

**THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH ALAMEDA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

**FACT SHEET**

The Justice Department, Alameda County, California, and Disability Rights California have reached an agreement to address alleged violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq., regarding the services Alameda County provides to adults with mental health disabilities. The parties have filed the settlement agreement with the district court in *Disability Rights California v. Alameda County*, and the agreement will become effective when the court rules. Key provisions include:

**Identifying and reaching out to people experiencing or at risk of unnecessary institutionalization and incarceration to provide needed services:**

- The County will identify people with mental health disabilities who are at risk of unnecessary institutionalization or incarceration and promptly provide them with needed community-based mental health services.
- The County will identify people in John George Psychiatric Hospital who need community-based mental health services, and connect them to those services.
- The County will develop a program to ensure that people living in sub-acute psychiatric facilities, such as Villa Fairmont, are able to transition to their own home in the community. The County will ensure that, when people are admitted to these facilities, they begin receiving discharge planning that includes coordination with community-based mental health providers.
- The County will address barriers to providing individuals with mental health disabilities in Santa Rita Jail with community-based mental health services immediately upon their release.

**Developing and expanding community-based mental health services:**

- The County will expand crisis intervention services, including: expanding its crisis hotline to provide triage services 24/7; providing timely mobile crisis services on a county-wide basis; and developing 25 new crisis residential or peer respite beds. The County will conduct an assessment to determine the number of mobile crisis teams needed in the County, which will take into account community input and will be made available to the public.
- The County will add 100 Full Service Partnership slots, plus additional slots as determined needed by a County assessment. The assessment must consider community input and will be made public. Full Service Partnerships must provide the services each individual needs, with the flexibility and intensity needed, as identified in an individualized plan.
- Full Service Partnership clients will receive supported employment services, crisis intervention, and assistance to secure and maintain permanent housing in the most integrated

setting appropriate to their needs. Full Service Partnership clients will receive stable, temporary bridge housing until permanent housing is secured.

- The County's services will be culturally responsive to reduce behavioral health disparities across racial, ethnic, cultural, and linguistic groups.

**Independent Reviewer:**

- An Independent Reviewer will review and report on the County's implementation of the agreement. The Independent Reviewer's reports will be made public about every six months.

**Enforcement and termination:**

- The parties have asked the federal district court to retain jurisdiction to enforce the agreement.
- If the County does not comply with the agreement, the Department may seek court enforcement following a dispute resolution process.