

The COVID-19 pandemic intensified behavioral health needs across the state, creating new barriers for people with mental illness and substance use disorders and increasing the prevalence of these conditions. In response, the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) implemented the Behavioral Health Response and Rescue Project (BHRRP) to increase access to behavioral health care for all Californians.



BHRRP is funded by supplements to the [Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant](#) (SABG) and the Community [Mental Health Services Block Grant](#) (MHBG) awarded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Funding was made available to SAMHSA through passage of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

## Project Goals

- 1 Expand access** to behavioral health care in California through investments in prevention, crisis response, intervention and treatment, and recovery services.
- 2 Advance health equity** across the behavioral health care system by targeting the needs of the most vulnerable communities.
- 3 Inform policy decisions** through research and data analysis on the behavioral health workforce, the behavioral health continuum of care, and the overall effectiveness of BHRRP programs.

## BHRRP will support the full continuum of behavioral health care needs:

### PREVENTION

DHCS is supporting a variety of prevention programs through BHRRP, including the Statewide Friday Night Live Youth Prevention Program, suicide prevention services, a Statewide Prevention Plan for California counties, and an evidence-based prevention registry.



### INTERVENTION AND TREATMENT

BHRRP aims to expand the behavioral health workforce by continuing support for peer-run programs and the peer workforce. BHRRP will also fund training sessions for counties to develop treatment programs for first episode psychosis and provide telehealth equipment for patients in need.



### CRISIS

DHCS implemented the Crisis Care Mobile Units (CCMU) Program to support behavioral health mobile crisis and non-crisis services, and will provide behavioral health crisis intervention training and programs for first responders through the Behavioral Health Justice Intervention Services Project.



### RECOVERY

DHCS is using BHRRP funds to increase the number and quality of culturally responsive behavioral health recovery services and programs statewide, with a focus on traditionally underserved populations. Initial funding will be released to establish standards of care, and later funding will implement those standards statewide.



TABLE 1

## BHRRP Statewide Areas of Focus

Areas of Focus	Description
<a href="#">Behavioral Health Workforce Development Project</a>	Expand the behavioral health workforce through funding opportunities available to counties, city behavioral health agencies, and providers.
Telehealth Infrastructure	Support the purchase of provider telehealth equipment in health care facilities.
<a href="#">Recovery Services</a>	Increase the number and quality of culturally responsive behavioral health recovery services and programs statewide.
<a href="#">Crisis Care Mobile Units Program</a>	Launch a new Crisis Care Mobile Units program, prioritizing services for individuals 25 and younger, to support counties and regions to respond to urgent crises.
<a href="#">Behavioral Health Justice Intervention Services</a>	Support behavioral health crisis intervention training and programs for law enforcement and other first responders.
<a href="#">Statewide First Episode Psychosis (FEP)</a>	Host learning collaborative training sessions for evidence-based FEP program models.
Suicide Prevention Hotline	Provide suicide prevention services to California residents. Services include warm lines, online chat interventions, survivor support groups, grief counseling, and more.
<a href="#">Naloxone Distribution</a>	Continue to supply free naloxone to communities after federal opioid funds expire in September 2022.
<a href="#">Project ATLAS</a>	Build California’s provider network into the ATLAS system, which helps individuals locate treatment providers that adhere to evidence-based protocols.
<a href="#">Statewide Friday Night Live FNL</a>	Expand the existing FNL program to increase county participation in the program.
Statewide Prevention Plan	Complete a Statewide Prevention Plan that will support counties in their strategic planning efforts.

TABLE 2  
**BHRRP County Areas of Focus**

Areas of Focus	Description
Discretionary	Provide flexible funding for county behavioral health services.
Recovery Housing Support	Support recovery housing services. Funded organizations will provide recovery residence, transitional housing, and residential treatment to facilitate continued engagement in SUD treatment and related recovery support services.
Prevention Set-Aside	Prevention activity menu options, including Friday Night Live programs; school-based SUD education programs; and awareness and education campaigns.
FNL County Set-Aside	Provide supplemental FNL funds to counties to support widespread implementation of the FNL program.
Perinatal Set-Aside	Perinatal-specific treatment and recovery services to perform activities to include screening and assessment, treatment planning, referrals, interim services, case management, and strengthening the relationships between patients and their OB/ GYNs.
Youth and Adolescent Treatment Set-Aside	Address the needs of youth aged 12 through 20, and their families. Eligible activities include screening and assessment; diagnosis; placement; treatment; planning; youth development approaches to treatment; family interventions and support systems; structured recovery related activities, and alcohol and drug testing.
First Episode Psychosis Set-Aside	Expand programming to support appropriate evidence-based programs for individuals with first episode psychosis.
Crisis Stabilization Services	Existing crisis stabilization facilities providing short-term (under 24 hours) observation and crisis stabilization services to all referrals in a home-like, non-hospital environment; and fund expansion of crisis stabilization facilities and outreach.
Early Intervention Services	Perform mental health early intervention, including screening and assessment, diagnosis, referral services, cognitive behavioral therapy, relaxation, social skills, and training.