



Casa Esperanza, Inc.

October 2021

Upcoming Press Release

- During this press release, we will announce the Morgan's story aired on NBC News.
- Important topics related to the recent grant funding for CMHC, SAMHSA, MAT, BCOR, DPH-BSAS will be touched and discussed, explaining the importance of their purpose, goals, and objectives.

Roxbury, MA– Casa Esperanza, Inc. is proud to announce Morgan's story aired on NBC. Last week, Morgan Radford of NBC News visited our main campus in Roxbury, MA to learn about the cultural barriers facing Latinx patients. Every day, we see first-hand how health inequity impacts the Latinx community here in Massachusetts. This important story connects the barriers we see our patients navigate every day with rising health inequity across the country.

On the other hand, we want to announce our recent grant funding of CBHC. The estimated award amount is \$ 2,000,000 to allow Community Mental Health Centers to support and restore the provision of clinical services that were affected by the pandemic and effectively address the needs of patients with substance misuse and mental disorders. Our goals and objectives are focused on expanding Casa's bilingual Behavioral Health Care program to serve as a front door for Latinx with COD to access the right treatment in real time, both in-person and via telehealth. For this reason, we want to expand clinic hours to include evening and weekend coverage to improve access to, and increase utilization of, mental health, substance abuse treatment, and primary care for Latinos with co-occurring disorders. Provide case management services to support clients' full engagement in the development, implementation, and completion of goals in their care plan and provide recovery support services to help increase knowledge of community resources; increase capacity for self-management and identify and reduce risky behavior.

Equally important, another grant fund proposal is for the program of (SAMHSA). The purpose of this program is to expand/enhance access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT) services for persons with an opioid use disorder (OUD) seeking or receiving MAT. The estimated award amount is \$525,000 per year for five years to provide Medication-Assisted Treatment to Latinx patients with co-occurring disorders. The desired outcomes for this program are, increase in the number of individuals with OUD receiving MAT. Moreover, being able to decrease illicit opioid drug use and prescription opioid misuse at six-month follow-up. MAT is to be provided in combination with comprehensive OUD psychosocial services, including counseling, behavioral therapies, recovery support services (RSS), and other clinically appropriate services required for individuals to achieve and maintain abstinence from opioids.

On top of that, another recent grant funding is for BCOR. The estimated award amount for this one is \$200,000 per year for up to three years to enhance and strengthen a Latinx community of recovery in the Greater Boston area and beyond. We want to offer a wide range of bilingual/bicultural trauma-informed peer recovery support services for Latinos living with COD. Another goal is to create a culturally focused Peer Leadership Development program that provides training and mentorship to strengthen the recovery and economic independence of Latinos in recovery and increase the bilingual/bicultural peer workforce. We also want to develop and launch a “Time to End the Stigma” public awareness campaign to address the stigma, discrimination, and barriers to culturally and linguistically proficient treatment and recovery support services for Latinxs living with CODs.

In addition, we have grant funding from DPH-BSAS. The estimated award amount is \$460,000 a year for two years to provide recovery-based re-entry services for Latinx patients. Casa Esperanza’s Transcend Program will provide incarcerated individuals with the information, education, and support needed to develop effective reentry plans into the community while affording them critical support services in mental health, trauma, and medical services. Furthermore, through this proposal, it seeks to expand integrated, bilingual/bicultural services that meet the cultural and linguistic needs of Latinx men providing a bridge to help participants overcome the pitfalls of homelessness, relapse, and recidivism they face upon release and reentry into the community from incarceration, through a continuum of specialized recovery and reentry services, including residential addictions treatment, onsite mental health, and medical services, coordinated primary care and community-based aftercare services, and it is important to note that we are collaborating with the Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department on this initiative.

Overall, Casa Esperanza is the only provider in Eastern Massachusetts to offer a full continuum of integrated, evidence-based, Spanish-language behavioral health services including Recovery Support services and Telehealth. Casa fills an urgent gap in linguistically and culturally accessible SUD and COD treatment for Latinx patients. Our patients experience hardship from lifelong trauma, homelessness, poverty, and systemic discrimination. Many are medically frail, facing a greater risk of infection from diseases like COVID-19. Therefore, we desire to continue to have all the resources to continue providing to our patients and families comprehensive and integrated care and all the help that they need to recover from addictions, trauma, mental illness, and other chronic medical conditions so they can overcome homelessness and achieve health and well-being. We want to prepare patients so that in the future all those who have been affected by addictions and mental illnesses can lead a healthy and determined life.