

Q&A with DHCS on the BHPP Funding Opportunity

Questions	Answers
Qualifications	
Can the behavioral health counselor position be regarded as a part-time position (one filled by an already employed hospital staff member) or does it need to be a full-time position?	The behavioral health counselor position may be funded as either a full-time or a part-time position. The only requirements are that the behavioral health counselor must be certified or registered by July 2021.
What is involved in the certification process?	There are multiple entities that certify drug and alcohol counselors. Here is a link to all of the certifying agencies: https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/CounselorCertificationOrganizations.aspx
What are the qualifications for a behavioral health counselor? Is there an available job description and list of responsibilities?	They need to be a certified or registered behavioral health counselor. As long as the person is registered or certified before being funded by the program that is fine.
By implementing MAT and encouraging patient follow-up, will hospitals essentially become drug treatment centers? What has happened in existing programs?	Hospitals will not become drug treatment centers. The Bridge program has been successfully promoting MAT and a warm hand-off for patient treatment in over 50 California hospitals, and none of them have become drug treatment centers.
Which is the preferred terminology, substance use navigator (SUN) or behavioral health counselor (BHC)?	CA Bridge has been using the term SUN or Substance Use Navigator because its focus is on individuals with substance use disorders. For the BHPP application, the term behavioral health counselor is more appropriate as the position is meant to include working with not only patients with substance use disorder but also those with mental health issues.
Are there any restrictions surrounding the hiring date of the behavioral health counselors?	All behavioral health counselors can be hired anytime as long as they are hired by July 2021.
What if our MAT operates in separate building from the ED. Would we still be eligible for BHPP funding?	As long as you are a general acute care hospital, you are eligible for funding. There are no stipulations around what type of ED is eligible for the behavioral health counselor funding opportunity.
Does the program require a Medical Director/Champion and is there mandated training?	No, this program does not require a champion/director although it does help to have a champion support the work of the behavioral health counselor. CA Bridge is happy to share resources and assist with training.

Q&A with DHCS on the BHPP Funding Opportunity

How detailed does the working relationship between the hospital and the behavioral health counselor need to be in the application?	Provide as much information as you can. DHCS will reach out if there are additional questions.
Is there an expectation to have a physician on-staff with a DEA DATA 2000 X waiver?	There is no requirement that staff members be X-waiver certified to fund the BHC position.
Is the DATA 2000 X waiver, the same as the X waiver?	Yes
Bridge	
Is there a process for getting existing SUNs to be certified or registered?	Yes. CA Bridge can work with existing Bridge sites on certification or registration.
What type of tools and training does CA bridge provide? Would members of CA Bridge meet with hospital stakeholders to discuss implementation?	CA Bridge offers mentorship (connecting new and current substance use navigators), motivational interviewing training, and training for community relationship building. The Bridge team is also happy to meet with hospitals and stakeholders to further work with sites seeking to implement MAT and warm handoff care coordination.
Will the CA Bridge program deliverables continue to be evaluated by the Bridge team if we continue using the Bridge portal and for how long?	Yes. Sites currently working through the CA Bridge program are doing more than is necessary for this DHCS opportunity.
Health system with multiple hospitals	
Can a single hospital system apply for hospitals?	Yes, a hospital system may submit one application for all or a subset of its general acute care hospitals.
If I am applying for multiple hospitals, is it okay if my answers are the same for each hospital I am applying for?	Yes, as long as the implementation for each hospital is similar the responses can essentially be identical.
What types of hospitals are eligible and what are the rules around who can apply?	Any general acute care hospital. Other organizations can apply on behalf of the hospital but the general acute care hospital has to be the one to receive the funding.
What are the rules regarding a single application by a hospital system for multiple hospitals?	If it is expected that program implementation amongst different entities within a health system will be similar, then a simple executive summary (goals and anticipation of achievement), cover page (contact information of each hospital), individual site plans will be sufficient for the application. Separate applications are only warranted if

Q&A with DHCS on the BHPP Funding Opportunity

	individual hospitals within a health system have substantially different implementation plans. Otherwise, the individual site plans listed can essentially be identical.
Finance	
Can funds be distributed to an entity other than a general acute care hospital? For instance, for some health systems research and grant are handled by a health foundation.	No. The state is limited in how it rolls out funds and for this process funds can only be allocated to hospitals with an existing Medi-Cal contract.
Do BHPP funds cover the cost for BHC registration/certification? Can the \$102 for the AOD registration and 9-hr orientation course be reimbursed for the BHPP position once the person is hired?	No. BHC funding does not include costs associated with counselor certification or registration.
When does BHPP funding need to be spent by at the hospital level?	That is not defined. Sites just need to hire their BHC by July 2020.
Does BHPP cover training costs?	The funding for the behavioral health counselor is not meant to be used for professional development trainings and is instead meant to serve as a salary for the behavioral health counselor. The CA Bridge program offers training to counselors and hospitals seeking assistance with program implementation.
Can the BHPP funds be used for BHC travel expenses as well?	No. BHPP funds are meant to cover the behavioral health counselor's salary and travel costs associated with community outreach, not professional development training.
Can the behavioral health counselor be funded partially by a Bridge grant and partially by BHPP?	Yes. For instance, you may fund the behavioral health counselor position using alternative funding (Bridge grant) for a few months and then switch to BHPP to fund the position for as long as you are able to.
If a hospital has an existing SUN, can this funding be used to hire another one?	Yes, the funding can be used to sustain the position of the existing SUN or to hire another one.
Does BHPP funding have to go through the acute care hospital or can it go through a financial intermediary?	Any entity may APPLY for funding on behalf of the general acute care hospital, but the general acute hospital has to be the one to RECEIVE the funding.

Q&A with DHCS on the BHPP Funding Opportunity

<p>For the additional funding section, are we able to request additional funds if the \$50,000 does not cover everything?</p>	<p>Each behavioral health counselor will only be allocated \$50,000. However, we anticipate that there will be increased spending in this area in the future. Both the legislature and governor are very invested in addressing this problem.</p>
<p>If the Sun's position is already funded through the hospital, can this grant be used to increase salary?</p>	<p>Yes. Hospitals can use other sources of funding for this position as well and then use the BHPP for as long as you are able to.</p>
<p>Since there is no "end" date for funding - can we request additional funding projecting a longer term of support for BHC?</p>	<p>At this time no, though we expect further funding in this area to increase as it is a high priority of both the state legislature and governor.</p>
<p>Is it possible for one site to receiving funding for multiple behavioral health counselors?</p>	<p>Yes, though it is not guaranteed. The DHCS has \$20 million allocated to fund the BHPP program with the goal to have at least one behavioral health counselor at each acute care hospital in California. In the likely event of unused funds, additional BHPP funding will be allocated to fund additional behavioral health counselors at sites with top scoring applications. To be considered for additional funding, please mention the need in the Additional Award section of the application.</p>
<p>If a hospital has an existing SUN, can this funding be used to hire another one?</p>	<p>Yes, the funding can be used to sustain the position of the existing SUN or to hire another one.</p>
<h3>Program</h3>	
<p>Will there be a list of preferred mental health and SUD programs provided to the hospitals to refer this patient population or the hospital is responsible to find their own?</p>	<p>CA Bridge will provide technical assistance on establishing referral relationships, but each hospital will need to build these relationships with the providers in their area.</p>