**Purpose:**

The intent of this notice is to establish a formal process for local government, cities, non-profit, and for-profit entities **to request a Letter of Support from the County Behavioral Health Agency,** as required for grant applications, if an entity is intending to submit applications for ***Bond Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) Round 1: Launch Ready*** grant funding established under Proposition 1. The process will ensure projects being submitted for grant funding align with State criteria and, local and State priorities for funding.

**Background:**

In March 2024, California voters passed Proposition 1, which includes [Senate Bill 326](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB326), the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA), and [Assembly Bill 531](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB531), the Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act of 2023, which authorized $6.38 billion in general obligation bonds to expand behavioral health treatment, residential care settings, and housing to support people with mental health conditions and substance use disorders. Of the total funding, the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will distribute up to $4.4 billion through the Bond Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) in multiple funding rounds through competitive grants.

On July 17, 2024, the DHCS released the first [Request for Applications (RFA) for Bond BHCIP Round 1: Launch Ready](https://www.infrastructure.buildingcalhhs.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/bond_bhcip_round1_rfa_508.pdf) grant funds, which included funding of up $3.3 billion statewide. Eligible applicants for *Bond BHCIP Round 1: Launch Ready* grants include counties, cities, tribal entities, nonprofit organizations, and for-profit organizations whose projects reflect the State’s priorities and serve the targeted population. Entities submitting applications to request ***Bond BHCIP Round 1: Launch Ready*** grant funding are **required to obtain a Letter of Support from the local County Behavioral Health Agency**.

**Bond BHCIP Round 1: Launch Ready Grant Funding**

A **total of $3.3 billion** will be available across the state to construct, acquire, and rehabilitate real estate assets to expand the continuum of behavioral health treatment and service resources.

* ***Round 1: Launch Ready*** grant funding will include funding of up to **$1.8 billion open to counties, cities, tribal entities, nonprofit, and for-profit entities** through competitive award.
	+ A regional funding cap allocates **$263.7 million of the $1.8 billion to Southern California Counties** (Imperial, Orange, Riverside, San Bernadino, San Diego, and Ventura).
	+ State set aside of 20 percent of the $1.8 billion (or $342 million) for use in regions (at the State’s discretion) to ensure funding is effectively aligned with need.
* ***Round 1: Launch Ready*** grant funding includes **funding of up to $1.4 billion** that is available exclusively for counties, cities, and tribal entities and is not subject to a regional funding cap.

**Timeline**

The ***Round 1: Launch Ready*** Request for Applications (RFA) was **released on July 17, 2024**, with applications **due by 5:00 PM on December 13, 2024**, and **award announcements in May 2025**. Information about deadlines or updates are available on the State’s website: <https://www.infrastructure.buildingcalhhs.com/grantees/bond-bhcip-rounds/>

**Requests for Letters of Support must be submitted to the County six weeks prior to the date they are needed.** Late requests may not have sufficient time to be considered.

**Entities Requesting a Letter of Support**

For entities intending to request a **Letter of Support from the County of San Diego Behavioral Health Agency,** as required for Bond BHCIP grant applications, please complete the **Letter of Support Contact Information and** **Sections A, B, C, and D** below.

**Instructions to Request a Letter of Support**

Complete the **Letter of Support Contact Information** and Sections **A, B, C, and D** below.

* Submit the draft letter of support and the information below to: BHSContactUs.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov
* County staff from the County of San Diego Behavioral Health Services (BHS) may contact you with questions or more information.
* Requests for letters of support must be submitted to the County **six weeks prior to the date needed.** Late requests may not have sufficient time to be considered.

**Receipt of a Letter of Support from the County of San Diego Behavioral Health Agency does not guarantee that the State will award grant funding for a project.**

**Letter of Support Contact Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Entity Requesting** **Letter of Support** |  |
| **Entity Address** |  |
| **Date of Request** |  | **Date Letter of Support Needed** |  |
| **Are you submitting an application for Bond BHCIP Round 1: Launch Ready Grant Funds?** |  |
| **Type of Entity:** (Local government, Non-Profit, For-Profit) |  |
| **Entity Contacts** | ***First & Last Name*** | ***Title*** | ***Email*** | ***Phone*** |
| **Primary Contact** |  |  |  |  |
| **Secondary Contact** |  |  |  |  |
| **Other Contact** |  |  |  |  |

**Project Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project Name** |  |
| **Project Address** |  |
| **Type of Service(s)** |  |
| **Project Overview & Description** |  |
| **Proposed New Capacity** *(# of new beds, treatment slots)* |  |
| **Total Project Cost** | $ | **Total BHCIP Round 1 Grant Funding Requested** | $ |

Entities interested in seeking letters of support for ***Bond BHCIP Round 1: Launch Ready*** grant funding applications, [as required by the RFA](https://www.infrastructure.buildingcalhhs.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/bond_bhcip_round1_rfa_508.pdf), will only receive a letter of support from the County of San Diego Behavioral Health Services Agency if the project aligns with State and local criteria and priorities, as specified in **Sections A, B, and C** below.

State criteria and priorities are outlined in the [RFA](https://www.infrastructure.buildingcalhhs.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/bond_bhcip_round1_rfa_508.pdf).

1. **State Criteria**

To receive a letter of support for a Bond BHCIP application, the project must **align with ALL State criteria.**

**Directions:** Please enter **“Yes” or “No”** for each item below. For each “**Yes**” item please include any narrative in the **Brief Description** column.

| **State Criteria** |
| --- |
| **#** | **State Criteria** | **Yes or No** | **Brief Description** |
| A1. | Entity has and can prove site control. |  |  |
| A2. | Entity has a preliminary title report. |  |  |
| A3. | Entity can demonstrate a sustainable business plan. |  |  |
| A4. | Entity can provide a conceptual/schematic site plan with a forecast of the developmental potential of the property. |  |  |
| A5. | Entity can demonstrate stakeholder support through letters of support from internal boards of directors, tribal councils or advisory boards, and professional/community partners. |  |  |
| A6. | Entity can demonstrate county and Medi-Cal investments to support ongoing sustainability. |  |  |
| A7. | Entity can confirm proof of the required funding match.* + 10% match for local government and non-profit organizations.
	+ 25% match for for-profit organizations.
	+ 5% match for Tribal entities.
 |  |  |
| A8. | Entity can confirm signing authority through a Board Authorizing Resolution. Local government entities can use their specific authorizing resolution document. |  |  |
| A9. | Entity can commit to the provision of behavioral health services and a 30-year deed restriction within the facility. |  |  |
| A10. | Entity can describe local needs based on the statewide needs assessment report and any local needs assessment. |  |  |
| A11. | Extensive planning has occurred, and the project is in one of the phases below: * *Phase 1: Planning and Pre-Development*
* *Phase 2: Design Development*
* *Phase 3: Shovel Ready*
 |  |  |
| A12. | Project will add net new capacity within an *Eligible Facility Type* outlined in [section 2.4](https://www.infrastructure.buildingcalhhs.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/bond_bhcip_round1_rfa_508.pdf) of the RFA.Note: State will prioritize residential services. |  |  |
| A13. | Entity can provide a description of their contingency plan for funding any potential cost overages beyond the Bond BHCIP grant award. Cost overruns are responsibility of entity. |  |  |
| A14. | Entity can commit to executing Bond BHCIP contract within 90 days of receipt of conditional award notice  |  |  |
| A15. | Entity can demonstrate how the project will advance equity. |  |  |
| **Note: Projects must align with all State Criteria to be considered for a Letter of Support.** **Receipt of a Letter of Support does not guarantee that the State will find that all criteria have been met.** |

1. **State Priorities**

To receive a letter of support, proposed projects must **align with one or more** of the State priorities.

**Directions:** Please enter **“Yes” or “No”** for each item below. For each “**Yes”** item, please include any narrative in the **Brief Description** column.

| **State Priorities** |
| --- |
| **#** | **State Priorities** | **Yes or No** | **Brief Description** |
| B1. | Address urgent needs in the care continuum for people with mental health or substance use conditions, including unhoused people, veterans, older adults, adults with disabilities, and children and youth. |  |  |
| B2. | Invest in behavioral health and community care options that advance health equity of behavioral health care and community options. |  |  |
| B3. | Increase options across the life span that serve as an alternative to incarceration, hospitalization, homelessness, and institutionalization. |  |  |
| B4. | Meet the needs of vulnerable populations with the greatest barriers to access, including people experiencing unsheltered homelessness and justice involvement. |  |  |
| B5. | Ensure care can be provided in the least restrictive settings to support community integration, choice, and autonomy. |  |  |
| B6. | Leverage county and Medi-Cal investments to support ongoing sustainability. |  |  |
| B7. | Leverage the historic state investments in housing and homelessness. |  |  |
| B8. | Establish a regional model or collaborative partnership, including a public/private partnership or a campus-type model, that co-locates multiple levels of care. |  |  |
| **Note: Projects must align with at least one State priority to be considered for a Letter of Support. Receipt of a Letter of Support does not guarantee that the State will find that a project aligns with one or more State priorities.** |

1. **County of San Diego Priorities**

To receive a letter of support, proposed projects must **align with a majority of the County priorities**.

**Directions:** Please enter **“Yes” or “No”** for each item below. For each “**Yes**” item, please include any narrative in the **Brief Description** column.

| **San Diego County Priorities**  |
| --- |
| **#** | **County Priorities** | **Yes or No** | **Brief Description** |
| C1. | Supports regional distribution of services, density of need, and Medi-Cal enrollment density.  |  |  |
| C2. | Aligns with recommendations from the County BHS Optimal Care Pathways (OCP) Model or other County service priorities. See previous County Board actions.  |  |  |
| C3. | Project will leverage other infrastructure grant or other funding opportunities.  |  |  |
| C4. | Supports health equity to improve access to care across diverse communities within San Diego County. |  |  |
| C5. | New service will optimize revenues through cost savings and/or cost avoidance. Please explain.  |  |  |
| C6. | Ongoing behavioral health services are sustainable through State/federal revenue.  |  |  |
| C7. | Development of the facility will include an innovative partnership (*i.e.: entity partners with developer, healthcare organization, other*) |  |  |
| **Note: Projects must align with a majority of the County priorities to be considered for a Letter of Support.** |

1. **Attestation**

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ certify, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the ***Name of Authorized Official (Print First Name & Last Name)***

State of California, that the information submitted in the request above is accurate and truthful.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 ***Signature of Authorized Official Title Date***

Submit a **draft Letter of Support** and a **completed, signed form above** to: BHSContactUs.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov. Please include “*BHCIP Round 1: Launch Ready Grant*” and the name of the entity in the subject of the email *[Example: BHCIP Round 1: Launch Ready Grant (Name of Entity)].*

**Requests for Letters of Support must be submitted to the County six weeks prior to the date needed.**