

INN-05: EXHIBIT D

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**Innovation Work Plan Description
(For Posting on DMH Website)**

County Name

Santa Clara

Work Plan Name

Multi-Cultural Center

Annual Number of Clients to Be Served (If Applicable)

1500 Total

Population to Be Served (if applicable):

Un-served and underserved ethnic community members including African, African-American, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, and Latino.

Project Description (suggested length - one-half page): Provide a concise overall description of the proposed Innovation.

Ethnic groups face serious barriers (language, culture, severe stigma, etc) in access to mental health services. In Santa Clara County, data reveal significant disparities in service among ethnic and cultural populations especially Asians and Latinos.

The project develops a model to increase access to underserved and inappropriately served ethnic communities by establishing a Multi-Cultural Center/MCC designed to house activities and services for multiple ethnic communities. The MCC will offer a welcoming, accessible and safe place where members of all ethnic communities can find a sense of cultural resonance, belonging and support. The MCC will be open to ethnic events and celebrations, creating a natural place for community members to congregate, and where conversations about mental well-being can be inserted and approached within appropriate cultural contexts and languages. Designed and delivered mainly by ethnic family members and peer mentors, mental health promotion and support services will be grounded in ethnic traditions, and will incorporate healing methods and practices not currently in the system of care. Close collaboration among different ethnic groups engenders synergy and provides opportunities for deep cross-cultural learning. Services will be designed to combat stigma and facilitate bridging of traditional healing practices with existing mental health services.

If successful, this project will demonstrate how the inclusion of multi-cultural services in one setting can facilitate an innovative cross-cultural collaboration between ethnic communities and with the mental health system, resulting in increased capacity and services with higher receptivity levels. It will inform and guide efforts to increase the capacity of new immigrant populations in support of those with mental health issues.