

Preparing for the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program Round 2 Funding

In March of 2024, California voters passed Proposition 1, approving a \$6.38 billion general obligation bond, the Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond, to develop an array of behavioral health treatment, residential care settings, and supportive housing to help provide appropriate care facilities for individuals experiencing mental health and substance use disorders. The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has allocated and will distribute up to \$4.4 billion of the bond funding for Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) competitive grants. These bond grants will help expand clinically enriched longer term treatment and rehabilitation options for persons with behavioral health disorders in the least restrictive and least costly setting and would help address the great need for these services and beds in Los Angeles County.

The Bond Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure (Bond BHCIP) Program provides an opportunity for Los Angeles County (County) to address its shortage of mental health and substance use treatment facilities, housing, and crisis centers. Multiple County reports have been published identifying gaps in the countywide behavioral health

MOTION

SOLIS	_____
MITCHELL	_____
HORVATH	_____
HAHN	_____
BARGER	_____

care continuum. In response to [a motion requesting a public presentation on Los Angeles County's plan to implement Proposition 1](#), the directors of the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and Department of Public Health – Substance Abuse Prevention Control (DPH-SAPC) presented at the September 26, 2024, Board of Supervisors meeting and summarized their departments' greatest needs and priorities. DMH projected that they need 250 additional subacute and 250 additional Enriched Residential beds to meet demand, and DPH-SAPC projected that they need around 200 additional residential substance use treatment beds.

The Bond BHCIP program provides an opportunity for Los Angeles County to address these unmet needs and add to our behavioral health continuum of care. The \$4.4 billion bond program has been divided into two rounds. Round 1 was released in the summer of 2024 for "Launch-Ready" projects, and applications were due in December. Los Angeles County submitted two projects for Round 1 funds. If both projects are funded, they will add a total of 64 subacute beds and 16 Enriched Residential beds to LA County's continuum of care. The Round 2 applications are currently scheduled to be released this May 2025 for "Unmet Needs," with a total of \$1.1 billion to be distributed by the State. Even if we are awarded Round 1 funds, LA County undoubtedly still has unmet needs in our behavioral health continuum of care. The County needs to strategize and prepare the projects it will submit in the Round 2 application to meet these unmet needs. It is in our best interest as a County to have a clear understanding of what our unmet needs are for behavioral health facilities within the County and be prepared to apply for the next round of funding.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Department of Mental Health to collaborate with the Department of Public Health, Substance Abuse Prevention and Control to establish a plan to manage and apply for Round 2 of Bond Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure (BHCIP) funds.

The plan should include, but not be limited to:

- a. An overview of the current unmet behavioral health care facility and housing needs for Los Angeles County;
- b. A list of potential Los Angeles County projects that would address the County's unmet needs as described in (a) and likely qualify for Bond BHCIP Round 2 funds; and
- c. A prioritization of the projects described in (b) and plans to manage and apply for the high-priority projects in Bond BHCIP Round 2, including a timeline to prepare for submission of Round 2 applications.

#

JH:kc/ap