



INNOVATION (INN)

Overview

An innovative project is defined, for purposes of the CA Department of Mental Health (DMH) guidelines, as one that contributes to learning rather than a primary focus on providing that service. By providing the opportunity to “try out” new approaches that can inform current and future practices/approaches in communities, an innovation contributes to learning in one or more of the following three ways.

- Introduces new mental health practices/approaches including prevention and early intervention that have never been done
- Makes a change to an existing mental health practice/approach, including adaptation for a new setting or community
- Introduces a new application to the mental health system of a promising community-driven practice/approach or a practice/approach that has been successful in non-mental health contexts or settings.

Key Concepts

1. Time limited
2. 25% may be used for planning purposes
3. Voluntary participation
4. Components – 1. Increase access to underserved groups 2. Increase quality of services, including better outcomes 3. Promote interagency collaboration 4. Increase access to services
5. County required to apply Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) general standards that are appropriate to the INN project
6. Regional collaboration is allowed and encouraged
7. Sustaining – If proven to be successful the county can choose to continue it under Community Services and Supports (CSS) or Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI)
8. Non-Supplant – Non-supplant requirements related to county expenditures must be met
9. Community Partnering – Leveraging of resources is not required but is expected. These can include cash match; federal reimbursements; in-kind contributions; use of Facilities and other resources; time commitment to develop, implement, assess and communicate the impact of Innovation.

Planning Process

1. Engage leadership and representatives of the community
2. Encourage culturally and linguistically competent outreach
3. Conduct planning sessions in convenient community based settings
4. Conduct a fair, inclusive, respectful and effective process
5. Incorporate community strengths