



INNOVATION MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (MHSA)



INFORMATION SHEET

What is Innovation?

Innovation is one of five components of Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) passed by California voters in 2004. It provides funds and evaluates new approaches in mental health. An Innovation project contributes to learning about and addressing unmet need rather than having a primary focus on providing services.

It's an opportunity to "try out" new approaches that can inform current and future practices/approaches in communities. Like all MHSA components, Innovation projects must be guided by MHSA values of community collaboration, cultural competence, a client/family driven mental health system, a wellness, recovery, and resilience focus, and integrated service experiences for clients and families.

Innovation Results:

An innovative project may affect virtually any aspect of mental health practices or assess a new or changed application of a promising approach to solving persistent, seemingly intractable mental health challenges (Section 9, Part 3.2, 5830c). In other words, Innovation projects are developed to target a mental health adaptive dilemma, or a challenge that cannot be resolved through habitual or known responses. The result we hope to achieve is the **development of new best practices in mental health** by

- Increasing interagency & community collaboration for mental health services or supports
- Increasing quality of mental health services
- Increasing access to underserved populations
- Increasing access to mental health services

Innovation Strategies:

Innovation projects may employ one of the following strategies to contribute to learning.

- Introduces new mental health practices/approaches that have never been done before
- Makes a change to an existing mental health practice/approach, including adaptation for a new setting or community
- Introduces a new application to the mental health system of a promising community-driven practice/approach or a practice/approach that has been successful in non-mental health contexts or settings.
- Innovation projects may impact individuals, families, neighborhoods and communities.
- Introduces a new application to the mental health system of a promising community-driven practice/approach or a practice/approach that has been successful in non-mental health contexts or settings.

FY 14-15 Innovation Projects:

- [Arts for Freedom](#)
- [Beth and Joanna-Friends in Recovery](#)
- [Families in the Park](#)
- [Wisdom Transformation Initiative](#)
- [Garden Gate Innovative Respite Project](#)