



City of
OAKLAND
California

Media Contact:

Dana Perez
Human Services Department
510-238-3247
dperez@oaklandnet.com

Sara Bedford
Human Services Department
510-238-6794
sbedford@oaklandnet.com

News from: Human Services Department

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City of Oakland Awarded Federal Funding to Promote Resiliency and Equity for Oakland

Oakland, CA – Today, Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf and City of Oakland Human Services Director Sara Bedford announced that the City has been awarded a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant to address Resiliency in Communities After Stress and Trauma (ReCAST) for a total award of \$5 million over the next five years, through September 2021.

The Oakland ReCAST program seeks to promote resiliency and equity for Oakland's high-risk youth, families and adults most affected by trauma, violence and civil unrest. In partnership with a multi-sector coalition of stakeholders, including Alameda County Health Care Services Agency and Alameda Alliance, the City's Human Services Department will work to improve behavioral health outcomes and reduce trauma among the highest-risk young people and their families, empower community residents and reduce community trauma.

Oakland ReCAST goals include: 1.) Provide coordinated training to community-based social service providers and law enforcement entities to increase use of trauma-informed practices; 2.) Expand access to trauma-informed behavioral health services and developing a service pipeline to County-funded services and 3.) Support the work of community partners to address tensions in law enforcement-community relations and to promote community resiliency and healing.

“This grant is a rich opportunity to build on Oakland's on-going work and commitment to equity and resilience. It allows for a major investment in healing existing community trauma, expanding much needed mental health services and building trust and resilience,” said Bedford.

Oakland ReCAST will build on three Oakland Human Services Department programs that serve Oakland's most marginalized, at-risk populations in need of trauma-informed behavioral health supports: Head Start early childhood; Oakland Fund for Children & Youth youth development, and Oakland Unite violence intervention. Together these three programs together reach over 50,000 young people and families through a network of local service providers.

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