

**Request for Letters of Interest (LOI) and
Program Proposals (PP)
No. MHA/017**

**Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Special Populations Provider
Release Date: March 19, 2024**

**DEADLINE TO EXPRESS INTEREST
By 5:00 PM Pacific Daylight Time (PDT), April 3, 2024**

This will be the only publicized notification of this Request for LOI and PP

Informational Meeting (Optional)

March 22, 2024, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm (PDT)

- Organizations must meet the minimum requirements as stated in this document.
- Organizations can join the Informational Meeting through the link below:

https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1603335854?pwd=a3k2eDVIUmt6eGhqTVQvb3B2alh_oQT09

Meeting ID: 160 333 5854
Passcode: 697093

One tap mobile

+16692545252,,1603335854# US (San Jose)

+14154494000,,1603335854# US (US Spanish Line)

Dial by your location

- +1 669 254 5252 US (San Jose)
- +1 415 449 4000 US (US Spanish Line)
- +1 669 216 1590 US (San Jose)
- +1 646 828 7666 US (New York)
- +1 646 964 1167 US (US Spanish Line)
- +1 551 285 1373 US (New Jersey)

Meeting ID: 160 333 5854

The County of Sacramento Department of Health Services (DHS), Behavioral Health Services (BHS), is seeking LOI/PPs from qualified organizations who meet the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) [Behavioral Health Bridge Housing \(BHBH\) Program](#), Request for Application (RFA) minimum program requirements and qualifications. The PP should include a proposal for how an organization will implement and operate low barrier bridge housing with voluntary supportive services to address immediate interim housing needs while ensuring viable pathways to permanent housing sustainability for people experiencing homelessness who have serious mental

illness (SMI) and/or substance use disorder (SUD). Additionally, in the PP, the qualified organization will address the needs of those who are underserved and over-represented and disproportionately impacted by homelessness as indicated in the most recent [Point in Time count](#) or other local studies or data that shows gap(s) in needed services. An organization may collaborate and/or subcontract with other agencies to blend their respective expertise to make a comprehensive program in alignment with the goals of BHBH and to provide bridge housing and supportive services.

A. Definition of Terms

For the purposes of this LOI, the definition of “homeless” is based on the definition used in the BHBH RFA:

1. Homeless

An individual or family experiencing homelessness is defined as any of the following:

- An individual or family that lacks adequate nighttime residence
- An individual or family with a primary residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used for habitation
- An individual or family living in a shelter
- An individual exiting an institution (including incarceration) into homelessness
- An individual or family who will imminently lose housing in next 30 days
- Unaccompanied youth and homeless families and children and youth defined as homeless under other federal statutes
- Individuals fleeing intimate partner violence (which includes commercial, sexual exploitation)

Note: This definition is based on the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition of “homeless,” with the following modifications:

- If exiting an institution, individuals are considered homeless if they were experiencing homelessness immediately prior to entering that institutional stay, regardless of the length of the institutionalization.
- The time frame for an individual or family that will imminently lose housing has been extended from 14 days (HUD definition) to 30 days.

2. Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Program

A civil court process that provides services and supports to Sacramento County residents with the most severe impairment, experiencing schizophrenia spectrum or other psychotic disorders, as an upstream diversion from more restrictive environments.

B. Background

On April 28, 2023, Sacramento County BHS submitted a BHBH grant application and was subsequently awarded \$43,077,410 in BHBH funding to address the immediate housing and service needs of people experiencing homelessness. BHS will expand interim housing with 110 beds across 3 Safe Stay communities (County sanctioned encampments) and will develop/renovate shovel ready projects for another 100 beds such as renovated hotels, sober living environments, etc. Sites must be clean with onsite supportive services. For residents who refuse or exit BHS outpatient treatment services, rental assistance/auxiliary payments can be used to obtain additional flexible interim housing beds. BHBH will utilize site based, multidisciplinary teams with supports from BHS service providers and community partners, to serve the target population of people experiencing homelessness, with SMI and/or SUD. Additionally, [Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment \(CARE\) Act](#) participants shall be prioritized when applicable. [BHS Homeless Engagement and Response Team \(HEART\)](#) provides front door access except in emergency or safety situations where providers may provide direct access when allowed by program design. BHBH services will include care coordination to improve mental health and physical health, build life skills, increase income, and develop vocational/education access and skills. Services support the end goal of participants transitioning to permanent housing within 9 months. Partners include County agencies like BHS for SMI and/or SUD treatment, Primary Care for medical support, Department of Human Assistance (DHA) for benefits and Managed Care Providers for Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and additional linkages. Housing navigation will also be an important service which may be offered to participants linked to BHS specialty mental health services. BHBH providers shall provide housing navigation for participants that do not have that offered through their linked provider.

We are seeking proposals with innovative interim housing and supportive services. All bridge housing start-up infrastructure activities must be complete, and beds made available and supportive services implemented by January 26, 2025, and services will be funded and continue through the end of the grant term, June 30, 2027.

Additionally, BHS intends to submit an application to DHCS for BHBH Program grant round three funds on April 10, 2024, for up to an additional \$15,000,000. PPs submitted that meet the minimum requirements as described in this document may be used to inform the County's grant application for the third round to DHCS.

C. Purpose

The primary focus of the BHBH Program is to transition individuals with significant behavioral health needs out of literal homelessness into a stable interim living environment, with supportive services, while awaiting permanent housing. BHS's intent through this LOI/PP is to identify interested organizations with innovative, practical proposals who are capable and willing to implement and operate the BHBH Program in partnership with Sacramento County. Grassroots organizations who can provide bridge housing services and supports who have skills and experience serving special

populations that are over-represented or underserved in homelessness counts are encouraged to submit LOI/PPs. Experience as a mental health or substance use treatment provider is not a requirement unless stipulated by program design in the submitted PP. It will be a requirement that participants are linked to a BHS outpatient mental health or substance use provider program who can meet the behavioral health needs in tandem to the BHBH program, unless the BHBH program design includes bundled BHS services. Bundled program designs will allow the BHBH provider to also be the outpatient provider, braiding in other funding for those outpatient services. Due to time constraints, only programs who have a current outpatient contract with BHS may offer a bundled program design. Organization(s) are expected to work with BHS on establishing BHBH referral processes, prioritizing services and offering solutions to address the housing and treatment needs of the populations of focus outlined in the PP. The BHBH Program funding will expand interim housing capacity using best practices such as housing first approach, harm reduction, trauma-informed care, system collaboration, etc. and creative solutions. When applicable, funding may be used to support sober living environments or [recovery housing programs, where sobriety is an entry requirement](#). The BHBH Program will serve adults and/or families referred by BHS HEART. When appropriate to the special population, the BHBH program will prioritize [CARE](#) Program participants.

D. Scope of Work Overview

The BHBH Program may serve single adults, couples, families, or roommates. BHBH program(s) will serve special populations such as foster youth aging out, LGBTQ+, [individuals fleeing domestic violence](#), older adults, families with multiple minor children, families with minor children at risk of deeper system involvement (e.g., CPS and probation), CARE Court participants, African-American/Black communities, justice involved individuals, etc. Due to the increasing number of special populations experiencing homelessness that are over-represented and/or underserved, the County encourages organizations to submit a proposal that will focus on one or more of these special populations. Program staff will be reflective of the cultural and/or ethnic populations to be served in this program.

Program Activities

PPs shall include the Organization's BHBH program activities. Innovative and creative bridge housing models using existing real estate that can be leased as is or quickly renovated/converted to new BHBH Program settings are encouraged. All must include supportive services for participants. For clients linked to BHS outpatient mental health treatment services, BHBH program will coordinate with BHS contracted providers to provide housing navigation and participant assistance funds. The BHBH organizations will have access to BHBH special funding for participant assistance, rental assistance, and/or landlord outreach and mitigation. PPs shall describe their program's model that includes but not limited to these minimum program elements and activity types:

1. Bridge Housing Start-Up Infrastructure

- a. BHBH Program funding can be used for start-up costs to acquire/develop new interim housing inventory including but not limited to: master leasing all or some of a complex, scatter site rental homes, purchasing existing housing inventory, renovating existing owned properties, tiny homes, RV/mobile home/motorhome park, providing short or mid-term rental assistance, or for recruiting other housing entities to shift to interim homeless housing, including supplemental funding for board and care. Creative and practical solutions are encouraged.
 - b. The infrastructure development must be completed, and bridge housing beds must go live by January 26, 2025. Timeliness benchmarks must be met to avoid funding reversion.
2. BHBH Program Implementation
- a. In coordination with Sacramento County, solicit input from people with lived experience of homelessness, SMI, and SUD, when developing programming, implementation, and service provision.
 - b. Coordinate with local Continuum of Care (CoC), other stakeholders and housing partners.
 - c. Actively participate in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).
 - d. Submit required reports.
3. Operation of Bridge Housing and Support Services
- a. Activities and requirements:
 - i. Sustain positive, responsive, working relationships with HEART, mental health contractors, Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Services (SUPT) contractors, CARE Court, housing inventory partners (if applicable), oversee bridge housing operations/maintenance, and pay for all project costs in a timely manner that maintains safe interim housing and meets the [Emergency Solutions Grants \(ESG\) Minimum Habitability Standards](#) and [County of Sacramento Good Neighbor Policy](#).
 - ii. BHBH Program will utilize site based, multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) to serve their bridge housing residents during regular business hours.
 - iii. BHBH Program will coordinate with BHS contracted provider for 24/7 crisis response to avoid negative program exits.
 - iv. MDTs will include care coordination to improve mental/physical health, build life skills, increase income, and develop vocational/education access and skills. Partners may include County agencies like Primary Care for medical support, DHA for applicable benefits, etc.
 - b. Ongoing services and supports:
 - i. At the end of the grant term, BHBH Program will help individuals that have not been able to move onto permanent housing by leveraging other available funding resources for participant assistance funds and/or rental assistance to help with accessing sustainable supports.
 - ii. Provide bridge housing and supportive services including barrier busting activities to help participants obtain and maintain housing. Provide housing navigation services and supports to BHBH Program participants

who may exit BHS programming that offers housing navigation or who initially agreed to the requirement for linkage to Sacramento County BHS but rescinded their agreement post entry.

- iii. Support and coordinate access to behavioral health services necessary to help program participants manage symptoms of serious behavioral health conditions, and support recovery and wellness by utilizing and coordinating with current Sacramento County Mental Health Plan and/or SUPT providers.

E. Available Pooled Funding

- 1. AVAILABLE DHCS FUNDING through Fiscal Year 2026-27: \$25,500,000.
 - a. Allocation A: For Providers submitting proposals for BHS interim housing beds for special populations.
 - b. Allocation B: For Providers submitting proposals for Sober Living Environment/Recovery Residence interim housing beds, the maximum daily rate is \$100 per single unit or \$125 for family units.
 - c. Funding cannot be converted from one type to another.
 - d. Funding is pooled and may be used flexibly and split between providers.
 - e. Funding cannot be rolled over into subsequent fiscal years.

| Fiscal Year | Allocation: A | Funds |
|---------------------|--|--------------|
| Year 1 | BHS Implementation and Start-Up Infrastructure and Operations and Supportive Services (First year through January 26, 2025) | \$6,000,000* |
| Year 2 | BHS Bridge Housing Operations and Supportive Services | \$5,000,000 |
| Year 3 | BHS Bridge Housing Operations and Supportive Services | \$5,000,000 |
| Year 4 | BHS Bridge Housing Operations and Supportive Services | \$5,000,000 |
| BHS Subtotal | | 21,000,000* |

| Fiscal Year | Allocation: B | Funds |
|--------------------|---|--------------|
| Year 1 | Sober Living Environment Implementation and Start-Up Infrastructure & Operations and Supportive Services (First year through January 26, 2025) | \$900,000 |

| | | |
|------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Year 2 | Sober Living Bridge Housing Operations and Supportive Services | \$1,200,000 |
| Year 3 | Sober Living Bridge Housing Operations and Supportive Services | \$1,200,000 |
| Year 4 | Sober Living Bridge Housing Operations and Supportive Services | \$1,200,000 |
| Sober Living Subtotal | | \$4,500,000* |

*Approximate amount

2. Funding may be renewed annually through FY 2026-27.
3. The total available funds are subject to change. The County reserves the right to make adjustments to the contract maximum.
4. Funds will solely support the BHBH Program(s); no treatment services will be funded in BHBH.
5. BHBH funds may not supplant or replace existing funding.
6. Total funding dependent on number of proposals and number of beds.

F. Request for LOI/PP Submission Instructions

This Request for LOI/PP No. MHA/017 for the BHBH Program requires:

1. Organizations to meet all requirements stated in the DHCS BHBH Request for Applications (RFA) and complete and submit the BHBH Program LOI Form attached below. The LOI Form is four pages, and all four pages must be completed and submitted by the deadline. Organizations must include their PP that outlines the applicable program elements and activities described in section D. of this document and shows the project can be completed within the allowable time frame. Maximum page allowance for PP's: 6 typed pages. Organizations must include a timeline with achievable benchmarks. Additionally, organizations must include a proposed budget for each type of Bridge Housing they are proposing. To get a copy of the Budget template, please send an email to:

DHS-BHS-LOIMHA017@saccounty.gov

2. **LOI Forms and PP must be received by email at the email address below:**

DHS-BHS-LOIMHA017@saccounty.gov

Email subject line must read, "LOI/PP No. MHA/017."

3. **LOI/PPs not received by 5:00 pm (PDT) on April 3, 2024, at the above email address will be rejected.** LOI/PPs received at any other email address will not be accepted. It is the responsibility of the organization to submit the LOI/PP to the email address by the time and date specified above.
4. **Faxed, mailed or hand-delivered submissions will not be accepted.**
5. This Request for LOI/PP is non-binding and does not obligate the applicant to contract with the County.
6. **Please note that receipt of response does not guarantee funding.**

G. Rights of the County

This will be the only advertisement of this request for LOI/PP. The County of Sacramento reserves the right to:

1. Cancel this public notice and/or issue an RFA or RFP for these services, to reject any or all LOI/PP submissions, determine which LOI/PP shall be accepted, and request additional information or documentation from organizations.
2. Only those agencies that successfully submit an LOI/PP to this public notice are eligible to participate in a procurement process, if utilized in the future, and pending award of additional grant funding.
3. Make a contract award to one or more organizations for all or part of the services.
4. Issuance of this LOI/PP in no way constitutes a commitment by the County to award a contract.

LOI Form ON NEXT PAGE

Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Letter of Interest (LOI) and Program Proposals (PP) Form

Request for LOI/PP No. MHA/017

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Organization's Legal Name: | |
| Primary Point of Contact Name/Title: | |
| Address: | |
| City, State and ZIP Code: | |
| Telephone: | |
| Contact Email Address: | |

Please check each special population* for which you are applying:

- African American/Black Communities
- Escaping Domestic Violence or commercial sexual exploitation
- Foster Youth
- Justice-Involved Individuals
- LGBTQ+
- Older Adults (55 and older)
- Transition Age Youth

Supporting additional special populations with high need is encouraged and may be proposed below.

Other (please specify):

*when applicable CARE court participants must be prioritized

Please check one or both type(s) of housing for which you are proposing:

- Clean and Sober Living Bridge Housing (sobriety required)
- BH Bridge Housing (sobriety not required)

Submission of this LOI Form serves as notice that our organization is interested and capable of providing Behavioral Health Bridge Housing and supportive services

by January 26, 2025, and subsequently contracting for the BHBH Program if selected through a procurement process.

Below are the Minimum Requirements for Clean and Sober Living:

1. Meet the minimum requirements for sober living environments including certification standards set forth by the California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals (CCAPP).
2. Organization has three (3) or more years' experience working with individuals on their sobriety journey, in cooperative living arrangements, who have been homeless. Please provide verification (e.g. copy of public notice or prior award, MOU, contract, or web page screenshot) with your submission.
3. Organization can provide on-site supervision and support to residents at least 40 hours a week.
4. Organization can coordinate, support and transport residents to BHS SUPT outpatient services.
5. Bridge housing will use harm reduction strategies.
6. Supportive services will include but are not limited to coordinating care with Sacramento County Mental Health providers and/or SUPT providers, supporting access to Medication Assisted Treatment and supporting access to other programming and supports in the community that help with stabilizing or gaining access to housing.

Below are the Minimum Requirements for ALL populations:

1. Organization is willing and able to coordinate with local homeless Continuum of Care and other homeless service efforts within the County.
2. Organization will enter data into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Universal Data Elements and the Common Data Elements on persons served, as required by AB 977 (Gabriel, Chapter 397, Statutes of 2021). HMIS will be utilized while also ensuring the safety of their clients where visibility in HMIS may be to the participants' detriment.
3. Organization will meet the Administration and Bridge Housing Eligible Uses Requirements set forth in the DHCS BHBH RFA.
4. Organization will complete all Bridge Housing start-up infrastructure activities and requirements and make beds available by January 26, 2025, as set forth in the DHCS BHBH RFA. The grant funding expires on June 30, 2027. There will be no

extensions. BHS reserves the right to cancel contracts with organizations who are not meeting benchmarks on time.

5. Organization is capable of submitting reports and monitoring requirements set forth by the County, and at minimum what is indicated in the DHCS BHBH RFA.
6. Organization will not use BHBH funds to supplant existing federal, state, or county funds used to provide housing or services. Programming is designed to expand inventory in the community.
7. PPs submitted for this LOI will meet the Emergency Solutions Grant Minimum Habitability Standards.
8. Organization shall comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, California Code of Regulations, Title 22 (if applicable), California Building Code, the Fair Housing Amendments Act, the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, the Unruh Civil Rights Act, Government Code Section 11135, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and all regulations promulgated pursuant to those statutes, including 24 CFR Part 100, 24 CFR Part 8, and 28 CFR Part 35.
9. Bridge housing will be low barrier and use harm reduction strategies and [Housing First](#) principles.
10. Only sober recovery residences and sober living environments that meet the CCAPP requirements as a sober living practice may require sobriety as an eligibility requirement.
11. Supportive services will include but are not limited to coordinating care with Sacramento County Mental Health providers and/or SUPT providers, supporting access to Medication Assisted Treatment and supporting access to other programming and supports in the community that help with stabilizing or gain access to housing.
12. Organization will recruit, hire, and retain staff who are reflective of the racial, cultural, ethnic, linguistic diversity and sexual orientation and gender identity of the clients they serve.
13. Organization is willing and able to coordinate with local justice, CARE Court, and Mental Health Court service efforts within the County.
14. Organization has two (2) or more years' experience in the State of California working with individuals experiencing homelessness; or operating a housing program; or working with persons who also have SMI and/or SUD; or serving

the special population(s) described in the organization’s LOI/PP. Please provide verification with your submission.

- 15. If selected population needs safety precautions: Organization has at least three (3) years of experience providing trauma-informed and culturally responsive services to populations with significant safety issues such as survivors of domestic violence, gang violence, cult, commercial sexual exploitation, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Organization is willing and able to manage safety needs and coordinate with local service efforts within the County.
- 16. If selecting “other” special population: Organization has identified a gap in services for a special population and have provided a gaps analysis or supportive evidence. Please provide with your submission.

I hereby certify that my organization has the current ability or will have the ability to meet at the point of contracting all of the above minimum requirements:

- I have included my Program Proposal that includes choice of special population(s), data and evidence, and the program design proposal that will show how to address gap in services for the special population using best practices.**
- I have included my timeline with achievable benchmarks with the go live date of January 26, 2025.**
- I have included my Proposed Budget for each Bridge Housing type selected, with start-up, cost per bed per night, and ongoing operations separated.**

Signature of Organization Director or Designee

Date

Printed Name/Title: _____