



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“WestCare Selected to Receive Two Federal Grants Targeting Youth in Fresno County and the San Joaquin Valley”

FRESNO, CA – WestCare California, one of the Valley’s largest health and human services agencies, is pleased to announce the award of two major federal grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to implement two new, innovative and unique programs targeting at risk and substance abusing youth in Fresno County and surrounding rural areas of the San Joaquin Valley. The grant awards include:

- 1. The SMART-2 Model of Care Partnership, a grant award for \$2 million over four years.*
- 2. FACT (Family Centered Treatment) Program, a grant award of \$900,000 over three years.*

The SMART-2 Model of Care Partnership is a collaborative project designed to increase the well-being of and improve the permanency outcomes for children (birth to 12 years of age) affected by methamphetamine or other substance abuse in Fresno County. The approach is to build upon an existing interagency

collaboration to provide services and activities that close gaps in the continuum of care for children of substance abusing parents using proven, research-based interventions, and document the effectiveness with a thorough research study using experimental and control groups. The SMART-2 Model of Care Partnership is comprised of public and private agencies that are committed to the welfare of children, including: the Fresno County Department of Children and Family Services, Exceptional Parents Unlimited, Fresno County Children and Family Mental Health, Central Valley Regional Center, Families First, Fresno County Infant Mental Health, Centro La Familia Advocacy, Comprehensive Youth Services, Fresno Council on Child Abuse Prevention, Marjaree Mason Center, Supportive Services of Fresno County, Fresno County Foster Care Agencies and Spirit of Woman.

WestCare's FACT program also directs services to at risk youth. Specifically, adolescents ages 12 through 17 in Fresno County and surrounding rural areas within the San Joaquin Valley, who use and abuse marijuana, alcohol and other substances will be the focus. The FACT project will use research-based methods to decrease adolescent substance use, increase access to and retention in treatment by Latino and other minority youth through culturally sensitive outreach and service delivery, and document treatment outcomes using research-based assessment and monitoring tools and instruments.

For more information, or to schedule an interview with the program directors for the FACT or SMART-2 Model of Care programs, please contact Mardi Palacios at 559-251-4800.

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