



AGENDA ITEM 8

Action

Innovation Partnership Fund (IPF): Framework Update

Item Goals

- Review and consideration for approval of the Innovation Partnership Fund (IPF) Framework 4.0 for the upcoming IPF grant program, with the goal of securing Commission approval of the Request for Proposal outline at the January meeting to enable timely release of funding in alignment with Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) implementation beginning July 1, 2026.
- Support implementation of the Innovation Partnership Fund as specified in the BHSA.

Behavioral Health Landscape

- The IPF will prioritize BHSA priority populations, outlined in Welfare and Institutions Code 5892(d), that include children, youth, adults, and older adults who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness, justice system involvement, reentry from incarceration or institutional settings, are in the child welfare system, or are at risk of institutionalization or conservatorship.
- The innovative mental health and substance use disorder programs and practices shall be designed for improving BHSA programs and practices funded for underserved populations, low-income populations, communities impacted by other behavioral health disparities, and other populations as determined by the Commission, as outlined in Welfare and Institutions Code 5845.2(A).
- Under the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), 5% of total MHSA county funding was reserved for innovation projects, of which the Commission for Behavioral Health approved. The Commission will continue to approve county-level innovation plans through June 2026.
- In addition to the IPF, under the BHSA, 35% of county funds shall be focused on Behavioral Health Services and Supports which include innovative behavioral health

pilots and projects but they do not require Commission approval. The goal of these pilots is to build an evidence base for effective new statewide strategies.

- The Commission may publish a list of innovative behavioral health models of care and promising practices to support the counties in their efforts.
- The IPF provides the Commission \$20 million annually for five years (FY 2026–27 through FY 2030–31, totaling \$100 million), with future funding to be determined through the state budget process. Additional support may also be leveraged through the Mental Health Wellness Act (MHWa), as permitted.
- Beginning January 1, 2030, the Commission will submit a report to the Legislature every three years covering the prior three fiscal years, detailing the IPF funded practices and evaluating their effectiveness in achieving program goals.

Relevant Commission Work

- While similar in name, the county-level innovation work currently approved by the Commission through June 2026 differs substantially in scope and implementation from the statewide IPF grant program. IPF has clear statutory requirements and policy implications for target populations served, outcomes, and eligibility.
- The Commission began gathering information to inform the development of the IPF in Fall of 2025. Since then, the Commission has:
 - Gathered stakeholder feedback through community surveys and reported out on findings and themes to the Commission in March 2025.
 - Hosted three community listening sessions with 321 community participants, including a session focused on individuals with lived experience.
 - Presented an open call for concepts to the public, from which we received 49 developed submissions.
 - Engaged with state agency departments mandated through the BHSA; California Health and Human Services and its departments, including the Department of Health Care Access and Information, Department of Health Care Services, and the California Department of Public Health.
 - Conducted thematic analysis on the combined community feedback and identified themes that could inform the scope of the Framework (these have been incorporated), and other feedback that can inform the “nuts and bolts” of the Request for Proposal.
- The Program Advisory Committee approved recommending to the Commission the adoption of the IPF Framework Version 3.0 on September 18, 2025.
- The Client, Family, and Community Inclusion, Lived Experience, and Diversity Advisory Committee (CFC) approved recommending to the Commission the adoption of the IPF Framework Version 3.0 with a revision on September 25, 2025.
- On October 21st, Commissioner Carnevale submitted comments requesting Commissioners defer action on the Innovation Partnership Fund until the Commission

updates its strategic plan to align with Proposition 1. His detailed comments and analysis of the Commission authority post-Proposition 1 can be found in the packet.

Proposed Motion

That the Commission adopt the IPF Framework 4.0 to inform the development and implementation of the Innovation Partnership Fund as specified in the Behavioral Health Services Act.