

# Mental Health Services Act

## Program Plan and Expenditure Report FY 2025-26

### Presented by:

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SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF  
**Behavioral Wellness**  
A System of Care and Recovery

# Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Overview

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) was established in 2004 and is a 1% tax on all individuals earning over 1 million dollars a year in the State of California.

This 1% tax is a significant revenue stream for the Department of Behavioral Wellness.

## **Funding is divided into Five separate categories**

Community Services and Supports (CSS)

Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI)

Workforce Education and Training (WET)

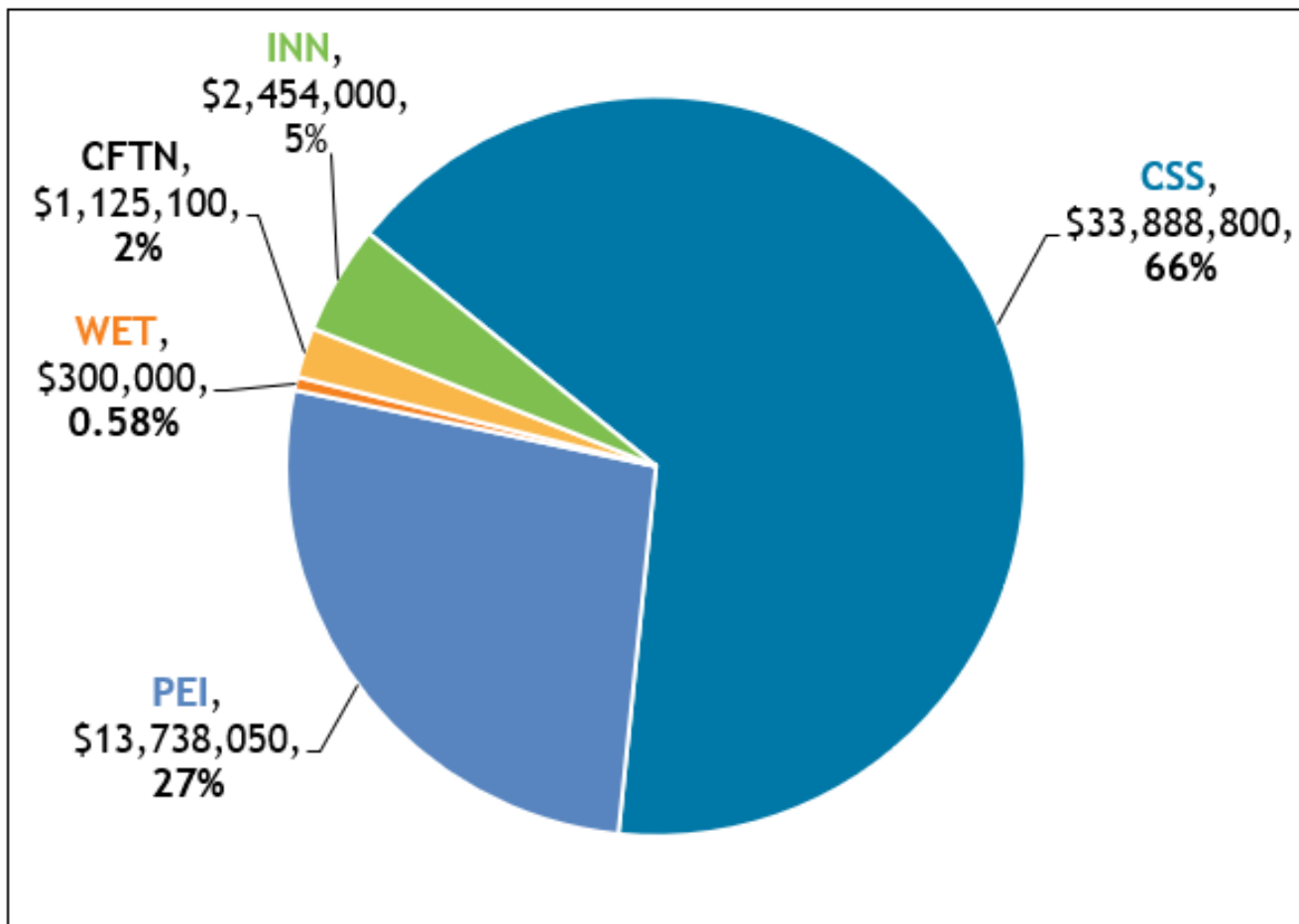
Capital Facilities and Technology Needs (CF/TN)

Innovations (INN)



# FY 2025-26 MHSA Plan Budget

- FY 25-26 MHSA Component Budget \$51,505,950
- The chart represents funding from MHSA dollars only
- Combination of current MHSA allocation and prior years reserves



# FY 2025-26 Community Engagement

- Outreach and engagement through community events
- Plan updates with community partners
- Stakeholder sessions
- Feedback gathering through in person events, survey and online



# FY 2025-26 Top Five MHSA Priorities

1. Increasing Full Service Partnership (FSP) Capacity;
2. Increasing Timeliness and Navigation Services for Those Entering our System of Care;
3. Increasing Mental Health Education and Prevention Programming for Youth and Families;
4. Implementing Mental Health Programs Specifically for Older Adults; and
5. Recruitment and Retention of Behavioral Health Workforce



# Program Highlights from FY 2024-25

- **Increased Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) staff** to increase outreach to Full Service Partnership (FSP)-eligible populations
- **Created new Peer Assessment Team** that specifically reaches out to new client's post-hospitalization and post-crisis intervention
- **Expanded Access Screening Team** to accommodate increase in call volume and referrals
- Implemented **New Mental Health Education program** to Mixtec Youth and Families in North County
- Continued the **Masters in Social Work Loan Repayment Program**





# FY 2025-26 Recommended MHSA Program Changes

- Changes for Full Service Partnerships
- Changes for Timeliness and Navigation Services
- Changes for Youth and Family Mental Health Education and Prevention Programming
- Changes to Mental Health Programs for Older Adults
- Changes to Recruitment and Retention



# Changes Under BHSA

## **Funding Changes:**

We will have less funding available for outpatient, crisis and early intervention programs. At this time, we are estimating a deficit of approximately 10 million dollars for FY 2026-27.

We will also be providing direct housing funding for eligible populations in collaboration with our Managed Care Plan.

**Integrated Planning Process:** We will be using a combination of Community Listening Sessions, Pop-Up Events, Bite-Sized Media Engagement, and Co-Creation Workshops and BHSA Steering Committee to explain the new BHSA mandates and hear from communities on preferences within the new BHSA framework.





# Timeline for BHSA Implementation

## June-Aug 2025:

- Determination of programs ineligible for BHSA funding
- Community Listening Sessions

## Sept-Oct 2025:

- Community Workshops to present BHSA mandates and collectively work to establish community preferences

## Nov-Dec 2025:

- Distill feedback from community and determine within BHSA categories which program elements to retain

## Jan-Feb 2026:

- BHSA Fiscal Budget Developed
- Final Program Decisions for Integrated Plan

## Feb-March 2026:

- Draft Integrated Plan sent to CEO for Approval
- Draft Integrated Plan sent to Department Healthcare Services

## April-June 2026:

- Draft Integrated Plan posted for Public Comment
- Draft Integrated Plan presented for Public Comment at Behavioral Wellness Commission
- Final Integrated Plan sent to DHCS by June 30th



# Recommended Board of Supervisors Action

Approve and adopt the Mental Health Services Act Three-Year Program and Expenditure Plan Annual Update for Fiscal Year 2025-26

