

FAQs

Behavioral Health County and Tribal Planning Grant

Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP)

1. What is the goal of BHCIP?

The goal of BHCIP is to expand behavioral health infrastructure throughout California by investing in the rehabilitation, acquisition, and construction of properties that will offer greater access and equity to children, youth, seniors, and adults with behavioral health needs.

2. How much BHCIP funding will be available, and where does it come from?

The FY 2021–22 state budget includes \$2.1 billion for BHCIP that will be distributed to counties, tribal entities (including 638s and urban clinics), nonprofit organizations, for-profit organizations, and private developers throughout California in six grant rounds. The Behavioral Health County and Tribal Planning Grant is the second round of available BHCIP funding.

Behavioral Health County and Tribal Planning Grant (BHCIP Round 2)

3. Who may apply?

County behavioral health agencies and tribal entities (including 638s and urban clinics) are invited to apply. Eligible agencies and entities are encouraged to form regional partnerships, as well. Partnerships will need to designate a lead agency that is responsible for oversight of the budget, implementation, and compliance with all California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) grant requirements, including reporting.

4. Are private developers and nonprofit agencies permitted to apply?

No. This particular round of funding is only open to county behavioral health agencies and tribal entities. Future BHCIP rounds will be open to nonprofit and for-profit organizations and private developers.

5. How much funding is available through these grants, and how many grants will be awarded?

Each county agency and tribal entity will be eligible to apply for up to \$150,000 in one planning grant. Some counties and tribal entities may choose to apply together as a regional partnership entity, in which case they would receive \$150,000 for each eligible partner agency/entity. The number of grants awarded will depend on how many entities apply. These are non-competitive grants, which means DHCS will award funds in response to all fully completed applications.

6. Can we give \$50,000 to each of three community groups (which include non-county, nonprofit, and for-profit groups) to take the consulting lead in the infrastructure plan for three specific projects?

Yes. Eligible planning costs include hiring consultants to convene planning meetings, draft plan materials, conduct background research and infrastructure needs assessments, and develop



educational and outreach materials, as well as meeting costs, supplies and materials, and travel or other costs to support stakeholder participation.

7. We are planning to apply for the Homekey Round 2 funding to provide options for more Permanent Supportive Housing in the county and have several questions.

a. Can this Planning Grant be used to explore the feasibility of this type of project?

Once DHCS posts the eligible facilities for BHCIP funding, this Planning Grant funding opportunity can be used to explore the feasibility of those facilities.

b. Can this Planning Grant be used as a match for the Homekey funding?

No. Planning Grant funds may not be used as a match for any other funding opportunity.

c. Can this Planning Grant be used for CalAim initiatives and exploration of options to fulfill the CalAim mandates?

This Planning Grant funding opportunity is intended to support the planning and acquisition and expansion of behavioral health infrastructure throughout the state. This grant is intended to construct brick and mortar facilities and not to fund direct services. DHCS encourages counties and tribal entities to consider CalAIM, and all DHCS initiatives, when planning behavioral health facility needs.

d. We will need to explore staffing and building capacity to meet a growing BH service need in our county. Can this Planning Grant be used to look at building capacity and how to expand that to additional staff?

Yes. Planning Grant funds may be used for the purpose of assessing building capacity, and for the staff in those facilities, to expand behavioral health services. Please visit the [BHCIP website](#) for more information.

Grant Expectations

8. What is the purpose of the planning grants?

These planning grants will support BHCIP and Community Care Expansion (CCE) planning activities for the acquisition and expansion of California behavioral health infrastructure, through the creation of grantee action plans.

9. What is included in an action plan?

Each grantee will create an action plan outlining their BHCIP and CCE behavioral health project's specific goals, timeline, objectives, and strategies. The action plan will address the construction and/or rehabilitation or expansion of existing facilities and show how the project will fill gaps in service capacity. The action plan will also address operational oversight and long-term management of the facility. Grantees are to review and prioritize local needs that are in alignment with state priorities, drawing from new or existing needs assessment data, reflecting the estimated number of people who are experiencing homelessness and/or have a serious mental illness, substance use disorder, and/or co-occurring disorder, and other state-identified priority populations.



Other elements of the action plan include an outline of partnerships, a staffing plan with a focus on recruiting and retaining diverse and multicultural staff, and resources needed to implement the action plan.

10. Can funds be used for pre-development activities after the action plan has been developed?

Yes. After completion of the action plan, any unused grant funds may be used for approved pre-development activities. This may include feasibility studies, architectural and engineering plans, community engagement, and related tasks that advance a county's or tribal entity's project plan. More detail is provided on page 5 of the [Request for Applications](#) (RFA).

11. Can both infrastructure and behavioral health services be part of the action plan?

No. BHCIP grant funds must be utilized for expanding the state's behavioral health infrastructure.

12. How long is the project period, and what must be done during that time?

Awards will be announced in December 2021. The project period runs from January 3, 2022, to December 31, 2022. During this year, grantees will each work on their action plan, finalizing goals and reaching objectives on a timeline leading to readiness to begin construction or expansion of a facility.

At minimum, these tasks may include conducting or finalizing a needs assessment; identifying a project lead; cementing partnerships and areas of responsibility with stakeholders and community entities; and conducting pre-development activities such as selecting a site, choosing subcontractors, and engaging with stakeholders.

13. May salaries, overhead, and consultants' fees be paid out of grant funds for work done on planning?

Grant funds may be used to cover staff salaries to convene planning meetings, draft plan materials, conduct background research and infrastructure needs assessment(s), develop educational and outreach materials to assist with engaging stakeholders. Grant funds may also pay for consultants, such as researchers, meeting planners, and other service providers. In addition, grant funds may pay contract writers to respond to the BHCIP and Community Care Expansion (CCE) infrastructure grant RFAs. However, grant funds may not be used to cover overhead and other indirect costs.

Grant Application

14. Do I have to complete a needs assessment to apply?

No. Applicants do not have to complete a needs assessment to apply, although the expense of conducting one is an eligible cost under this grant. If you have not completed a needs assessment, you will be asked to provide information in the grant application about the data you will use as part of your planning process.

15. Do counties applying regionally with other counties each need to submit a separate application?

No. Counties need to designate a lead agency that is responsible for oversight of the budget, implementation, and compliance with all California Department of Health Care Services



BHCIP County and Tribal Planning Grants FAQs

(DHCS) grant requirements, including reporting. If counties choose to apply together as a regional partnership entity, they each would receive \$150,000.

16. If counties apply regionally (with other counties), are individual counties then prohibited from applying individually?

Each county agency and tribal entity will be eligible to apply for up to \$150,000 in one planning grant. Some counties and tribal entities may choose to apply together as a regional partnership entity, in which case they would receive \$150,000 for each eligible partner agency/entity. If a county chooses to apply regionally, it is not eligible to also apply individually.

17. Will there be any technical assistance (TA) available to Behavioral Health County and Tribal applicants and grantees?

Yes. TA will be provided to answer questions about the RFA and the application process. Once grants are awarded, TA will be available to all grantees to support planning activities. It will also be offered in connection with future BHCIP and CCE funding, including assistance in cross-system collaborations, in an effort to build out the entire behavioral health continuum of care at the local level.

18. Where can I find the County and Tribal Planning Grant application, and how do I submit it?

The [application and budget must be submitted online](https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6590993/Behavioral-Health-County-and-Tribal-Planning-Grant-Application) at <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6590993/Behavioral-Health-County-and-Tribal-Planning-Grant-Application>.

The [RFA for this planning grant opportunity](https://www.infrastructure.buildingcalhhs.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/BHCIP_Round2_PlanningGrantRFA_110121.pdf) can be found and downloaded at https://www.infrastructure.buildingcalhhs.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/BHCIP_Round2_PlanningGrantRFA_110121.pdf.

[RFA launch dates for all six BHCIP grant rounds](https://www.infrastructure.buildingcalhhs.com/apply/) are listed at <https://www.infrastructure.buildingcalhhs.com/apply/>.

19. When is the County and Tribal Planning Grant application due?

The completed application and budget are due no later than Tuesday, November 30, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. PT.

20. Do you have samples of successful applications for comparable RFAs?

No. These planning grant applications are non-competitive, and therefore, all completed applications will be funded. DHCS is interested in hearing about specific facility needs in the applicant's community. If you are just starting a needs assessment or forming a committee to explore ideas, please describe these activities in your application. The BHCIP team will contact you if they have questions or need more information.

21. If we received a Crisis Care Mobile Units grant, may we apply for this planning grant, too?

Yes, Crisis Care Mobile Units grant recipients may apply for this planning grant, as well as for other BHCIP funding rounds as they are eligible.



22. Do we have to apply for a planning grant if we want to apply for the BHCIP Launch Ready or other later rounds of CCE funding?

No. The six rounds of BHCIP grants are designed to address all stages of readiness and all types of applicants. Action plans funded by this planning grant may be relevant to projects funded in one of the later rounds. At the same time, some applicants are already at the launch ready stage and do not need the funds to create an action plan. Your organization should apply for whichever rounds are pertinent to your needs.

23. Is there a limit to the number of BHCIP grants I can apply for or be awarded?

There is no current limit on the number of grants you can apply for. The awarding of grants will depend on the round and the number of applications received for that round.

Other Information

24. Where can we find copies of the PowerPoint slides from the informational webinar about the planning grant?

[The slides](#) were emailed to everyone who registered for the informational webinar. They will also be posted at www.infrastructure.buildingcalhhs.com.

25. Who do I contact with questions?

Send all questions to BHCIP@dhcs.ca.gov. Please be sure to indicate in the subject line: Planning Grant RFA question.

26. What are the other BHCIP rounds?

Round 1: Crisis Care Mobile Units (RFA release dates: July 2021 [now closed]; re-release, November 2021 [application due January 2022])

Round 3: Launch Ready (RFA release: January 2022)

Round 4: Children and Youth (RFA release: August 2022)

Round 5: To be announced (RFA release: October 2022)

Round 6: To be announced (RFA release: December 2022)

27. How will grant award announcements be made?

All applicants will be notified whether they received a grant award. In addition, grant award announcements will be posted on the [BHCIP website](#), www.infrastructure.buildingcalhhs.com.

Correction

28. On page 6 of the November 1, 2021, RFA, it states that “indirect” costs are not allowable expenses, but the budget template shows allowable indirect costs up to 10%. Could you please clarify whether indirect costs are allowable?

Indirect costs are not an allowable expense. Their inclusion in Section 5 in the quarterly budget and full-year budget worksheets in the [online application](#) was in error. The box for indirect expenses has been removed from the online application budgets. However, you may still see



them when you open the application, especially if you have already started working on the online application. For this reason, *we are asking applicants to not fill in any indirect expenses when working on their budget within the template or the online application.*

Community Care Expansion (CCE) Program

29. What is the CCE program?

DHCS is working very closely with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), which is designing and implementing its own infrastructure expansion program: Community Care Expansion (CCE).

The CCE program will provide \$805 million in funding to expand residential care setting capacities for seniors, adults with disabilities who require long-term care supports, people receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/State Supplement Program (SSP) and/or Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) benefits, and anyone in those groups at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

The RFA for BHCIP round 3 funding (Launch Ready grants) and the RFA for the CCE program will be released together in January 2022.

