



Department of Behavioral Health

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New Funding Coming to Butte County for Homeless, Mentally Ill Outreach

The Butte County Department of Behavioral Health has been granted spending authority for their most recent innovative program. The Resiliency Empowerment Support Team (REST) project will provide an intensive outreach and engagement team to connect with individuals experiencing homelessness who would benefit from various health interventions. The REST project will be the direct referral source to Everhart Village, an emergency shelter consisting of sleeping cabins co-located next the largest Behavioral Health service site in Butte County.

The REST project is funded through the [Mental Health Services Act](#) (MHSA) Innovation component, which allows Counties to test new models and practices that address service gaps within the local mental health system. These projects are short-term —three to five years — and require extensive community input, data collection, and a thorough evaluation.

Behavioral Health Director Scott Kennelly stated, “We believe this program will have a meaningful impact on those with a serious mental illness who are our most vulnerable community members. Butte County is seen as a trailblazer in the North State with our mental health projects, and we look forward to highlighting REST’s accomplishments over the next couple of years.”

REST participants will have access to a menu of services and supports; including mental health and substance use treatment, peer specialist care coordination, housing case managers, field-based psychiatry and nursing. REST participants will benefit from an onsite pharmacy, a community resource center with showers and a kitchen, and a computer lab embedded in Behavioral Health buildings. Everhart Village will be facilitated by a local non-profit called the Chico Housing Action Team (CHAT), who has extensive experience in working with and housing Behavioral Health clients. Additionally, Ampla Health, a comprehensive healthcare provider in close proximity to Everhart Village, has expressed their support and commitment to this project to coordinate medical services for REST participants and their potentially complex medical conditions.

This collaboration was born out of the need to address the multi-dimensional barriers individuals may encounter when engaging in Behavioral Health services, with lack of stable housing being one of the most significant barriers.

The Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission provided unanimous approval of the project today. "I am very proud of our team and all the hard work they put into this project, which we began planning in early 2019. Our community members have been instrumental in providing critical feedback and helping us create what the Commissioners described today as 'one of the best Innovation projects' they had ever seen." Director Kennelly commented after the approval was given.

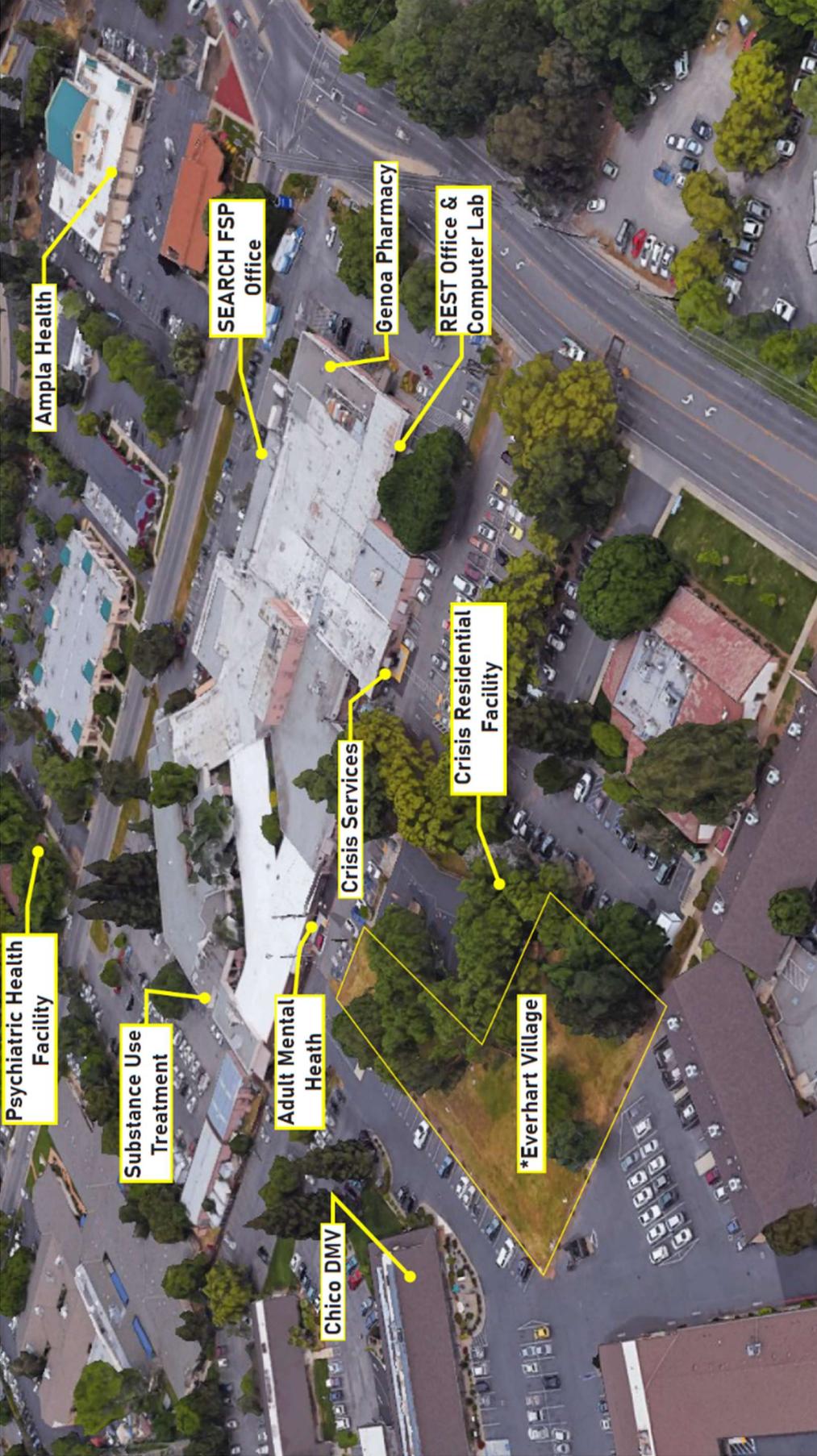
Butte County has received authorization to spend up to \$3,510,520 in MHSA Innovation funding for this project over a period of five years, with a start date of July 1, 2022. The total project cost is estimated to be \$6,398,600 with Medi-Cal and Federal Financial Participation funding the remaining amount.

Butte County Behavioral Health will begin recruiting efforts for the REST team in June.

www.governmentjobs.com/careers/buttecountyca

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(see picture below)



Ampla Health

SEARCH FSP Office

Genoa Pharmacy

REST Office & Computer Lab

Crisis Residential Facility

Crisis Services

Psychiatric Health Facility

Substance Use Treatment

Adult Mental Health

Chico DMV

*Everhart Village