



Behavioral Health Student Services Act  
Statewide Technical Assistance Coordinator



# Introducing the BHSSA STAC



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Welcome to the **Behavioral Health Student Services Act (BHSSA) Statewide Technical Assistance Coordinator (STAC)**, a Commission for Behavioral Health (CBH)-funded initiative supporting BHSSA school-based mental health efforts in California from 2025 – 2028<sup>1</sup>.



## What Is the BHSSA STAC?

BHSSA provides funding for partnerships between county behavioral health departments, county offices of education, school districts, and charter schools to deliver school-based mental health services and supports for children, youth, and their families or caregivers.

To support these county implementation grantees, BHSSA also funds STAC, which provides statewide training and technical assistance (TTA) and project management services.

## Who Leads the BHSSA STAC?

The Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (Commission), also known as the Commission for Behavioral Health (CBH), oversees grant funding under BHSSA.



The STAC is implemented by the **Center for Applied Research Solutions (CARS)**, a California-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit training and technical assistance (TTA) organization that has supported behavioral and mental health initiatives statewide for more than two decades.

CARS is pleased to partner with the **California School-Based Health Alliance (CSHA)**, a statewide nonprofit with nearly 30 years of experience reducing health and education disparities by promoting high-quality school health and mental health services in schools.



**Main BHSSA STAC team members include:** Leora Wolf-Prusan, Project Director (CARS); Angela Castellanos, Deputy Director of School-Based Services TA (CARS); Angela Brand, STAC Community & Partnership Engagement Advisor (CARS); Niki Magtoto, STAC Senior Project Manager (CARS); Chidinma Ogojiaku, STAC Evaluator (CARS); Steven Jimenez, STAC Distance Learning Manager (CARS); Tina Rocha, David Lopez, & Oriana Ides, STAC TA Specialists (CARS); Amy Ranger, Amy Blackshaw, Sierra Lau, Marina Quintanilla, Ally Wick, STAC TA Specialists (CSHA); and Tracy Nguyen, STAC Event Support (CSHA).

## Who Does the BHSSA STAC Serve?

The STAC supports the CBH, the three counties funded to provide peer TA (the Technical Coaching Teams / TCTs), and the 58 grantee partnerships themselves. Since its inception, the BHSSA program has funded nearly all California counties in four phases.

<sup>1</sup> Note that as of January 1, 2025, the Mental Health Student Services Act grants (MHSSA) are now referred to as the Behavioral Health Student Service Act grants (BHSSA). The Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) is now the Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (BHSOAC), in shorthand referred to as the Commission for Behavioral Health (CBH). Learn more here: <https://bhsoac.ca.gov/initiatives/school-mental-health/>

## County Grantees (By Funding Phase)

**BHSSA Phases 1-2 Grantees (2020/2022-2026):** Amador, Calaveras, Contra Costa, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Kern, Lake, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Monterey, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernadino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Solano, Sonoma, Sutter-Yuba, Tehama, Trinity-Modoc, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yolo Counties

**BHSSA Phase 3 Grantees (2020-2026):** Alameda, Berkeley City, Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Inyo, Kings, Lassen, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, Napa, Plumas, San Benito, San Joaquin, Sierra, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Tri-City Counties

### **BHSSA Phase 4 Grantees (2024-2027):**

**Category 1 Marginalized & Vulnerable Youth Grantees:** Alameda, Amador, Mariposa, Nevada, Orange, Riverside, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Tehama, Trinity

**Category 2 Universal Screening Grantees:** El Dorado, Lassen, Placer, San Diego, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, and Yolo Counties

**Category 3 Sustainability Grantees:** Alameda, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Lassen, Madera, Marin, Mendocino, Nevada, Placer, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne, and Yolo Counties.

**Category 4 Other Priorities Grantees:** Fresno, Los Angeles, Madera, Orange, Placer, Riverside, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Siskiyou, Trinity

## Technical Coaching Team (TCT)

Three BHSSA counties were also selected to serve as a Technical Coaching Team (TCT) to provide peer TTA to the other BHSSA grantees. The TCT grantees are **Tehama County (Data Collection), Placer County (Program Implementation), and Imperial County (Partnership Development, Sustainability).**

We work with the Technical Coaches to provide technical assistance to successfully implement and sustain the BHSSA programs and to develop a range of strategies to build the capacity for excellent student mental health programs in 57 out of 58 counties.

## What Does the BHSSA STAC Do?

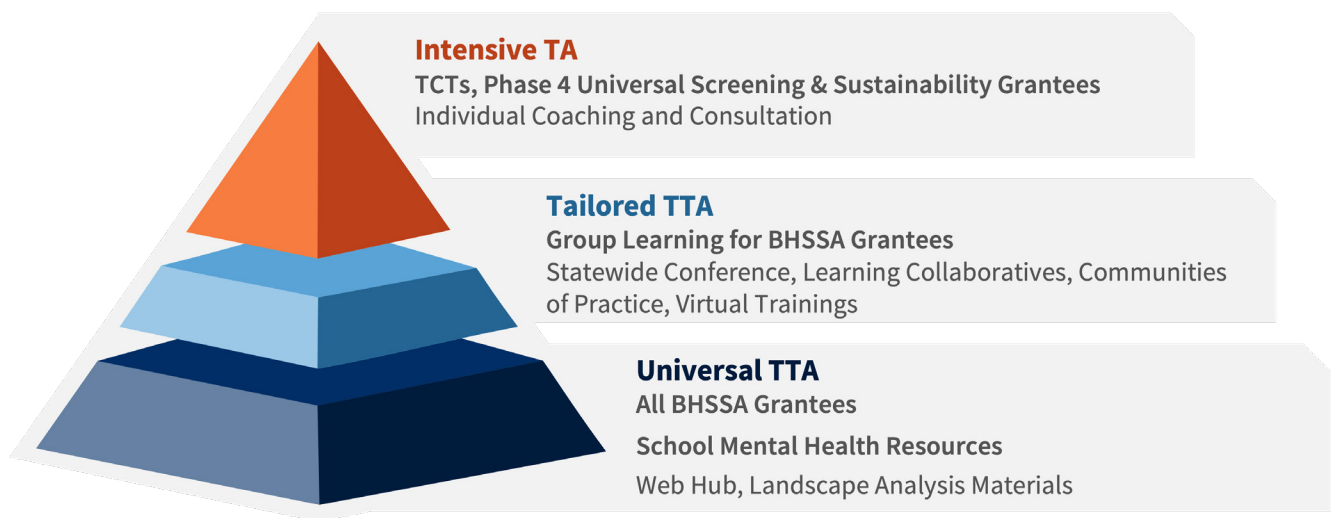
The STAC will support the BHSSA grantees and the California school mental health field in a variety of ways. Some of the STAC's core services include:

- **Universal Resources:** The STAC will develop a variety of tools and resources, some in partnership with the TCT grantees, to support the grantees and advance the field of school mental health. Key resources include a Web Hub, which will house all resources developed for this program; and a research-based, statewide Landscape Analysis, which will be updated throughout the life of the program (open to all BHSSA grantees).
- **Tailored TTA:** Group-based TTA is an opportunity for grantees to learn best practices and rising strategies, build cross-county networks, and engage in peer-to-peer knowledge transfer. The STAC will lead dynamic group-based trainings, Communities of Practice, and quarterly BHSSA Learning Collaborative sessions that promote meaningful connections and learning (open to *all* BHSSA grantees).
- **Intensive TA:** The STAC is led and staffed by experts in school mental health, program implementation, and county-LEA collaboration. The STAC will offer ongoing coaching calls to support

the BHSSA grantees, as well as opportunities for intensive consultation (open to Phase 4 Universal Screening grantees, Phase 4 Sustainability grantees, and the TCT grantees).

- **Statewide Conference “Leader Labs”:** As a lead-up to the 2027 conference, the STAC will offer the grantees a dedicated meeting space and BHSSA-specific sessions at the 2025 and 2026 CSHA Conferences (open to *all* BHSSA grantees).
- **Statewide Conference:** In 2027, the STAC will convene all BHSSA grantees at a Statewide Conference.

**We are committed to creating human-centered, dynamic, and richly interpersonal learning spaces that motivate and inspire participants.** Both organizations, Center for Applied Research Solutions (CARS) and CSHA, are committed to providing TTA services that are trauma-informed, healing-centered, equity-driven, and culturally responsive. The STAC’s TTA approach will include a tiered structure of universal, tailored, and intensive TTA services, rooted in evidence-based practice, practice-based evidence, and community-defined effective practices.



# Want to Learn More?

Stay tuned for our BHSSA STAC Web Hub, a one-stop shop for resources, upcoming events, and ways to learn from and with one another.

**The BHSSA STAC Web Hub will be available soon!**

In the meantime, please contact us with questions, ideas, and suggestions:

**Toll-Free:** 888-558-6694

**Email:** [STAC\\_BHSSA@cars-rp.org](mailto:STAC_BHSSA@cars-rp.org)

**Website:** [www.cars-rp.org](http://www.cars-rp.org)



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