

PROJECT PRIORITY AREAS

DDS has, with input from stakeholders, identified the following project priority areas for funding:

1. Projects that meet the mental health needs of consumers who are at risk for entering emergency rooms, psychiatric hospitals, juvenile detention centers, jails, or prisons by:
 - Creating multi-system collaborations to implement innovative service models;
 - Increasing access to crisis services; and,
 - Implementing new or enhanced services and supports (e.g., step-down, wrap-around services, whole person, follow along, and aftercare options) for consumers. These services and supports shall be created in collaboration with appropriate systems of care, including county mental health agencies.
2. Projects that promote the creation and implementation of innovative, evidence-based strategies to ensure consumers with complex behavioral and mental health needs can successfully and safely access the community.
3. Projects focused on infants and toddlers age zero to three that address early mental health/social and emotional development in coordination with Family Resource Centers and/or other community partners.
4. Projects that develop and/or use technological applications to increase access to services for target populations, (infants and toddlers, children, transitional age youth, and adults) such as:
 - User-friendly software applications, designed to be potentially utilized by all regional centers; and,
 - Applications containing evidence-based practices in mental health, training modules, discussion boards, tools, and other resources to increase access to quality services for consumers.

Such innovations shall be designed so that they are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. For example, websites must meet accessibility requirements.

5. Projects that provide new and enhanced specialized services and supports for transitional age youth with a dual diagnosis. These may focus on any or all of the following:

- Education (programs to promote high school graduation; enrollment and completion of trade school, community college or university; and vocational skills and career development opportunities);
 - Outreach and collaboration with school districts to ensure continuity of mental health services when consumers exit high school;
 - Adaptive and functional skills development; and,
 - Independent living, housing assistance, and community living skills.
6. Projects that enhance collaboration and competency among clinicians, law enforcement, criminal justice systems, providers, and regional center staff to effectively serve a diverse consumer population by:
- Forging partnerships with County Behavioral Health;
 - Training individuals within the numerous systems of care (e.g. law enforcement, criminal justice system, regional center staff, clinicians, and service providers) on evidence-based interventions; and,
 - Supporting and training regional centers to access funding streams to leverage generic and specialized services such as Federally Qualified Health Centers, and Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment.
7. Projects that support consumers who are dually diagnosed, assessed as incompetent to stand trial by:
- a. Providing an RC court liaison who is knowledgeable in courtroom practices and procedures, and who will provide education/training to criminal justice systems to foster cultural sensitivity and competency regarding consumers who are dually diagnosed, and the regional center's role; and,
 - b. Identifying and coordinating placement options for individuals involved with the criminal justice system (e.g., short-term crisis beds, and behavioral health units linked to county jails).
8. Projects that replicate previous projects that have demonstrated success. RCs wishing to replicate an existing project shall utilize the tools, resources, and/or materials from past projects. Previous MHSA projects available for replication are detailed on the DDS website. Please visit:
<https://www.dds.ca.gov/services/mhsa/mental-health-services-act-cycle-iv/>