

Tribal Entities Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Can we use an existing SurveyMonkey Apply account to apply for the BHBH Program? (7/7/2023)**

Subtopic: Application Process

Yes. You will be able to apply for BHBH Program funding using an existing SurveyMonkey Apply account.

2. **When will more information on the final competitive RFA for tribal entities be available? (7/7/2023)**

Subtopic: Timeline

The final round will provide \$235 million in competitive funding and has a tentative release date of early 2025. The final round will be a competitive RFA for tribal entities and county behavioral health agencies. More information including the total funding amount and the release date will be shared on the BHBH program website. Please refer to the BHBH program website homepage for more information on each RFA and corresponding timeline.

3. **Are eligible applicants who participate in the BHBH Program required to participate in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)? (7/7/2023)**

Subtopic: Program Requirements

State requirements for use of a local HMIS or a comparable database do not currently apply to Tribal entity grantees. Tribal entities who are awarded BHBH Program funds will be required to submit quarterly reports that include data on how they are successfully moving people into housing.

4. **If I need reasonable accommodations in applying, where can I request alternative materials? (7/7/2023)**

Subtopic: Application Process

DHCS will provide assistive services such as reading or writing assistance and conversion of the RFA, questions/answers, RFA addenda, or other Administrative Notices in Braille, large print, audiocassette, or computer disk. To request copies of written materials in an alternate format, please send an email to BHBHinfo@ahpnet.com or call (323) 545-6202.

5. Will eligible applicants that receive BHBH Program funds be allowed to make budget modifications after they receive the award? (7/7/2023)

Subtopic: Budget/Allowable Use

DHCS recognizes that some budgetary changes may be necessary throughout a project's life. Budget modifications and other changes to the BHBH Program Plan will be accepted by written request and must be approved by DHCS. DHCS will review each grantee's progress on its BHBH Program Plan annually.

6. Is there a minimum or maximum stay requirement for bridge housing? (7/7/2023)

Subtopic: Budget/Allowable Use

There is no minimum or maximum length of time required for bridge housing stays. For purposes of the BHBH Program, "short-term" is defined as less than 90 days and "mid-term" is a period between 90 days and 2 years, with the possibility of a 1-year extension. Because the BHBH Program sunsets, or ends June 30, 2027, grantees may not use its funds to support longer-term housing options. Tribal entities are encouraged to allow flexible lengths of stay in bridge housing settings to ensure housing navigation and placement services occur and that individuals are transitioned to permanent housing to the greatest extent possible.

7. What are the options for eligible applicants that want to lease to own? (7/7/2023)

Subtopic: Budget/Allowable Use

The primary focus of the BHBH Program is to help people experiencing homelessness who have either serious mental illness (SMI) or substance use disorder (SUD) that prevents them from accessing help and transitioning out of homelessness. The RFA does note that grantees will be allowed to have either leased or owned property, with the goal of providing bridge housing on a faster timeline. It is important to note that all leasing costs must be reasonable and appropriate for the area in which they are located, and all BHBH Program funds must be expended by June 30, 2027. Property purchases are treated as part of start-up infrastructure, are limited to \$75,000 per bed, and must be operational within one year of contract execution. These requirements may impact the ability of an eligible applicant to operate a lease-to-own strategy.

8. Will there be allowances for budget exceptions? (7/7/2023)

Subtopic: Budget/Allowable Use

Exceptions to the budgetary specifications will be reviewed by DHCS on a case-by-case basis. Applicants may choose to request an exception from some of the requirements, described below. For DHCS to consider an exception, the applicant must include a strong justification and documentation proving that it is necessary. As noted in the RFA, any exception requests must "clearly describe how the exception is essential for the applicant to be able to effectively serve their community and how the restrictions limit their implementation" ([Attachment B of the RFA](#)). The following are the only funding requirements for which applicants may request an exception. No other exceptions will be approved.

- \$75,000-per-bed limit on BHBH start-up infrastructure
- BHBH start-up infrastructure completion within one year of contract execution

9. What happens if we apply for BHBH Program funding with the intent to use it as a match for another funding source and we do not receive the other funding? (7/7/2023)

Subtopic: Application Process

The BHBH Program does not include a match requirement. Nothing precludes BHBH Program grantees from combining these funds with other funding sources, such as for the purchase of infrastructure, as long as program expenditures meet the identified Allowable BHBH Program Activities outlined in the RFA and the other program allows use of BHBH Program funds as match. If you are applying for other funds, please note that in your BHBH Program application in the budget narrative section and please describe your backup plan in the event that you do not receive additional the funding from other sources.

10. Can rental assistance funding be used for family financial housing support, such as reimbursing room rentals for a family member? (7/7/2023)

Subtopic: Budget/Allowable Use

As part of the BHBH Program, rental assistance funds can be used to support an individual in staying with a family member (e.g., by renting a room).

11. Are vehicle purchases an allowable infrastructure expense? (7/7/2023) Subtopic: Budget/Allowable Use

No. Vehicle purchases are not an allowable use of BHBH Program funds.

12. Can the BHBH Program funds be used to provide bridge housing services to individuals who are undocumented? (7/7/2023)

Subtopic: Budget/Allowable Use

Yes, BHBH Program funds can be used to serve individuals who do not have documentation, so long as they fit the definition of the BHBH Program population, as outlined in the RFA.

13. Can I submit more than one application on SurveyMonkey Apply? (7/19/2023)

Subtopic: Application Process

Only one application may be submitted on behalf of a lead Tribal entity; however, an entity may be listed as a partner or subcontractor on other projects.

14. What is the award amount range for Implementation Grants? (7/19/2023)

Subtopic: Budget/Allowable Use

Eligible applicants may apply for an Implementation Grant in any amount up to \$5 million—there is no minimum. Grantees may use the Implementation Grant to engage in the allowable service activities as described in the RFA on projects of any size, including small projects that focus on addressing the immediate housing needs of a few individuals.

15. Can any individual receive services through BHBH Program-funded programs if they are experiencing distress and displaying disorganized behavior but haven't been diagnosed with a serious behavioral health condition and/or do not want to be? (7/19/2023)

Subtopic: Program Requirements

To be eligible for a BHBH Program-funded project, an individual must meet the following general criteria:

The individual is experiencing significant impairment, or there is a reasonable probability, of significant deterioration in an important area of life functioning

AND

The individual has at least one diagnosis, or a suspected diagnosis, from the current edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM)* for a mental disorder or a substance-related and addictive disorder, with the exception of Tobacco-Related Disorders and Non-Substance-Related Disorders.

BHBH Program participants are not required to have been given a specific diagnosis; however, bridge housing supports should include access to mental health and/or substance use treatment. See [Attachment C: Definitions](#) for a complete definition of "serious behavioral health condition."

16. When a person who might be a BHBH participant has co-occurring mental and substance-related disorders, which one gets addressed first? (7/19/2023) Subtopic: Program Requirements

Eligible applicants are encouraged to partner with local behavioral health organizations and substance use disorder and mental health providers to address the individualized treatment needs of each BHBH participant. The BHBH Program does not include requirements regarding the sequencing of services; as reflected in the Housing First principles, engagement in treatment should not be a requirement for access to housing. The BHBH Program encourages the use of a person-centered approach, and integrated care is considered a best practice.

17. Who should be the primary BHBH Program applicant in a partnership or collaboration? (7/19/2023)

Subtopic: Application Process

Any eligible applicant that meets the definition of "eligible applicant" as outlined in the RFA, whether rural or urban, is invited to apply. Partnerships and collaboration are encouraged; however, each application must have one clear lead that will submit the application and sign the contract. A letter of intent or memorandum of understanding (MOU) is not required for subcontractors or other key partners during the application process.

18. Are you limited to a budget of \$75,000 per bed if you are building new housing? (7/19/2023)

Subtopic: Budget/Allowable Use

Yes. Bridge housing start-up infrastructure funding is limited to \$75,000 per bed. However, eligible applicants may use BHBH Program funds in conjunction with other funds, as allowable. BHBH Program funds are not intended to fully support the construction of new bridge housing facilities. Track 2: Implementation Grant start-up infrastructure funding can be used for start-up costs and to make facilities more available to individuals with serious behavioral health conditions. All bridge housing start-up infrastructure activities must be complete, and beds made available, within one year of contract execution. See [Attachment B \(Track 2: Implementation Grants\)](#) for more information on start-up infrastructure. for more information on start-up infrastructure.

19. What is the grant funding cap amount per eligible applicant? (7/19/2023)

Subtopic: Budget/Allowable Use

Track 1: Planning grants will be awarded in amounts of \$150,000. Applicants for Track 2: Implementation Grants may request up to \$5 million in funding; these grants may also be used for planning activities. An eligible applicant may only apply to one funding track as a primary applicant. However, they may be listed as a partner on another BHBH Program application from an eligible applicant.

20. Will a waiver of sovereign immunity be required for grantees? (7/19/2023)

Subtopic: Program Requirements

There is currently no requirement for a waiver of sovereign immunity for potential grantees. However, additional specifications may be included during awardee contracting.

21. Do all partners who apply for funds need to fit the "eligible applicant" definition? (7/19/2023)

Subtopic: Application Process

No. Each application must have one clear lead that is an eligible applicant and will submit the application and sign the contract. Partnerships and collaborations are encouraged. A letter of intent or memorandum of understanding (MOU) is not required for subcontractors or other key partners during the application process.

22. What information should I provide to help DHCS determine whether my organization is eligible to apply for BHBH Program funding? (7/19/2023)

Subtopic: Application Process

Provide DHCS with a description of your organization, where you are located, whom you serve, the Tribal representation of your board of directors (if applicable), a link to your website (if applicable), and your understanding of how you meet the eligibility criteria below (from the [RFA](#)):

Eligible applicants include (a) federally recognized Indian Tribes, tribal organizations, or Urban Indian organization, or (b) health care programs operated by Indian Tribes, as defined in [Section 1603](#) of Title 25 of the United States Code and further defined in [Section 5304](#).

Other eligible applicants can include organizations that do not meet the above definition of eligibility (such as Tribally Designated Housing Entities [TDHEs], nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporations, or for-profit businesses) that have written support from an eligible tribal entity for a proposed BHBH program benefitting a tribal community. Written support may be in the form of a tribal or board resolution, memorandum, or other legally binding agreement.

Organizations that are unsure if they are eligible for this round of funding should submit a written explanation to the BHBH Program Help Desk of their understanding of how they meet the eligibility criteria so that assistance can be provided. Please note, preference for these funds will be given to federally recognized Tribes.

- 23. On page 8 of the BHBH Program Tribal Entities RFA – Round 2B, it states, “You will be able to upload documents, including the required organizational chart, budget, budget narrative, and signed attestation, as well as any other necessary supporting documentation, to SurveyMonkey Apply.” Is there an attestation required? (9/12/2023)**

Subtopic: Program Requirements

A signed attestation is not required for this round of BHBH Program funding.

- 24. When can we anticipate conditional award announcements for the BHBH Program Tribal Entity Round 2B RFA? (9/25/2023)**

Subtopic: Application Process

Conditional award announcements will be rolling depending on application cycle and will be within 90 days of application deadlines.

- 25. Is there a limit on the number of locations that funding can be used at? For example, can we build one facility in our current city and another facility in a different city? (4/1/2024)**

Subtopic: Allowable Activities

Locations that are within the service area of the applicant can be funded under the BHBH program. There are no limits on the number of locations.

- 26. Can tribal entities previously awarded a BHBH Program grant re-apply? (4/1/2024)**

Subtopic: Application Process

Yes, awardees from Round 2 may apply for Round 2B. However, priority will be given to federally recognized Tribes and applicants that have not previously received funding.