

CALIFORNIA AWARDS TRIBAL ENTITIES \$25 MILLION FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BRIDGE HOUSING

SACRAMENTO — California is [investing more than \\$25 million](#) in tribal entities through the Department of Health Care Services' (DHCS) Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) Program. Funding will be focused on addressing homelessness and the behavioral health issues impacting tribal communities across the state. These awards will enable entities to make connections and establish resources vital to their communities.

“With a diverse tribal representation, these grants will help create and support the connections necessary for people in tribal communities experiencing mental health and substance use disorders to get connected to the housing and treatment services they need,” said **DHCS Director Michelle Baass**.

“This funding will support the unique needs of tribal communities to provide housing to their community members with behavioral health conditions” said **California Health & Human Services Agency Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly**, “These are key investments to build connections for tribal community members to the treatment and housing services they need.”

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT: BHBH Program settings include access to services to help program participants manage symptoms of serious behavioral health conditions, obtain and maintain permanent housing, and support recovery and wellness.

PROGRAM IMPACT: The BHBH Program provides support through various “bridge” housing settings, including tiny homes, interim housing, rental assistance models, and assisted living settings. One awardee, Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians, will use funding to increase their capacity by 3,000 bed nights with a program that is based on meeting individuals where they are and providing housing navigation, supportive services, and bridge housing options to individuals and families who have unmet behavioral health needs.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM: The BHBH Program primarily provides operational and supportive services funding to expand bridge housing implementation. The program helps fund necessary housing operational costs (e.g., facility rent, pet support, utilities, Wi-Fi, insurance, onsite staffing, repairs, food, hygiene products), the costs for additional services to support participants’ housing stability, retention, and wellness, and culturally defined practices. This bridge housing may be existing settings that are leased or owned by a grantee or a provider partner that can be converted into bridge housing on a faster timeline than a new capital project.

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. Of the initial allocation of \$1 billion for the BHBH Program, more than \$925 million has been awarded. An additional competitive funding opportunity for \$265 million will be made available in winter 2023-24.

CONNECTIONS TO OTHER PROGRAMS: In recent years, California has provided funding to tribal entities to create housing and treatment settings, including through such programs as the Homekey Tribal Program; Community Care Expansion Program; Tribal Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Grants Program; and Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program. The BHBH Program is designed to complement these capital investments.

BIGGER PICTURE: 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](#). The BHBH Program will be implemented in alignment with the Community, Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act, which prioritizes BHBH Program resources for CARE participants. Learn more about the [Newsom Administration's sweeping effort](#) to combat the mental health, opioid, and homelessness crises.

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NUMBER: 23-44 | **DATE:** October 27, 2023
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