



County of Santa Cruz, Human Services Department Request for Proposals # 2019HSD01

Exhibit D: Level of Evidence Framework for Evidence-Based Practices/Programs

For a contracted program to be considered evidence-based, it must meet the Levels of Evidence criteria adopted by HSD. HSD's definition of evidence-based program/practices includes three levels—Model, Promising and Innovative. Promising or Model programs have been proven effective for the target population by research studies. Innovative programs or practices, often called “evidence informed” are practices/programs that are informed by data collected by the program. Respondents may use the definitions listed below to assess if a proposed program service component meets the criteria of evidence-based, and at which level.

Level of Evidence Criteria

- **MODEL:** Model practices have the highest level of scientific evidence demonstrating that they are effective. For practices to be considered MODEL, they must meet the following criterion: Listed in a credible EBP clearinghouse at the highest level.
- **PROMISING:** Promising practices have valid scientific evidence demonstrating effectiveness. Often these practices can be listed in an EBP clearinghouse as the second highest level of evidence. For practices to be considered PROMISING, they must meet the following criterion: Demonstrated at least one evaluation by an independent researcher using experimental or quasi-experimental research methods showing a statistically significant positive impact.
- **INNOVATIVE:** Innovative practices allow for local innovation and provide some evidence that the intervention is effective. For practices to be considered INNOVATIVE, they must have: Demonstrated positive outcomes through previously collected data.