



MHSA Funding Principles

First adopted in November 2009, updated September 2018

These MHSA Funding Principles were developed to guide annual funding allocations and expansions; they also build from the County's and Health System budget balancing principles to guide MHSA reduction decisions when needed. Decisions regarding MHSA funding are based on the most current MHSA Three-Year Plan; any updates to the recommendations require MHSA Steering Committee approval and stakeholder engagement, which will include a 30-day public comment period and public hearing as required by the MHSA legislation.

Maintain MHSA required funding allocations

See attached MHSA Funding and Program Planning Guidelines document.

Sustain and strengthen existing MHSA programs

MHSA revenue should be prioritized to fully fund core services that fulfill the goals of MHSA and prevent any local or realignment dollars filling where MHSA should.

Maximize revenue sources

Billing and fiscal practices to draw down every possible dollar from other revenue sources (e.g. Medi-Cal) should be improved as relevant for MHSA funded programs.

Utilize MHSA reserves over multi-year period

MHSA reserves should be used strategically to mitigate impact to services and planned expansions during budget reductions.

Prioritize direct services to clients

Indirect services are activities not directly related to client care (e.g. program evaluation, general administration, staff training). Direct services will be prioritized as necessary to strengthen services to clients and mitigate impact during budget reductions.

Maintain prevention efforts

At minimum, 19% allocation to Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) should be maintained and additionally the impact across the spectrum of PEI services and services that address the root causes of behavioral health issues in our communities should be prioritized.

Sustain geographic, cultural, ethnic, and/or linguistic equity.

MHSA aims to reduce disparities and fill gaps in services; reductions in budget should not impact any community group disproportionately.

Evaluate potential reduction or allocation scenarios

All funding decisions should be assessed against BHRS's Mission, Vision and Values and when relevant against County and Health System Budget Balancing Principles.