantee Accomplishment

“We have brought on exceptional staff dedicated to our mission of supporting all veterans with suicide prevention, mental health services, comprehensive care, case management, legal assistance to divest from the criminal justice system, and re-entry services. CVJP offers tailored solutions that empower our clients to succeed and thrive through individualized support.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“Community Veteran Justice Project aimed to serve 30 justice-involved service member/veteran clients each quarter by providing them with appropriate services and support. They surpassed this goal and instead served on average about 30 clients per month!”





Grantee Accomplishment

“We have been very successful in helping clients obtain Social Security cards and birth certificates. Even gaining access for vouchers for birth certificates for LA County’s homeless individuals.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“Safe Refuge established a thorough process to support and train staff as they in turn guide clients through the services and referrals available including a partnership with Department of Rehabilitation, housing services and Recovery Plans.”





National Alliance on Mental Illness

San Mateo County

 **Grantee Accomplishment**

“We have been able to grow our Youth Services programs to provide a more targeted approach to persons ages 13 to 25 in our county, this includes forming a youth advisory committee and increasing the team’s capability in our programs.”

 **Kudos from Grantee Coach**

“NAMI San Mateo has excelled at expanding its services to be more inclusive with a special focus on offering services in multiple languages based on the needs of the community.”





 **Grantee Accomplishment**

“Progress House, Inc. has become sustainable with the help of grant funds and county contracts.”

 **Kudos from Grantee Coach**

“Progress House has implemented many changes including a client satisfaction survey, partnership development, marketing and outreach as well as finding a mentor peer-led organization as they continue to grow their Peer Support Specialist team.”





 **Grantee Accomplishment**

“Through the PWI grant, NAMI California, in close partnership with NAMI Fresno worked on developing and launching the Post Psychiatric Discharge Support Pilot (PPDSP) Program. As of April 2024, the Post Psychiatric Discharge Support Pilot Program was launched and serves clients exiting from partnered Behavioral Health Systems of Care to pair with a Certified Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist from NAMI Fresno to work on beginning their recovery process.”

 **Kudos from Grantee Coach**

“NAMI California partnered with NAMI Fresno and Exodus Recovery to launch and lead efforts with the Post Psychiatric Discharge Support Program. There have been many client success stories with the PPDSP Program, leading to other organizations asking NAMI CA and NAMI Fresno if they would like to partner to build another PPDSP pilot program.”





THE HAPPIER LIFE PROJECT

Grantee Accomplishment

“We’ve supported and expanded awareness to over 15,000 individuals through individual peer support, support groups, and outreach.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“The Happier Life Project (THLP) was able to contract with IEHP for Managed Care Plans and was able to secure another grant through an apprenticeship program. THLP was also able to train three staff to become Community Health Workers (CHW) and is in progress of rolling out a CHW program.”





Grantee Accomplishment

“One of our core achievements has been establishing partnerships with organizations like Turning Point and Star Vista, bringing peer support training directly to community-based organizations and behavioral health systems. These partnerships ensure a collaborative approach to wellness, allowing us to replicate successful peer support models within local communities. Through these collaborations, we’ve built a foundation for continuous growth and long-term sustainability, and we are proud to see other organizations integrate and uphold these training programs within their own operations.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“ONHB Sacramento has demonstrated a strong commitment to training and skill development, both internally and externally. Their staff attended WRAP, CanI Am Case Management, and Alternatives 2 Suicide trainings and also provided consistent WRAP trainings to the community and has expanded online curriculum for their Family and Parenting Program (EBPP) and Psychiatric Advance Directive (PAD) support groups, with a curriculum for sex worker services programming in progress.”



PEER VOICES

ORANGE COUNTY | LOS ANGELES | SAN DIEGO

Grantee Accomplishment

“Peer Voices of Los Angeles has formed countless partnerships with organizations across Los Angeles County. This strengthens our resource capabilities and ensures the best of care for our clients.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“PVLA has launched and continued to provide 4 community support groups per month to help peers transition successfully into society for individuals who are homeless, recovery-oriented, justice involved, have mental illness, or struggle with hoarding.”





 **Grantee Accomplishment**

“Many of our successes have been the connections within our community. Through the PWI grant, we have been able to help people get jobs and get into housing. Many small wins!”

 **Kudos from Grantee Coach**

“Recovery Café San José has done a great deal of work on the grounds while managing leadership changes within the organization. Through the hiring of Peer Connectors, Recovery Café has provided direct peer services while improving infrastructure such as a new data tracking system and accounting software.”





Valley Health Associates

Grantee Accomplishment

“Valley Health Associates has relocated, and our Peer Support Specialists are now able to utilize new wellness spaces as they work with clients. • Healthy Cooking Classes in the ‘Nutrition is Wellness’ Kitchen classroom • Community Food Pantry & Clothes Closet in the ‘Neighbor’s Nook’ • Mindfulness, Meditation, and Wellness Classes in the dedicated relaxation room.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“Valley Health Associates proactively sought out expertise as they built their Peer Support Specialist positions and from there offered support groups and outreach to further the impact of the PSS staff.”



SAC YOUTH CENTER

Grantee Accomplishment

“We are proud to announce that this grant has significantly boosted our outreach efforts. Thanks to the funding, several hundred at-risk youth have been able to access valuable resources through the Sacramento Youth Center.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“Sacramento Youth Center has grown not only in its impact but also its infrastructure through the use of technology to better track its outcomes, be evidence based, and receive new funding to be sustainable.”





The Purpose of Recovery



Grantee Accomplishment

“Moved into a larger facility with expanded services and group support.”



Kudos from Grantee Coach

“The Purpose of Recovery (TPOR) was able to organize a Recovery Rally and had such a great turn out. TPOR was also able to upgrade their software to RDP 2.0 and has been able to increase their capacity for tracking data points.”





Grantee Accomplishment

“Our case managers were able to serve with professionalism and to a greater level than those served in our county. The case loads for our Probation offices were in excess of 250 clients at any one time. Our case managers were able to be more engaged and involved in service/support for our clients helping 25% to achieve completion of their diversion.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“NAMI Solano County has been able to expand services to clients and the court, by hosting Justice Involved Connection Groups. NAMI Solano hosted a jazz concert celebration for the diversion program, aimed to build community and expand support for the connection groups and collaborations.”





Grantee Accomplishment

“Recognizing the distinct needs within Alameda’s addiction recovery community, we’ve worked closely with local partners to create peer-led support groups focused on harm reduction, relapse prevention, and recovery tools. By training and certifying peers from within the community, we’ve provided those in recovery with relatable, ongoing support that resonates deeply due to shared lived experiences. This initiative has expanded access to critical resources, reduced stigma, and offered a compassionate support network that encourages recovery and empowerment.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“ONHB Oakland successfully launched their new site in Alameda County. They prioritized target populations with unmet needs and established meaningful partnerships throughout the county to better reach their community including Black Men Speak, PEERS, Transformative Justice Institute, and Kinfolk Coffee Shop.”





**PROJECT RETURN
PEER SUPPORT NETWORK**
Taking charge together!

Grantee Accomplishment

“We have been able to improve outreach and support for underserved populations in our community by working to enhance our Warm Line infrastructure. We were able to expand our Warm Line operation by adding staff and opening on Sundays for eight (8) hours. This boosted Warm Line support and services to 7 days a week.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“PRPSN has focused their PWI efforts on increasing the organization’s capacity to provide support and services. They were able to do this by improving data collection with the implementation and enhancement of an Electronic Health Record and also with the ongoing development of staff through various trainings including Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist certification, Mental Health First Aid Instructors certification, and WRAP Facilitator training.”





THE NET OC
FAMILY SUPPORT

Grantee Accomplishment

“Building a collaborative partnership to provide a peer respite camp in the community”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“The Net Family Support grew its services through support groups and a mentorship program as well as built its infrastructure through technology, program evaluation and marketing.”





Grantee Accomplishment

“The overall enhancement of our organizational capacity. One of our key achievements was successfully onboarding new staff and interns. These roles became essential for managing and implementing of projects and initiatives.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“The Race and Gender Equity Project excelled at utilizing best practices in its internal and external change management such as implementing needs assessment, while producing great tools for youth including a wellness app, events, and tools for system navigation.”





The Young People's Foundation Inc.

"Making a Difference"

Grantee Accomplishment

"TYPF has over 50 youth enrolled in its peer support services program. TYPF is certified with DHCS as a community-based organization (CBO) and have started to bill Medi-Cal for community healthcare (CHW) services."

Kudos from Grantee Coach

"The Young People's Foundation has accomplished so much within just one year of this grant such as becoming Medi-Cal billable and growing its team, all the while serving youth needing support through the judicial system and handling everyday struggles of poverty and trauma."





TURNING POINT
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS
A Path to Mental Health

Grantee Accomplishment

“TPCP was able to train 25 Peer Support Specialists in Intentional Peer Support due to the PWI grant. Our team [utilizes principles] and philosophy from the training in the work they provide daily, which has increased satisfaction for the Peer Support Specialists and the [guests] we are privileged to serve.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“TPCP was able to expand its peer operated Insight Respite Center (IRC) from a 4-bed to a 5-bed home. Through PWI funding, they established a welcoming environment with updated furnishings and modernized appliances. These improvements have helped contribute to an above 90% satisfaction rating from peers utilizing their IRC program!”





Changing lives through multiple pathways

Grantee Accomplishment

“We launched a Recovery Café that fosters a compassionate, judgment-free community culture. This center has served over 2,000 individuals, providing a therapeutic environment and essential resources.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“Unity Hall has shown a dedication to outreach and serving their community. They were able to set up a Narcan Distribution Center, distributing 360 units of Narcan which resulted in 12 documented overdose reversals. They also hosted three public screenings of the student-created documentary ‘Fentanyl High,’ educating both youth and parents about the fentanyl crisis.”





 **Grantee Accomplishment**

“Helping 17 TMHA SLO peers get Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist certified.”

 **Kudos from Grantee Coach**

“Transitions San Luis Obispo has accomplished a great deal within the past year from hiring 7 interns to partnering with an external organization to provide PSS training to its staff.”



Wind Youth Services

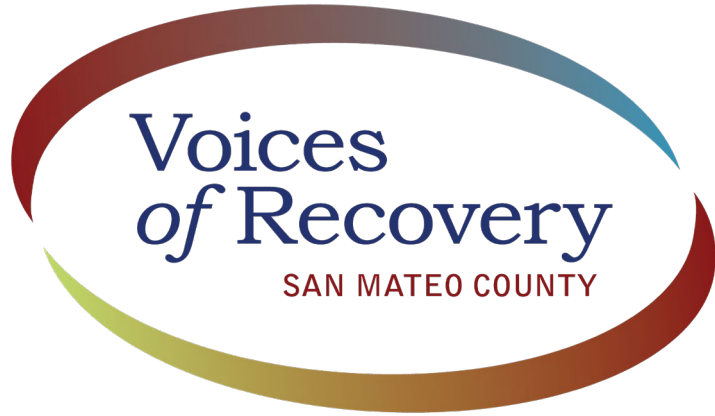
Grantee Accomplishment

“A major success story has been the remarkable outreach and community engagement events hosted by our PWI Coordinator. Prior to having a dedicated coordinator, Wind Youth Services held only a limited number of community engagement activities. Thanks to this grant funding, we now have the resources to print materials, supply tabling events, and dedicate the time and staff needed to increase our community presence significantly. Through these efforts, we have also established several informal partnerships within the community.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“Wind Youth Services has accomplished so much including the development of workshops for youth that provide empowerment for them to identify what topics to cover. Through this work they have been awarded youth specific funding.”





Grantee Accomplishment

“To date, our organization has prepared nine staff members for Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist certification. As a result, six current staff members are certified Peer Support Specialists. We continue to create opportunities for staff to pursue certification and increase capacity in the county for peer support in our community. Lessons learned during the training and preparation have benefitted our other programs and services, including our peer mentoring and support groups.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“Voices of Recovery San Mateo County was able to utilize PWI training and technical assistance to boost their organizational development by engaging in efforts to support strategic planning, board member recruitment, and the implementation of an advisory committee.”





 **Grantee Accomplishment**

“We were able to put on our first trans pride event, bringing together over 23 health and community-based organizations in providing resources for trans community in our area.”

 **Kudos from Grantee Coach**

“CalPride Valle Central has established themselves as a safe haven for the LGBTQ+ community. They have concentrated efforts on building partnerships with collaborative organizations to provide peer support, training, and education services to the Latinx queer population. They have empowered queer individuals to come out to loved ones and have provided essential case management that has included support with mental health, immigration status, housing, transportation, employment, and higher education.”



PEER VOICES

ORANGE COUNTY | LOS ANGELES | SAN DIEGO

Grantee Accomplishment

“We have made significant strides in leveraging technology to improve our operations. By optimizing our data collection processes, we have enhanced our ability to track and measure program outcomes. These advancements not only increase efficiency but also position us for long-term sustainability, ensuring that we can continue delivering impactful services well into the future.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“PVOC created a Peer Voices United initiative to develop a robust network of peers throughout California and strengthen organizational partnerships. It is an ongoing collaborative project of PVOC and 10 behavioral health partner organizations.”



yuba harm reduction collective

Serving Grass Valley &
Nevada City



Grantee Accomplishment

“Establishing and surviving as a young non-profit! The stability and resources provided by EPOC allowed our organization the ability to go from 1 person in Round 1 to 5 staff by this time. While not all our funding is through EPOC, the funding and resources provided allowed for critical support in this growth.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“Yuba Harm Reduction grew its volunteer program exponentially and offered well thought out training for the volunteers to assist with outreach.”





Grantee Accomplishment

“In April 2024, Nate’s Place was awarded a \$400,000 grant to expand our services. This additional funding has been instrumental in our sustainability. EPOC was our first big grant, and without those foundational funds, we would not have been able to go after bigger funding opportunities. Now, we are able to plan for long-term sustainability and accomplish our goals of providing cost-free mental health and substance use services to marginalized youth and young adults in Ventura County. We are also on track to become Medi-Cal certified.”

Kudos from Grantee Coach

“Nate’s place has reached for the stars and achieved so much, most recently being spotlighted in People magazine for its origin story of Nate Rhoades, the inspiration of this ever-growing nonprofit organization.”



5. Thank You and Good Luck



Thank You and Good Luck

On behalf of the entire PWI/EPOC Administrative Team, **congratulations!**

It has been such a pleasure working with you, learning from you, and **growing together.**

We are so proud to have been a part of a project with passionate individuals who are **dedicated** to supporting those who need it most.

We wish you the **best of luck** in your future endeavors and know that you will continue to have a **lasting impact** on California's behavioral health field.

Thank you for all your hard work!



6. Important Reminders



PWI/EPOC Grant Closeout

BHWD Grantee Equipment Survey

- Must complete **ASAP**, deadline was **December 6, 2024**.

December 2024 Implementation Plan Updates

- Must be completed by the end of the month (**December 31, 2024**).

10/1/24–12/31/24 Quarterly Data Report

- Must be completed by the end of the contract period (**January 15, 2025**).

PWI and EPOC Final Report

- Must be completed by the end of the contract period (**January 15, 2025**).

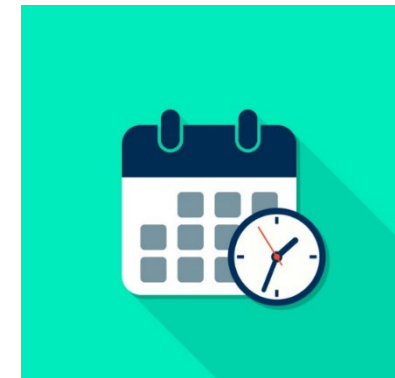
Equipment Funding Spend-Down

- Must be spent down by the end of the month (**December 31, 2024**).
 - *This applies only to grantees that received equipment funding for Round 2.*

10/1/24–12/31/24 Invoice

- Must be submitted by the end of the contract period (**January 15, 2025**). The PWI/EPOC grant program is ending and there will no longer be any grant funds available for payment after this date.

*****All deliverables must be completed by 1/15/25. The final invoice will not be paid unless closeout items are received and all other contract deliverables have been completed (mandatory events, 1:1s, etc.).*****





7. Q&A and Final Reflections



Please fill out the attendance form and feedback survey in the chat to meet your requirements for today's event.



Thank You