

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Community Services & Supports (CSS) Housing Program

What is the task of the MHSA CSS Housing Program work group?

The tasks of the Workgroup are to:

1. Adhere to State requirements for the Plan.
2. Develop and present proposal to the MHSA Steering Committee, including proposed priorities for the Plan, and builds on the priorities identified by the MHSA Housing & Supports Committee (3/3/05).
3. Assist with developing support in community for increased housing options for consumers in community.

What is MHSA?

In 2004 California passed Proposition 63, known as the Mental Health Services Act. It imposes a tax on California's millionaires and the money is used to provide Mental Health Services. The Department of Mental Health, along with the Oversight Accountability Commission and the California Mental Health Directors Association, provide guidance for the Counties for the MHSA requirements. Three components of MHSA focus on direct clinical services (Prevention and Early Intervention, **Community Services and Supports**, and Innovative Programs), and three focus on infrastructure (Workforce Education and Training, Capital Facilities, and Information Technology). The MHSA Housing Program is considered part of the Community Services and Supports component.

What is the purpose of the CSS Housing Program?

MHSA Housing Program developments must offer permanent supportive housing to the target population, with no limit on length of stay. Tenants must be linked to on-site or off-site services, and the County must provide a clearly articulated supportive services plan and service delivery program. The services must help individuals retain the housing, support recovery and resiliency, and maximize the ability to live and work in the community.

What is the Target Population of the CSS Housing Program?

The MHSA Housing Program target population is defined as very low-income adults, or older adults with serious mental illness, and children with severe emotional disorders and their families who are homeless or at risk for homelessness.

What are the funding categories for CSS Housing Program?

Funds from this program are designed to finance:

- Capital costs associated with development, acquisition, construction and/or rehabilitation of permanent supportive housing.
- Capitalized operating subsidies. (A pool of money to make rents affordable to consumers, which may only be used for housing projects acquired with MHSA Housing Funds.)

For Rental Housing Developments we will be also be required to obtain capital funds from a range of programs administered by other agencies. Rental housing developments are apartment buildings that include five or more separate apartments, each with its own lease.

For Shared Housing Developments funds from this new program may be used to cover all capital costs up to the funding limits specified in this application. Shared Housing development generally consist of two-to four unit buildings, provided that all units in the development are targeted for use as a shared housing for a member of the MHSA Housing program target population.

Rules of Application process: Prior to submission to the State Housing Plans must be posted for 30 days, to allow for stakeholder review and comment.