

# Community Planning Process and Local Stakeholder Engagement



## Stakeholder Requirements

The Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) requires counties to submit three-year Integrated Plans for Behavioral Health Services and Outcomes. The Integrated Plan serves as a three-year prospective global spending plan that describes how county behavioral health departments plan to use all available behavioral health funding to meet statewide and local outcome measures, reduce disparities, and address the unmet need in their community. Counties must engage with local stakeholders to develop each element of their Integrated Plan (WIC § 5963.03).

Each Integrated Plan is developed with local stakeholders and partners, including, but not limited to:

Transparency is a key requirement of BHSA stakeholder engagement requirements. Counties must show how they use their behavioral health funding so stakeholders can meaningfully participate in the community planning process.

Full details on the county Integrated Plan and the Community Planning Process are available in the [BHSA Policy Manual](#).



Eligible adults and older adults



Local public health jurisdictions



Tribal and Indian Health Program designees



Local education agencies



County social services and child welfare agencies



Labor representative organizations



Youths or youth mental health or substance use disorder organizations



Families of eligible children and youth, eligible adults, and eligible older adults



Health care service plans, including Medi-Cal managed care plans



Higher education partners



Independent living centers



Early childhood organizations



Veterans



Disability insurers



Regional centers



Area agencies on aging



Emergency medical services



Representatives from veterans organizations



Health care organizations, including hospitals



Providers of mental health services and substance use disorder treatment services



Public safety partners, including county juvenile justice agencies



Continuums of care, including representatives from the homeless service provider community



Community-based organizations serving culturally and linguistically diverse constituents



Counties with a population greater than 200,000, representatives from the five most populous cities

## Who do Integrated Plans serve?

The BHSA expands the types of behavioral health supports available to eligible Californians by focusing on historical gaps and emerging policy priorities. Each county **establishes** and **administers** a **program** to serve persons or families, prioritizing populations meeting **one of the following conditions**<sup>1</sup>:



### Eligible adults and older adults who meet one of the following:

- Are chronically homeless or experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness.
- Are in, or are at risk of being in, the justice system.
- Are reentering the community from prison or jail.
- Are at risk of conservatorship pursuant to Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 5350) of Part 1 of Division 5.
- Are at risk of institutionalization.



### Eligible children and youth who meet one of the following:

- Are chronically homeless or experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness.
- Are in, or at risk of being in, the juvenile justice system.
- Are reentering the community from a youth correctional facility.
- Are in the child welfare system pursuant to Section 300, 601, or 602.
- Are at risk of institutionalization.

## How do counties engage with stakeholders?

Counties must demonstrate a partnership with constituents and stakeholders as part of their community planning process. **Examples of meaningful partnership with stakeholders** may include, but are not limited to:

- Public comment and hearings on Integrated Plan drafts and updates<sup>2</sup>
- Focus groups
- Surveys
- Key informant interviews
- Listening sessions
- Conference calls
- Client advisory meetings
- Consumer and family group meetings

- Town hall meetings
- Video conferences
- Media announcements
- Targeted outreach
- Stakeholder workgroups and committees
- Other strategies that demonstrate meaningful partnerships with stakeholders

## PREPARE.



Review available resources on the [BHSA](#) and Integrated Plan Template. Understand the expectations for your stakeholder group(s).

## CONNECT.



Reach out to your [County Coordinator](#) to get involved with your local Community Planning Process. Draft Integrated Plans or annual updates are due **March 31**. Integrated Plans are open to **public comment** before final submission on **June 30**.

## ENGAGE.



Community engagement is an on-going process. Plan to stay engaged over time. Focus on the needs of your local area. Integrated Plans become effective on **July 1, 2026**, and are created every three years. Check annual updates for progress.

## Planning is happening now.

Check with your Behavioral Health department for information on your local planning process.



To find contact information for your county coordinator, scan this QR code or visit the [BHSA Coordinators List](#).

### Footnotes

1. WIC Section 5892(d)
2. Continue to be required by statute under BHSA per WIC § 5963.03