



# Mental Health Services Act Innovation Component

## FACT SHEET

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### Innovation (INN) Guidelines Effective Oct. 1, 2015

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*This fact sheet directly quotes the INN proposed guidelines and resource materials that were issued on July 2015. Visit: <http://mhsoac.ca.gov/document/2016-03/innovation-regulations>*

#### I. PRIMARY PURPOSE

Innovation (INN) must be used for the following primary purposes:

- Increase access to underserved groups
- Increase the quality of services, including better outcomes
- Promote interagency collaboration
- Increase access to services

Counties must select one or more of these purposes for each INN project. The selected purpose(s) will be the key focus for learning and change.

#### II. DEFINITIONS

An INN project is one that contributes to learning, rather than a primary focus on providing a service, in one or more of the following three ways:

- Introduces new mental health practices/approaches including prevention and early intervention that have never been done before, or
- Makes a change to an existing mental health practice/approach, including adaptation for a new setting or community, or
- 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.

An INN project may introduce a novel, creative, and/or ingenious approach to a variety of mental health practices, including those aimed at prevention and early intervention.

**Restrictions:** A practice/approach that has been successful in one community mental health setting cannot be funded as an INN project in a different community even if the practice/approach is new to that community, unless it is changed in a way that contributes to the learning process. Merely addressing an unmet need is not sufficient to receive funding under this component.

### III. PLANNING PROCESS

**Scope:** INN projects may address issues faced by children, transition age youth, adults, older adults, families (self-defined), neighborhoods, tribal and other communities, counties, multiple counties, or regions. The project may initiate, support and expand collaboration and linkages, especially connections between systems, organizations and other practitioners not traditionally defined as a part of mental health care. The project may influence individuals across all life stages and all age groups, including multigenerational practices/approaches.

**New INN Project Approval:** INN project approval involves a two-step process. Fully developed INN project ideas can either be included in the County's Three Year or Plan Update or be submitted as a stand-alone document that's posted for 30-day public comment and then submitted to the County Board of Supervisors for approval. Once a County has received Board approval it shall submit an INN Project Plan to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) for approval of INN project funds. The MHSOAC approves all INN funds for each new INN Project. INN funds cannot be spent until the MHSOAC approves the INN project and budget.

**Time Limits:** Each INN project has up to 5 years for implementation.

**Regional Collaboration:** Collaboration among counties is encouraged under INN. Two or more counties may work together on a joint INN project.

**Non-Supplant:** According to CCR, Title 9, Division 1, Chapter 14, section 3410, the MHSOAC non-supplant requirements related to county expenditures must be met.

### V. REPORTING & EVALUATION

**Data Collection:** INN project reports must include participants' demographic data on age, race, ethnicity, primary language, sexual orientation, disability, veteran status, gender, and other relevant data.

**Evaluation:** The evaluation component of each INN project shall include INN project outcomes related to the selected primary purpose and INN activities that contributed to successful outcomes. INN project results shall be disseminated to stakeholders. There shall be stakeholder involvement in evaluation and continuation of INN projects.

**Sustainability Planning:** If an INN project has proven to be successful and a county chooses to continue it, the work plan must transition to a different funding. Counties may consider integrating a successful INN project into other components when planning for the future. County shall consider how to provide continuity for participants with SMI after the implementation of INN project.

For more information on ACBHCS Innovative Programs visit [www.acinnovations.org](http://www.acinnovations.org)