



**California Department of Health Care Services  
Proposition 1:  
Behavioral Health Infrastructure  
Bond Act of 2024:**

**Behavioral Health Continuum  
Infrastructure Program  
Round 1 (2024): Launch Ready  
Request for Applications**

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## Part One: Overview

### 1.1. Introduction to the Grant Opportunity and State Priorities

The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) launched the [Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program](#) (BHCIP) to address historic gaps in the behavioral health care continuum and meet the growing demand for services and support across the life span of vulnerable individuals in need. This Request for Applications (RFA) reflects the addition of the Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act of 2024 (BHIBA).

The State priorities for BHCIP are:

- Address urgent needs in the care continuum for people with mental health or substance use conditions, including unhoused people, veterans, older adults, adults with disabilities, and children and youth.
- Invest in behavioral health and community care options that advance health equity of behavioral health care and community options.
- Increase options across the life span that serve as an alternative to incarceration, hospitalization, homelessness, and institutionalization.
- Meet the needs of vulnerable populations with the greatest barriers to access, including people experiencing unsheltered homelessness and justice involvement.
- Ensure care can be provided in the least restrictive settings to support community integration, choice, and autonomy.
- Leverage county and Medi-Cal investments to support ongoing sustainability.
- Leverage the historic state investments in housing and homelessness.

In addition, DHCS is prioritizing regional models or collaborative partnerships, including public-private partnerships, aimed at constructing, renovating, and/or expanding community-based services, as well as projects using a campus-type model that collocate multiple levels of care on the continuum, with a focus on residential treatment facilities.

### 1.2. Purpose

In March 2024, California voters passed Proposition 1, which includes the Behavioral Health Services Act (Senate Bill 326) and the Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act (BHIBA) of 2024 (Assembly Bill 531), authorizing DHCS to make additional BHCIP grant funding available to eligible entities. The BHIBA is a \$6.38 billion general obligation bond to develop a wide range of behavioral health treatment, residential care settings, and supportive housing to help provide appropriate care facilities for Californians experiencing mental health conditions and substance use disorders. Of the total bond amount, DHCS is authorized to award up to \$4.4 billion “to construct, acquire, and rehabilitate real estate assets or to invest in needed infrastructure to expand the continuum of behavioral health treatment resources to build new capacity or expand existing capacity for short-term crisis stabilization, acute and subacute care, crisis residential, community-based mental

health residential, substance use disorder residential, peer respite, community and outpatient behavioral health services, and other clinically enriched longer term treatment and rehabilitation options for persons with behavioral health disorders in the least restrictive and least costly setting.”<sup>1</sup> Of these funds, \$1.5 billion of competitive grant funding will be exclusively available to cities, counties, city and counties, and tribal entities and \$30 million will be specifically designated to tribal entities. The balance of the funds, up to \$2.893 billion, is available to cities, counties, tribal entities, and nonprofit and for-profit organizations. The BHCIP portion of the bond is estimated to fund 6,800 residential treatment beds and provide behavioral health outpatient treatment for 26,700 slots and will build on other major behavioral health initiatives in California. The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) will oversee the remaining BHIBA available funding—up to \$2 billion in total. There will be a separate Notice of Funding Availability for that portion of the BHIBA.

### 1.3. BHCIP to Date

DHCS was authorized through 2021 [legislation](#) to establish BHCIP and award grant funding to construct, acquire, and expand properties and invest in mobile crisis infrastructure related to behavioral health. DHCS has been releasing these funds through multiple grant rounds targeting various gaps in the state’s behavioral health facility infrastructure. Forty-nine counties have been [awarded BHCIP](#) funding through Round 1 to Round 5.

BHCIP funding rounds:

- Round 1: Crisis Care Mobile Units, \$205 million (\$55 million Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grant funding)
- Round 2: County and Tribal Planning Grants, \$16 million
- Round 3: Launch Ready, \$518.5 million
- Round 4: Children and Youth, \$480.5 million
- Round 5: Crisis and Behavioral Health Continuum, \$430 million

BHCIP funding has allowed eligible entities in all regions of the state to develop an unparalleled array of new and expanded behavioral health treatment facilities for residential/inpatient and outpatient care. However, inequities across the health care system remain seen in California. Statewide, a 6,000-plus behavioral health bed shortfall is contributing to the unmet need among people experiencing homelessness who have mental illness and/or substance use disorders.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [AB-531. The Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act of 2023.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [BHSA Fact Sheet \(ca.gov\).](#)

## 1.4. Timeline

Table 1. Timeline for Bond BHCIP Round 1: Launch Ready

Request for Applications (RFA) release	July 17, 2024
Pre-recorded enhanced technical assistance presentations	Available beginning May 2024 <a href="#">BHCIP website</a>
Application portal opens	August 9, 2024
Informational webinar— <a href="#">please register here</a>	August 7, 2024; 1–2 p.m. Pacific Time (PT)
Tribal informational webinar— <a href="#">please register here</a>	August 8, 2024; 2–3 p.m. PT
Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) registration opens (accessible <a href="#">here</a> ) <b>Deadline to <u>schedule</u> a required PAC</b> PAC window period	<b>October 15, 2024</b> August 9, 2024, through November 14, 2024
Office Hours (Recommend PAC to be completed)	Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10-11 a.m. PT (ends December 13, 2024)
<b>Application due date</b>	<b>December 13, 2024</b> , at 5 p.m. PT (no exceptions)
Award announcements	May 2025 (anticipated)

## 1.5. Total Grant Amounts

**Bond BHCIP Round 1: Launch Ready:** Up to of \$3.3 billion will be available to construct, acquire, and rehabilitate real estate assets to expand the continuum of behavioral health treatment and service resources for Californians (see section 2.4) in this round of Bond BHCIP funding. Of that amount, \$1.47 billion is designated for cities and counties; another \$30 million is designated for tribal entities. The remaining \$1.8 billion is available to all eligible entities, including cities, counties, and tribal entities. Bond BHCIP Round 1: Launch Ready funds are not intended to preserve existing service capacity. Bond BHCIP Round 1: Launch Ready grantees must commit to serving Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

For purposes of Bond BHCIP Round 1: Launch Ready funding, a project is defined as “launch ready” when some essential predevelopment design, planning, site control, and budgeting details have been professionally formalized; the project meets the minimum threshold requirements as listed in section 2.1 (“Project Readiness”); and construction for the requested project is not currently underway.

## Part Two: Project Requirements

### 2.1. Eligibility Requirements

1. [Pre-Application Consultation](#)
2. [Eligible Applicants](#)
3. [Medi-Cal Services](#)
4. [Licensing, Certification, and Accreditation](#)
5. [Project Readiness](#)

6. [Building Use Restriction](#)
7. [Community Needs and Support](#)

## Pre-Application Consultation

All prospective applicants will be required to engage in a pre-application consultation (PAC) with Advocates for Human Potential, Inc. (AHP), the BHCIP administrative entity, to discuss their potential project and application (see section 3.2).

## Eligible Applicants

Counties, cities, tribal entities (“tribal entity” shall mean a federally recognized Indian tribe, tribal organization, or urban Indian organization, as defined in [Section 1603](#) of Title 25 of the United States Code), nonprofit organizations, and for-profit organizations whose projects reflect the State priorities and align with facility types listed in Table 2 are eligible to apply for this funding, noting the following stipulations:

- Projects must make a commitment to serve Medi-Cal beneficiaries.
- Recipients of BHCIP awards in prior rounds are eligible to apply. Any additional Bond BHCIP funding awarded must be used to further expand or create new facility capacity. To be considered, applications must clearly explain the funding request for additional behavioral health project expansion and how it meets the statewide continuum of care. Bond BHCIP funding will not fund budget shortfalls or cost overruns for any previously awarded BHCIP projects.
- For joint applications, all co-applicants must be named in the grant application and must submit letters of commitment that are included with the application.
- For-profit organizations with no prior behavioral health experience must apply with a partner, such as a nonprofit organization, tribal entity, city, or county, with the requirement that the partner organization have relevant experience with the target population reflected in the successful development, ownership, or operation of a comparable project. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) or other agreement with the nonprofit organization, tribal entity, city, or county to confirm the organization’s role in the project, including that they are working on behalf of the service provider, is also required.

## Medi-Cal Services

Applicants must describe the payor mix that will pay for and sustain behavioral health services once project construction is complete. Examples of payors include private health insurance, Medi-Cal, private pay, grants, and county funds. Applicants must provide a description of their contingency plan for funding any potential cost coverage beyond the grant award.

Awarded applicants that offer Medi-Cal behavioral health services will be expected to have a contract in place with their county to ensure the provision of Medi-Cal services once the funded facility’s expansion or construction is complete. Community wellness centers and youth behavioral

health prevention centers, which are only eligible facility types for tribal entities, do not provide Medi-Cal reimbursable behavioral health treatment services and thus are not required to have a contract to provide Medi-Cal behavioral health services; however, they must provide services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries and describe how their services will be sustainably funded.

## Licensing, Certification, and Accreditation

Applicants must also indicate the applicable behavioral health licensing, certifications, and accreditations required to operate their Bond BHCIP-funded program by the State and/or at the local level. Applicants with facilities that do not require licenses or certifications, such as community wellness centers, need to indicate this in their application. Tribal entities that are exempt from state licensing and/or requirements must describe the basis for their exemption and their plan for meeting programmatic requirements. As part of the technical assistance (TA) that will be made available, applicants may receive information and guidance about the licensure and certification process and timelines for application submission.

## Project Readiness

To be eligible for Bond BHCIP Round 1: Launch Ready funding, a project must demonstrate “project readiness.” At a minimum, the fundamental threshold requirements for “project readiness” are as follows (items noted with an asterisk must be submitted with the application):

- **Site control.\*** Any one of the following must be used to prove site control (other documentation demonstrating site control may be submitted for DHCS consideration):
  - Title vested to applicant demonstrated with current title report (ownership).
  - Executed purchase and sale agreement (PSA).
  - Mutually executed Letter of Intent (LOI).
  - Preexisting long-term lease (acceptance of a Bond BHCIP award will require a lease extension of no fewer than 30 years).
  - Executed exclusive negotiation agreement (ENA).
  - *Note:* An MOU does *not* constitute site control. Please be sure to discuss any other proposed site control documentation during your required pre-application consultation (PAC).
- **A preliminary title report.\***
- **A sustainable business plan\*** (pro forma) with five-year projections (Form 9) within existing available funding (income and expenses) of future objectives and strategies for achieving them.
- **A conceptual/schematic site plan\*** with a forecast of the developmental potential of the property. The closer the construction drawings are toward “permit ready,” the higher the application will be scored, all other items being equal.

- **Stakeholder support\*** as demonstrated by letters of support from internal boards of directors, tribal councils or advisory boards, and professional/community partners, as relevant. City, nonprofit, or for-profit applicants must also include a letter of support from their county behavioral health agency.
- **Demonstration of county and Medi-Cal investments** to support ongoing sustainability.
- **Match** amount and source identified in Budget (Form 2).
- **Board Authorizing Resolution (BAR)\*** to confirm signing authority for the contract. Eligible entities may use the BAR template provided (Form 10). Local government entities can use their specific authorizing resolution document.

## Building Use Restriction

A commitment to the provision of behavioral health services and building use restriction for a 30-year period through a deed restriction placed on the property title is required (see section 2.6). After a conditional award is issued to an applicant, the 30-year encumbrance period must officially be approved by the applicant's board (and property owner, if applicant is a lessee), as indicated through the submission of an official BAR.

## Community Needs and Support

All applicants must describe the local needs based on the "[Assessing the Continuum of Care for Behavioral Health Services in California](#)" report and any local needs assessments used to justify the proposed expansion. All applicants will be required to demonstrate how the proposed project will advance equity. Projects will be required to certify that they will not exclude certain populations outside their mission or scope, such as those who are justice-involved or children and youth in foster care.

Organizational support and community engagement, including the active involvement of applicable stakeholders in the project design, are required. Insights from the community must be included in project planning, design, implementation, and evaluation. All applicants must complete application Form 7: Community Engagement and provide any relevant letters of support for the project. All letters must be signed and dated no more than six months before the date of application submission.

At the time of application, city, nonprofit, or for-profit applicants must also include a letter of support from their county behavioral health agency or, if a tribal entity, the tribal board. The letter must indicate that applicants providing Medi-Cal behavioral health services will have in place a contract with their county to ensure the provision of Medi-Cal services once the financed facility's expansion or construction is complete. Bond BHCIP grant awards do not guarantee county contracts.

All applicants governed by a CEO or board must submit a letter of support from the CEO or board.



## 2.2. Eligibility Considerations

All applicants must demonstrate how their infrastructure project will expand community-based facility capacity exclusively for behavioral health services in the continuum of care. Regional models or collaborative partnerships aimed at construction, renovation, and/or expansion of community-based services are eligible, as are projects using a campus-type model that collocates multiple levels of care on the continuum are strongly encouraged. Regional model is defined as two or more entities partnering to create established networks of organized systems of care. In addition, scoring will take into consideration a focus on the State's priorities, including efforts to advance equity and to expand services in regions and counties that currently do not have an adequate number of treatment options for behavioral health facilities. In an effort to be consistent with the bond proposal to expand 6,800 residential treatment beds, applicants proposing residential facilities will be prioritized for funding award. Expanded residential treatment beds will also assist counties with the implementation of the Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Act.

All applicants must describe the local needs based on the statewide needs assessment report and any local needs assessment used to justify the proposed expansion. All applicants will be required to demonstrate how the proposed project will advance equity. Projects will be required to certify that they will not exclude certain populations outside their mission or scope, such as those who are justice-involved or children and youth in foster care. Grantees with behavioral health facilities that offer Medi-Cal behavioral health services will be required to have a contract in place with their county to ensure the provision of Medi-Cal services once the funded facility's expansion or construction is complete.

In addition, inclusion of a professionally bid development budget, including all local prevailing wage rates, one for each phase, and a total budget for acquisition and construction, will increase an applicant's score. However, it will not guarantee an award.

Three phases of project development will be considered during the evaluation of each application. Applicants must be in one of the three phases; applicants in later phases will be scored higher. All projects must meet the minimum threshold of project readiness to be awarded grant funds. Applicant projects are considered to be in a given phase of development only after they have met all of the requirements in the previous phase. Required documentation will be reviewed with each applicant during the PAC process and must be submitted as part of the application.

Funding is intended for planning, preconstruction, permitting, and construction; allowable costs include those activities identified in the development phases below.

- *Phase 1: Planning and predevelopment*
  - Development team established; includes attorney, architect, and/or design-build team.

- Site control, defined as ownership, an executed PSA, an executed LOI, a long-term lease, or an executed ENA (see section 2.1).
- Basic schematic design site plan, with basis of design; includes architectural and engineering narratives.
- Property-specific site investigation report and due diligence.
- Budget with cost estimates based on site plan/drawings.
- *Phase 2: Design development*
  - Site control, defined as ownership, an executed PSA, an executed LOI, a long-term lease, or an executed ENA (see section 2.1).
  - Site plan established with a schematic plan with architectural and engineering specifications, including architectural design drawings.
  - Stakeholder support established as demonstrated by a letter from city/county/board of directors/tribal entity.
  - Able to gain building permits within six months of funding.
  - Able to close on land and gain building permits within six months of funding.
  - Able to start construction within nine months of funding.
- *Phase 3: Shovel ready*
  - Ownership of real estate site.
  - Preliminary plan check completed, with comments received.
  - Construction drawings completed or near completion.
  - General contractor (builder) selected and ready for hire.
  - Ninety percent of construction drawings ready for submission for building permit.
  - Building permit ready for issue.
  - Able to start construction within 60 days or less.
- *Final Phase: Construction*
  - Projects that rehabilitate or renovate an existing facility are allowable as long as they result in an expansion of behavioral health services for the target population.

Full funding of a proposed development project will be contingent on completion of all three phases of development planning. The planning and predevelopment phase, which includes the submission of construction documents for building permit review, must be completed within six months of grant funding award.

### **2.3. Site Identification and Feasibility Analysis**

Applicants will be expected to develop a competitive and itemized professional budget for all development costs, including legal, insurance, permits and fees, and performance and payment bonds, which will be scored alongside applications for projects of similar setting types and sizes.

DHCS, AHP, and AHP's subcontractors will conduct a financial viability assessment (as demonstrated through a five-year pro forma business plan) (Form 9), considering continued fluctuations in construction and other costs. Through various TA activities, such as the PAC and

financial document review, the State will assess long-term operational sustainability once the capital project is complete and in use for its intended purpose.

## 2.4. Eligible Facility Types

The following facility types may be considered for project funding **only** if they are expanding behavioral health infrastructure.

Table 2. Eligible Facility Types

Bond BHCIP Round 1: Launch Ready Eligible Facility Types
Acute Psychiatric Hospital
Adolescent Residential Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Facility
Adult Residential SUD Treatment Facility
Behavioral Health Urgent Care (BHUC)/Mental Health Urgent Care (MHUC)*
Chemical Dependency Recovery Hospital
Children’s Crisis Residential Program (CCRP)
Community Mental Health Clinic (outpatient)
Community Residential Treatment System (CRTS)/Social Rehabilitation Program (SRP)
Community Treatment Facility (CTF)
Community Wellness/Prevention Center (tribal entities only)
Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU)
General Acute Care Hospital (GACH) for behavioral health services only
Hospital-Based Outpatient Treatment (outpatient detoxification/withdrawal management)
Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC)
Narcotic Treatment Program (NTP)
NTP Medication Unit
Office-Based Opioid Treatment (OBOT)
Outpatient Treatment for SUD
Partial Hospitalization Program
Peer Respite
Perinatal Residential SUD Facility
Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF)
Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF)
Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP)
Skilled Nursing Facility with Special Treatment Program (SNF/STP)
Sobering Center (funded under the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System [DMC-ODS] and/or Community Supports)
Social Rehabilitation Facility (SRF)

\*For purposes of this funding, a BHUC facility, also known as MHUC, is a walk-in center with voluntary stabilization-oriented services specific to individuals experiencing behavioral health or mental health crisis for less than 24 hours. This community-based option is typically designed to

provide an alternative to emergency department visits for urgent medical needs. BHUCs/MHUCs must focus on serving individuals in need of crisis services, commit to serving Medi-Cal beneficiaries, and offer some or all of the following:

- Multidisciplinary health assessment
- Psychiatric evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment
- Crisis stabilization and intervention, mental health counseling, and medication evaluation
- Direct referrals for treatment of care
- Linkage to community-based solutions
- Peer support

Facility types that are not eligible for funding:

- Correctional settings
- Schools

Applicants will be expected to define the types of facilities they will operate and explain how they will expand service capacity exclusively for community-based behavioral health facilities. Regional models, collaborative partnerships, and public-private partnerships are strongly encouraged.

## 2.5. Post-Award Expectations

Grantees must commit to executing Bond BHCIP contracts within 90 days of receipt of conditional award notice. Failure to fully execute contracts within the required time frame may result in the rescinding of Bond BHCIP funding awards. DHCS will not accept any changes to Bond BHCIP contracts.

Grantees must have a financial management system to track and project funding usage and perform any required data reporting. Bond payment processes and funding cycle will be subject to bond funding requirements. Additional guidance and TA will be provided to grantees in order to comply with bond requirements.

Awarded grant funding for Bond BHCIP Round 1: Launch Ready must be fully expended within five years of receipt of conditional award notice.

## 2.6. Encumbrance and Use Restrictions

In accordance with section 5960.15 of the California Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC), applicants will be required to commit to operating services in the financed facility for the intended purpose for a minimum of 30 years within existing funding for behavioral health services. Bond BHCIP funding may not be used to fund services. The approved building use restriction will be detailed in the Bond BHCIP contract.

## 2.7. Match Requirements

Mandatory match guidelines are required by statute and will be set according to applicant type. Cash match must be deposited into the project bank account (see section 5.2).

Project Funding Awarded	Local Government and Nonprofit Organization	For-Profit Organization
under \$150 million	10 percent	25 percent
above \$150 million	10 percent	25 percent
	Higher priority for applicants that include a higher local match	

Tribal entities (regardless of funding awarded) = 5 percent match.

For-profit organizations that have no prior behavioral health experience are required to partner and apply with an experienced service provider in order to leverage their partner’s behavioral health experience. The partner’s entity type will determine the percentage that will be used to calculate the match requirement. The match requirement will be based on the partner with the lowest match amount.

For-profit applicants with prior experience and no partnerships will be required to pledge a 25 percent match.

The match amount will be calculated using the following formula:

(total project award request - total calculated budget contingencies) x required match percentage

### Types of Eligible Match Sources

Applicants must document the match source being pledged for the project. Three types of sources are eligible to satisfy the match requirement: (1) cash, (2) in-kind property, and (3) sunk costs (i.e., capital expenses already incurred on the project). All match sources must be approved by DHCS.

#### a. Cash

Cash is the strongest form of match and can come from a variety of sources, depending on the applicant. Applicants must document their ability to pledge the required match in cash, including providing bank statements and investment statements showing available cash on hand. Applicants seeking to pledge public or private grant funds must document the funds are eligible for use on the proposed project. Cash sources for the delivery of services are not an eligible source of cash match. The list below provides additional examples of eligible cash sources:

- Local funding
- Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds from Community Services and Supports and Capital Facilities and Technological Needs (CFTN) components
- Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) funds from the Behavioral Health Services and Supports
- Foundation/philanthropic support
- [Opioid settlement funds](#) for SUD facilities
- Loans or investments
- Incentive payments from managed care plans; or
- Another source.

### **b. In-Kind Property Equity**

Applicants may pledge the in-kind equity value of property if the property being pledged is the actual property where the facility will be located and the entire assessor's parcel number (APN) of the property being pledged for match is dedicated to the new development project. ***Only the equity value of the APNs that will be encumbered by the 30-year encumbrance restriction can count as an in-kind property match source and must be validated by a certified appraisal of the specific APN.***

In order to document the equity value of the pledged property, applicants must submit a certified appraisal dated within five years of the date of application. The certified appraisal must only give a value for the specific APN to be encumbered. The equity value of the property will be used to determine if the applicant can meet the match requirement.

If the applicant has an outstanding mortgage on the property that it pays on a regular basis, it must submit a copy of the most recent mortgage statement, including the outstanding mortgage value. The outstanding mortgage amount will be subtracted from the certified appraisal to determine the equity value:

$$\text{certified appraisal value} - \text{outstanding loan amount} = \text{equity value}$$

If an applicant has purchased the property outright and has clear title in hand, the applicant must submit either the grant deed or the payoff letter to indicate there is nothing outstanding that would reduce the equity value. Property valuations will be approved at the discretion of DHCS.

### **c. Sunk Costs**

To satisfy the match requirement, DHCS may approve on a case-by-case basis sunk costs directly related to the development project. Sunk costs may be established with documentation of paid invoices including date and address of service and proof of payment (e.g., cancelled checks, online bank records, invoices) for professional services related to predevelopment of the proposed Bond BHCIP project. Eligible sunk costs may include the purchase of real property and

construction or renovation/rehabilitation costs, including project planning or project management; appraisals; inspections; preconstruction costs such as permitting, surveying, architectural, and engineering fees; hardscaping and/or landscaping costs essential to the completion of the project (may not exceed 5 percent of the total grant award); and furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FFE). A property that has been purchased at any time before execution of the Program Funding Agreement (PFA, or contract) can be contributed as a sunk cost, so long as it has undergone an appraisal within the past five years.

No sunk costs exceeding one year prior to the date of the Bond BHCIP Notice of Award may be claimed. Sunk costs must be claimed no later than seven calendar days after the date of the conditional award letter.

All match amounts must be well-documented. Both the amounts and sources will undergo a thorough review by DHCS and AHP prior to the awarding of funds. Cash is the preferred form of match. Services, Behavioral Health Subaccount funding, and State general funds are not permitted sources for match.

## **2.8. Development Budget**

Applicants will be expected to submit a competitive and itemized professional development budget (see application attachment Form 2: Budget Template) with their Bond BHCIP Round 1: Launch Ready application. All development budgets must contain the requested amounts for each phase of funding. Bond BHCIP awards will be based on the application budget; therefore, special attention and care should be made to include all development costs associated with planning, permitting, and construction of a “public works” prevailing wage job. Applicants that have a current Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) established with a federal cognizant agency responsible for reviewing, negotiating, and approving cost allocation plans or indirect cost proposals may use the current NICRA as the basis for indirect costs. Alternatively, if the applicant does not have a current NICRA, the applicant may elect to use a rate of 10 percent of the modified total direct costs pursuant to 2 CFR 200.414(f).

Applicants should include all anticipated costs for the planning, permitting, and construction of their project, including prevailing wage rates for all onsite work, for an anticipated construction start in 2025-2026. Budgets should include all costs for insurance (including builder’s risk, workers’ compensation, commercial auto, general liability, and property), along with costs for payment and performance bonds, legal fees, specialty consultants, permits and fees associated with building permits, and potential additional fees, depending on the project and jurisdiction. The PFA details insurance requirements.

Applicants must comply with all Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) regulations related to completing a “public works” project and should only accept qualified construction bids from general

contractors who are currently registered with the DIR (see section 2.10) and preferably have past public works experience.

Essential FFEs may be allowable costs for permanent property that is attached to the building and/or required for license/certification of the facility, as per the DHCS allowable expense list (Attachment B), with a maximum of 10 percent of the total budget.

Project grantees are responsible for ensuring that their project is on schedule and on budget. Project grantees that are awarded Bond BHCIP funds will be solely responsible for any costs to complete the project in excess of the Bond BHCIP award amount. Neither DHCS nor AHP will be responsible for any cost overruns.

Applicants must provide a description of their contingency plan for funding any potential cost overages beyond the Bond BHCIP grant award.

## **2.9. Accessibility and Nondiscrimination**

All developments must adhere to the accessibility requirements set forth in California Building Code Chapters 11A and 11B and the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title II. In addition, developments must adhere to either the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS), 24 CFR Part 8, or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) modified version of the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (Alternative 2010 ADAS), HUD-2014-0042-0001, 79 FR 29671 (5/27/14) (commonly referred to as "the Alternative Standards" or "HUD Deeming Memo"). Accessible units should, to the maximum extent feasible and subject to reasonable health and safety requirements, be distributed throughout the project and be available in a sufficient range of sizes and amenities consistent with 24 CFR Part 8.26.

Grantees must adopt a written nondiscrimination policy requiring that no person will, on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, ancestry, familial status, source of income, disability, age, medical condition, genetic information, citizenship, primary language, immigration status (except where explicitly prohibited by federal law), justice system involvement (except where explicitly required by law), or arbitrary characteristics, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under, any project or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made available pursuant to this RFA. Nor will all other classes of individuals protected from discrimination under federal or state fair housing laws, individuals perceived to be a member of any of the preceding classes, or any individual or person associated with any of the preceding classes be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any project or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made available pursuant to this RFA.



Grantees must comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Fair Housing Amendments Act, the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, the Unruh Civil Rights Act, Government Code section 11135, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and all regulations promulgated pursuant to those statutes, including 24 CFR Part 100, 24 CFR Part 8, and 28 CFR Part 35.

## **2.10. State Prevailing Wage**

A project funded by a Bond BHCIP grant is a “public works” project if the applicant intends to use the Bond BHCIP funds for the “construction, alteration, demolition, installation, or repair” of a building or structure (Cal. Lab. Code section 1720(a); Cal. Lab. Code section 1750(b)(1)). Applicants using Bond BHCIP grants to fund public works are subject to California’s prevailing wage and working hours laws (Division 2, Part 7, Chapter 1 of the California Labor Code), and the applicant’s project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the DIR (Cal. Lab. Code section 1771.4(a)(1)). Bond BHCIP award recipients must register as the “awarding body” with the DIR within 30 days of execution of the PFA. Further, as detailed in the Bond BHCIP PFA, proof that the general contractor is registered with the DIR will be required before Bond BHCIP funds are disbursed.

Applicants must complete Form 5: Applicant’s Certification of Prevailing Wage as a part of the application process. If DHCS selects an applicant to receive a Bond BHCIP grant and the applicant is using the grant to fund a public works project, then the applicant must submit a Certification of Compliance that includes an attestation from the general contractor certifying that the general contractor will comply with California’s prevailing wage and working hours laws (including posting job notices, as required by Labor Code section 1771(a)(2)). The Certification of Compliance must also state that the general contractor will maintain its labor records in compliance with all applicable state laws (Cal. Lab. Code section 1776) and should make all labor records available to the DIR and any other applicable enforcement agencies upon request (Cal. Lab. Code section 1771.4(a)(3)). The Certification of Compliance must be signed by the general contractor(s) and the applicant.

If DHCS selects an applicant to receive a Bond BHCIP grant and the applicant is not using the grant to fund a public work, then the applicant must submit a Certification of Inapplicability to DHCS explaining why the project is not a public work as defined by California Labor Code section 1720. The Certification of Inapplicability must be signed by the general contractor(s) and the applicant.

## **2.11. Streamlined, Ministerial Review Process**

In accordance with California WIC section 5960.31, if a Bond BHCIP-funded project meets the criteria set forth in paragraph (1) or (2) and complies with subdivisions (b) and (c) of that section,

then it “shall be a use by right and shall be subject to the streamlined, ministerial review process and filing requirement, pursuant to subdivisions (b) and (d) of Section 50675.1.5 of the Health and Safety Code, and not subject to a conditional use permit, discretionary permit, or to any other discretionary reviews or approvals.”

Applicants must determine if they are subject to the streamlined, ministerial review process due to meeting the requirements set forth in section 5960.31. DHCS nor AHP is responsible for making this determination.

## **2.12. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

In the event the applicant determines that its Bond BHCIP-funded project is exempt from CEQA, due to being subject to ministerial review (14 C.C.R. §15268(a)) or any other reason, the applicant must file a Notice of Exemption with the appropriate local agency. Additionally, the applicant must provide DHCS, through AHP, with a copy of the filed Notice of Exemption.

If the applicant determines that CEQA applies to its project, the applicant must provide DHCS, through AHP, with copies of all appropriate documentation demonstrating the project’s compliance with CEQA once the applicant has received project approval.

DHCS nor AHP is not responsible for determining whether Bond BHCIP-funded projects are exempt from CEQA. Furthermore, DHCS nor AHP is responsible for filing the Notice of Exemption on behalf of an applicant.

## **2.13. Low-Rent Housing Project Exemption**

In accordance with California WIC section 5960.35(b)(1), a project funded with a BHCIP grant will not be considered a “low-rent housing project,” as defined in section 1 of article XXXIV of the California Constitution, if the project meets any one of the following criteria:

1. The project is privately owned housing, receiving no ad valorem property tax exemption, other than exemptions granted pursuant to subdivision (f) or (g) of section 214 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, not fully reimbursed to all taxing entities, and not more than 49 percent of the dwellings, apartments, or other living accommodations of the project may be occupied by persons of low income.
2. The project is privately owned housing, is not exempt from ad valorem taxation by reason of any public ownership and is not financed with direct long-term financing from a public body.
3. The project is intended for owner-occupancy, which may include a limited-equity housing cooperative as defined in section 50076.5 of the Health and Safety Code, or cooperative or condominium ownership, rather than for rental-occupancy.
4. The project consists of newly constructed, privately owned, one- to four-family dwellings not located on adjoining sites.

5. The project consists of existing dwelling units leased by the state public body from the private owner of these dwelling units.
6. The project consists of the rehabilitation, reconstruction, improvement or addition to, or replacement of, dwelling units of a previously existing low-rent housing project, or a project previously or currently occupied by lower-income households, as defined in section 50079.5 of the Health and Safety Code.
7. The project consists of the acquisition, rehabilitation, reconstruction, improvement, or any combination thereof, of a project which, prior to the date of the transaction to acquire, rehabilitate, reconstruct, improve, or any combination thereof, was subject to a contract for federal or state public body assistance for the purpose of providing affordable housing for low-income households and maintains, or enters into, a contract for federal or state public body assistance for the purpose of providing affordable housing for low-income households.

If a project funded with a Bond BHCIP grant is a “low-income housing project” as defined by section 1 of article XXXIV of the California Constitution but does not meet any of the criteria listed above, then the applicant must comply with the requirements set forth in that section of the California Constitution.

## Part Three: Application Process and Submission

### 3.1. Application Process

Applications will be accepted electronically only. Applications may not be hand delivered or mailed. The application and attachments, along with instructions for submission of the online application, can be found on the [BHCIP website](#). No modified formats will be accepted. The deadline for applications will be **December 13, 2024, at 5 p.m. PT**. It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that the submitted application is complete and accurate and includes all required supporting forms. Reviewers may request additional clarifying information from the applicant. An application will not be reviewed in the following instances:

- The applicant does not request a PAC by the specified deadline (see section 1.4).
- The application is received after the application submission deadline.
- The application is incomplete or missing required information or forms, and/or does not include a complete development budget (see section 2.8).
- The facility type is ineligible.
- The project fails to meet minimum threshold requirements (see section 2.2).

### Reasonable Accommodations for Bond BHCIP Application

For individuals with disabilities, DHCS will provide assistive services such as reading or writing assistance and conversion of the RFA, questions/answers, RFA addenda, or other Administrative Notices in braille, large print, audiocassette, or computer disk. To request copies of written

materials in an alternate format, please send an email to [BHCIP@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:BHCIP@dhcs.ca.gov) or call (323) 545-6202.

## **Regional Funding Reserve Methodology**

DHCS will prioritize completed applications by geographic distribution (see Table 3). Bond BHCIP Round 1: Launch Ready will adopt a regional funding approach, similar to models used in other state-funded capital programs. Counties are assigned to one of seven geographic regions, each with a specific funding amount reserved. The funding amounts for each region, along with the tribal set-aside and discretionary reserve, are listed below. Applicants within each region will compete against other applicants in that same region, thereby supporting geographic equity and funding disbursement across the state. If an insufficient number of competitive applications is submitted from within a region, the remaining funding will be awarded at the discretion of DHCS.

Regional funding caps will be established and the amounts available per region will be determined based on the Behavioral Health Subaccount. In Bond BHCIP Round 1: Launch Ready, the \$1.5 billion available exclusively for county, city, and tribal entities will not be subject to a regional funding cap.

In addition, for the Bond BHCIP Round 1: Launch Ready, up to \$1.8 billion and Bond BHCIP Round 2: Unmet Needs up to \$1.1 billion will be available for all eligible entities, 20 percent of funds available for Bond BHCIP will be set aside for use in regions at the State's discretion to ensure funding is effectively aligned with need. (For example, this reserve money may be used to fund high-scoring projects in oversubscribed regions).

Following an initial round of regional funding allocations, DHCS will conduct periodic reviews of the number of completed applications from each region. If an insufficient number of competitive applications is received and awarded within a region, the remaining funding will be awarded at the discretion of DHCS or shifted to Bond BHCIP Round 2: Unmet Needs.

Table 3. Bond BHCIP Round 1: Launch Ready—Regional and Statewide Funding

<b>1. Regions for All Eligible Entity Funds</b>	<b>Subtotal Available to Regions for All Eligible Entities: \$1.8 billion</b>
<b>Los Angeles County</b>	\$479,190,226
<b>Bay Area:</b> Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma	\$278,108,183
<b>Southern California:</b> Imperial, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Ventura	\$263,680,311
<b>San Joaquin Valley:</b> Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare	\$154,666,275
<b>Sacramento Area:</b> El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, Yuba	\$81,768,565
<b>Central Coast:</b> Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz	\$51,771,065
<b>Balance of State:</b> Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Inyo, Lake, Lassen, Mariposa, Mendocino, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne	\$58,815,375
<b>Tribal</b>	\$90,000,000
<b>Discretionary:</b> The discretionary set-aside may also be used to fund high-scoring projects in regions that have met their funding reserve.	\$342,000,000
<b>2. No Regional Caps for County, City, and Tribal (only) Funds</b>	<b>Subtotal Available Statewide for County, City, and Tribal*: \$1.5 billion</b>
<b>Total for Bond BHCIP Round 1: Launch Ready</b>	<b>Up to \$3.3 billion</b>

\* Of the \$1.5 billion, a minimum of \$30 million will be designated to tribal entities, as required by statute.

## **3.2. Pre-Application Consultations and Technical Assistance**

As consistent with previous BHCIP rounds of funding, AHP, a consulting and research firm focused on improving health and human services systems, is serving as the administrative entity for BHCIP and will be assisting in the provision of TA.

Starting in August 2024, and concluding in November 2024, and as part of the RFA process, all prospective applicants will be required to engage in a PAC, which will provide an opportunity to discuss the proposed project, match requirements and potential sources of local match, statutory and regulatory requirements, how the project addresses local need/gaps and the State's priorities, and other related considerations. AHP will provide PACs in coordination with experts in real estate, finance, tribal relations, and behavioral health, as needed. Applicants will submit a request for a PAC and complete a PAC request form to indicate their understanding of the project requirements. The deadline to request a PAC will be October 15, 2024.

AHP will be holding office hours and offering bond funding application learning modules to potential applicants to assist in application preparation. These TA offerings will review various project-related topics. TA will help applicants understand the minimum project requirements and budgeting practices. Minimum project requirements will be discussed in the TA offerings, including match requirements, a sustainable business plan, a conceptual site plan, architectural and engineering narratives, roles and responsibilities of development teams, and initial budgeting based on conceptual site plans.

Upon receipt of an award and execution of the PFA, the eligible applicant and any co-applicants will be referred to as the project "sponsor," both individually and collectively. Following award announcements, specialized TA will be provided to all Bond BHCIP grantees. In addition, AHP will offer ongoing general training and TA, including learning collaboratives and other opportunities, for grantees throughout the life of the project.

Additional information and TA related to the RFA will be available on the BHCIP [website](#). AHP will also develop and update on an ongoing basis a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that will be accessible to all prospective applicants and grantees. See the timeline in section 1.4 for important dates and times.

## **Part Four: Award Scoring and Process**

### **4.1. Application Scoring Criteria**

Eligible Bond BHCIP grant applications undergo a competitive review process. DHCS will only award and fund projects from applicants that are in good standing with all local, county, state, and federal laws and requirements.

At a minimum, applicants must provide a full, complete application and meet the following criteria to be considered for award:

- Demonstrate expansion of services for individuals in need of crisis and/or behavioral health services.
- Demonstrate match.
- Schedule a PAC by the deadline of October 15, 2024, and complete it no later than November 14, 2024.
- Attest that the project will meet federal, state, and local laws.
- Demonstrate the capacity to complete project development and expend funds on time and on budget.
- Align with the State priorities listed in section 1.1.
- Align with needs and gaps outlined in the statewide assessment, "[Assessing the Continuum of Care for Behavioral Health Services in California](#)."
- Budget reasonable proposed costs for the facility type and scope of rehabilitation or renovations proposed.
- Demonstrate long-term sustainability for the proposed project.
- Identify a service capacity increase in the total number of bed and/or slot count based on each proposed facility type and the individuals to be served.

Application scoring will also take into consideration the following factors:

- Later phases of development (see section 2.2) at the time of application
- Expansion of residential/inpatient facilities
- Regional models or collaborative partnerships, including public-private partnerships, aimed at constructing, renovating, and/or expanding community-based services are eligible and encouraged, as are projects using a campus-type model that collocates multiple levels of care on the continuum, with a focus on residential treatment centers.

## 4.2. Award Process

Awarded applicants will receive a conditional award letter by email from DHCS/AHP. Access to awarded funds is contingent upon verification of grantee's eligibility, completion of award certification steps, and final, digital execution of the PFA. Conditional grantees are expected to clear title to the subject property to be improved with Bond BHCIP funds and complete PFA execution within 90 days of receipt of the PFA. DHCS reserves the right to rescind conditional award funding and redirect it to alternate applicants in instances where extended delays in PFA execution occur.

As part of the PFA execution process, conditional grantees must execute a Facility Access Agreement (FAA) that states that DHCS will have access to the Bond BHCIP-funded facility throughout the 30-year encumbrance period. They must also provide a signed opinion letter from their legal counsel stating that the PFA, including real estate instruments, along with the program

requirements, is not in conflict with any existing contract or agreement related to the property, project, or conditional grantee.

The PFA must be signed, returned, and fully executed with AHP before initial funding will be awarded. DHCS will not accept any changes, negotiations, or redlining to the PFA. Depending on the applications received, their project locations, allowable expenditures, amounts of funds requested, and funding available, DHCS may choose to fund only part of an application. In that case, DHCS would reach out to the potential grantee to determine their interest in receiving a smaller amount than originally requested.

Funds awarded pursuant to the project must be used to supplement, and not supplant, other funding available from existing local, state, or federal programs or from grants with similar purposes. Funding may not be used for “reimbursement.” Only those costs that can be associated with completing the project would be eligible costs, as noted in section 5.2.

Applicants that are not funded during Bond BHCIP Round 1: Launch Ready may be eligible to apply for Bond BHCIP Round 2: Unmet Needs funding. TA will be available on an ongoing basis.

### **4.3. Appeals**

California law does not provide a protest or appeal process against award decisions made through an informal selection method. Applicants submitting a response to this RFA may not protest or appeal the award. All award decisions made by DHCS will be final.

## **Part Five: Project Operations**

### **5.1. Project Oversight and Reporting**

As specified by DHCS and upon request, grantees must provide progress reports in connection with the approved timeline, statement of work (SOW), and budget, as well as any updates to the timeline for completion of the project. The progress reports should include the project’s completion milestones and any updates or substantial changes. Grantees must promptly notify DHCS of any changes regarding organization, authorization, or capacity. This information will be outlined in the PFA.

Grantees are required to meet state financial and administrative reporting requirements and submit data through an online portal. Reporting requirements will include regular reports (at least once every 30 days) indicating progress toward meeting performance milestones, and a final report. The annual report will be due no later than January 31 for the prior calendar year of January 1 to December 31. Funding will be contingent upon provision of the timely submission of data and reporting. These requirements will be fully detailed upon award.



In addition to the foregoing, each grantee must submit to DHCS periodic reports, updates, and information as deemed necessary by DHCS to monitor compliance and/or perform project evaluation. Any requested data or information must be submitted electronically in a format provided by DHCS.

Additional reporting requirements may be required by DHCS for up to 30 years after completion of project construction.

## **5.2. Disbursement of Grant Funds**

The PFA will set forth the general conditions for disbursement. All grantees will be able to commence work and invoice for Bond BHCIP Round 1: Launch Ready project-specific expenses incurred back to the date of their conditional award, provided the expenses align with the project identified in the grant application and the final executed PFA and detailed SOW, and dated receipts/supporting documentation are available to verify project expenses. Eligible sunk costs may include the purchase of real property and construction or renovation/rehabilitation costs, including project planning or project management; appraisals; inspections; preconstruction costs such as permitting, surveying, architectural, and engineering fees; hardscaping and/or landscaping costs essential to the completion of the project (may not exceed 5 percent of the total grant award); and FFE (see section 2.7.) The project funding will become available upon final execution of the Bond BHCIP Round 1: Launch Ready PFA with AHP, at which point, the grantee may begin submitting invoices.

Disbursement of funds will follow bond payment processes and funding cycle. The grantee will submit relevant invoices to the draw authority for work completed. The draw authority will review the draw request, approve the invoices for work completed, and issue approval for disbursement of funds to the grantee. The grantee will then be responsible for paying invoices in a timely manner. Subsequent funding for construction will be released following site inspections and once draw requests are submitted for work completed in alignment with the bond payment processes and funding cycle.

AHP will closely monitor progress on construction and will track and review all schedules, change orders, and contingency expenses. Grantees will be responsible for submitting invoices, revised budgets, and schedules to AHP for approval. Grantees must ensure that expenses are allowable under the PFA and will be expected to provide sufficient backup documentation. Grantees are responsible for ensuring that their project is on schedule and on budget. Grantees who are awarded Bond BHCIP funds will be solely responsible for any costs to complete the project in excess of the program funds award amount. Neither DHCS nor AHP will be responsible for any cost overruns. Additional details regarding the funding and disbursement process will be provided upon award.

### 5.3. Funding Promotion

Grantees must collaborate with DHCS on requests to promote the award opportunity and services funded through the award. Requests for which the grantee will be responsible may include, but are not limited to, conducting media interviews; submitting letters to the editor of local or statewide publications; providing comments for related media activities; and/or submitting informational videos discussing the grantee's organization, services provided, and resulting impacts of the Bond BHCIP funding on communities.

### Part Six: Forms/Attachments (Total of 15)

Applicants must include all of the following attachments with the application. All required forms and supporting documents must be completed and uploaded in the application portal.

Form 1: Application Questions Guide (Note: additional questions may be included on the application portal)

Description: Application questions and related documents for Bond BHCIP Round 1: Launch Ready

- Letter(s) of support
- Any preliminary site plans, design drawings, or construction drawings for the proposed project—these may include schematic designs, architectural drawings, construction blueprints, and/or other renderings (Please limit each file size to less than 20 MB).
- Resumes of the development team that developed the design/construction plans.
- A copy of all executed contracts for hire related to the project's development team (lawyer, construction manager, development manager, architect, consultants, general contractor, etc.).
- Organization chart (for corporations, LLCs, and general partnerships owned by individuals or natural persons).
- A certified appraisal and a bank loan document, if identifying a real property contribution for match.
- A valid rough order of magnitude cost estimate if no construction plan is in place.
- A preliminary title report.

Form 2: Budget Template

Description: Pre-formatted template for all costs related to the proposed project, including match

Form 3: Development Team Information

Description: Information about development team, including contact information and experience

Form 4: Design, Acquisition, and Construction Milestone Schedule

Description: Schedule for achieving design, acquisition, and construction milestones

Form 5: Applicant's Certification of Prevailing Wage (inclusion in estimated budget)

Description: Certification with an attestation from the general contractor that the general contractor will comply with California's prevailing wage and working hours laws

Form 6: Applicant's Certification of Funding Terms

Description: Certification that the applicant will receive, expend, and administer all funds received under this initiative pursuant to the terms outlined

Form 7: Community Engagement

Description: Table to detail applicant outreach efforts related to the proposed project

Form 8: Schematic Design Checklist

Description: Checklist of start and completion dates for schematic design drawings, including architectural and engineering technical information

Form 9: Facility Financial Operating Pro Forma Template

Description: Table of revenue and expenses to show annual net operating income

Form 10: Board Authorizing Resolution (BAR) Template

Description: Template for eligible entities to confirm signing authority for the PFA. Local government entities are allowed to use their own authorizing resolution.

Attachment A: Pre-Application Consultation Process

Description: Outline of the PAC process, including a link to the required survey

Attachment B: DHCS Allowable Expense List

Description: List of allowable expenses for Bond BHCIP-funded projects

Attachment C: Letter of Support Guidelines

Description: Requirements related to all letters of support submitted as part of a Bond BHCIP Round 1: Launch Ready application

Attachment D: Budget Glossary of Terms

Description: Glossary of terms related to the budget for Bond BHCIP Round 1: Launch Ready applications

Attachment E: Glossary of Terms

Description: Glossary of terms for Bond BHCIP Round 1: Launch Ready