



THE *Community*
FOUNDATION
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

20 YEARS of
IMPACT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TMHA RECEIVES OPPORTUNITY TO THRIVE GRANT FROM COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Grant will fund employment opportunities for homeless adults with mental illness.

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA – Transitions-Mental Health Association (TMHA) has received a \$5,000 grant from the Community Foundation of San Luis Obispo's Opportunity to Thrive Grant Program. This grant will be used to expand the agency's current Supported Employment Program to create a special day labor division that would provide services targeted for our homeless and chronically homeless clientele. The objective of this new **Supportive Day Labor Program** would be to create a first step towards employment, reintroducing our homeless clients to the work world.

Participating clients would be selected from TMHA's Transitional Housing for the Homeless and Permanent Supported Housing programs. Clients participating in the Supported Day Labor Program will receive work shifts suited to their ability and interests; training in vocational skills and work readiness; the option to enter TMHA's Supported Employment Program and receive Job Coaching, Job Development, Benefits Counseling, Job Readiness Training, and Vocational Assessment; and a job and a paycheck.

A \$5,000 grant will enable TMHA to provide 80-90 3-hour work shifts that will serve 20 people in the course of the grant period. "Our goal," said Joe Madsen, Division Director of Housing and Supportive Services Programs, "is that a majority of our Day Labor clients will treat this first, low-stress step as a bridge to TMHA's Supported Employment Program and continue to seek steady work as part of their path to recovery."

ABOUT OPPORTUNITY TO THRIVE

Through a testamentary gift, former Mayor of the City of San Luis Obispo, Ron Dunin, and his wife Helen established an endowment to help people who are attempting to help themselves. As immigrants, the Dunins were fortunate to receive help and support during critical times in their lives. Their goal by creating the fund was to give back to the community and assist San Luis Obispo county residents in need. Grants from the "Opportunity Fund" are intended to support individuals striving for self-sufficiency and who are in need of transitional assistance to overcome a **short-term or one-time barrier**.

ABOUT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

The Community Foundation San Luis Obispo County is a county-wide community resource for local charitable giving. Created by and for the people of San Luis Obispo County, the Foundation is an enduring source of charitable funds to meet the changing needs and interests of the community. This year, the Foundation celebrates its 20th

Anniversary. Over two decades, the Foundation has supported SLO County nonprofits with grants totaling more than \$30 million.

ABOUT TMHA

TMHA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating stigma and promoting recovery and wellness for people with mental illness through work, housing, community and family support services. TMHA operates 30 programs at over 35 locations that served over 3,700 unique individuals and family members in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties. The emphasis of TMHA's many services is to teach vital independent living skills, and build a framework for community re-entry through personal empowerment and hands on experience. For over 35 years, TMHA has been dedicated to providing housing, employment, case management and life-skills support to teens and adults with mental illness; and support, resources and education for their loved ones.

TMHA has an established history of working with a client base that is part of California's poverty population, and our strategy remains unchanged when it comes to systemically addressing their needs. We provide housing, a full spectrum of behavioral health services, and truly unique employment opportunities. All of these are tools for recovery and independent living, critical steps in creating a pathway out of poverty.