

Mental Health Provider Minimum Qualifications

Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program Specialty Mental Health Services

Open Enrollment

The Sacramento County Department of Health Services (DHS), Behavioral Health Services (BHS), in compliance with the statewide Continuum of Care Reform outlined in AB 403, has developed minimum qualifications (MQs) for existing or new Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs) that are seeking to contract with DHS to provide Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS), for the foster youth within their programs. Please see the MQs on the following pages of this document.

Important information:

- Full compliance with the MQs can be achieved at any time during the fiscal year; however, the MQs must be met before contract execution with BHS to provide SMHS.
- An executed contract with BHS, along with meeting California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) requirements for Mental Health Program approval, will qualify the provider to be reimbursed for all SMHS provided during a client's STRTP stay via the client's Medi-Cal Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit.
- All executed contracts will be one year in length, following Sacramento County's fiscal year calendar.

All STRTP providers requesting a SMHS contract with Sacramento County DHS should respond to this STRTP Open Enrollment process by submitting MQ documentation to strtpreferrals@sacounty.gov. Interested providers may also inquire about the contracting process and request assistance in understanding the requirements by emailing this box.

Sacramento County BHS STRTP MQs:

1. Provider must have either:
 - a. an existing interim California Department of Social Services license to operate as an STRTP, **or**
 - b. an approved Group Home extension *and* must have either submitted their STRTP program plan to Sacramento County for letter of approval or submitted their program plan to the California Department of Social Services.
2. Provider must:
 - a. either be nationally accredited per California Department of Social Services guidelines, **or**
 - b. have an accreditation target date of one year or less.
3. The facility serving Sacramento County foster youth (Probation or Child Welfare/Child Protective Services), must be located within Sacramento County, unless exempted by BHS due to proximity to the County of Sacramento and the planned use of the program by Child Protective Services.
4. Provider must have a letter or email of recommendation from Sacramento County Probation or Department of Child, Family and Adult Services (DCFAS), dated within the month prior to the contract request.
5. Provider must provide evidence of financial stability, per Sacramento County guidelines, by meeting items 1. a, b, and c below of the minimum screening criteria:
 1. Submitted Independent Audited Financial Statement that is not more than 24 months old at time of submission will be rated on:
 - a. Liquidity ratios
 - i. Current (current assets divided by current liability)
 - ii. Quick (equal to cash plus government securities plus accounts receivable divided by total current liabilities)
 - b. Leverage ratio: Debt ratio (total liability divided total assets)
 - c. Working capital: Total current assets minus total current liabilities
6. Provider must have a written policy that demonstrates a commitment to not reject or eject youth from service because of the severity or nature of their needs.
7. Provider must demonstrate an intake matching process that prioritizes Sacramento County youth.
8. Demonstrate the ability to become Medi-Cal site certified prior to the execution of the contract.
9. Provider must be able to meet the following staffing requirements:
 - a. California Board Certified Child/Adolescent Psychiatrist on staff or on contract
 - b. Licensed clinical head of service (Ph.D., LMFT, LCSW, etc.)
 - c. Designated quality management staff for continuous quality improvement and Medi-Cal billing/claiming integrity

- d. Clinical oversight/supervision manager
 - e. Additional clinical staffing requirements as stipulated by California DHCS
10. Provider must have the technology infrastructure in place, per the Sacramento County DHS guidelines, to successfully bill and claim SMHS using SmartCare -- the Sacramento County mental health services Electronic Health Record (EHR)
- <https://dhs.saccounty.gov/BHS/BHS-EHR/Pages/Avatar.aspx>