



June 1, 2017

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The Honorable Holly Mitchell
Chair, Budget Conference Committee
State Capitol, Room 5080
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: The Investment in Mental Health Wellness Act of 2013 (SB 82) Grant Funding Extension Request

Dear Senator Mitchell,

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), I am writing to request additional time for counties to expend critical Investment in Mental Health Wellness Act of 2013 (SB 82 or Chapter 34, Statutes of 2013) funding for the creation of brick-and-mortar locations offering crisis stabilization services for individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis.

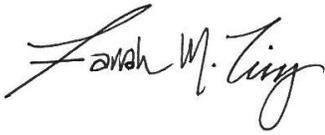
The Investment in Mental Health Wellness Act of 2013 provides essential funding for local crisis mobile teams, triage personnel, and the creation of new crisis stabilization units for individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis. Led by former Senate Pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg, the Act was passed in 2013 with about \$180 million in new financing for local crisis projects. Since that time, The California Health Facilities Financing Authority has worked hard to make the funding available to counties for projects ranging from the purchase of mobile crisis vans to the creation of crisis triage teams with local law enforcement to the purchase and construction of custom structures to house new crisis stabilization units.

However, large capital projects require a significant amount of time and funding to execute. In some counties, especially those in which the acquisition of land is expensive and complicated, the original SB 82 deadline of June 30, 2018 to expend funding is arriving all too quickly. Other projects have been slowed by neighborhood opposition and siting concerns, as well.

It is for these reasons that CSAC joins with the county behavioral health directors to request an extension of SB 82 grant expenditure authority to December 31, 2021. Counties are committed to the goals of the Investment in Mental Health Wellness Act of 2013 and appreciate the Legislature's generous appropriation of grant funding for much-needed local crisis services. We share your dismay regarding the obstacles counties face in expending this funding and, most importantly, creating new critical services for those in crisis today. But it is now clear that the original timelines in SB 82 are inadequate, and we respectfully request an extension of the authority to expend SB 82 funds to December 31, 2021 within the 2017-18 Budget Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our request to extend the SB 82 grant funding window for local crisis services. Should you have any questions about our request, please don't hesitate to contact me at fmcting@counties.org or (916) 650-8110. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Farrah McDaid Ting
Legislative Representative

cc: The Honorable Philip Ting, Vice-Chair, Budget Conference Committee
Honorable Members, Budget Conference Committee
Scott Ogus, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Jennifer Troia, Consultant, Senate Pro Tem De León's Office
Andrea Margolis, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Cyndi Hillery, Assembly Republican Caucus
Mary Bellamy, Assembly Republican Caucus
Kirsten Barlow, Executive Director, California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems
Michelle Rubacalva, Legislative Representative, Los Angeles County
Adrienne Shilton, Government Affairs Director, Steinberg Institute
Toby Ewing, Executive Director, Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission