

## PRESS RELEASE



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Ritter Center Awarded \$10.44 Million BHCIP Grant for Integrated Behavioral Health Facility

**San Rafael, CA** – Ritter Center has been awarded \$10,448,269.44 through the **Bond Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) Round 1: Launch Ready**, administered by the **California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)**. This transformative investment will support the *Ritter Builds Hope* project — a new **Integrated Behavioral Healthcare Facility at 800 A Street in San Rafael** — designed to serve individuals experiencing homelessness, poverty, mental illness, and substance use disorders in Marin County.

This funding is part of a broader effort by DHCS, which recently announced over \$3.3 billion in competitive awards to 124 sponsors across the state. The goal of BHCIP is to modernize California's behavioral health system by creating sustainable, community-based infrastructure for mental health and substance use treatment. These investments aim to ensure that individuals can access the right care at the right time — whether it be for crisis stabilization, outpatient care, or long-term recovery.

"As the only Federally Qualified Health Center in Marin County with a Healthcare for the Homeless designation, we are honored to expand our services to care for Marin County's most vulnerable populations," said **Mark Shotwell, CEO of Ritter Center**. "The *Ritter Builds Hope* project will meet a critical need for mental health counseling, substance use disorder treatment, and crisis response services."

For over 40 years, Ritter Center has provided medical and behavioral healthcare, housing support, and essential services to individuals and families living on the margins. The new facility will centralize and expand access to care in a purpose-built setting focused on trauma-informed, integrated treatment.

"This new facility will allow us to serve more people, more effectively — especially those who face complex barriers to accessing care," said **Rory Rieger, PsyD, Clinical Director** at Ritter Center.

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"Our work is grounded in the belief that everyone deserves access to comprehensive support, regardless of their housing or income status."

The BHCIP Round 1 investment is part of California's broader commitment to behavioral health transformation. Supported by the passage of Proposition 1 in March 2024, the program is expected to create 6,800 residential treatment beds and 26,700 outpatient treatment slots statewide. DHCS estimates this expansion will provide a vital offramp from institutional settings and reduce reliance on emergency rooms, jails, and involuntary hospitalization.

Guiding principles of BHCIP include:

- Investing in behavioral health infrastructure that advances racial and geographic equity
- Addressing urgent gaps in the care continuum
- Creating alternatives to incarceration, homelessness, and hospitalization
- Expanding services for high-need populations, including those with co-occurring disorders

Ritter Center's new facility reflects these priorities and reinforces the organization's long-standing commitment to building community-based solutions that promote dignity, recovery, and long-term stability.

For more information, please contact **Cynthia Le Monds** at [clemonds@rittercenter.org](mailto: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 [www.rittercenter.org](http://www.rittercenter.org)

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