

Prop 56: Behavioral Health Integration

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Applications must be submitted via email to BHIgrants@partnershiphp.org by **Tuesday, January 21st at 5:00pm PST**. This deadline is set by DHCS. PHC wants to assist applicants in meeting this deadline and ensuring a complete, deliberate application. **If you would like for us to review your application and/or provide you with assistance, please submit to us by Monday, January 13th.**

Updated 1/7/2020

Regarding the letters of support from the county office, do we need one from both the county mental health and county substance abuse programs for the Medication Management project?

It is up to the provider to decide which populations will be targeted through the project. If you decide to target both mental health and SUD, you could request one letter from the county and ask that they indicate it is to cover both target populations.

Is it required to include a hospital or clinic as a partner and where in the application should we identify the organizations we are partnering with?

It is not required but is something that PHC hopes to see in all applications. In addition to noting your collaboration in the body of the email when sending us your application, you can identify your collaborators where most pertinent in the application (i.e. narrative overview, when describing the approach/how tasks will be accomplished, etc.).

Can you clarify the outcomes that must be achieved in order to be reimbursed?

In addition to the set measures, your application should define the outcomes you expect to achieve and how they will be measured.

We are not “new” and have done some behavioral health screening over time. Are we eligible to apply?

You are eligible as long as these are not expenses that are being reimbursed (or can be reimbursed) by Medi-Cal. You don't have to be new to the program or area.

Can a provider use BHI grant funds to house an MD at their site to provide general medical care?

No, there is an IMS certificate available from DHCS which allows for medical services to be provided but only as it relates to the person's substance use.

For the letters of support for projects addressing SMI or SUD, does this mean we should be getting a letter from PHC?

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The letter of support would come from the county office, not PHC. If you need help identifying a contact person in your county, please contact us.

In the application it states that we should include a budget. Is there a template for this budget or any additional guidelines for creating this budget? Are we required to submit a budget narrative as well?

A detailed budget for the applicant's defined milestones and associated proposed incentive funding is required to be submitted along with the application. Unfortunately, DHCS has not provided a template for this budget. It may be helpful to include a budget narrative as well.

The MOU document in the application is blank. Can PHC provide a complete MOU or should the provider fill this out?

We are asking that providers fill out the MOU template and list "Partnership HealthPlan of California" in the plan name. In section 7C of the MOU, the provider should list the data measures/elements desired to be provided by PHC which will be necessary in the milestones they've chosen. The MOU effective dates are 04/01/2020-12/31/2022. The MOU should be signed by the provider and submitted to PHC along with the completed application by 1/21/2020.

Should we include a baseline for the mandatory measures, and the optional measures selected, in our grant applications? If so, over what timeframe?

Yes, that would be helpful to have a baseline measurement as of 4/1/2020 for the previous quarter.

We intend to apply for the Maternal Mental Health and Substance Use project; is it mandatory for our project to tackle Substance Use or would tackling Behavioral Health without an explicit project intervention for Substance Use be sufficient?

Yes, the Maternal Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder project must tackle both mental health and substance use as outlined in the required measures in the application.

Is construction and/or renovation an allowable expense?

We are awaiting response from DHCS on whether grant funds can be used for construction and/or renovation.

Updated 12/20/19

Our project is not addressing SMI and only screening for SUD. We have a case manager for SUD patients, a MAT program, but are not using the grant to initiate any SUD treatment services. Do we need a signed letter of support from County SUD Services?

If you will not provide SMI services, then you do not need a letter.

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Regarding the DHCS Application, should we submit the entire application including instructions or is it okay to delete the components we are not applying for?

Please submit the entire application without deletion or modification to formatting/structure. Section 2 in application is informational and to be used to complete Sections 3.1-3.6.

Updated 12/19/19

Is the Notice of Intent to Apply binding? Should we submit an NOI if we are not certain that we will move forward with the application?

It is not binding. PHC requests that a Notice of Intent to Apply is submitted to BHlgrants@partnershiphp.org by 12/20/19. This will provide an estimate of the number of applications we will receive.

Is there a limit to the number of grants that can be applied for throughout a single region? Is it possible for multiple grants to be awarded in a single region? Can the applicant be any entity or does it have to be the county?

Multiple grant applications will be accepted. Please see the eligibility answer in the FAQs.

Updated 12/18/19

Will the grant pay for a QI consultant?

Yes, DHCS has provided the guidance that costs associated with achieving the measurable milestones in the application are appropriate as long as they are reasonably related to achieving these milestones.

Can the grant be used for opening new locations specifically for mental health?

These grants are for integrated models of care. If a new location for mental health services in some way creates, enhances, or builds upon integration with primary care and is consistent with one of the six project areas using the mandated measures and reporting requirements, then it is possible that this may be a successful application.

Can PHC let us know what they see are the areas that have the largest needs? What's important to PHC?

As was mentioned in the 12/13 webinar, PHC is looking for proposals that provide behavioral health integration that will better meet the needs of our members who have co-occurring disorders and/or mental health needs. Specifically, the six project categories in the DHCS application provides some guidance. Beyond these project categories, PHC has interest in meeting the needs of our members with substance use disorder issues, maternal mental health, adolescents with co-morbid conditions and to create hub and spoke models of care where there is a strong linkage and referral between primary care and behavioral health providers. PHC's largest needs are SUDS workforce capacity, colocation of SUDS services with mild to moderate, and PCP sites. PHC is very interested in collaborative grants that involve more than one entity serving our members.

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If we already have a behavioral health program in place (Planned Parenthood) in 2 Solano County locations, can we apply for an increase in staffing and an initiation for screening and tracking depression of our patient population?

Yes, as long as this funding doesn't supplant existing funding and the activities and milestones are consistent with the objectives of the grant application.

Is a Substance Abuse Treatment Division within the Behavioral Health Department of a Federally Run Agency eligible for a grant application? Currently this Substance Abuse Counselor is unable to bill for any services. Our patient population obtain Partnership HealthPlan (CA State Medi-Cal).

To be eligible, the provider must have a contract with PHC and serve Medi-Cal beneficiaries. To provide a more specific answer requires further information, so please follow-up with BHlgrants@partnershiphp.org for further inquiry.

We are a SUD Treatment program, could we use the grant to fund comprehensive DSM assessment by an LPHA?

These incentive grants are to be used for the Behavioral Health integration with primary care. Eligible projects must be consistent with one of the six project areas provided in the DHCS application. The grant cannot be used to cover services that can otherwise be billed through Drug Med-Cal.

Will the 12/13 webinar PowerPoint be available as a PDF?

Yes, a PDF will be available after the webinar on our website.

If we are not an FQHC yet, do we have to collaborate with an FQHC or can we collaborate with another non-FQHC?

The grants are not just for FQHCs. To apply, applicants must be contracted with PHC or Beacon Health Options as of January 21, 2020 or collaborating with a PHC contractor. Applicants are encouraged to consider partnering with a primary care provider, or with a hospital, and also to reach out to PHC for other partnership ideas. PHC wants to facilitate conversations that might lead to these projects coming in play.

Can the grant be used for consultants to assist in data collection and interpretation?

Absolutely.

If we are seeing only uninsured clients, are we eligible?

The project itself has to be targeted to Medi-Cal members and/or uninsured clients but it cannot exclude Medi-Cal members. If the application is for a different population, then it would not be eligible. The State does not require that all clients served be Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

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Our health plan said that we apply to them and then they recommend to DHCS, does it go to both PHC and our health plan?

Only PHC providers and contractors may apply through PHC. If an applicant has a different health plan, they must apply through them and not apply through PHC.

In the 12/13 webinar, the MOU example was between the provider “Happy Place” and PHC; will all MOUs be between the provider and PHC? Or is it possible that the MOU would be between two providers?

The MOU that funds the project will be between PHC and the provider. The grantee may have subsequent or additional MOUs for their collaborating partners.

Can the grant be used for physical plant improvement?

We will put that question forward to DHCS as we don't know the answer.

If the health center has an integrated behavioral health program in place already, can the health center still apply for this grant?

Yes, grant funds can be used for work that is going to be done as grantee builds upon their integration efforts. It cannot be used for the work that has already been done.

Can this grant be used to cover the salaries of behavioral health staff with Masters in Social Work degrees who are working to become LCSWs?

Per DHCS, any of these costs must be reasonably related to the achievement of those milestones. The grant funding can be used for staff salaries who are working on the projects. The grant funding cannot supplant existing funding. It cannot be used if grantee is already billing for staff services or there's another funding source. Grantees must show the milestones and the other outcomes that will come as a result of their work.

Regarding the 12/13 webinar slide about Components of Effective Integration, can you please explain in more detail?

Found in Appendix A of the DHCS application, it further elucidates specific core activities that fall under each one of the categories of effective components of a behavioral health integration program.

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I'm unclear who is deciding in the grant application process, PHC or DHCS?

Both PHC and DHCS are deciding, just serially. PHC is recommending applications to DHCS. If PHC does not approve the project, it will not be funded. It is possible that even if PHC approves the project, it may not be funded by the State. The big caveat is there may be a limited funding pool but PHC is not aware of it as yet.

Do we need to submit multiple Notices of Intent if we anticipate submitting more than one application?

PHC wants to know what projects that applicants are considering submitting. Applicants may list more than one application in a single Notice of Intent or may submit multiple Notices of Intent.

Can a provider add administrative salaries and other overhead costs to be covered with these grant funds or only direct integrated behavioral health services?

Per DHCS, the quarterly milestones and the cost associated with achieving them must be reasonably related to achieving those milestones. This could include administrative costs. It is highly recommended that all of applicants include costs associated with data tracking and reporting as this would be a significant part of this application and project.

What is the projected average grant amount per organization over the 33 month grant period?

Although the State has not provided the projected average grant amount, the projected grant budget must match the goals and the needs of the project. PHC will look at whether the budget meets what the grant says it will to deliver and whether the projected costs seem in line with the services to be delivered.

Is there only one grant available per organization, such as an FQHC?

The project allows for multiple grants and multiple projects within a single grantee. A particular grant applicant (whether FQHC or other provider) may choose up to all six of those project areas and submit a single grant application or multiple grant applications on a multiple number of these different project areas.

If an FQHC applies, what does it mean that the funds are excluded from their wrap rates?

Per DHCS, the funds received through the Behavioral Health Integration Grants will not be considered as part of the clinic's set per visit Medi-Cal rates.

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What is the Proposition 56 Value-Based Purchasing for Behavioral Health Integration Incentive Projects Grant?

The 2019 California Budget Act authorized \$140 million in state funds (\$70 million of which is from Proposition 56 tobacco tax revenue) over three years to implement the Behavioral Health Integration Incentive Program. The intent of these funds is to improve physical and behavioral health outcomes, care delivery efficiency and patient experience by expanding fully integrated care with managed care plans provider network, using culturally and linguistically appropriate providers with expertise in primary care, substance use disorder and mental health conditions.

Who is Eligible?

Primary care, specialty care, hospital based and behavioral health providers (both mental health and substance use) who deliver services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries and have a current provider contract with the Partnership HealthPlan of California (PHC) or with Beacon Health Options, or who will have a contract with PHC or Beacon by January 21, 2020. FQHCs, RHCs and IHS providers are eligible to apply. County providers are also eligible to apply.

What is the timeline?

Deliverable	Date
DHCS Releases the RFA	11/12/2019
DHCS Provides Webinar	11/22/2019 1 p.m.
PHC Webinar with Interested Applicants	12/13/2019 1 p.m.
Notice of Intent to Apply due to PHC	12/20/2019 <i>(preferred, not required)</i>
BHI Applications due to PHC	01/21/2020 by 5 p.m. (required)
PHCs reviews applications and submits proposals to DHCS	02/18/2020
DHCS reviews submissions by PHC and announces results	03/18/2020
BHI Projects Begin	04/1/2020

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What are the eligible integration project types?

Below is a list of project categories provided by DHCS. Specific activities and deliverables for each project type can be found in the project application and on the PHC website.

- Behavioral Health Integration for Beginners
- Maternal Mental Health and Substance Use
- Medication Management for Beneficiaries with Co-Occurring Chronic Medical/Behavioral Diagnoses
- Diabetes Screening and Treatment for People with Serious Mental Illness
- Improving Follow-Up after Hospitalization for Mental Illness
- Improving Follow-Up after Emergency Department Visit

How does one apply?

1. Project Applications may be obtained from DHCS:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Documents/BHI-Project-Application-11.12.19.docx>

2. The application should be submitted to PHC at BHIgrants@partnershiphp.org

To learn more please visit www.partnershiphp.org or send inquiries to BHIgrants@partnershiphp.org

What data will PHC provide applicants on the members served?

PHC will have a standard data set to share with appropriate agreements in place. Please send your ideas as to what data you think is reasonable to include in the standard data set to

BHIgrants@partnershiphp.org.