

# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (BHSA) OVERVIEW

The Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) replaces the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) of 2004. It reforms behavioral health funding by prioritizing people with the most significant mental health needs, formally including substance use disorder treatment, expanding housing interventions, and strengthening accountability and equity across the system.

## What Changed From MHSA

Mental Health --> Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder  
Limited Housing Focus --> Housing as a Core Intervention  
Flexible Funding --> Measurable Outcomes & Accountability

## GOALS OF BHSA



### Care & Populations

- Prioritize care for individuals with the most significant mental health and substance use needs
- Include treatment of substance use disorders alongside mental health



### Systems & Infrastructure

- Expand housing interventions as a core component of care
- Reform funding and service delivery for measurable impact



### Equity & Accountability

- Advance equity, reduce disparities, and improve access
- Increase accountability, transparency, and measurable outcomes

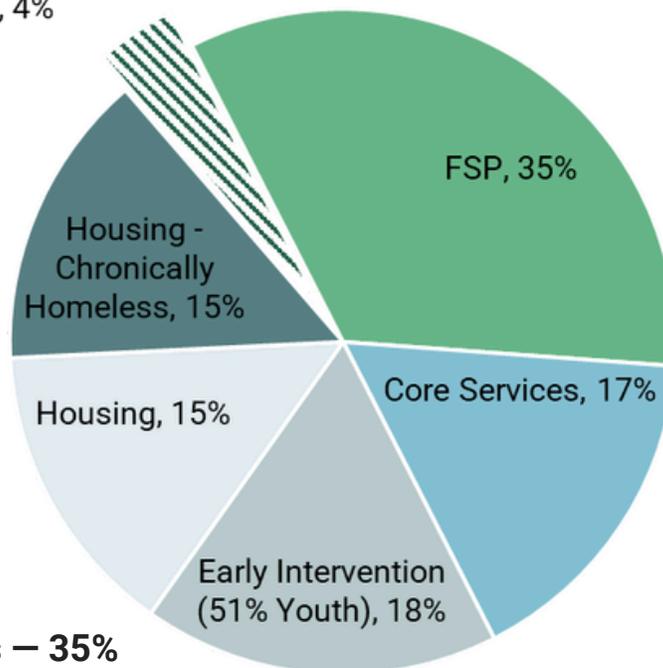
## How BHSA Funds are Structured

County behavioral health funds are divided into three required categories each with minimum required percentages and limited flexibility to transfer funds between categories.



# FUNDING CATEGORIES

Population-Based  
Prevention (shifts to  
state), 4%



## Full Service Partnerships – 35%

- Provide comprehensive, intensive services for individuals with the most significant behavioral health needs who may not succeed in traditional outpatient care.

## Behavioral Health Services and Supports – 35%

- Supports a broad range of services to improve wellness and prevent crisis.
- **Early Intervention Services**
  - Outreach, screening, linkage to care, and supports to address challenges early.
  - **51%** of funds used for early intervention, with a majority serving ages 25 and younger.
- **Core Services**
  - Outreach and engagement, workforce education and training, capital facilities, innovative projects, general system development and service capacity building.

## Housing Interventions – 30%

- **At least 50% of housing funds must serve individuals experiencing chronic homelessness.**
- Dedicated to housing supports for people with significant behavioral health needs who are homeless, chronically homeless, or at risk of homelessness.

## State-Administered Population-Based Prevention – 4%

- Administered by the State with a focus on population- level prevention.



**NEVADA  
COUNTY**  
CALIFORNIA

**Behavioral  
Health**

For more information, contact  
Nevada County Behavioral Health  
BHSA Coordinator Priya Kannall  
priya.kannall@nevadacountyca.gov or (530) 265-1790