

PRESS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ritter Center Awarded \$600,000 by HRSA to Expand Behavioral Health Services for Marin's Homeless and Unsheltered Communities

[San Rafael, CA] – Ritter Center is excited to announce it has been awarded **\$600,000** in funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to support its **Behavioral Health Service Expansion (BHSE) initiative**. This grant will enable Ritter Center to address critical gaps in behavioral health services for Marin County's most vulnerable populations, particularly the unsheltered and precariously housed, including Hispanic/Latino, Spanish-speaking individuals.

"We are deeply committed to expanding access to behavioral health services for Marin County's most underserved individuals," said Mark Shotwell, CEO of Ritter Center. "This funding will allow us to make critical strides in providing the comprehensive, life-saving care these individuals need."

The BHSE initiative will significantly expand access to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) and psychiatric services at Ritter Center's clinic and through its Street Medicine program for Spanish-speaking individuals.

Ritter Center will hire a Bilingual Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner to prescribe life-saving MOUD medications, such as buprenorphine and injectable naltrexone, focusing on the low-income, Spanish-speaking homeless population. Additionally, a Bilingual Lead SUD Counselor will provide individual and group counseling to clients receiving expanded MOUD treatment, and two Patient Navigators will enhance care coordination, enrollment assistance, and link clients to essential social services. These expanded services will focus on Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral Treatment (SBIRT), case management, and Medi-Cal pre-authorizations.

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Ritter Center is taking a momentous step forward in addressing high-priority needs among the county's homeless population and improving health outcomes for those least likely to access care.

For more information about the BHSE initiative, please contact **Cynthia Le Monds** at clemonds@rittercenter.org or (415) 847-4377.

About Ritter Center:

Ritter Center is a Federally Qualified Health Center providing comprehensive health, housing, and support services to improve the health and well-being of individuals experiencing homelessness or economic insecurity in Marin County.

Learn more at RitterCenter.org.

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