

Senate Bill 82 Grant Criteria

Eligible Agencies

Applicants are limited to counties, counties acting jointly, or city mental health departments.

If counties are acting jointly, the applicant county must identify in its application all counties included in the collaborative proposal and show evidence that a collaborative agreement with those counties is in place for the grant request.

Funding

1. **Total Funding** - \$32 million in Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds will be made available annually to fund triage personnel grants statewide. It is anticipated that the overall funding for triage personnel will include counties seeking appropriate federal Medicaid reimbursement for services when applicable. No matching funds are required from counties.
2. **Grant Cycle** - Grants will be approved for a three-year grant cycle, with funds allocated annually for Year one (1), Year two (2) and Year three (3) contingent on:
 - grantees submitting required “Process Information” (See Reporting and Evaluation Requirements)
 - grantees submitting required “Encounter Based Information” (See Reporting and Evaluation Requirements)
 - grantees submitting required “Grantee Evaluation of Program Effectiveness” (See Reporting and Evaluation Requirements)
 - grantees tracking and reporting their annual grant fund expenditures in their Annual MHSA Revenue and Expenditure Report (Grantees showing unexpended Grant Funds may have equivalent funding withheld from the following year’s grant allocation.)
3. **Grant Apportionment** - The Triage Grants will be apportioned based on the California Mental Health Directors Association (CMHDA) regional designation, which breaks the state up into five regions. The apportionment process will also utilize the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) MHSA Formula Distribution and the number of urban, suburban and rural counties in each region. Total funding

available will be split between the five CMHDA regions with counties competing within their region for grant funds. (See Triage Personnel Apportionment Summary)

4. Allowable Costs – Grant funds must be used as proposed in the grant application approved by the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC).

- Allowable costs include triage personnel, administration and evaluation costs. The amount budgeted for administration should not exceed 15 percent of the total budget. (See Budget Requirements.)
- Grant funds may be used to supplement existing programs but may not be used to supplant existing funds for triage case management services.
- Grant funds cannot be transferred to any other program accounts for specific purposes other than the stated purposes of this grant.

Program Narrative

The application narrative shall not exceed ten (10) pages.

The narrative must demonstrate the applicant's ability to meet all qualifications, requirements, and standards set forth in this Request for Application (RFA) including:

1. Description of Current Crisis Response System and Needs

- Provide a description of your county's current array of crisis response services for psychiatric emergencies. Include a description of all programs that offer alternatives to hospitalization including crisis stabilization and crisis residential programs. (If this is a multi-county application the description should include services and programs in all counties.)
- Describe the need for crisis triage personnel in the applicant county and other counties acting jointly. This description must include:
 - where triage staff are needed to fill gaps and link persons to appropriate services
 - the numbers of triage personnel required by type of position (i.e., clinical, peer, supervisory),
 - the racial, ethnic and cultural groups targeted for service in the county
 - an estimate of how many persons in crisis will be served in each year of the grant.

- 2. Collaboration** – A description of local efforts to coordinate and collaborate with partner counties, law enforcement, hospitals, local social networks, mental health and substance use non-profits, foundations and providers of services to racial, ethnic and cultural groups including low-to-moderate income people, in both developing the grant response and in service activity. Letters of support from partners are welcome to document collaboration but are not required.

3. Program Operations

How will the county operationalize triage services? Provide a description of each of the following:

- Triage case management activities which may include but are not limited to:
 - Communication, coordination, and referral (*How will triage workers know what services/resources are available at any given time, can triage workers directly refer someone to services, what is the chain of command for final decisions regarding referrals to service?*)
 - Monitoring service delivery to ensure the individual accesses and receives services (*How will the triage worker know that someone successfully accessed services?*)
 - Monitoring an individual's progress (*Will triage personnel follow the progress of individual's served?*)
 - Providing placement services assistance and service plan development
 - Describe other activities that triage personnel will perform.
- How will triage staff be deployed? Please indicate what hours triage personnel will be available. Will triage personnel primarily be field-based or will some staff be mobile and able to travel as needed? Please describe.
- Describe the program's ability and expectations for obtaining federal Medi-cal reimbursement when applicable.
- Based on the description of triage personnel activities provided above, please describe, by type of position, how triage personnel, including persons with lived experience (Peer Providers), will be used?
- Please describe whether the program will include specific supports for all triage staff, including peer providers, for mentoring, training, continuing education and strategies to prevent burn-out.

- Does the county intend to use contract providers, county staff, or both? Please describe.
- Does the county have plans to expand current crisis stabilization resources? If yes, please describe.

4. Local Evaluation

Provide a description of how the grantee will evaluate the effectiveness of increased triage personnel and/or the effectiveness of their improved crisis response system. Include the following:

- Describe the goals and objectives for increased triage personnel and/or the crisis response system.
- Identify how you will know if these goals and objectives have been met.
- Include a description of system indicators, measures and outcomes that will be tracked to provide an overall evaluation of program effectiveness.

Budget Requirements

Applicants must provide budget information as indicated on the Budget Worksheet provided. Budget detail is required for personnel costs, evaluation and administration.

Reporting and Evaluation

Grantees will be expected to report on the following process and encounter based information. Provide a description of how the county would report the following:

1. Process Information (Required of all grantees 6 months and 12 months following grant award.)

- Number of triage personnel hired or contracted
- Number for each type of triage personnel hired or contracted (e.g., peers, social workers, nurses, clinicians, mental health workers, etc.) Please identify which staff are county staff and which are contract staff.
- Triage service locations/points of access (e.g., hospital emergency rooms, psychiatric hospitals, crisis stabilization programs, homeless shelters, jails, clinics, other community-based service points)

If at 12 months all proposed staff are not hired, additional updates will be requested every six (6) months until all staff are hired.

2. Encounter Based Information (Required of all grantees 12 months following grant award and every 6 months afterward through the grant cycle.)

- Total unduplicated persons served
- Total number of service contacts
- Basic demographic information for each individual client (e.g., age, race, ethnicity, gender, language spoken, cultural heritage, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ), military status)
- Description of specific services that each client was referred to by triage personnel
- At the time the triage service was provided, was the person served enrolled in any mental health service? If yes, what service?

3. Grantee Evaluation of Program Effectiveness (Required of all grantees 24 months and 36 months after the grant award.)

Grantees are required to report the results of local evaluations. These reports should contain:

- The goals and objectives identified for increased triage personnel and/or the improved crisis response system
- Data collected on system indicators, measures and outcomes that document effectiveness of services.
- Evaluation analysis and findings about whether specific system and individual outcomes have been attained