Behavioral Health Services Act
HOUSING INTERVENTIONS

Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Funding

Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Funding, keeps a 1% tax on people who earn more than $1 million a year. This is called the “millionaire’s tax.” Update wording.

The money collected from this tax is given to counties based on their population size. Counties use these funds to improve and strengthen public behavioral health services, especially for people who have Medi-Cal or do not have health insurance. Reword with this.

Revenue generated from this tax is distributed to counties based on population size. Counties use these funds to enhance and expand public behavioral health services, with a focus on supporting individuals who are enrolled in Medi-Cal or are uninsured.

Housing interventions are available to individuals with mental health and/or substance use disorders who meet one of the following state-defined criteria:

- At risk of homelessness
- Currently experiencing homelessness
- Chronically homeless, with priority given to individuals living in encampments

What are Housing Interventions?

As previously indicated, the BHSA Housing Interventions is a newly required funding category. All housing costs paid on behalf of consumers with more serious mental health and substance use challenges must now be funded through this category. Historically, the County was funding housing and housing supports as part of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Community Services and Supports programs. As budgeted expenditures shift, the County will continue to fund obligations related to previously planned housing projects and supports funded by state or federal housing grants.

All housing programs funded under this category must follow the Housing First model. Housing First is an evidence-based practice that helps people experiencing homelessness move into stable housing as quickly as possible, without requiring them to first complete treatment or meet other conditions. The idea is that people are more successful in addressing mental health, substance use, or other challenges once they have a safe and stable place to live.

These housing funds cannot be used to pay for mental health or substance use treatment or case management services. They are strictly for housing-related supports.

In addition, before using BHSA Housing Intervention funds, individuals must first use available housing benefits offered through their local Medi-Cal managed care health plans. This ensures that existing Medi-Cal housing resources are used first, and BHSA funds help fill any remaining gaps.

Allowable Housing Interventions expenditures include:

- Rental Subsidies:
  - Rental Assistance
  - Project-Based Housing Assistance
  - Master Leasing
- Operating Subsidies
- Allowable Settings
- Other Housing Supports:
  - Landlord Outreach & Mitigation Funds
  - Participant Assistance Funds
  - Housing Transition Navigation Services and Tenancy & Sustaining Services
  - Outreach & Engagement (max of up to 7% of Housing Intervention funds)
- Capital Development Projects (max 25% of Housing Intervention funds)

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Allowable Housing Settings

Non-Time Limited Permanent Settings
Supportive housing
Apartments, including master-lease apartments
Single and multi-family homes
Housing in mobile home communities
Single room occupancy units
Accessory dwelling units, including Junior Accessory Dwelling Units
Tiny Homes
Shared housing
Recovery/Sober Living housing, including recovery-oriented housing
Assisted living (adult residential facilities, residential facilities for the elderly, and licensed board and care)
License-exempt room and board
Other settings identified under the Transitional Rent benefit

Time Limited Interim Settings
Hotel and motel stays
Non-congregate interim housing models
Congregate settings that have only a small number of individuals per room and sufficient common space (not larger dormitory sleeping halls) (does not include behavioral health residential treatment settings)
Recuperative Care
Short-Term Post-Hospitalization housing
Tiny homes, emergency sleeping cabins, emergency stabilization units
Peer respite
Other settings identified under the Transitional Rent benefit

Housing Interventions Gaps & Needs

The County will focus on addressing identified gaps per the new Housing Interventions requirements under the BHSA. Housing Interventions gaps include but are not limited to:

- Specific types of housing needed
- Use of the Housing First Model across all housing programs
- Referral pathways
- Standardized data and use of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) system across all housing programs
- Policy alignment with Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans (MCPs)

Planned Program Implementation or Expansion for Housing Interventions

Planned investments include expanded housing options, provider training, policy development, and a competitive procurement process. Based on the BHSA requirements and gaps identified through the community program planning (CPP) process and by the BHSA Housing Workgroup, the table below represents the programs and services or expansion of existing services that will be funded and included in the new Behavioral Health Integrated Plan (BHIP) Fiscal Years 2026/27-2028/29. To see the full BHIP at www.ochealthinfo.com/BHSA3yearplan. This investment is estimated to support 2,800 individuals.

Planned Housing Interventions

Transitional Rent/Subsidies - $23.2M	Capital Development Projects - $18.4M
Interim Housing - $11.5M	Year-Round Shelters - $1.7M
Housing Supports for Full Service Partnership Consumers - 4.1M	Other Housing Supports; Participant Funds, Landlord Mitigation, etc. - $3.1M
Administration - $7.9M	Homeless Outreach & Engagement - $3.6M