



Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Innovation (INN) Component Summary of INN Guidelines

Innovative Project Definition:

A project designed and implemented for a defined time period (not more than 5 years) and evaluated to develop new best practices in behavioral health services and supports.

What types of projects are considered “innovative”?

1. Introduces a behavioral health **practice or approach that is new**.
2. Makes a **change to an existing practice**, including application to a different population.
3. Applies a **promising community-driven practice or approach** that has been successful in non-behavioral health contexts or settings.
4. It has **not demonstrated its effectiveness** (in the literature).
 - o A practice that has been demonstrated effective can be adapted to respond to a unique characteristic of the County for example.

Primary Purpose & Focus of an INN Project

County must select one of the following as its primary purpose for an INN project(s)*:

1. Increase access to behavioral health services to underserved groups,
2. Increase the quality of behavioral health services, including measureable outcomes,
3. Promote interagency and community collaboration,
4. Increase access to behavioral health services.

Innovative Projects may focus impact virtually any aspect, including but not limited to, administrative, governance, and organizational practices, processes, or procedures; advocacy; education and training for services providers, including nontraditional behavioral health practitioners; outreach, capacity building, and community development; system development; public education efforts; research; services and interventions, including prevention, early intervention, and treatment.

