



**California Department of Health
Care Services (DHCS)
Behavioral Health Bridge Housing
(BHBH) Program**

**Tribal Entities
Request for Applications (RFA) —
Round 2B**

Please visit the [BHBH Program website](#) for links to this RFA and attachments, as well as information about all funding rounds, technical assistance, and additional resources.

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I. Overview

<p>Eligible Applicants</p>	<p>Eligible applicants include (a) federally recognized Indian Tribes, tribal organizations, or Urban Indian organizations or (b) health care programs operated by Indian Tribes, tribal organizations, or Urban Indian organizations, as defined in Section 1603 of Title 25 of the United States Code and further defined in Section 5304.</p> <p>Other eligible applicants can include organizations that do not meet the above definition of eligibility (such as Tribally Designated Housing Entities, nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporations, or for-profit businesses) that have written support from an eligible tribal entity for a proposed BHBH program benefitting a tribal community. Written support may be in the form of a tribal or board resolution, memorandum, or other legally binding agreement.</p> <p>If you are unsure whether your organization is eligible for this round of funding, please send a written explanation to the BHBH Program Help Desk of your understanding of how you may meet the eligibility criteria, so that assistance can be provided. Please note, preference for these funds will be given to federally recognized Tribes.</p>
<p>Funding Opportunity and Focus</p>	<p>This round of BHBH Program funding will make available more than \$20,000,000 to eligible California applicants for use in the planning and implementation of bridge housing services for individuals in tribal communities who are experiencing homelessness and have serious behavioral health conditions (serious mental illness and/or substance use disorder).</p>
<p>Tracks</p>	<p>Applications may be submitted for Track 1: Planning Grants or Track 2: Implementation Grants. Eligible applicants seeking funding for both planning and implementation should complete a Track 2 application. After reviewing this RFA, see Attachment A for Track 1: Planning Grants and Attachment B for Track 2: Implementation Grants.</p>
<p>Rolling Application Process</p>	<p>Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis over two periods, with two preliminary application deadlines: April 17, 2024, and June 19, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time (PT). Additional rolling application periods will be added, as needed, until the funds are depleted.</p>
<p>Application Form</p>	<p>The application will be accessible starting on March 1, 2024, on SurveyMonkey Apply.</p>

II. Introduction and Background

Through this round of BHBH Program funding, DHCS is making available more than \$20 million to eligible applicants in California to operate bridge housing settings to address the immediate housing needs of individuals in tribal communities experiencing homelessness who have serious behavioral health conditions, including serious mental illness (SMI) and/or substance use disorder (SUD). The BHBH Program was signed into law in September 2022 under [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 179](#) (Ting, Chapter 249, Statutes of 2022).

Capital funding has recently been made available through several other state programs, including the Homekey Tribal Program; the Tribal Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program; the Community Care Expansion Program; and the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program. In contrast to these programs, BHBH Program funding is primarily intended to support the operational costs of bridge housing that is provided in conjunction with supportive mental health and SUD services. An eligible applicant may implement bridge housing in a variety of settings that may be either directly leased or owned by the eligible applicant or by a partnership in which the eligible applicant acts as the lead, as described in Section 3, below. All BHBH programs must meet BHBH Program requirements described in this RFA and attachments and within the funding timeline.

The primary focus of the BHBH Program is to help people experiencing homelessness who have either SMI or SUD that prevents them from otherwise accessing help and moving out of homelessness. Applicants will be expected to clearly demonstrate how they will reach populations that are most in need of the BHBH Program.

BHBH Program funding is being made available through multiple RFAs. Through the second round, DHCS has awarded nine grants to tribal entities. This RFA is a re-release of the second round of funds. The final anticipated round will provide \$235 million in competitive funding and has a tentative release date of early 2025.

DHCS has engaged Advocates for Human Potential, Inc. (AHP), a consulting and research firm focused on improving health and human services systems, to serve as the administrative entity supporting the implementation of the BHBH Program. AHP has engaged additional consultants with experience specific to serving the Native American and tribal communities in California to support BHBH Program implementation. AHP will provide general grant training and technical assistance (TTA) during the application process and throughout the life of the project.

III. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include (a) federally recognized Indian Tribes, tribal organizations, or Urban Indian organizations or (b) health care programs operated by Indian Tribes, tribal organizations, or Urban Indian organizations, as defined in [Section 1603](#) of Title 25 of the United States Code and further defined in [Section 5304](#).

Other eligible applicants can include organizations that do not meet the above definition of eligibility (such as Tribally Designated Housing Entities [TDHEs], nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporations, or for-profit businesses) that have written support from an eligible tribal entity for a

proposed BHBH program benefitting a tribal community. Written support may be in the form of a tribal or board resolution, memorandum, or other legally binding agreement.

Only eligible applicants as defined above and within the state of California are eligible to apply for this round of BHBH Program funding. This refers to eligible applicants as defined above, whether rural or urban. Applicants are encouraged to form partnerships with other organizations if appropriate, as long as the primary applicant meets the eligibility criteria.

Organizations that are unsure whether they are eligible for this round of funding should submit a written explanation to the BHBH Program [Help Desk](#) of their understanding of how they meet the eligibility criteria, so that assistance can be provided. Please note, preference for these funds will be given to federally recognized Tribes.

Partnerships and collaboration are encouraged; however, each application must have one clear lead that will submit the application and sign the contract. A letter of intent or memorandum of understanding is not required for subcontractors or other key partners during the application process.

IV. Funding Opportunities

In this funding round, eligible applicants may apply for either Track 1, a Planning Grant of \$150,000, or Track 2, an Implementation Grant of any amount up to \$5 million. Eligible applicants that would like to request funding for both planning and implementation activities should apply only for an Implementation Grant, the funds of which may also be used for planning activities. Entities receiving an award for a Planning Grant should note that there is no guarantee of future BHBH Program funding rounds for implementation activities. If qualifying awards do not expend the funding available in this tribal funding opportunity, the remaining funds may be redistributed within the BHBH Program.

Track 1: Planning Grant

The Planning Grant is intended to facilitate engagement and community conversations about locally defined tribal and/or Urban Indian housing resources, practices, and opportunities to meet the immediate housing needs of individuals experiencing homelessness and serious behavioral health conditions, from the Indigenous worldview. Community-defined best practices can be explored by grantees conducting planning activities to best address the needs of members of their population who are experiencing homelessness and have serious behavioral health conditions including SMI and/or SUD. Planning grants may not be used for direct services. See Attachment A for additional details. Planning grants will be awarded in amounts of \$150,000. Planning activities may include relationship building, community engagement, and/or community assessments; identification of potential housing sites; action planning to expand access to housing and behavioral health care for individuals and families; partnership building with TDHEs and others; and subcontracting with consultants with expertise in areas related to bridge housing, homelessness, and/or behavioral health. Eligible applicants looking for an opportunity to identify how they can best address their bridge housing needs are encouraged to apply.

Track 2: Implementation Grant

As outlined in Attachment B, this option is intended to support grantees to launch and operate a BHBH program to address the immediate housing needs of individuals in their tribal communities experiencing homelessness and serious behavioral health conditions including SMI and/or SUD. Applicants must identify how they are in alignment with BHBH Program requirements, including the identified allowable uses, timelines, and services. Applicants may request up to \$5 million in funding. Larger projects including BHBH start-up infrastructure are eligible; however, eligible applicants who have small projects that focus on addressing the immediate housing needs of a few individuals are also encouraged to apply. Note that activities that are allowable under the Planning Grant are also allowable under the Implementation Grant. Applicants who are interested in both a Planning Grant and an Implementation Grant should apply only under Track 2: Implementation Grant.

V. Program Description

The BHBH Program builds on the California Health and Human Services Agency's (CalHHS's) [Guiding Principles & Strategic Priorities](#) and enables DHCS and grantees to meaningfully contribute to the implementation of the California Interagency Council on Homelessness's [Action Plan for Preventing and Ending Homelessness in California](#). This RFA has been customized to reflect the needs and best practices of eligible applicants, as voiced by tribal peoples, and has been informed by existing research and through stakeholder engagement.

The following priorities drive the implementation of the BHBH Program:

- There is a critical need for housing solutions within tribal communities, and the focus is on access to immediate bridge housing.
- Collaboration will complement ongoing state, county, and tribal efforts to address homelessness.
- BHBH Program settings will provide supportive behavioral health services and housing navigation to assist people who have serious behavioral health conditions and are experiencing homelessness.

For purposes of the BHBH Program, “bridge housing” is defined as short- and mid-term residential options that serve as a bridge to longer-term housing (see Attachment C for full definition). Bridge housing may include emergency shelter, interim housing, and short- or medium-term rental assistance, as well as housing navigation and supportive services to remove barriers and address longer-term housing needs. Bridge housing must meet the [Emergency Solutions Grants Minimum Habitability Standards](#) and, when possible and as applicable, should also meet [Continuum of Care Housing Quality Standards](#). All bridge housing programs must include voluntary supportive services and housing navigation.

VI. Application Process

A. Application Timeline

The application and attachments, along with instructions for submitting the completed application, can be found [online](#). Applications will be accepted through an application portal beginning March 1, 2024. Applications may not be hand delivered or sent by email or mail. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis over two periods. The first deadline for applications is April 17, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. PT. The second deadline is June 19, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. PT. Additional rolling application periods may be added until funds are depleted. Applicants that submit by the April 17, 2024, deadline will be scored against only other April 17, 2024, applicants. Any funds not awarded to those applicants will be available for applicants who submit by June 19, 2024, and any subsequent rolling deadlines. Applicants are encouraged to apply early for the largest availability of funds.

Information provided by the applicant can be made available for public review, unless otherwise exempted by law (Inspection of Public Records, Chapter 3.5, Division 7, Government Code).

Event	Date
Tribal Entity Round 2B RFA released	February 13, 2024
Application portal opens on SurveyMonkey Apply	March 1, 2024
Informational webinar	March 14, 2024, 11:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. PT. Register online.
Rolling applications due dates	April 17, 2024, 4:00 p.m. PT June 19, 2024, 4:00 p.m. PT Other application deadlines may be announced depending on the availability of funds remaining.
Conditional awards announced	Within 90 days of application deadlines
Contracts executed	Within 60 days of conditional awardee's receipt of initial contract

B. Application Instructions

This round of BHBH Program funding is intended to support eligible applicants in planning or implementation efforts that address the most appropriate and immediate bridge housing strategies for their communities while adhering to best practices and using funds as allowable.

The BHBH Program application uses a fillable form on an online application portal hosted by [SurveyMonkey Apply](#). Before beginning the application, please review this entire RFA and the additional information and application questions in Attachment A (Track 1:

Planning Grant) or Attachment B (Track 2: Implementation Grant). To complete the required budget, please follow the budget instructions accompanying the application questions. Use the Excel template available online and upload the budget and budget narrative to the application portal.

You will be able to upload documents, including the required organizational chart, budget, budget narrative, and signed attestation, as well as any other necessary supporting documentation, to the application portal. An email confirming receipt of the complete application will be sent within 24 hours of submission.

C. Additional Specifications

1. If DHCS deems it necessary, DHCS (directly or through AHP) may collect additional applicant documentation, signatures, missing items, or omitted information during the application review process. DHCS will advise the applicant by email or in writing of any such documentation that is required and the timeline for its submission. Failure to submit the required documentation in a manner DHCS deems responsive by the date and time indicated may lead DHCS to find the applicant nonresponsive and eliminate the application from further BHBH Program funding consideration.
2. The submission of an application to this RFA does not obligate DHCS to make a contract award.
3. DHCS reserves the right to deem incomplete responses as nonresponsive to the RFA requirements.
4. DHCS reserves the right to modify or cancel the RFA process at any time.
5. Any of the following may cause DHCS to reject a response from further consideration:
 - a. Failure to meet the stated applicant requirements by the submission deadline.
 - b. Failure to comply with a request to submit additional documentation in a timely manner.
 - c. Failure to comply with all performance requirements, terms, conditions, and/or exhibits that are being prepared for the resulting contract.

D. Information Sessions

An informational webinar on March 14, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. PT, will provide details about both the BHBH Program and this RFA and application process. Applicants for both planning and implementation grants are strongly encouraged to attend. [Registration](#) is required. The webinar will be recorded and posted on the [BHBH Program website](#).

In addition, during the RFA period, AHP will provide two rounds of office hours open to all prospective applicants. The previously recorded BHBH Program Tribal Bridge Housing 101 webinar and slides are available on the BHBH Program website, under Resources, on the Tribes and Tribal Entities [page](#). Applicants may also request a consultation. More information is available on the [BHBH Program website](#).

E. Questions

To submit a question related to the RFA or the application instructions, or to submit a technical question related to the online application portal, please request a consultation through the [Help Desk](#).

F. Reasonable Accommodations

DHCS will provide assistive services such as reading or writing assistance and conversion of the RFA, questions and answers, RFA addenda, or other Administrative Notices to Braille, large print, audiocassette, or computer disk as needed. To request copies of written materials in an alternate format, please send an email to BHBHinfo@ahpnet.com or call (323) 545-6202.

G. Proposal Review Criteria

Applicants must respond to all questions, address the minimum program requirements, and describe their proposed plan and budget in detail. Applications that do not identify how the BHBH Program's minimum requirements will be met may not be considered for funding. See Attachments A and B for the scoring criteria for each track.

The following overarching criteria will be used to evaluate applications:

- Description of community and need for assistance.
- Ability to address and experience in addressing housing, homelessness, and serious behavioral health conditions in tribal communities.
- Alignment with the purpose of the BHBH Program and program requirements for the track.
- Qualifying experience and capacity to undertake the BHBH program and enact the designated planning and implementation activities.
- Management capacity and cost reasonableness of budget.

Proposal ranking and selection will consider a number of relevant factors, with the goal of ensuring equitable opportunity for applicants of all population sizes, experience, and needs. In addition, partial funding may be awarded if components of the application are deemed unallowable or do not support the BHBH Program objectives, or if the applicant does not provide sufficient follow-up information. Applicants for Implementation Grants that do not meet the minimum requirements may be considered for a Planning Grant instead, at the discretion of DHCS.

H. Award Process

Successful applicants will be notified by email of award decisions within 90 days of application deadlines. AHP will schedule meetings with conditional awardees to discuss the contracting process, including the development of the statement of work and payment schedule.

I. Appeals

Applicants submitting a response to this RFA may not protest or appeal the award. All award decisions are final. Applicants who do not receive funding in this round are welcome to apply in the following round of BHBH Program funding (see [Introduction](#)).

J. Accessibility and Nondiscrimination

All BHBH Program–funded projects shall adhere to the accessibility requirements set forth in California Building Code Chapters 11A and 11B and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Title II. In addition, developments shall 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’s) 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 shall, 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 shall adopt a written nondiscrimination policy requiring that no person shall, 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 shall 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 shall 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.