



# **California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) Program**

## **Tribal Entities Request for Applications (RFA)**

Please visit the [Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program website](#) for links to this RFA and attachments, as well as information about all funding rounds, technical assistance, and additional resources.

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## I. Overview

Eligible Entities*	<p>California “Tribal entities” are defined as a federally recognized Indian Tribe, Tribal organization, or Urban Indian organization, or a health care program operated by an Indian Tribe, a tribal organization, or Urban Indian organization, as defined in <a href="#">Section 1603</a> of Title 25 of the United States Code and further defined in <a href="#">Section 5304</a>.</p> <p>If you are unsure whether your organization is eligible for this round of funding, please send a written explanation to the BHBH Program <a href="#">Help Desk</a> of your understanding as to how you may meet the eligibility criteria so that we can assist you.</p>
Funding Opportunity and Focus	<p>This round of BHBH Program funding will make available up to \$50,000,000 total to California Tribal entities for use in the planning and implementation of bridge housing services for individuals in Tribal communities experiencing homelessness who have serious behavioral health conditions (serious mental illness and/or substance use disorder).</p>
Tracks	<p>Applications may be submitted for Track 1: Planning Grants or Track 2: Implementation Grants. Tribal entities seeking funding for both planning and implementation should complete a Track 2 application. After reviewing this RFA, see Attachment A for Track 1: Planning Grants and Attachment B for Track 2: Implementation Grants.</p>
Application Period	<p>Applications will be accepted until September 15, 2023, 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time (PT).</p>
Application Form	<p>The application will be accessible starting on July 6, 2023, on <a href="#">SurveyMonkey Apply</a>.</p>

\*The specifications for eligible entities have been updated for clarity.

## II. Introduction and Background

Through this round of BHBH Program funding, DHCS is making available \$50 million exclusively to California Tribal entities to operate bridge housing settings to address the immediate housing needs of people experiencing homelessness who have serious behavioral health conditions, including serious mental illness (SMI) and/or substance use disorder (SUD). The BHBH Program was signed into law in September 2022 under [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 179](#) (Ting, Chapter 249, Statutes of 2022).

Capital funding has recently been made available through several other state programs including the Homekey Tribal Program; the Tribal Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (Tribal HHAP); the Community Care Expansion (CCE) Program; and the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP). In contrast, BHBH Program

funding is primarily intended to support the operational costs of bridge housing that is provided in conjunction with supportive mental health and SUD services. A Tribal entity can implement bridge housing in a variety of settings that may be either directly leased/owned by the Tribal entity or a partnership in which the Tribal entity acts as the lead. All BHBH programs must meet BHBH Program requirements described in this RFA and attachments within the funding timeline.

The primary focus of the BHBH Program is to help people experiencing homelessness who have either SMI or SUD that prevents them from accessing help and moving out of homelessness. Applicants will be expected to clearly demonstrate how they will reach their populations that are most in need of the BHBH Program.

BHBH Program funding is being made available through three RFAs, of which this is the second. The first round of funding, released in winter 2022-23, was open to county behavioral health agencies (BHAs). The third funding round, which will provide \$500 million in competitive funding to eligible Tribal entities and county BHAs, will be released in winter 2023-24. Tribal entities that are awarded a grant through this current, Tribal entity-only second round will also be eligible to apply for funding in the third round.

DHCS has engaged Advocates for Human Potential, Inc. (AHP), a consulting and research firm focused on improving health and human services systems, to serve as the administrative entity supporting the implementation of the BHBH Program. AHP has engaged additional consultants with experience specific to serving the Native American and Tribal communities in California to support BHBH Program implementation and will provide general grant training and technical assistance (TTA) during the application process and throughout the life of the project.

### III. Eligible Tribal Entities

This RFA is making available up to \$50 million in funding exclusively to Tribal entities. California “Tribal entities” are defined as a federally recognized Indian Tribe, tribal organization, or Urban Indian organization, or a health care program operated by an Indian Tribe, a tribal organization, or Urban Indian organization, as defined in [Section 1603](#) of Title 25 of the United States Code and further defined in [Section 5304](#). (See also [Attachment C](#): Definitions.)

**Only Tribal entities within the state of California are eligible to apply for this round of BHBH Program funding.** Any entity that meets the definition of “Tribal entity,” above, whether rural or urban, is invited to apply. Applicants are encouraged to form partnerships with other organizations if appropriate, as long as the primary applicant meets the eligibility criteria.

**Organizations that are unsure whether they are eligible as a Tribal entity for purposes of this round of funding should submit a written explanation to the BHBH Program [Help Desk](#) identifying their understanding of how they meet the eligibility criteria, so that assistance can be provided.**

Partnerships and collaboration are encouraged; however, each application must have one clear lead that will submit the application and sign the contract. A letter of intent or memorandum of understanding (MOU) is not required for subcontractors or other key partners during the application process.

## IV. Funding Opportunities

In this funding round, Tribal entities may apply for either Track 1, a Planning Grant of \$150,000, or Track 2, an Implementation Grant of any amount up to \$5 million. Those Tribal entities that would like to request funding for both planning and implementation activities should only apply for an Implementation Grant, whose funds may also encompass planning activities. Entities receiving an award for a Planning Grant should note that there is no guarantee of future BHBH Program funding rounds for implementation activities. If qualifying applications do not expend the funding available in this Tribal funding opportunity, the remaining funds may be redistributed within the BHBH Program.

### Track 1: Planning Grant

The Planning Grant is intended to facilitate engagement and community conversations about locally defined Tribal and/or Urban Indian housing resources, practices, and opportunities to meet the immediate housing needs of individuals experiencing homelessness and serious behavioral health conditions, from the Indigenous worldview. Community-defined best practices can be explored by grantees conducting planning activities to best address the needs of members of their population who are experiencing homelessness and have serious behavioral health conditions including SMI and/or SUD. Planning grants may not be used for direct services. See [Attachment A](#) for additional details. Planning grants will be awarded in amounts of \$150,000. Planning activities may include relationship building, community engagement, and/or community assessments; identifying potential housing sites; action planning to expand access to housing and behavioral health care for individuals and families; building partnerships with Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) and others; and subcontracting with consultants with expertise in areas related to bridge housing, homelessness, and/or behavioral health. Tribal entities looking for an opportunity to identify how they can best address their bridge housing needs are encouraged to apply.

### Track 2: Implementation Grant

As outlined in [Attachment B](#), this option is intended to support grantees to launch and operate a BHBH program to address the immediate housing needs of individuals in their communities experiencing homelessness and serious behavioral health conditions including SMI and/or SUD. Applicants must identify how they are in alignment with BHBH Program requirements, including the identified allowable uses, timelines, and services. Note that activities that are allowable under the Planning Grant are also allowable under the Implementation Grant. Applicants who are interested in both a Planning Grant and an Implementation Grant should only apply under Track 2: Implementation Grant. Applicants may request up to \$5 million in funding. Larger projects including BHBH start-up infrastructure are eligible; however, eligible entities that have small projects that focus on addressing the immediate housing needs of a few individuals are also encouraged to apply.

## V. Program Description

The BHBH Program builds on the California Health and Human Services Agency’s (CalHHS’s) [Guiding Principles & Strategic Priorities](#) and enables DHCS and grantees to meaningfully contribute to the implementation of the California Interagency Council on Homelessness’s [Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California](#). This RFA has been customized to reflect the needs and best practices of Tribal entities, as voiced by Tribal peoples, and has been informed by existing research and through stakeholder engagement.

The following priorities drive the implementation of the BHBH Program:

- There is a critical need for housing solutions within Tribal communities, and the focus is on access to immediate bridge housing.
- Collaboration will complement ongoing state, county, and Tribal efforts to address homelessness.
- BHBH Program settings will provide supportive behavioral health services and housing navigation to assist people who have serious behavioral health conditions and are experiencing homelessness.

For purposes of the BHBH Program, “bridge housing” is defined as short- and mid-term residential options and serves as a bridge to longer-term housing (see [Attachment C](#)). Bridge housing may include emergency shelter, interim housing, and short- or medium-term rental assistance, as well as housing navigation and supportive services to remove barriers and address longer-term housing needs. Bridge housing must meet the [ESG Minimum Habitability Standards](#) and, when possible and as applicable, should also meet [CoC Housing Quality Standards \(HQS\)](#). All bridge housing programs must include voluntary supportive services and housing navigation.

## VI. Application Process

### A. Application Process

The application and attachments, along with instructions for submitting the completed application, can be found on the [BHBH Program website](#). Applications will be accepted through an application portal, beginning July 6, 2023. Applications may not be hand delivered or sent by email or mail. The deadline for all applications is September 15, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. PT. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.

Information provided by the applicant can be made available for public review, unless otherwise exempted by law (Inspection of Public Records, Chapter 3.5, Division 7, Government Code).

Event	Date
Tribal entity RFA released	June 19, 2023
Informational webinar	July 10, 2023, 11:00 a.m. PT. <a href="#">Register online.</a>

Applications due	September 15, 2023, 4:00 p.m. PT
Tribal entity conditional awards announced	Fall 2023
Contracts executed	Within 60 days of Tribal entity's receipt of initial contract

## B. Application Instructions

This round of BHBH Program funding is intended to support Tribal entities in planning or implementation efforts that address the most appropriate and immediate bridge housing strategies for their communities while adhering to best practices and using funds as allowable.

**The BHBH Program application uses a fillable form on an online application portal hosted by [SurveyMonkey Apply](#).** Before beginning the application, please review this RFA and the additional information and application questions in [Attachment A](#) (Track 1: Planning Grant) or [Attachment B](#) (Track 2: Implementation Grant). To complete the required budget, please follow the budget instructions accompanying the application questions. Use the Excel template available on the [BHBH Program website](#) and upload the budget and budget narrative to the application portal.

You will be able to upload documents, including the required organizational chart, budget, budget narrative, and signed attestation, as well as any other necessary supporting documentation, to SurveyMonkey Apply. An email confirming receipt of the complete application will be sent within 24 hours of submission.

## C. Additional Specifications

1. If deemed necessary by DHCS, DHCS, directly or through AHP, may collect additional applicant documentation, signatures, missing items, or omitted information during the application review process. DHCS will advise the applicant by email or in writing of any documentation that is required and the submission timeline. Failure to submit the required documentation in a manner DHCS deems responsive by the date and time indicated may lead DHCS to find the applicant nonresponsive and eliminate the application from further BHBH Program funding consideration.
2. The submission of an application to this RFA does not obligate DHCS to make a contract award.
3. DHCS reserves the right to deem incomplete responses as nonresponsive to the RFA requirements.
4. DHCS reserves the right to modify or cancel the RFA process at any time.
5. Any of the following may cause DHCS to reject a response from further consideration:
  - a. Failure to meet the stated applicant requirements by the submission deadline.
  - b. Failure to comply with a request to submit additional documentation in a timely manner.
  - c. Failure to comply with all performance requirements, terms, conditions, and/or exhibits that are being prepared for the resulting contract.

## D. Information Sessions

An informational webinar on July 10, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. PT will provide details about both the BHBH Program and this RFA and application process. Applicants for both planning and implementation grants are strongly encouraged to attend. [Registration](#) is required. The webinar will be recorded and posted on the [BHBH Program website](#).

In addition, during the RFA period, AHP will conduct a BHBH Program 101 webinar and provide two rounds of office hours open to all prospective applicants. Applicants may also request a consultation. More information will be available on the [BHBH Program website](#).

## E. Questions

To submit a question related to the RFA or the application instructions, or to submit a technical question related to the online application portal, please request a consultation through the [Help Desk](#).

## F. Reasonable Accommodations

DHCS will provide assistive services such as reading or writing assistance and conversion of the RFA, questions and answers, RFA addenda, or other Administrative Notices to Braille, large print, audiocassette, or computer disk as needed. To request copies of written materials in an alternate format, please send an email to [BHBHinfo@ahpnet.com](mailto:BHBHinfo@ahpnet.com) or call (323) 545-6202.

## G. Proposal Review Criteria

Applicants must respond to all questions, address the minimum program requirements, and describe their proposed plan and budget in detail. Applications that do not identify how the BHBH Program minimum requirements will be met may not be considered for funding. See Attachments A and B for the scoring criteria for each track.

The following overarching criteria will be used to evaluate applications:

- Description of community and need for assistance.
- Ability and experience in addressing housing, homelessness, and serious behavioral health conditions in tribal communities.
- Projects meet the purpose of BHBH Program and program requirements for the track.
- Qualifying experience and capacity to undertake the BHBH Program and enact the designated planning and implementation activities.
- Management capacity and cost reasonableness of budget.

Proposal ranking and selection will consider a number of relevant factors, with the goal of ensuring equitable opportunity for applicants of all population sizes, experience, and needs. In addition, partial funding may be awarded if components of the application are deemed unallowable or do not support the BHBH Program objectives, or if the applicant does not provide sufficient follow-up information. Applicants for Implementation Grants that do not meet the



minimum requirements may be considered for a Planning Grant instead, at the discretion of DHCS.

## H. Award Process

Successful applicants will be notified by email of award decisions. AHP will schedule meetings with conditional awardees to discuss the contracting process, including development of the statement of work (SOW) and payment schedule.

## I. Appeals

Applicants submitting a response to this RFA may not protest or appeal the award. All award decisions are final. Applicants who do not receive funding in this round are welcome to apply in the third round of BHBH Program funding (see [Introduction](#)).

## J. Accessibility and Nondiscrimination

All BHBH Program-funded projects shall adhere to the accessibility requirements set forth in California Building Code Chapters 11A and 11B and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Title II. In addition, developments shall adhere to either the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS, 24 CFR Part 8) or HUD's modified version of the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (Alternative 2010 ADAS, HUD-2014-0042-0001, 79 FR 29671 [5/27/14], commonly referred to as "the Alternative Standards" or "HUD Deeming Memo"). Accessible units shall, to the maximum extent feasible and subject to reasonable health and safety requirements, be distributed throughout the project and be available in a sufficient range of sizes and amenities consistent with 24 CFR Part 8.26.

Grantees shall adopt a written nondiscrimination policy requiring that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, ancestry, familial status, source of income, disability, age, medical condition, genetic information, citizenship, primary language, immigration status (except where explicitly prohibited by federal law), justice system involvement (except where explicitly required by law), or arbitrary characteristics, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any project or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made available pursuant to this RFA. Nor shall all other classes of individuals protected from discrimination under federal or state fair housing laws, individuals perceived to be a member of any of the preceding classes, or any individual or person associated with any of the preceding classes be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any project or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made available pursuant to this RFA.

Grantees shall comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Fair Housing Amendments Act, the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, the Unruh Civil Rights Act, Government Code Section 11135, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and all regulations promulgated pursuant to those statutes, including 24 CFR Part 100, 24 CFR Part 8, and 28 CFR Part 35.



# Attachment A

## Track 1: Planning Grant

This attachment contains information essential to applying for a Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) Program Tribal Entity Planning Grant. This includes program requirements, allowable uses of BHBH Program funds for Planning Grants, application questions, and scoring methodology. If you are interested in funding for both planning and implementation activities, please apply for a [Track 2: Implementation Grant](#) and include descriptions of planning activities.

### Included Information

- A. Track 1: Program Requirements
- B. Track 1: Application Questions
- C. Track 1: Budget Instructions
- D. Track 1: Proposal Review and Scoring

### A. Track 1: Program Requirements

These program elements provide a short description of the key details related to Planning Grants.

Funding amount	\$150,000
Time frame	November 1, 2023–December 31, 2024.  Grantees may complete planning grant activities earlier than December 31, 2024.  Grantees that would like to request an exception to this timeline will need to provide a detailed written justification for the request, which will be reviewed by DHCS.
Populations served	The purpose of the BHBH Planning Grant is to assist Tribal communities in developing a plan for how to best serve individuals with a serious behavioral health condition who are

	<p>experiencing homelessness. (See <a href="#">Attachment C</a> for definitions of “serious behavioral health condition” and “homeless.”)</p>
<p><b>Minimum requirements for grantees</b></p> <p><i>All Planning Grantees will be expected to meet all of these requirements.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designate a program director, project lead, or other point of contact.</li> <li>• Provide an outline of partnerships that will support the Planning Grant. Those may include Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs), Tribal nonprofits, community-based organizations, mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) service providers, local behavioral health departments, and other supportive partners.</li> <li>• Include people with lived experience of homelessness and serious behavioral health conditions—both SMI and SUD—as part of BHBH planning.</li> <li>• Develop and submit Planning Grant goals, objectives, and activities to be completed.</li> <li>• Submit midpoint and final reports.</li> <li>• Submit required documentation, ensuring expenses are allowable, and retaining sufficient backup documentation related to expenses. DHCS, AHP, or a designee may conduct desk or site audits that require grantee participation.</li> <li>• Participate in coaching calls, learning collaboratives, and other required training and technical assistance (TTA) activities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Eligible uses</b></p> <p><i>For questions about eligible uses, please contact the Tribal entities RFA <a href="#">Help Desk</a>.</i></p>	<p>Applicants may seek a \$150,000 BHBH Program Planning Grant to provide support for pre-development, relationship building, strategizing, and/or capacity-building activities necessary to address the needs of their population who are experiencing homelessness and have a serious behavioral health condition, including SMI and/or SUD. Examples of funding uses include, but are not limited, to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paying internal staff, including related supplies and equipment, to oversee the BHBH Program grant and engage in planning activities.</li> <li>• Conducting community needs assessment activities.</li> <li>• Hiring consultants and subcontractors to support development of a BHBH Program plan and/or other grant activities.</li> <li>• Creating a strategy and plan to increase availability of housing for people experiencing homelessness and serious behavioral health conditions and their families, including evaluating available federal, state, Tribal, and other funding options.</li> <li>• Developing or improving a Tribal homelessness documentation system, or information sharing among partners.</li> <li>• Identifying potential sites for BHBH housing.</li> <li>• Training and cross-training to educate housing providers on behavioral health and behavioral health providers on housing in order to work together toward a common plan of action.</li> <li>• Conducting initial project site identification, evaluation, planning, pre-development costs, and similar activities; Bureau of Land Management and other permitting.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying potential funding sources to complement BHBH Program funds, including bridge housing and supportive services, and to sustain BHBH programs.</li> <li>• Conducting community outreach and education.</li> <li>• Conducting landlord and/or contractor recruitment to increase access to housing.</li> <li>• Creating a website or conducting other community outreach activities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Funding Limitations</b></p>	<p>Track 1 awards are expressly intended for planning, pre-development, and capacity building only. Planning grant funds may not be used for direct services or housing. <i>If seeking funds for direct services that include planning activities, consider submitting the application through Track 2: Implementation Grants instead.</i> Track 1 awardees may also apply for the BHBH Program Round 3 in winter 2023–24, but should be aware that funding is competitive and not guaranteed.</p> <p>Grantees will be responsible for submitting invoices, ensuring expenses are allowable, and retaining sufficient backup documentation related to expenses. DHCS, AHP, or a designee may conduct desk or site audits that require grantee participation.</p>
<p><b>Contracting and Fund Disbursement</b></p>	<p>Selected applicants will contract with AHP, the BHBH Program administrative entity.</p> <p>Funding for Track 1 grantees will be distributed in three payments: upon contract execution (\$75,000), upon submission of a midpoint report (\$60,000), and upon submission of the final report (\$15,000). If a Tribal entity does not achieve its identified milestones or meet funding requirements, DHCS reserves the right to redistribute awarded grant funds elsewhere within the BHBH Program. Changes to the Track 1 payment distribution will be considered on a case-by-case basis.</p>

## B. Track 1: Application Questions

Applicants will be required to submit all application materials through the [SurveyMonkey Apply](#) application portal, where there may be prompts for additional information. The application questions are provided here for reference only. Final questions in the application portal may differ slightly. In these questions, “you” and “your” refer to the applicant’s organization, Tribe, or Tribal entity.

**Executive Summary (required, not scored)**

Please provide a 200- to 250-word summary (for public use) describing your agency, key partners, and community, as well as what you hope to accomplish with BHBH Program funding.

**Community/Need for Assistance (10 points)**







(20 points)						
Budget (5 points)						

**Excellent:** Response and/or supporting information demonstrates a thorough, detailed, and complete understanding of the requirement(s). Response demonstrates the ability and intent to exceed the requirement(s), provides evidence of current ability to comply, and proposes detailed plans or methodologies that further assure how the requirement(s) will be exceeded.

**More Than Adequate:** Response and/or supporting information demonstrates a thorough, detailed, and complete understanding of the requirement(s), provides evidence of current ability to comply, and/or provides detailed plans or methodologies to further assure compliance with the requirement(s). The response is not considered excellent or outstanding but is above average and has no flaws, omissions, or defects.

**Adequate:** Response and/or supporting information meets the basic RFA requirement(s) and demonstrates an understanding of, and the ability and intent to, meet the requirement(s). There may be one or more omissions, flaws, and/or defects, but they are inconsequential and acceptable.

**Barely Adequate:** Response and/or supporting information just meets the RFA requirement(s) and/or the information is unclear. Response provides very minimal descriptive information to support the Applicant’s claim that they understand and intend to meet the requirement(s). Response is lacking information, lacking depth or breadth, or lacking facts and/or details.

**Inadequate:** Applicant does not include a response and/or supporting information for the requirement(s) or does not commit to meet the RFA requirement(s).

















Initial purchases of equipment, furnishings, and/or appliances are part of bridge housing start-up infrastructure but do not require prior approval; however, proof of purchase will be required for reimbursement.

Infrastructure projects that involve minor renovations do not require prior approval; however, proof of purchase will be required for reimbursement. Minor renovations are defined as those renovations that do not require a permit.

Expenditures that include contributing to the purchase of property will require site control, defined as ownership, an executed purchase and sale agreement (PSA), an executed letter of intent (LOI), or an executed exclusive negotiation agreement (ENA). This documentation must be submitted according to the requirements outlined in the contract. All contributions to purchases require preapproval by DHCS.

If proposing the purchase of a facility or rehabilitation/renovation project, Tribal entities must provide the following:

- A. A schedule that demonstrates the project can be completed within the allowable time frame.
- B. A budget in alignment with the usual, reasonable, and customary costs for similar projects. (Each Tribal entity shall be solely responsible for any costs to complete the proposed bridge housing start-up infrastructure in excess of the program funds award amount. Neither DHCS nor AHP will be responsible for any cost overruns.)

After Tribal entities have been approved, the contract will outline the following assurances that they and their subcontractors will:

- A. Establish construction contracts with licensed, insured, and bondable contractor(s) based on a permitted set of construction plans with a licensed, insured, and bondable general contractor for an amount consistent with the costs in the approved project budget.
- B. Obtain all required building, local use, and fire clearance or other required building permits or approvals.
- C. Maintain and provide certificates of insurance for required insurance, including general liability insurance and builder's risk insurance, as follows:

A builder's risk policy, including a permission to occupy endorsement, during the course of construction and, upon completion of construction, if the project is new construction, property insurance covering all risks of loss, excluding earthquake, flood or other risks customarily excluded from "all-risks" coverage, in an amount equal to full replacement cost of the project, including all improvements, fixtures, furnishings and equipment thereon at the time of loss.

If the project is rehabilitation of an existing facility, property insurance covering all risks of loss, excluding earthquake, flood or other risks customarily excluded from "all-risks" coverage, in an amount equal to the full replacement costs of all improvements located on the property on which the project is to be constructed, including all improvements, fixtures, furnishings and equipment thereon at the time of loss. Upon completion of the rehabilitation, any property insurance policy





















## Service Details

Applicants must provide the total anticipated number of bed-nights for total BHBH Program funding and the number of unduplicated individuals to be served each fiscal year and some additional service details on the budget template. The total should include an estimate for the entire program period. This information is also required. These numbers must align with the program description in the proposal and will be used to inform the contract deliverable schedule.

## H. Track 2: Proposal Review and Scoring

Executive Summary: YES or NO

Proposed Budget/Budget Narrative: YES or No

Qualifier	Excellent	More Than Adequate	Adequate	Barely Adequate	Inadequate	Total Score
Community/Need for Assistance (10 points)						
Experience (25 points)						
Proposed Implementation (35 points)						
Project Management and Sustainability (25 points)						
Budget (5 points)						

**Excellent:** Response and/or supporting information demonstrates a thorough, detailed, and complete understanding of the requirement(s). Response demonstrates the applicant’s ability and intent to exceed the requirement(s), provides evidence of current ability to comply, and proposes detailed plans or methodologies that further assure how the requirement(s) will be exceeded.

**More Than Adequate:** Response and/or supporting information demonstrates a thorough, detailed, and complete understanding of the requirement(s), provides evidence of applicant’s current ability to comply, and/or provides detailed plans or methodologies to further assure compliance with the requirement(s). The response is not considered excellent or outstanding but is above average and has no flaws, omissions, or defects.

**Adequate:** Response and/or supporting information meets the basic RFA requirement(s) and demonstrates an understanding of, and the ability and intent to, meet the requirement(s). There may be omissions, flaws, and/or defects, but they are inconsequential and acceptable.

**Barely Adequate:** Response and/or supporting information just meets the RFA requirement(s) and/or the information is unclear. Response provides minimal descriptive information to support

the applicant's claim that they understand and intend to meet the requirement(s). Response is lacking information, lacking depth or breadth, or lacking facts and/or details.

**Inadequate:** Applicant does not include a response and/or supporting information for the requirement(s) or does not commit to meeting the RFA requirement(s).

## Attachment C: Definitions

### Auxiliary Funding in Assisted Living Settings

Assisted living settings, for purposes of the BHBH Program, are licensed board and care facilities willing to serve an individual who is exiting homelessness, has a serious behavioral health condition, and needs around-the-clock nonmedical care. Assisted living settings include Adult Residential Facilities (ARFs) and Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFEs), which provide 24/7 nonmedical care to people who require it due to cognitive impairment or inability to perform ADLs, along with room and board. Assisted living settings are licensed by the Department of Social Services.

Auxiliary funding to an assisted living facility supports the successful placement of people who need licensed care. Some county behavioral health agencies have paid auxiliary funds to board and care facilities to close their cost gaps. Auxiliary funds are often referred to as “patches,” “augmentations,” and “supplementals.” By supporting operations, auxiliary funds help ensure that beds remain available to those served by county behavioral health agencies. Board and care patches do *not* pay bed rates. Instead, they fill funding gaps to enable these facilities to accept and serve people with serious behavioral health needs.

### Bridge Housing

For purposes of the BHBH Program, “bridge housing” is defined as short- and mid-term residential programs with a goal to connect individuals to long-term housing stability. The BHBH Program uses a broad definition of “bridge housing” that may include, and may not be limited to, emergency/interim housing, rental assistance, and auxiliary funding in assisted living settings (commonly referred to as “board and care patches”). BHBH settings must offer supportive services that address the housing needs of participants. BHBH Programs are low barrier and use harm reduction strategies and Housing First principles. However, when indicated, funding may be used to support recovery residences and sober living environments for individuals with significant substance use disorder needs. Bridge housing must meet the [ESG Minimum Habitability Standards](#) and, when possible and as applicable, should also meet [CoC Housing Quality Standards \(HQS\)](#).

### Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act, CARE Program and CARE Process

As outlined on the DHCS website, the CARE Act “provides community-based behavioral health services and supports to Californians living with untreated schizophrenia spectrum or other psychotic disorders through a new civil court process. CARE is intended to serve as an upstream intervention for the most severely impaired Californians to prevent avoidable

psychiatric hospitalizations, incarceration, and Lanterman-Petris-Short Mental Health Conservatorship. CARE connects a person in crisis with a court-ordered care plan for up to 12 months, with the possibility to extend for an additional 12 months. The CARE Process will provide earlier action, support, and accountability for both CARE clients, and the local governments responsible for providing behavioral health services to these individuals.”

Additional information on the CARE Act is available on the [CalHHS website](#).

## Family

“Family” includes, but is not limited to, regardless of marital status, actual or perceived sexual orientation, or gender identity, any group of persons presenting for assistance together with or without children and irrespective of age, relationship, or whether or not a member of the household has a disability. A child who is temporarily away from the home because of placement in foster care is considered a member of the family. (Source: [HUD Continuum of Care Program FAQ](#))

## Homeless

For purposes of the BHBH Program, the definition of “homeless” is based on the definition used in the Enhanced Care Management program ([ECM Policy Guide](#), May 2022, page 11), as outlined below. An individual or family experiencing homelessness is defined as any of the following:

- An individual or family that lacks adequate nighttime residence
- An individual or family with a primary residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used for habitation
- An individual or family living in a shelter
- An individual exiting an institution (including incarceration) into homelessness
- An individual or family who will imminently lose housing in next 30 days
- Unaccompanied youth and homeless families and children and youth defined as homeless under other federal statutes
- Individuals fleeing intimate partner violence

Note: This definition is based on the HUD definition of “homeless,” with the following modifications:

- If exiting an institution, individuals are considered homeless if they were experiencing homelessness immediately prior to entering that institutional stay, regardless of the length of the institutionalization.
- The time frame for an individual or family that will imminently lose housing has been extended from 14 days (HUD definition) to 30 days.

## Housing Navigation

Housing navigation is an integral part of the process of assisting people in identifying housing options, resources, and services. Housing navigators work with individuals to help them find, move in to, and retain affordable housing. They also develop relationships with community partners, other service providers, agencies offering housing subsidies, and property owners and managers. Navigators help individuals eliminate or reduce the impact of personal housing

barriers such as criminal records, poor credit, or prior housing judgments due to eviction, as well as transportation needs, application fees, and/or utility payments. Additionally, housing navigators may assist in identification and reporting of instances of housing discrimination. They may link individuals with bridge housing and housing subsidy agencies and assist them in completing applications. They may also work with property owners and public housing authorities (PHAs) to facilitate approvals, assisting with documentation, timely inspections, and corrective action requests.

### **Participant Assistance Funds**

Participant assistance funds are an allowable expense category under the BHBH Program. As described in the [California Department of Health Care Services Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program County Behavioral Health Agencies Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#), participant assistance funds are used to remove barriers and support people with behavioral health conditions who are also experiencing homelessness to meet their immediate housing needs.

Examples include, but are not limited to, costs associated with obtaining government-issued identification and other vital documents, housing application fees, credit reports, security deposits, and utility deposits. Funds may also be used to support move-in and establishing a household, including transportation, food, hygiene products, and moderate furnishings.

### **Serious Behavioral Health Condition**

The BHBH Program eligibility criteria are adapted from the Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) access criteria ([BHIN 21-073](#)) and the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System/Drug Medi-Cal access criteria ([BHIN 21-071](#); [BHIN 23-001](#)), including all CARE Program participants. There are no age restrictions on BHBH Program participants. To be eligible for a BHBH Program-funded project, an individual must meet one of the following criteria:

1. The individual has one or more of the following:
  - a. Significant impairment, where “impairment” is defined as distress, disability, or dysfunction in social, occupational, or other important activities, including education and family relationships
  - b. A reasonable probability of significant deterioration in an important area of life functioning
  - c. A need for SMHS, regardless of presence of impairment (for individuals under age 21)

AND

The individual’s condition, as defined in a, b, and/or c, is due to either of the following:

- a. A diagnosed mental and/or substance-related or addictive disorder, according to the criteria of the current editions of the *DSM* and the *International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD)*
- b. A suspected mental and/or substance-related or addictive disorder that has not yet been diagnosed

OR

2. The individual has at least one of the following:
  - a. At least one diagnosis from the current edition of the *DSM* for Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders, with the exception of Tobacco-Related Disorders and Non-Substance-Related Disorders
  - b. At least one suspected diagnosis from the current edition of the *DSM* for Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders, with the exception of Tobacco-Related Disorders and Non-Substance-Related Disorders

OR

3. The individual is a CARE Program participant, regardless of whether they meet the criteria in paragraph (1) or (2), above.

### **Short-Term and Mid-Term**

For purposes of the BHBH Program, “short-term” is defined as less than 90 days and “mid-term” is a period between 90 days and 2 years, with the possibility of a 1-year extension. Because the BHBH Program sunsets, its funds cannot be used to support longer-term housing or rental assistance. Tribal entities are encouraged to allow flexible lengths of stay in bridge housing settings to ensure housing navigation and placement services can take place and that individuals are exited to permanent housing to the greatest extent possible.

### **Supportive Services**

Supportive services are those services necessary to help program participants obtain and maintain housing, manage symptoms of serious behavioral health conditions, and support recovery and wellness. Examples include peer support, employment assistance, culturally defined practices, transportation assistance, and group and individual activities that promote a sense of purpose and community participation. BHBH Program funds may be used for supportive services not currently supported through other sources. Tribal entities must meet the requirement to maximize all other funding sources, including Medi-Cal, to the greatest extent possible and should prioritize this funding to add new bridge housing beds to their communities. BHBH Program funds may not be used to pay for existing services or housing supports that are currently reimbursed, or eligible for reimbursement through Medi-Cal (including Enhanced Care Management, Targeted Care Management, and Community Support Services), funding sources such as Mental Health Services Act-funded programs, or other federal or local programs.

### **Tribal Entities**

California “Tribal entities” are defined as a federally recognized Indian Tribe, Tribal organization, or Urban Indian organization, or a health care program operated by an Indian Tribe, a Tribal organization, or Urban Indian organization, as defined in [Section 1603](#) of Title 25 of the United States Code and further defined in [Section 5304](#).