

CALIFORNIA AWARDS NEARLY \$1 BILLION IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS FOR COUNTIES

*\$50 Million also Available to Tribal Entities for Bridge Housing and
Bridge Housing Services*

SACRAMENTO — The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) today began awarding nearly [\\$907 million](#) of the \$1.5 billion in funding for the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) Program to California county behavioral health agencies (BHA). The primary focus of the BHBH Program is to help people experiencing unsheltered homelessness who also have serious behavioral health conditions, including mental health and substance use disorders, that prevent them from accessing help and moving out of homelessness.

“Housing is health, and these awards will help the most vulnerable Californians experiencing unsheltered homelessness,” said **California Health & Human Services Agency Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly**. “Individuals with serious mental health and substance use disorders are often overlooked or ignored. These investments will help change that and move us closer to a Healthy California for All.”

“Bridge housing is a critical need, and our focus is on immediate solutions,” said **DHCS Director Michelle Baass**. “Housing navigation and other supports will be made available to assist program participants in accessing sustainable, affordable, and permanent housing resources.”

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT: The BHBH Program will help address housing instability and homelessness by providing support through various “bridge” housing settings, including tiny homes, interim housing, rental assistance models, and assisted living settings.

The BHBH Program supports necessary housing operational costs (e.g., facility rent, utilities and maintenance, onsite staffing, food, hygiene products, pet support) as well as the costs for additional services to support participants’ housing stability, retention, and wellness. Also, bridge housing settings include voluntary supportive services to help program participants obtain and maintain housing, manage symptoms of serious behavioral health conditions, and support recovery and wellness.

The BHBH Program also prioritizes serving the needs of individuals that participate in the Community Assistance Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Act, a new and compassionate civil court process that provides care to the most severely ill and untreated based on evidence that many people can stabilize, begin healing, and exit homelessness in less restrictive, community-based care that prevents more restrictive conservatorships or incarceration.

TRIBAL ENTITIES: On June 19, DHCS released a Request for Application ([RFA](#)) to tribal entities as part of the BHBH Program. This funding will make available \$50 million to tribes, tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations for the planning and implementation of bridge housing and bridge housing services for historically underserved client populations most in need of services. Applications will be accepted through September 15, 2023. A final competitive RFA making available \$500 million to tribal entities and BHAs will be released in winter 2023-24.

BACKGROUND: California has provided significant funding to create housing and treatment settings in recent years, including through such programs as Homekey, the Community Care Expansion program, and the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program. The BHBH Program is designed to complement these capital investments. The program primarily provides operational and supportive services funding to expand bridge housing implementation. Bridge housing may be existing settings that are leased or owned by BHAs or a provider partner that can be converted into bridge housing on a faster timeline than a new capital project.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The BHBH Program was enacted under Assembly Bill 179 (Chapter 249, Statutes of 2022) and provides \$1.5 billion in funding through June 30, 2027. The BHBH Program builds upon the California Health & Human Services Agency's [Guiding Principles and Strategic Priorities](#), and enables DHCS and grantees to meaningfully contribute to the implementation of the California Interagency Council on Homelessness' [Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California](#).

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