

Attachment C: Definitions

Auxiliary Funding in Assisted Living Settings

Assisted living settings, for purposes of the BHBH Program, are licensed board and care facilities willing to serve an individual who is exiting homelessness, has a serious behavioral health condition, and needs around-the-clock nonmedical care. Assisted living settings include Adult Residential Facilities and Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly, which provide 24/7 nonmedical care to people who require it due to cognitive impairment or inability to perform activities of daily living, along with room and board. Assisted living settings are licensed by the Department of Social Services.

Auxiliary funding to an assisted living facility supports the successful placement of people who need licensed care. Some county behavioral health agencies have paid auxiliary funds to board and care facilities to close their cost gaps. Auxiliary funds are often referred to as “patches,” “augmentations,” and “supplementals.” By supporting operations, auxiliary funds help ensure that beds remain available to people served by county behavioral health agencies. Board and care patches do *not* pay bed rates. Instead, they fill funding gaps to enable these facilities to accept and serve people with serious behavioral health needs.

Bridge Housing

For purposes of the BHBH Program, “bridge housing” is defined as short- and mid-term residential programs with a goal to connect individuals to long-term housing stability. The BHBH Program uses a broad definition of “bridge housing” that may include, and may not be limited to, emergency/interim housing, rental assistance, and auxiliary funding in assisted living settings (commonly referred to as “board and care patches”). BHBH settings must offer supportive services that address the housing needs of participants. BHBH programs are low barrier and use harm reduction strategies and Housing First principles. However, when indicated, funding may be used to support recovery residences and sober living environments for individuals with significant substance use disorder 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](#).

Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act, CARE Program, and CARE Process

As outlined on the DHCS website, the CARE Act “provides community-based behavioral health services and supports to Californians living with untreated schizophrenia spectrum or other psychotic disorders through a new civil court process. CARE is intended to serve as an upstream intervention for the most severely impaired Californians to prevent avoidable

psychiatric hospitalizations, incarceration, and Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Mental Health Conservatorship. CARE connects a person in crisis with a court-ordered care plan for up to 12 months, with the possibility to extend for an additional 12 months. The CARE Process will provide earlier action, support, and accountability for both CARE clients, and the local governments responsible for providing behavioral health services to these individuals.”

Additional information on the CARE Act is available on the [CalHHS website](#).

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, 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.

Family

“‘Family’ includes, but is not limited to, regardless of marital status, actual or perceived sexual orientation, or gender identity, any group of persons presenting for assistance together with or without children and irrespective of age, relationship, or whether or not a member of the household has a disability. A child who is temporarily away from the home because of placement in foster care is considered a member of the family.” (Source: [HUD Continuum of Care Program FAQ](#))

Homeless

For purposes of the BHBH Program, the definition of “homeless” is based on the definition used in the Enhanced Care Management (ECM) program (ECM Policy Guide, September 2023, pages 11–12), as outlined below. An individual or family experiencing homelessness is defined as meeting one or more of the following conditions:

- “Lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence;
- “Having a primary residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground;
- “Living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter, designed to provide temporary living arrangements (including hotels and motels paid for by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable organizations, congregate shelters, and transitional housing);

- “Exiting an institution into homelessness (regardless of length of stay in the institution);
- “Will imminently lose housing in [the] next 30 days;
- “Fleeing domestic violence, . . . sexual assault, stalking, and other dangerous, traumatic, or life-threatening conditions relating to such violence.”

Housing Navigation

Housing navigation is an integral part of the process of assisting people in identifying housing options, resources, and services. Housing navigators work with individuals to help them find, move in to, and retain affordable housing. They also develop relationships with community partners, other service providers, agencies offering housing subsidies, and property owners and managers. Navigators help individuals eliminate or reduce the impact of personal housing barriers such as criminal records, poor credit, or prior housing judgments due to eviction, as well as transportation needs, application fees, and/or utility payments. Additionally, housing navigators may assist in identification and reporting of instances of housing discrimination. They may link individuals with bridge housing and housing subsidy agencies and assist them in completing applications. They may also work with property owners and public housing authorities to facilitate approvals, assisting with documentation, timely inspections, and corrective action requests.

Participant Assistance Funds

Participant Assistance Funds are an allowable expense category under the BHBH Program. As described in the [California Department of Health Care Services Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program County Behavioral Health Agencies Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#), “Participant Assistance funds are used to remove barriers and support people with behavioral health conditions who are also experiencing homelessness meet their immediate housing needs.”

Examples include, but are not limited to, costs associated with obtaining government-issued identification and other vital documents, housing application fees, credit reports, security deposits, and utility deposits. Funds may also be used to support move-in and establishing a household, including transportation, food, hygiene products, and moderate furnishings.

Serious Behavioral Health Condition

The BHBH Program eligibility criteria are adapted from the Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) access criteria ([BHIN 21-073](#)) and the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System/Drug Medi-Cal access criteria ([BHIN 21-071](#); [BHIN 23-001](#)), including all CARE Program participants. There are no age restrictions on BHBH Program participants. To be eligible for a BHBH Program–funded project, an individual must meet one of the following criteria:

1. The individual has one or more of the following:
 - a. Significant impairment, where “impairment” is defined as distress, disability, or dysfunction in social, occupational, or other important activities, including education and family relationships
 - b. A reasonable probability of significant deterioration in an important area of life functioning

- c. A need for SMHS, regardless of presence of impairment (for individuals under age 21)

AND

The individual's condition, as defined in a, b, and/or c, is due to either of the following:

- a. A diagnosed mental and/or substance-related or addictive disorder, according to the criteria of the current editions of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM)* and the *International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD)*

- b. A suspected mental and/or substance-related or addictive disorder that has not yet been diagnosed

OR

2. The individual has at least one of the following:

- a. At least one diagnosis from the current edition of the *DSM* for Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders, with the exception of Tobacco-Related Disorders and Non-Substance-Related Disorders
- b. At least one suspected diagnosis from the current edition of the *DSM* for Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders, with the exception of Tobacco-Related Disorders and Non-Substance-Related Disorders

OR

3. The individual is a CARE Program participant, regardless of whether they meet the criteria in paragraph (1) or (2), above.

Short-Term and Mid-Term

For purposes of the BHBH Program, “short-term” is defined as less than 90 days and “mid-term” is a period between 90 days and 2 years, with the possibility of a 1-year extension. Because the BHBH Program sunsets, its funds cannot be used to support longer-term housing or rental assistance. Eligible applicants are encouraged to allow flexible lengths of stay in bridge housing settings to ensure housing navigation and placement services can take place and that individuals are exited to permanent housing to the greatest extent possible.

Supportive Services

Supportive services are those services necessary to help program participants obtain and maintain housing, manage symptoms of serious behavioral health conditions, and support recovery and wellness. Examples include peer support, employment assistance, culturally defined practices, transportation assistance, and group and individual activities that promote a sense of purpose and community participation. BHBH Program funds may be used for supportive services not currently supported through other sources. Eligible applicants must meet the requirement to maximize all other funding sources, including Medi-Cal, to the greatest extent possible and should prioritize this funding to add new bridge housing beds to their communities. BHBH Program funds may not be used to pay for existing services or housing supports that are currently reimbursed, or eligible for reimbursement through Medi-Cal

(including Enhanced Care Management, Targeted Care Management, and Community Support Services), funding sources such as Mental Health Services Act–funded programs, or other federal or local programs.

Tribal Entities

California “tribal entities” are defined as (a) a federally recognized Indian Tribe, tribal organization, or Urban Indian organization, or (b) a health care program operated by an Indian Tribe, a tribal organization, or Urban Indian organization, as defined in [Section 1603](#) of Title 25 of the United States Code and further defined in [Section 5304](#).