

Support homeless and behavioral health initiatives with your insight and experience.



Application Deadline: August 21, 2023
Interviews and Final Selections: Late Summer 2023
Orientation and First Meeting: Early Fall 2023

» **Apply:** [BHBH PWLE Application](#)

For accommodations or questions, use the [BHBH Program form](#)
or email Rue Mansour at rmansour@ahpnet.com



**BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH**
Bridge Housing

Information Sheet

What is the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program?

Through the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) Program, the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is providing \$1.5 billion in funding to county behavioral health agencies and Tribal entities to operate bridge housing settings to address the immediate and sustainable housing needs of people experiencing homelessness who have serious behavioral health conditions, including a serious mental illness (SMI) and/or substance use disorder (SUD). DHCS has engaged Advocates for Human Potential, Inc. (AHP), to serve as the administrative entity supporting the implementation of the BHBH Program.

What is the People with Lived Experience (PWLE) Expert Panel?

The BHBH Program PWLE Expert Panel brings together people who have personal experience with homelessness and behavioral health conditions—either serious mental illness (SMI) or substance use disorder (SUD), or both—to share their experiences, thoughts, and feedback to support the development of the BHBH Program. The PWLE Expert Panel may review and provide feedback on data reports, training and technical assistance products, requests for applications, and other materials. PWLE Expert Panel input will develop over time in collaboration with the BHBH team.

Why should I join the PWLE expert panel?

People with lived experience of behavioral health issues and homelessness provide a unique perspective on service delivery, program development, leadership, and practical solutions. By joining this panel, you will help build on the BHBH Program's efforts to support organizations in meeting the behavioral health and bridge housing needs of individuals statewide. No prior experience with programs, training, education, or data is necessary. We envision a diverse PWLE Expert Panel reflective of California, across races and ethnicities, ages, geographic regions, sexual and gender identities, and abilities.

Who is eligible to apply?

The BHBH Program is looking for individuals with experience accessing housing and behavioral health services who would like to share their experiences, feedback, and ideas on how these services can be improved. To be eligible for the BHBH PWLE Expert Panel, you must have firsthand experience with SMI and/or SUD, as well as homelessness (current or past). Family members of individuals with experience of SMI and/or SUD and homelessness are also eligible to apply.

PWLE Information Sheet

How do I apply?

All applications must be submitted through the [online form](#). For narrative questions, you may submit written or video responses. Instructions on how to submit a video are available in the online form. Please carefully review word and time limits when applying. ***All applications are due no later than 11:59 PM on August 21, 2023.*** If you have questions or require accommodations to apply, please contact AHP using this [BHBH Program form](#).

How does the selection process work?

Members of the BHBH Program team will review each application for thoroughness. Successful applicants will be identified based on their potential to best meet the goals for the panel; additional factors, such as geographic diversity, will also be considered to increase representation from across the state. Successful applicants will be sent an invitation to an online interview within 30 days of the application due date. Final decisions will be made after all interviews are conducted. All correspondence will be sent to the e-mail address provided in each application unless an accommodation is requested. Selection decisions by the BHBH Program, upon DHCS approval, are final.

How will the PWLE Panel work?

The panel will meet virtually (on Zoom) every 3 months. Additional meetings will be scheduled as needed as we assess the BHBH Program's needs and the level at which panelists may want to be involved. In addition to meetings, panel members may have the opportunity to review and provide suggestions on documents and participate in BHBH Program working meetings and trainings. Panelists provide recommendations to the BHBH Program staff and DHCS; they do not represent the BHBH Program. PWLE panelists generally serve a term of 2 years. The BHBH Program Director appoints and may remove PWLE panelists (e.g., for missing three consecutive meetings).

Will I be paid?

Panel members will be compensated for their time supporting the BHBH Program.

What is the time commitment?

Panelists should expect to commit 2–4 hours a month, although some months may require more time than others. Each meeting (every 3 months) will last 1–2 hours. Meetings will take place on weekdays, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., PT. The BHBH Program will work with panel participants to accommodate schedules as much as possible. Panelists may also contribute to other activities as assigned by the BHBH Program director or designee.

PWLE Information Sheet

What kind of personal information will I need to share?

You are encouraged to share as much of your relevant experiences as you feel comfortable doing. The BHBH Program team respects your confidentiality, and all information collected in the application process will be kept private unless we have your explicit permission to share it.

Will I incur any costs as part of the panel?

If there is an opportunity and benefit to hold an in-person panel meeting(s), the BHBH Program will cover travel costs. You will not be required to purchase any special equipment or tools to participate in the panel. However, the BHBH Program will not reimburse any costs related to phone or Internet related to participating in meetings.

What are the benefits of participating in the PWLE Panel?

- Shape statewide programs and influence services in your community.
- Receive leadership training and become a stronger leader.
- Share your ideas and be involved with others who share your passion for systems change.
- Learn more about behavioral health bridge housing and the BHBH Program.

PWLE Expert Panel Application Worksheet

Thank you for your interest in the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing People with Lived Experience Expert Panel!

Note: Applicants must complete the PWLE Expert Panel [application](#) online.

This worksheet lists the application questions, but they may appear in a different format in the online form. This document is provided for reference only.

Name _____

Preferred Pronouns _____ Phone Number _____ E-mail Address _____

What county do you reside in? _____

Do you have social media accounts you'd like to share? (optional) _____

What is your preferred method of being contacted by BHBH Program staff? (Check all that apply.)

- Text
- Email
- Phone

Can you be available for 1- to 2-hour meetings once every three months sometime between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

If no or maybe, please explain: _____

Age group

- 18-24
- 25-44
- 45-64
- 65 and over

PWLE Expert Panel Application Worksheet

Check the gender that describes you: *(Check all that apply.)*

- Cisgender Male
- Cisgender Female
- Transgender Male
- Transgender Female
- Genderqueer/Gender Nonconforming
- Two-spirit
- Other
- Prefer not to answer _____

Select the sexual orientation that describes you:

- Heterosexual/Straight
- Gay/Lesbian
- Bisexual
- Pansexual
- Asexual
- Other
- Prefer not to answer _____

Are there any other personal identifiers you would like to share (e.g., tribal affiliation, immigration, housing, or health status)? _____

Which of the following best describes you? *(Check all that apply.)*

- Person with serious mental illness (SMI)
- Person with or in recovery from a substance use disorder (SUD)
- Person who has experienced homelessness
- Family member or loved one of someone with SMI and/or SUD who has experienced homelessness

Do you currently work or volunteer at a homeless or behavioral health agency or program? *(Check all that apply.)*

- Yes, I work/volunteer at a behavioral health agency/program.
- Yes, I work/volunteer at a homeless agency/program.
- Yes, I work/volunteer at BOTH a homeless and a behavioral health agency/program.

What is the name of the agency (or agencies) and what is your role there? (200 words or less)

PWLE Expert Panel Application Worksheet

Do you have health insurance? *(All That Apply Checked Box Response; optional)*

- Medi-Cal
- Private insurance
- Employer-provided
- Other insurance
- None

What programs or services are you currently using or have used in the past? *(Check all that apply)*

- Short-term/temporary shelter (90 days or less)
- Bridge/transitional housing
- Homeless drop-in centers
- County mental health clinics
- Street outreach
- Housing navigation services
- Residential mental health treatment
- Residential SUD treatment
- Outpatient SUD treatment
- Medication for opioid use disorder (e.g., methadone)
- Recovery housing
- Peer support
- Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP)/self-help
- Medications
- Family services
- Services in a criminal justice setting
- ~~Basic needs services~~ (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), food banks, clothing)
- Problem solving court (tribal wellness/drug court/homeless court)
- Rental assistance
- Permanent supportive housing
- Other

Narrative Questions

For the questions below, applicants will be given two options for responding:

In writing: Please limit each response to maximum number of words listed next to each question.

By video: Applicants will be provided instructions in the online application if they wish to upload a video responding to the questions below. Please limit your video to 5 minutes or less.

1. Is there anything else you would like to share about your lived experience or work (volunteer or otherwise)? (250 words or less)
2. Briefly tell us why you would like to join the PWLE Expert Panel. (500 words or less)
3. Please tell us about any training you have received or experience you have in speaking about or advocating for programs and/or policies. (Prior experience is not required for you to be considered for the PWLE Expert Panel). (250 words or less)
4. Provide five (5) words that describe you or what you would bring to this panel. (5 words)