

Sacramento County Department Health Services  
Behavioral Health Services  
Mental Health Provider Minimum Qualifications  
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community Counseling Services  
Open Enrollment

The Sacramento County Department of Health Services, Behavioral Health Services (BHS), has developed minimum qualifications (MQs) for qualified organizations or individual licensed clinicians that are seeking to contract with BHS to provide mental health services to deaf or hard of hearing adults with a serious mental illness, children and youth with serious emotional disturbance, as defined by the Sacramento County, BHS. Please see the MQs on page three (3) of this document.

Important information:

- Services will be available to eligible recipients who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Services will be provided by an individual who is certified or proficient in American Sign Language (ASL).
- Services will be provided by licensed clinicians who specialize in providing culturally responsive care to deaf and hard of hearing adults, children, and youth.
- Services will be delivered either in-person or by a HIPAA compliant virtual platform.
- The total annual pooled contract amount to be shared by all enrolled providers is \$10,000, subject to Board of Supervisor authority.
- Once Board authority has been secured, providers that are seeking to contract with BHS to provide Deaf and Hard of Hearing Counseling Community Services must meet the MQs.
- Full compliance with the MQs can be achieved at any time during the fiscal year; however, the MQs must be met before a provider submits a request to contract with BHS to provide Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community Counseling Services.

- Only organizations or individuals that meet all of the MQs will be offered a contract with BHS.
- Contracts will be developed at any time for those applicants that meet all of the MQs to provide Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community Counseling Services. Contracts will not exceed one year and will expire on June 30<sup>th</sup> each year. Contracts may be renewed if the applicant continues to meet all MQs to provide Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community Counseling Services.
- Services include, but are not limited to:
  1. Culturally-competent therapy services (which include integrated services for co-occurring conditions and substance use disorders) and include client and family voice and choice provided in collaboration with those individuals and agencies involved with the adult, child, or youth, and with signed authorization (i.e. release of information).
  2. Comprehensive Clinical Assessment and Client Plan within 60 calendar days of initial face to face or orientation group engagement contact;
  3. Quality specialty mental health outpatient services to the adult, child, or youth as indicated by clinical need and reflected in the Core Assessment and Client Plan;
  4. Mental health services may include individual therapy and case management as needed. Referrals will be made by the Mental Health Access Team for a service duration of 6 months and can be authorized for an additional 6 month increment as clinically indicated and authorized by the County Mental Health Plan.
  5. Coordination of care and collaboration with all parties involved with the child and family including but not limited to parents, schools, doctors, hospitals, social services, Alta Regional, Substance Use Prevention & Treatment Services, Child Protective Services (CPS) and Probation, as well as participate in a child's Child and Family Team (CFT) Meeting as needed; and
  6. Provider will submit documentation for the purpose of audits upon request.

Upon meeting all the MQs below, an organization or individual may request a mental health contract with Sacramento County BHS in order to provide and be reimbursed for services provided.

Organizations or individuals requesting a mental health contract with Sacramento County BHS can respond to this Open Enrollment process by contacting: Andrew Wakefield ([WakefieldA@saccounty.net](mailto:WakefieldA@saccounty.net)/916-875-1494) for further questions and submission of MQ documentation. MQs must be submitted via a single email; multiple emails with individual MQ verifications will not be accepted.

**Sacramento County BHS Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community Counseling Services MQs:**

1. Must have two (2) or more years of experience providing mental health therapy and supports to deaf or hard of hearing children, youth, transition-age youth, adults, and older adults.
2. Must be in compliance with any corrective action plans with Sacramento County as confirmed by County (only applicable if you hold a current contract with Sacramento County).
3. Successful applicants shall be required to sign a Sacramento County contract template, and must agree to all terms and conditions of the contract, including insurance requirements, with Sacramento County.
4. Must be able to utilize encrypted emails, have a confidential fax machine or mailbox, and ability to use video relay service to communicate patient health information to County.
5. Must be able to meet the following licensing requirements (from the State of California):
  - a. Active clinical license (Ph.D., LMFT, LPCC, LCSW, or equivalent).
  - b. Licensed for a minimum of two (2) years.
  - c. Clinical license is in good standing and maintained with licensing body.

MQ verifications to be submitted via email in PDF format are:

1. Board certified clinical license

2. Brief biography – Biography should include a description of your training and experience working with the deaf and hard of hearing community.

Contractual Requirements will include but are not limited to:

1. Proof of insurance will be requested separately and prior to the execution of a contract.
2. Professional photo will be requested and will be uploaded to the website along with a brief biography for recipients to review and select their preferred provider.