



## **Policy Priorities for 2025**

### **1. Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA)**

- Assist the Council with tracking, reviewing, evaluating, and advising on the Behavioral Health Transformation implementation.
- Ensure adequate and equitable funding of BHSA and oppose the use of BHSA funds for non-BHSA purposes.
- Advance initiatives that promote full integration of substance use disorder services and eliminates systemic barriers to access and care.
- Advocate for funding flexibility to allow housing options outside of Housing First models, to be made available for individuals with a Serious Mental Illness and/or a substance use disorder.

### **2. Proposition 36**

- Monitor the implementation and the implications Proposition 36 may have on the behavioral health and criminal justice systems.
- Track incarceration rates for drug related offenses and evaluate treatment accessibility for justice involved individuals.

### **3. Federal Action**

- Monitor federal actions that may negatively impact California's public behavioral health system.
- Advocate for the protection and sustained federal funding of Medi-Cal and other critical funding streams that support California's public behavioral health system.
- Protect access to behavioral health services for all Californians, including individuals with immigration statuses.

### **4. Substance Use Disorder**

- Eliminate barriers to accessing substance use disorder treatment by advocating for policies, funding and system improvements.
- Advocate for more comprehensive licensing, oversight, and accountability for non-licensed substance use disorder residential treatment programs.
- Advocate for recovery housing to be funded under BHSA and for a recovery housing model that can effectively support individuals with mental health and/or substance use disorders and provides a permanent housing option under the Housing First policy.

### **5. Children and Youth**

- Advocate for equitable access of behavioral health services for justice impacted children and youth who are entering into the criminal justice system and/or reentering into the community and schools.