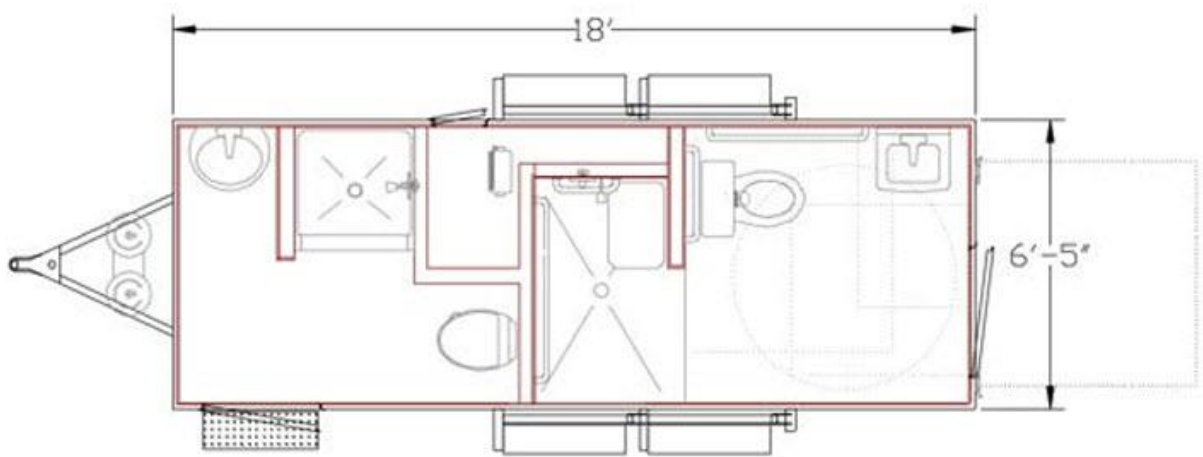


PRESS RELEASE

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Sierra Hope Receives \$250,000 Grant from Dignity Health to Launch Innovative Rural Health Initiative



Funding will support an exciting new service in Calaveras County - The Calaveras Rural Street Health and Hospital Discharge Pilot Program

Angels Camp, CA – October 28, 2024 – Sierra HOPE is thrilled to announce that it has been awarded a generous grant of \$250,000 from Dignity Health’s Homeless Health Initiative. This substantial funding will launch the Calaveras Rural Street Health and Hospital Discharge Pilot Program, a collaborative effort aimed at improving health outcomes for underserved populations in Calaveras County.

“We are proud to support Sierra HOPE’s efforts to expand access to essential health services in Calaveras County,” said Doug Archer, Hospital President at Mark Twain Medical Center. “This initiative aligns with our mission to improve the health and well-being of our community’s most vulnerable populations. By collaborating with local partners, we are taking important steps to ensure that individuals experiencing homelessness receive the medical care and support they need to recover and thrive.”

This pilot program is a comprehensive initiative designed to address critical gaps in health care services for the rural community. The program features two key components:

1. **Rural Street Health Outreach:** Led by the Calaveras County Public Health Division, this component will deploy a mobile clinic van and shower trailer to provide essential medical, dental, and hygiene care to individuals without permanent night-time residences. The Dignity Health grant includes \$75,750 for the acquisition of a shower trailer and additional supplies to accompany the mobile clinic van. Medical services will be provided by contracted providers, with Mark Twain Medical Center offering laboratory services and Valley Springs Health and Wellness Center providing Tele-Health services. The model will allow partners to bring direct primary care and other social services to individuals living unsheltered through a “street medicine” approach.
2. **Interim Housing for Hospital Discharge:** The remaining \$165,000 of the grant will fund the renovation of Sierra HOPE’s Hope House. This remodel will create three bedrooms, a shared living space, kitchen, and bathroom, offering transitional housing for Medi-Cal patients in need of a safe environment to continue their recovery post-discharge. This initiative will not only meet an urgent community need but also provide a new revenue stream for Sierra HOPE, ensuring greater financial flexibility. An additional \$9,250 will be allocated for furnishings and supplies.

“We are incredibly grateful for the support from Dignity Health and our other funding partners,” said Jerry Cadotte, Executive Director of Sierra HOPE. “This grant is a game-changer for our community, allowing us to launch a program that not only addresses immediate health needs but also provides interim housing support for individuals recovering from hospitalizations. It is a critical step forward in our mission to ensure that every resident of Calaveras County has access to the safety, care and support they deserve.”

The CalAIM initiative is a multi-year effort by the state of California to enhance the health and well-being of Medi-Cal enrollees. Sierra HOPE is collaborating with Anthem Blue Cross and Health Net to provide these vital post-hospitalization housing and navigation services, which are eligible for Medi-Cal reimbursement. Both Anthem Blue Cross and Health Net are additionally providing funding through the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program (HHIP) to bolster the grant funds for the implementation of the street health model.

“Expanding critical health and housing services for our members experiencing homelessness in our rural counties is a high priority,” said Les Ybarra, president, Anthem Blue Cross Medi-Cal health plan. “We are honored to partner with Sierra Hope, Calaveras County Public Health, and the Mark Twain Health Care District on bringing new resources to meet local needs for our unsheltered members and those transitioning from the hospital.”

About Sierra HOPE

Sierra HOPE offers a broad range of services to residents in Calaveras, Tuolumne, and Amador counties. Headquartered in Angels Camp, the organization’s mission is to “Promote individual dignity and support community members in need through compassionate services and resources.” Sierra HOPE provides essential programs, including a weekly food pantry, transitional and permanent supportive housing, and HIV/AIDS support services across six rural central Sierra counties. For more information or to inquire about services, please call (209) 736-6792 or visit www.sierrahope.org.

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