



**County Name**

Merced County

**Work Plan Title:**

Community Outreach Program Engagement and Education (COPE)

**Population to Be Served**

Priority population to be served will include children, youth, transition age youth (TAY), adults, transition age adults, and older adults.

Count by age group:

Youth: 100  
TAY: 150  
Adult: 650  
OA: 100

**Work Plan Description**

The focus of COPE is to reach the unserved and racial disparate populations throughout Merced County. Primary focus is the development and continual engagement of a collaborative system that relies on community based organizations to engage individuals in racially and ethnically diverse communities. The individuals they serve are those who do not seek services at traditional mental health services sites. The emphasis of the outreach to the priority population will be further defined to engage homeless individuals, Hispanic and Southeast Asian populations, and Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community with the intent to identify children and youth who are seriously emotionally disturbed and adults with a severe mental illness. Additional priority populations to be served are: Hispanic and Southeast Asian incarcerated youth, wards of the court, and inmates being released from jail who have a mental illness and/or co-occurring disorders.

COPE has further enhanced services by collaboration with agency partners, law enforcement, and other departments as a routine method of service delivery. The need and increased demand for on-going community outreach and engagement has become more apparent as the community becomes aware of availability of outreach services. Law enforcement agencies typically communicate with the Department by means of faxed request for follow up on individuals who are in need of mental health assistance and do not meet the 5150 criteria. The COPE clinicians partner with primary health clinics, educational systems, and are an integral part of the “one stop shop” at the homeless shelter.

Crisis stabilization services were identified by the community as an alternative to hospitalization and/or incarceration. These needs were identified by means of community events engagement, meetings, focus groups, law enforcement input, and surveys. The community determined that an alternative to incarceration and/or hospitalization had to be established. The Department quickly mobilized to establish a crisis response team that is available 24/7 to law enforcement, clients, and family members. The crisis response workers include both nursing and clinical staff. They are housed at the Marie Green Psychiatric Center which is Merced County’s 5150 designated facility. The crisis workers are available 24/7 for phone consultation, walk-in, law enforcement response and extended de-escalation/stabilization services.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES AND SUPPORTS**

- Annual Number of Clients to Be Served
- A total of 1,000 participants
- Number of Clients By Funding Category
  - Full Service Partnerships
  - System Development
  - Outreach & Engagement

**PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION**

- Annual Number to Be Served
- \_\_\_\_\_ Total
- Number of Clients By Type of Prevention
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Early Intervention
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Indicated/Selected
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Universal