COMMUNITY SERVICES AND SUPPORTS FACT SHEET

What is CSS?

Community Services and Supports (CSS) is the largest of all five MHSA components and receives 80% of the Mental Health Services Fund (76% after the Innovation allocation is set aside). The goal of CSS is to develop and implement promising and proven practices designed to increase access to services for underserved groups, enhance the quality of mental health services, improve outcomes, promote interagency collaboration, bring recovery approaches to current systems, and provide "whatever it takes" services to those most in need. It achieves these goals through its focus on community collaboration, cultural competence, consumer- and family-driven services and systems, service integration for consumers and families, prioritization of serving the unserved and underserved, and a wellness focus that incorporates the concepts of recovery and resilience.

What Are the Requirements to Use CSS Funds?

Programs funded by CSS must meet these requirements:

- They must serve children and/or youth living with serious emotional disturbance (SED) or adults and/or older adults living with serious and persistent mental illness (SPMI).
- As the California Code of Regulations indicates (Title 9, section 3620, subdivision c), more than half of CSS revenue must be designated for Full Service Partnerships (FSPs) which provide a spectrum of "whatever it takes" treatment and services available 24/7/ FSPs support recovery for un- and underserved individuals living with the most severe mental illness or emotional disturbance and their families, and who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

CSS funds are subject to reversion if not spent within three years of allocation.

What Else Can CSS Funds Be Used For?

- CSS funds can be used to support the following MHSA Components and the Prudent Reserve:
  - Capital Facilities and Technological Needs
  - Workforce Education and Training
  - Prudent Reserve
  - The total combined transfer within a fiscal year shall not exceed 20% of the county's most recent five-year average of its total MHSA allocation (WIC 5892, 5800, 5850).
- In addition, CSS funds can be used to support the MHSA Housing program. While still subject to the three-year CSS reversion cycle, upon transfer to CalHFA the dollars are considered spent.
  - What is the MHSA Housing Program?
    MHSA Housing funds are used to develop new housing for eligible tenants, with MHSA funding limited to 30% of total development costs for each unit.
  - Who Is Eligible for MHSA Housing?
    With passage of AB 727, effective January 1, 2018 MHSA housing assistance is expanded for individuals with serious mental illness at all levels of direct services. The bill allows individuals living with serious mental illness to maintain housing as they achieve recovery and transition through the continuum of care, as intended under MHSA, by providing housing/rental assistance necessary for stabilization. Previously, to be eligible for MHSA Housing a person had to be diagnosed with severe and persistent mental illness, receiving FSP or Planning/Outreach and Engagement services, and be homeless or at risk of homelessness.

- **Initial Local CSS One-Time Housing Funds**: A one-time State allocation of $8 million in FY 2006-07 to develop permanent supportive housing for individuals with serious mental illness who were receiving services in the Full Service Partnership programs. Funds were used to develop 34 housing units in two developments (Doria I, Diamond Apartments).
- **Initial State Housing Allocation**: In FY 2007/08 the State provided Orange County with a one-time allocation of $33 million carved out of the CSS allocation for the MHSA Housing Program. These dollars, which were subject to a 10-year reversion period, were all transferred to CalHFA and not subject to reversion.
- When the **MHSA Housing Program concluded in May 2016**, the state created the Local Government Special Needs Housing Program (SNHP). As local stakeholders identified an on-going and persistent need for housing, multiple CSS transfers to SNHP occurred over several years, $5 million in FY 2016-17; $20 million in FY 2017-18 and $70.5 million in FY 2018-19.