

Mental Health Services Act Innovation (INN) Component

Innovation Project Requirements & Approval Process

Counties are required to use 5% of their Community Services and Support (CSS) and Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) annual revenue allocation to fund the Innovation component.

Innovation projects are intended to function as research projects, whereby a novel practice or approach is applied within – and to affect - the local county mental health system, with the lessons learned to be shared with county and statewide partners. Making a “contribution to learning” is the primary intent of Innovation projects, as opposed to a focus on providing a service.

Requirements of all Innovation Projects:

1. Be innovative, meaning the project must be new and not yet conducted elsewhere in the public mental health system. A mental health practice or approach that has already demonstrated its effectiveness is not eligible for funding as an Innovative Project unless the project plan identifies how and why project is adapting the practice or approach.
2. Meet any one of the four goals:
 - a. Increase access to mental health services by underserved groups.
 - b. Increase the quality of mental health services.
 - c. Promote interagency and community collaboration.
 - d. Increase access to mental health services.
3. Do one of the following:
 - a. Introduce a new mental health practice or approach;
 - b. Make a change to an existing practice in the field of mental health, including but not limited to, application to a new population; or.
 - c. Apply a promising community-driven practice or approach that has been successful in a non-mental health context or setting.
4. Addresses an identified unmet need in the community.
5. Be developed in partnership with community stakeholders.
6. Have a clear timeframe not to exceed 5 years in length.
7. Identify all necessary resources to implement the project (staffing, contracting requirements, operating budget).
[Note: Project budgets generally range between \$300-500,000 per year, but permissible budgets may be above and below this range]
8. Identify potential funding source(s) for sustained implementation beyond the Innovation timeline.
9. Contribute to learning through the establishment of clear measurable factors that allow for the evaluation of outcomes and impact on an annual basis.

Additional information on Innovation requirements may be found here:
<http://mhsoac.ca.gov/resources/legislation-and-regulations/regulations>

Innovation Project Approval Process:

- Community group, organization or individual(s) submit a completed Innovation Project Proposal Form to MCBH Innovations Coordinator.
- Monterey County Behavioral Health (MCBH) MHSA team reviews submitted project proposals according to requirements listed on the previous page.
- Innovation Idea Champions are identified. These may include MHSA team members, MCBH staff, the community partner(s) who originally presented the idea, and/or relevant stakeholders.
- Innovation Idea Champions write a concept paper.
- Relevant MHSA team members and Innovation idea champions meet with Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSAOAC) staff to receive feedback on each concept paper.
- Innovation idea champions write funding proposal according to the guidelines established by the MHSAOAC. Each funding proposal includes a written summary of the community stakeholder input process (step 1 below).
- Undergo the approval process (may take several months to a year), including:
 1. Local community stakeholder input process
 2. Local approval process (Monterey County Behavioral Health Commission, Board of Supervisors)
 3. Approval from the MHSAOAC
- Upon approval by the MHSAOAC, in accordance with the County's procurement process, MCBH will issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to identify the appropriate qualified vendor(s) to implement the project. Alternatively, county staff may be designated to implement the approved project.