

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
MHSA ADMINISTRATION AND OVERSIGHT DIVISION**

INNOVATION PROJECT PROPOSAL QUICK GUIDE

Definition of an Innovation Project

A project that contributes to learning rather than a primary focus on providing a service. Innovation projects are an opportunity to try out new approaches that can inform current and future practices/approaches. By their very nature, not all innovation projects will be successful.

Innovation projects must have a primary purpose

The County shall select one of the following as its primary purpose for developing and evaluating the new or changed mental health practice

- Increase access to mental health services to underserved groups
- Increase the quality of mental health services, including measurable outcomes
- Promote interagency and community collaboration related to mental health services or supports or outcomes
- Increase access to mental health services

Innovation projects must contribute to learning in one of the following ways

- Introduces new mental health practices/approaches including prevention and early intervention that have never existed before **or**
- Makes a change to an existing mental health practice/approach, including adaptation for a new setting or community **or**
- Introduces a new application to the mental health system of a promising community-driven practice/approach or a practice/approach that has been successful in non-mental health contexts or settings

Examples of Projects

- Administrative/governance/ organizational practices, processes or procedures
- Advocacy
- Education and training for service providers (including non-traditional mental health practitioners)
- Outreach, capacity building and community development
- Planning
- Policy and system development
- Prevention, early intervention
- Public education efforts
- Research
- services and/or treatment interventions

INNOVATION PROPOSAL

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GENERAL INNOVATION INFORMATION

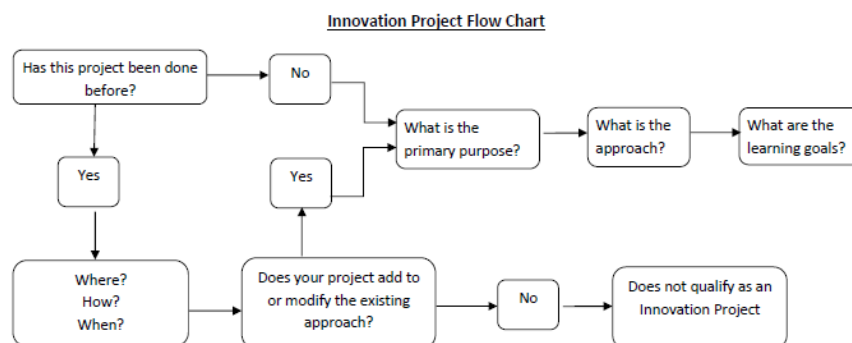
All Innovation Projects shall embody the following standards of the Mental Health Services Act:

1. Community Collaboration
2. Cultural Competence
3. Client Driven Mental Health System
4. Family Driven Mental Health System
5. Wellness, Recovery and Resilience Focus
6. Integrated Service Experience

Projects cannot exceed five (5) years from start of implementation and regional collaboration is encouraged.

Definition of Underserved:

- Clients of any age who have been diagnosed with a serious mental illness and/or serious emotional disturbance and are receiving some services but are not provided the necessary or appropriate opportunities to support their recovery, wellness and/or resilience.
- Clients whose family members are not receiving sufficient services to support the client's recovery, wellness and/or resilience.
- Clients at risk of homelessness, institutionalization, incarceration, out-of home placement or other serious consequences.
- Members of ethnic/racial, cultural, and linguistic populations that do not have access to mental health programs due to barriers such as poor identification of their mental health needs, poor engagement and outreach, limited language access, and lack of culturally competent services.
- Those in rural areas, Native American rancherias and/or reservations who are not receiving sufficient services.



To apply, click on the following link: [Innovation Project Plan Worksheet](#)

For questions, contact Division Chief, Darlesh Horn, DPP, at (213) 943-8475 or email mhsaadmin@dmh.lacounty.gov.