

CARE Act Program

Community Assistance, Recovery & Empowerment



LIVE WELL
SAN DIEGO

What is the CARE Act program?

The Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Act program creates a new pathway to deliver mental health and substance use services to individuals who are not engaged in treatment and are diagnosed with schizophrenia or other psychotic disorders.

Families, clinicians, first responders, and others may begin the process by filing a petition with the civil court to connect people (ages 18+) to court-ordered voluntary treatment if they meet criteria and would benefit from the program.

How does it work?

There are five basic steps to establishing a CARE Plan:

1. A **referral** is initiated by filing a petition with the Superior Court. Petitions must include required State documentation to establish clinical history.
2. The Superior Court makes an **initial determination** as to whether the petition appears to meet criteria for the CARE Act program.
3. The County of San Diego Behavioral Health Services (BHS) will **investigate** and report back within 14 days with a recommendation regarding the establishment of a CARE Act case. At the same time, BHS will reach out to the petitioned individual and work to **engage** them with treatment and may avoid the need for a CARE Act case.
4. If the Superior Court determines that a case should be established, a **CARE Plan will be developed** with County BHS, in partnership with the petitioned individual and their counsel. The CARE Plan will be submitted to the Superior Court for review.
5. Once a CARE Plan is accepted by the Superior Court, BHS and its network of community-based providers will actively engage the individual for whom a CARE Plan is being established to **connect to services**, including behavioral health treatment, stabilization medication, a housing plan, and other supports as needed.



Referral



Initial
Determination



Investigation &
Engagement



CARE Plan



Connection
to Services

What if my loved one does not qualify for the CARE Act program?

Though the CARE Act program is not for everyone, County Behavioral Health Services offers an array of treatment services and supports, which do not require a CARE Act process to access. If you or a loved one are seeking behavioral health services or referrals, call the County's Access and Crisis Line at 1-888-724-7240 – or 9-8-8 – to speak to a licensed clinician that can help connect you with services.

Questions about CARE Act program?

Call the County's Access and Crisis Line at 1-888-724-7240 or the Legal Aid Society of San Diego at 1-877-734-3258 (Option 6).

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CARE Act Website:



**Sandiegocounty.gov/
CAREAct**