

These FAQs provide essential details about the California Department of Health Care Services' (DHCS) work to implement Proposition 1, a cornerstone of Governor Newsom's [Mental Health for All Initiative](#). The FAQ explains the purpose and structure of the **Behavioral Health Transformation Policy Manual**, outlines how stakeholders can provide input during public comment periods, and highlights the transition to a new digital, interactive policy management system.

What is Proposition 1?

[Proposition 1](#), passed by California voters in March 2024, is a landmark initiative designed to reform and expand California's behavioral health system. The two-bill package comprises the Behavioral Health Services Act ([Senate Bill \(SB\) 326 \(Eggman, Chapter 790, Statutes of 2023\)](#)) and Behavioral Health Bond ([Assembly Bill \(AB\) 531 \(Irwin, Chapter 789, Statutes of 2023\)](#)). Together, these bills form the foundation for sweeping changes in the behavioral health services delivery system and fund additional treatment centers and facilities.

- The Behavioral Health Services Act modernizes and reforms behavioral health care to expand access and improve accountability.
- The Behavioral Health Bond allocates up to \$6.4 billion to strengthen the state's behavioral health infrastructure by funding treatment sites, supportive housing, and housing for veterans with behavioral health needs.

What is Behavioral Health Transformation?

Behavioral Health Transformation is California's comprehensive effort to improve and modernize the state's behavioral health system, addressing the needs of individuals with serious mental health and substance use treatment needs. It encompasses a range of efforts, including investments, policy reforms, and new programs, to enhance the continuum of care, increase accountability, and support equitable access to behavioral health services for all Californians.

Through Behavioral Health Transformation, DHCS' efforts to enact changes resulting from Proposition 1, DHCS contributes to larger Mental Health for All efforts by implementing key initiatives, enhancing transparency and accountability measures, and expanding behavioral health care facility capacity. DHCS works closely with counties, stakeholders, and community partners to align funding and services with measurable outcomes, ensuring the state's investments have a meaningful and lasting impact.

What is the Behavioral Health Transformation Policy Manual?

The Behavioral Health Transformation Policy Manual is a comprehensive guide for state and local entities to implement Behavioral Health Transformation. It provides detailed requirements, policies, and procedures to modernize the behavioral health system, improve accountability, and expand care capacity. DHCS is releasing the Behavioral Health Transformation Policy Manual in multiple phases, called “modules.” More information about the modules and structure of the Digital Behavioral Health Transformation Policy Manual is available at the [Help Center](#).

How does the Behavioral Health Transformation Policy Manual digital solution differ from previous policy releases?

The draft and final Behavioral Health Transformation Policy Manual Modules are being released in a new digital, web-based format. Rather than releasing a series of Behavioral Health Information Notices that need to be tracked over time, the manual is published on a digital policy management software solution. This format also has other benefits; it allows DHCS to release a digital draft policy manual – that allows stakeholders to submit comments directly to the draft Behavioral Health Transformation Policy Manual, which will eventually become a web-based, easily searchable resource.

Why is there a public comment period?

While public comment on the manual is not required by statute, DHCS values feedback from all stakeholders, entities, and individuals affected by Behavioral Health Transformation. DHCS invites Californians to provide feedback on the draft Behavioral Health Transformation Policy Manual. Modules released for public comment are available [here](#). Final modules will be released starting in 2025.

How can feedback on the Behavioral Health Transformation Policy Manual be submitted?

Watch this [instructional training video](#) to learn how to submit feedback on the draft Behavioral Health Transformation Policy Manual using an online, user-friendly platform. Please note that the video includes placeholder text for demonstration purposes and not draft policy text.

What topics are included in the Behavioral Health Transformation Policy Manual?

Each module of the Behavioral Health Transformation Policy Manual includes specific topics to help counties meet new requirements in a timely manner. Module 1 includes information on the Community Planning Process, County Integrated Plan, and Housing Interventions. Module 2 includes guidance for Behavioral Health Services Act Fiscal Policies, Behavioral Health Services and Supports (including Early Intervention), Full Service Partnerships, and Documentation Requirements for Clinical Behavioral Health Services Act Services. Information about future modules will be posted when they are ready for release.

What if I need support submitting my feedback?

If you need additional support when submitting your feedback, please email BHTPolicyFeedback@dhcs.ca.gov.

Where can I find more information?

Details about the Behavioral Health Transformation Policy Manual and module public comment periods are available on the Behavioral Health Transformation Public Comment [website](#). For information on navigating the digital Behavioral Health Transformation Policy Manual or the structure of the solution, please visit the [Help Center](#).

For general Behavioral Health Transformation-related inquiries, please email BHTinfo@dhcs.ca.gov, and visit the [Behavioral Health Transformation webpage](#) for additional information.

Please also sign up on our [website](#) to receive monthly Behavioral Health Transformation updates.