

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Information Technology Workgroup

What is the task of the MHSA Information Technology work group?

The tasks of the Workgroup are to:

1. Initiate a planning process that involves getting input from stakeholders.
2. Adhere to State requirements for the Plan.
3. Develop and present proposal to the MHSA Steering Committee, including proposed priorities for the Plan.

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**).

What is the purpose of the Information Technology component?

Technology Plans must address the development of a long-term infrastructure for mental health to:

- **Modernize and transform** clinical and administrative information systems to improve quality of care, operational efficiency and cost effectiveness.
- Increase **consumer and family empowerment** by providing the tools for secure consumer and family access to health information within a wide variety of public and private settings.

What are allowable expenditures for the Information Technology component?

Technology projects will be evaluated and approved within the context of two criteria:

Criteria #1- Project Type: Projects that are consistent with the purpose stated above, such as:

- Electronic Health Record System
- Consumer and Family Empowerment Projects
 - Consumer/Family access to computing resources
 - Personal health record system projects
 - Expansion/leveraging network of care
- Other Technology Projects
 - Tele-medicine
 - Pilot projects to monitor new programs and service outcome improvement
 - Data Warehousing Projects
 - Imaging/Paper Conversion projects

Criteria #2- Technology Program Assessment: The plan must adequately justify the expenditure of MHSA funds by assessing several factors, including:

- Technology Strategic Plan
- Roadmap to achieving an integrated information systems infrastructure through an E.H.R. system
- County Personnel (management and staffing)
- Cost
- Nature of project
- Hardware considerations
- Software considerations
- Interagency considerations
- Training and implementation plan
- Security