

Los Angeles County  
**CARE** Court  
Program Overview



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# What is **CARE** Court?

## **Community Assistance, Recovery & Empowerment Act**

### New **CIVIL COURT PROCESS** established to:

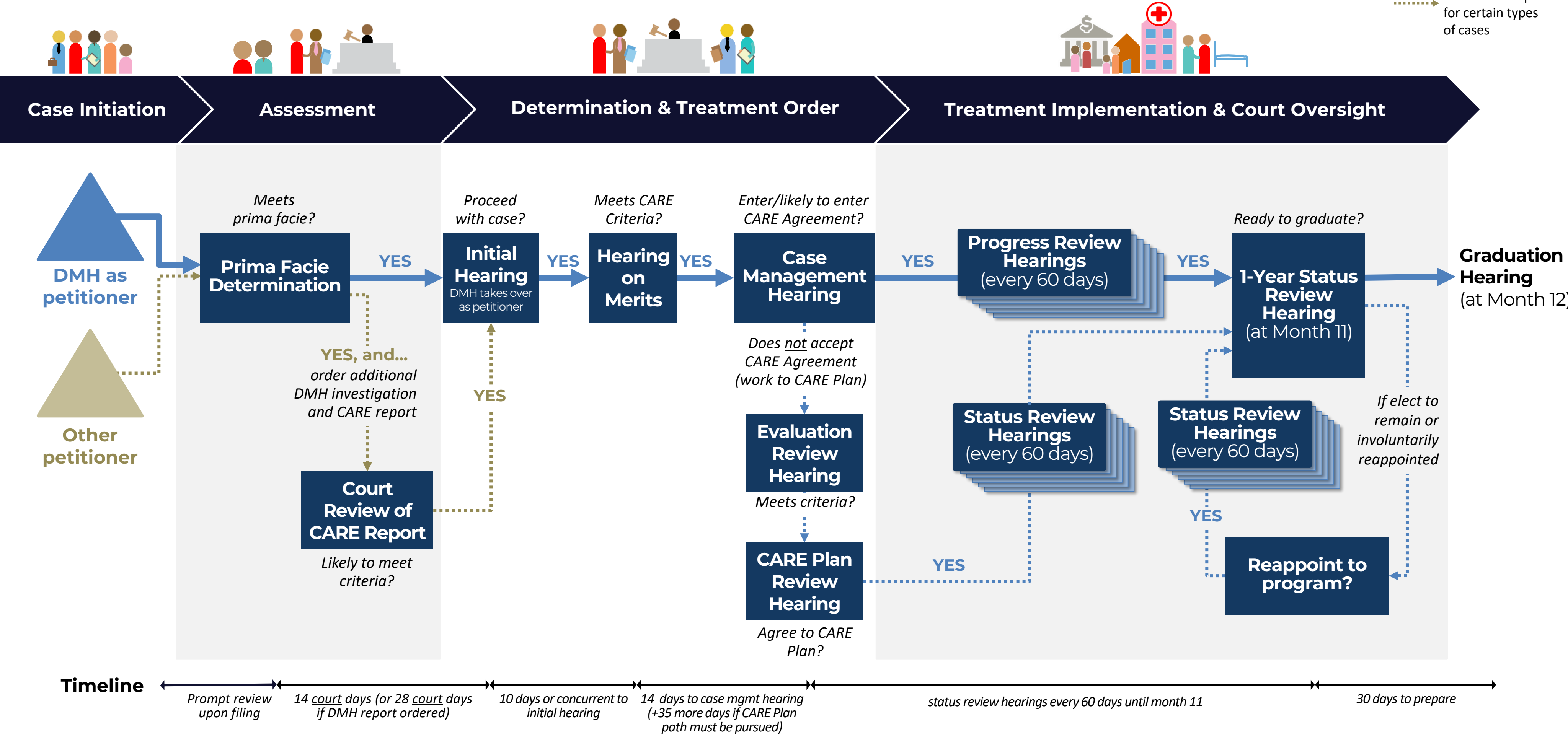
- Focus counties and other local governments on serving persons with **untreated schizophrenia spectrum or other psychotic disorders**
- Provide **behavioral health and housing resources and services**
- **Protect self-determination and civil liberties** by providing legal counsel and promoting supported decision making
- **Intervene sooner** in the lives of those in need to provide support
- Ensure local governments have support while **driving accountability** for their role

# CARE Court in LA County



LOCATION: NORWALK COURTHOUSE

- Base path
- Additional steps for certain types of cases



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# Who Does This Program **Help**?



**18 years or older**



**Has diagnosis in disorder class: Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders**



**Currently experiencing behaviors & symptoms associated with severe mental illness (SMI)**



**Not clinically stabilized in on-going voluntary treatment**



**At least one of the following:**

- Unlikely to survive safely without supervision and condition is substantially deteriorating
- Needs services & supports to prevent relapse or deterioration, leading to grave disability or harm to others



**Participation in a CARE Plan or Agreement is the least restrictive alternative**



**Likely to benefit from participating in a CARE Plan or Agreement**

# Who Can Petition?

## “FAMILY / HOME”

- **Person with whom respondent resides**
- **Spouse, parent, sibling, child, grandparent** or other individual in place of a parent
- **Respondent** (i.e., self-petition)



## “COMMUNITY”

- **First responder** (e.g., peace officer, firefighter, paramedic, mobile crisis response, homeless outreach worker)
- **Director of a hospital**, or designee, in which respondent is hospitalized (including for 5150s, 5250s)
- **Licensed behavioral health professional**, or designee treating respondent for mental illness
- **Director of a public/charitable organization** providing behavioral health services or whose institution respondent resides



## “COUNTY”

- **County behavioral health director**, or designee (e.g., DMH CARE-LA team)
- **Public guardian**, or designee
- **Director of adult protective services**, or designee



## “TRIBAL JURISDICTION”

- **Director of a California Indian health services program**, California tribal behavioral health department, or designee
- **Judge of a tribal court** located in CA, or designee





# How to File a Petition

**CONFIDENTIAL** **CARE-100**

ATTORNEY OR PETITIONER WITHOUT ATTORNEY		STATE BAR NUMBER:	FOR COURT USE ONLY
NAME:			<b>DRAFT</b> <b>Not approved by</b> <b>the Judicial Council</b>
FIRM NAME:			
STREET ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE: ZIP CODE:	
TELEPHONE NO.:		FAX NO.:	
FIRM ADDRESS:			
ATTORNEY FOR (name):			
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF			
STREET ADDRESS:			
MAILING ADDRESS:			
CITY AND ZIP CODE:			
BRANCH NAME:			
CARE ACT PROCEEDINGS FOR (name):			
RESPONDENT			
PETITION TO COMMENCE CARE ACT PROCEEDINGS			CASE NUMBER:

For information on completing this form, see *Information for Petitioners—About the CARE Act* (form CARE-050-INFO).

1. Petitioner (name):  
is 18 years of age or older and (check all that apply):

a. ☐ A person who lives with respondent.

b. ☐ A spouse or registered domestic partner, parent, sibling, child, or grandparent of respondent.

c. ☐ A person who stands in the place of a parent to respondent.

d. ☐ The director\* of a hospital in which respondent is hospitalized.

e. ☐ The director\* of a public or charitable organization, agency, or home

(1) ☐ who is or has been, within the past 30 days, providing behavioral health services to respondent; or

(2) ☐ in whose institution respondent resides.

f. ☐ A licensed behavioral health professional\* who is or has been, within the past 30 days, treating or supervising the treatment of respondent.

g. ☐ A first responder, including a peace officer, firefighter, paramedic, emergency medical technician, mobile crisis response worker, or homeless outreach worker who has had repeated interactions with respondent.

h. ☐ The public guardian\* or public conservator\* of the county named above or a private conservator referred by the court under Welfare and Institutions Code section 5978.

i. ☐ The director\* of the county behavioral health agency of the county named above.

j. ☐ The director\* of adult protective services of the county named above.

k. ☐ The director\* of a California Indian health services program or a California tribal behavioral health department.

l. ☐ A California tribal court judge.\*

m. ☐ Respondent.

\* This person may designate someone else to file the petition on their behalf. If the petitioner is a designee, check this category and put designee's name in item 1, above.

2. a. Petitioner asks the court to find that respondent (name):  
is eligible to participate in the CARE Act process and to commence CARE Act proceedings for respondent.

b. Petitioner's relationship to respondent (specify and describe relationship):

- Complete petition (CARE-100) – *remember to fill out all requested information*
- Additionally, provide the required documentation:
  - Completed ***Mental Health Declaration*** (CARE-101) from licensed behavioral health provider
  - OR -
  - Evidence the respondent was detained for a minimum of two periods of intensive treatment (**aka, WIC 5250 holds**), the most recent one within the previous 60 days

- Petitions can be **filed in-person at Norwalk and Hollywood Courthouses** and anywhere Self-Help Centers are located. Future plan to also offer e-file option.
- Help is available online and at **Self-Help Centers** located in courthouses where family law matters are heard



# What Is In A CARE **Agreement/Plan?**



**Behavioral Health Services**



**Medications**



**Housing Resources**



**Social Services & Supports**



# What Is In A CARE Agreement/Plan? *cont'd*

County (DMH + DPH/SAPC) Housing Strategy for CARE Court Population

## LA County Proposal for Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) - Round 1

Submitted April 28, 2023 (decision to be announced June 2023)



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# How is CARE Court **Different** From AOT?



**CARE has narrow list of mental illness diagnoses which qualify**



**CARE has large list of qualifying petitioners**



**CARE allows for a supporter to assist with treatment team and supportive decision making**

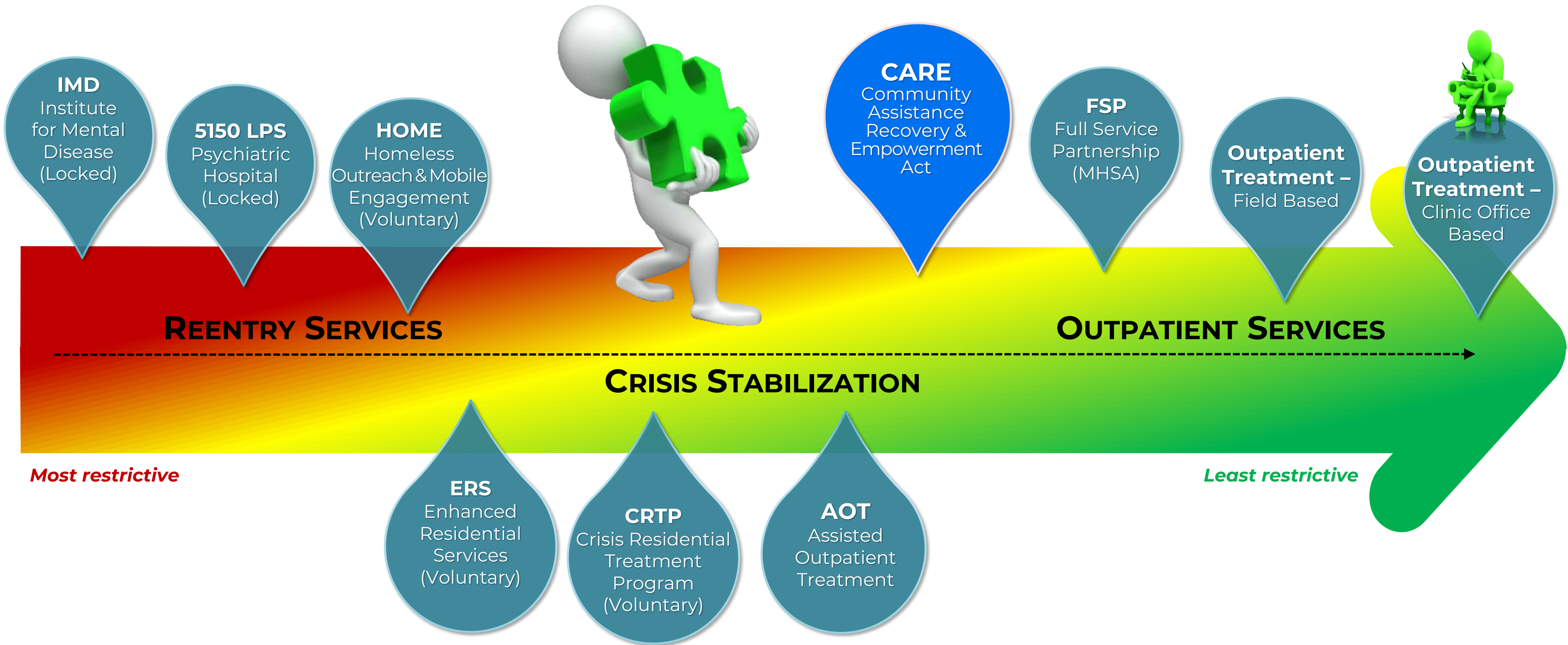


**CARE program duration is for one year (with a second year granted if necessary)**



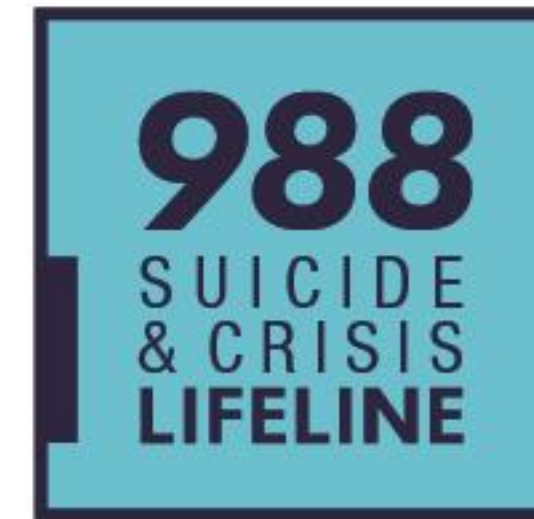
**CARE will be available in every county statewide by 2025—no matter the insurance plan!**

# What Other **DMH** Programs Are Available?



# County Mental Health Resources

Talk with us.



<https://dmh.lacounty.gov/988-information/>

Multi-lingual service referrals, emotional support, and  
mental health resources  
available 24/7 at LACDMH's Help Line **(800) 854-7771**