



ADULT RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES (ARFs) – The critical need for “Board and Care” facilities.

Adult Residential Facilities (ARFs) are a critical component of California’s housing continuum. Lack of ARFs impacts individuals, families and local communities. **The social and financial cost is high** as adults with severe mental illness enter revolving doors between crisis facilities, psychiatric facilities, emergency rooms, homelessness and incarceration. Local budgets are impacted due to crisis management, expensive placements and incarcerations when the appropriate placement would be an ARF with service offerings for adults with severe mental illness.

What is an ARF?

Names and acronyms include:

- ARF: Adult Residential Facilities
- RCFE: Residential Care Facility for the Elderly
- Board & Care (often called “Enhanced” or “Augmented” Board & Care)
- Assisted Living

ARFs are licensed to provide care and services sufficient to support needs resulting from an inability to perform Activities of Daily Living or Severe Cognitive Impairment. ARFs provide services that allow people to maintain independence and receive individualized care in a home-like environment, to include:

1. 24 Hour Care
2. Trained Staff
3. Three meals/day (must accommodate special dietary needs)
4. Access to a physician/nurse in case of emergency
5. Assistance with managing medications

Three Key Challenges

1. **Financial:** ARFs cannot survive on a small scale without substantial subsidies. On a larger scale (45+ beds), a supplemental rate (known as ‘patches’) from counties ranging from \$64/day to \$125/day is required for fiscal stability.
2. **Staffing:** Providing and retaining a professional, trained and experienced staff requires proper management, appropriate salaries and ongoing training.
3. **“Not In My Backyard” (NIMBY)** opposition from communities for new construction or attempts to rezone a property for ARF (required for more than 6 beds).



Costly Consequences

- Psychiatric hospitals/facilities range from \$350 - \$775/day.
- Prison costs appr. \$195/day
- County jail costs appr. \$155+ per day (Alameda County, 2014)
- Transitional Programs cost appr. \$150/day per resident.

CALBHBC supports the work of California’s 59 local mental/behavioral health boards and commissions by providing resources, communication and statewide advocacy.

ARF Needs by County

The table below summarizes needs reported in November of 2016 by 22 small, medium and large California counties.

The respondents listed represent 1/3rd of the state. **It is clear there is a high need for this housing option for facilities that provide board and care for adults with severe mental illness in every county.**

Data provided by the CA Behavioral Health Planning Council (CBHPC) survey. Twenty-two counties responded by November 2016. [CBHPC Adult Residential Facilities \(ARF\) Issue Paper is On-Line.](#)

Addressing Funding

Current ARF funding for adults with severe mental illness is limited to the SSI rate, approximately \$1039 per month. Some counties bolster this rate, providing “patches” to large-scale ARFs, often located hours away from the consumer’s community. These patches range from \$64/day to \$125/day.

It is worth examining a different funding model, such as the one available for adults with developmental disabilities. This model provides **several tiers of funding based on the needs of the consumer.** Funding ranges from \$1,039 to \$7,784 per month per consumer, allowing for community-based, appropriately staffed ARFs. *The Department of Developmental Services Community Care Facility Rates are at:*

www.dds.ca.gov/Rates/docs/CCF_rate_January2018.pdf

County	Population ⁵	Beds Needed	Beds Lost	Out of County ⁶
Sierra	3,166	N/A	N/A	*
Colusa	22,312	?		*
Glenn	29,000	0	No	22
Amador	37,302	10	0	*
Siskiyou	44,563	N/A	0	Yes, not sure
Tuolumne	54,511	4	0	*
Nevada	97,946	10	0	?
Napa	141,625	18	8	22
Shasta	178,795	25	12	25
Imperial	184,760	10	0	*
El Dorado	182,917	25	?	25
Yolo	212,747	40	0	13
Santa Cruz	274,594	100	0	20
San Luis Obispo	276,142	50	0	44
Monterey	435,658	20	6	45
Tulare	465,013	30-40	40	yes
San Joaquin	728,509	140	187	16
San Mateo	762,327	50	34	*
Kern	884,436	100	100	*
San Bernardino	2,127,735	40	246	Left blank
Riverside	2,331,040	200-300	50	Unknown
Orange	3,165,203	<u>35-50</u>	<u>100</u>	Left blank
TOTAL		907	783	

It is in the best interest of adults with mental illness, and in the best financial interest of the State of California to increase access to appropriate community-based, long-term residential options that include the necessary supports to address mental illness and other co-occurring physical health conditions. ARFs are a critical component of this housing continuum.

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