

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Prevention & Early Intervention Workgroup

What is the task of the MHSA Prevention & Early Intervention 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 Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) component?

The intent is to engage persons prior to the development of serious mental illness or serious emotional disturbances, or in the case of early intervention, to alleviate the need for additional mental health treatment and/or to transition to extended mental health treatment. **Prevention** involves reducing risk factors or stressors, building protective factors and skills, and increasing support. **Intervention** is directed towards individuals/families for whom a short-duration (less than a year) and relatively low-intensity approach is appropriate to achieve intended outcomes. (Note: the standard of low intensity and short duration does not apply to services for individuals experiencing early onset of a serious psychiatric illness with psychotic features.)

What are allowable expenditures for the Prevention and Early Intervention component?

Allowable expenditures include: personnel (such as behavioral health professionals, culturally/linguistically competent family liaisons, program managers), operating costs (such as curricula and other educational materials, supplies, travel, equipment and facilities rental) and subcontracts (such as professional services for training or program evaluation). Counties must select the PEI Priority Populations, the PEI Key Community Mental Health Needs, and fifty-one (51%) of PEI plan budget must be dedicated to individuals who are between the ages 0 to 25.

What are the Priority Populations?

1. Trauma-exposed individuals
2. Individuals experiencing onset of serious psychiatric illness
3. Children and youth in stressed families
4. Children and youth at risk for school failure
5. Children and youth at risk of juvenile justice involvement

NOTE: all work plans must address underserved cultural populations.

What are the PEI Key Community Mental Health Needs?

1. Disparities in Access to Mental Health Services
2. Psycho-Social Impact of Trauma
3. At-Risk Children, Youth, and Young Adult Populations
4. Stigma and Discrimination
5. Suicide Risk