



## ***Questions to ask county leaders about Prop 1***

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# **Key local actions to transform behavioral health services in your county**

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### **Who can you ask? Your county leaders:**

- **County Board of Supervisors** – best perspective on your county’s approach to local engagement, data, funding, and decision-making processes for the current (2023-2026) and future (2026- ) county Behavioral Health Services Plan; can serve as a connection to the local Behavioral Health Director and other key public leaders.
  - **County Chief Administrative Officer** – best overall perspective of and access to potential county funding and budget related questions.
  - **County Behavioral Health Director** – recommended for specific questions about implementation of local behavioral health programs and services (e.g., successes and challenge); can make connections to behavioral health providers and other stakeholders/advocates.
  - **Housing/Homeless leads in county**
  - **Veterans leads in county**
- **Mayors/City Council/City Managers** – best perspective on how your county is coordinating with city officials on addressing local needs related to behavioral health, homelessness, and veterans; for counties with populations over 200,000, the 5 largest cities in that county are required to participate as part of the local planning process.

## What to ask? Three key questions:

### 1. *How is the county ACTING NOW to implement new behavioral health transformation opportunities for the most seriously ill, vulnerable, and homeless?*

- How is **CARE Act** implementation going? For those who have yet to implement, what planning and community engagement strategies are underway to support successful implementation as soon as possible? What are the expected number of petitions, CARE agreements and CARE plans? For those already in implementation, how is the performance of the program going and what is being done to increase quality petitions, including petitions coming from county behavioral health and the county public administrator/ conservator/ or public guardian (e.g., communication strategies, training and technical assistance, stakeholder engagement)?
  - Resource - [CARE Act - California Health and Human Services](#)
  - Resource - [CARE Act](#)
- How is **conservatorship reform** (SB 43) implementation going? For those who have yet to implement, how soon does the county plan to implement SB 43? How are teams being trained to implement SB 43? For those already in implementation, what are the early lessons and improvements?
  - Resource - [SB-43-FAQs \(ca.gov\)](#)

### 2. *How are the local governments - county and city - preparing to BUILD or facilitate new behavioral health centers in the community through the Prop. 1 Bond?*

- Prop 1 Bond's first Request for Applications (\$3.3 billion for BH Continuum Infrastructure, Round 1: Launch Ready projects) was released **in July**, and the funds will be awarded by early 2025. Does the county intend to submit or support the submission of other applications when the RFA is released to increase access to BH treatment centers? How is the county assessing and prioritizing its needs for an application? Is the county establishing partnerships with non-county entities for projects? Does the county have a process to review and expedite letters of support?
  - <https://www.infrastructure.buildingcalhhs.com/category/bond-bhctp-rounds/>

- o Funds for the remaining \$1.1 billion Round 2: Unmet Needs will be issued in 2025.
- Prop 1 Bond Guidance (\$2.0 billion for Permanent Supportive Housing BOND Funding), HCD and CalVet are actively working to make applications for funding available by **late 2024**. What projects might cities, counties, regional and local public intend to submit to provide more supportive housing to veterans and others with BH challenges?
  - o Resources - Review [HCD Homekey Awards Dashboard](#).
  - o Resources - Review <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VHHP>.

**3. How is the county PLANNING the transition from the current Mental Health Services Act to the new BH Services Act approved by voters in July 2026 - especially a) the unified county BH Services plan, covering all services and funding and b) the prioritization of BH Services Act funds for serious mental illness, substance use disorders, and current gaps that aren't now covered by health insurance?**

- What are the counties' current **top needs, gaps, and disparities in their residents' services**? How will data be used to inform the plan? How will the community be engaged to inform the plan?
- What are the counties' current **spending priorities within the Mental Health Services Act funds**, as articulated in the existing Mental Health Services Act 3-year Plan and most recent Revenue and Expenditure Report?
  - o What is the county's current MHSA balance of unspent dollars? Will the county be using it to begin to transition to the expanded set of requirements under the BHSA, such as housing?
  - o What revenue is in the prudent reserve (which is similar to a rainy-day fund for when revenue dip)? How will the county be using it to support existing needs or transition to the expanded set of requirements under the BHSA?
  - o Which of these services could be shifted to other sources, especially insurance or local realignment? Which of these services may be lower priority for MHSA funds, due to changes in needs or newly available funding sources?

- What is the **planning process** that the county is undergoing to support the transition from MHSA to BHSA, especially in regards to a new 3-year plan covering all funding – BHSA, Medi-Cal, realignment, insurance? What technical support does the county need to succeed?
  - How is the county planning to better maximize Medi-Cal billing to draw down more federal funds for services that currently or may have previously been covered solely by MHSA, such as mobile crisis services and peer support services? What about CalAIM benefits that MCPs cover, such as Enhanced Care Management and Community Supports?
  - How is the county preparing for the proposed 2025 changes in Medi-Cal that (if approved by federal partners) will bring new federal dollars into counties that opt-into new service categories like Assertive Community Treatment, supportive employment, coordinated specialty care (CSC) for early psychosis, Community Health Worker services, or 6 months of transitional rent for those existing institutions?
    - Resource: [California Behavioral Health Community-Based Organized Networks of Equitable Care and Treatment Waiver](#)
- How is our county preparing to implement BHSA **housing** supports to meet the needs of residents who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness and have behavioral health conditions? What new housing resources can be brought online to meet this need, including buildings that can be converted into housing and landlords who can make housing available with these new rental subsidy resources?
  - How will the county build connections with the housing authorities to maximize the availability of vouchers under the BHSA housing interventions?

**Learn more at:**  
[MentalHealth.CA.GOV](https://MentalHealth.CA.GOV)