



Behavioral Health Student Services Act: Administrative and Evaluation Funds

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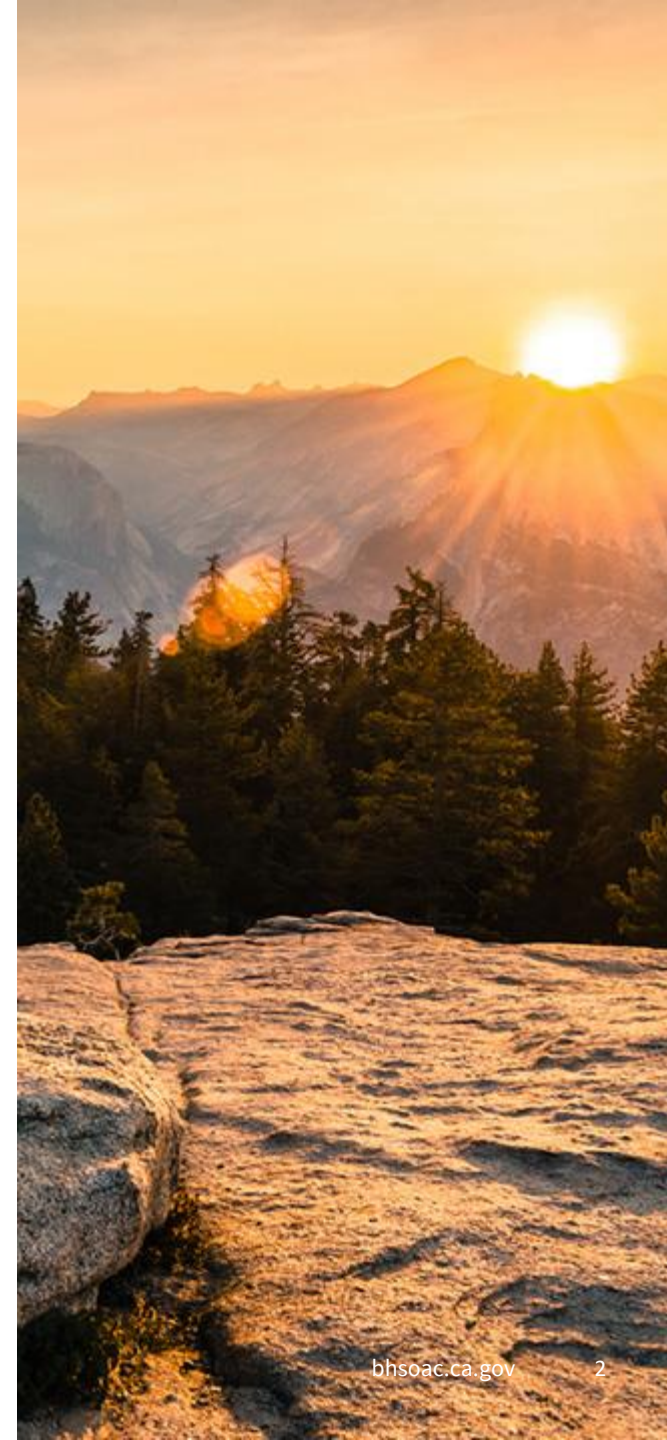
October 23, 2025

Goals

To provide an update on plan for BHSSA funds to ensure alignment with Commission priorities:

- \$5.1M in one-time BHSSA administrative funds
- \$9.2M in one-time BHSSA evaluation funds

**\$7.6M in ongoing funds available starting in 2027*



BHSSA Components

- ✓ Grants: \$280M to foster system change
- ✓ Technical Assistance: capacity building around key areas, including sustainability
- ✓ Evaluation and Learning



BHSSA One-time Administrative and Evaluation Funds

Administrative Funds

- \$25 million in one-time BHSSA administrative funds
- Most of these funds have been earmarked or encumbered
- **\$5.1 million needs to be encumbered by June 30, 2026**

Evaluation Funds

- \$16.6 million in one-time funds to support evaluation
- \$5.7 million encumbered (WestEd and local evaluator stipends)
- **\$9.2 million needs to be encumbered by June 30, 2026**



BHSA – Proposition 1 Legislative Intent

Proposition 1 legislative intent

LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS FOR PROP 1 (UNCODIFIED)

“ The time has come to modernize the MHSA to focus funds where they are most needed:

expanding services to include **treatment for those with substance use disorders and prioritizing care for those with the most serious mental illness**, including the **disproportionate number experiencing unsheltered homelessness**.

”

Use of funds distributed from BHSF

Per WIC 5892(d), starting on July 1, 2026, county programs (WIC 5892(a)) must prioritize certain populations:

Children and youth who are:

- Chronically homeless, experiencing homelessness, or at risk of homelessness,
- In, or at risk of being in, the juvenile justice system,
- Reentering the community from a youth correctional facility,
- In the child welfare system,
- Or are at risk of institutionalization

Adults and older adults who are:

- Chronically homeless or experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness,
- In, or at risk of being in, the justice system,
- Reentering the community from state prison or county jail,
- At risk of conservatorship,
- Or are at risk of institutionalization

Considerations



**Aligning
BHSSA with
priority
populations of
BHSA**



**Further SUD
Integration**



**Workforce
challenges—
clinical,
licensed staff
and peers**



**Infrastructure
and capacity
building to
expand and
sustain efforts
of BHSSA
funding**

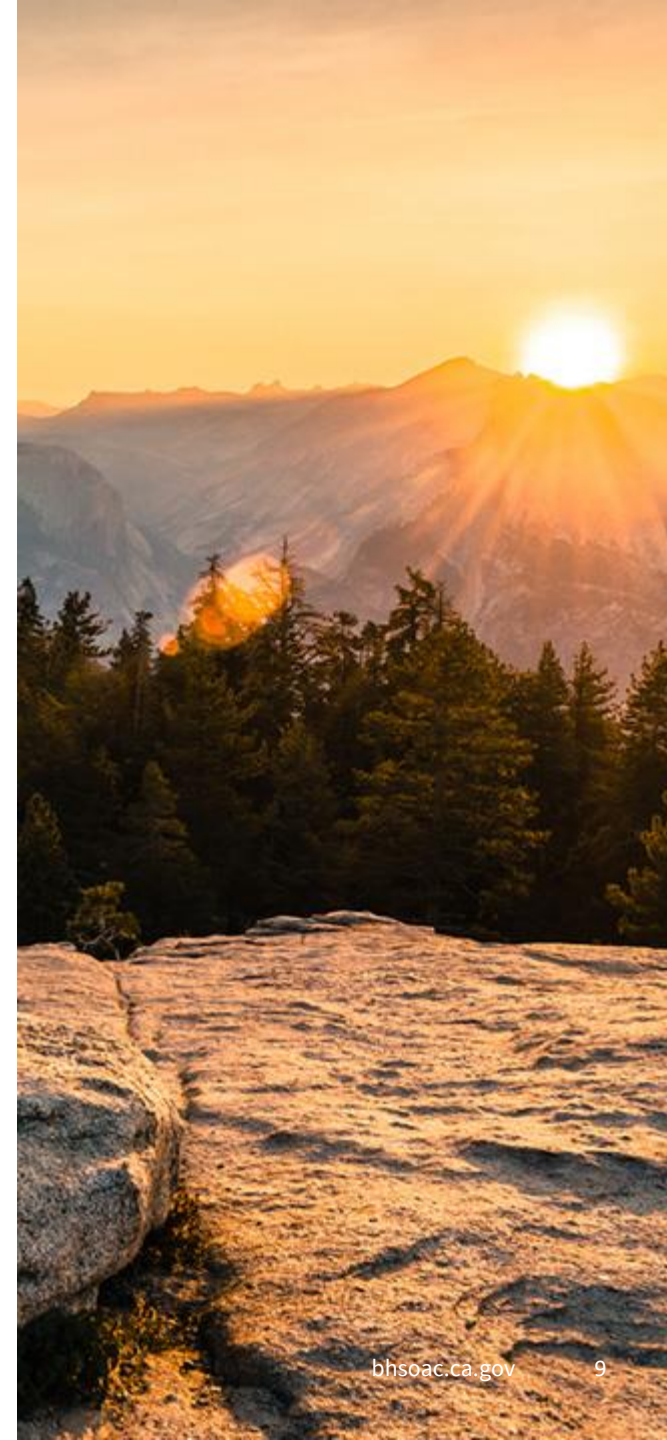
Considerations for BHSSA Administrative Funds

Admin funds *currently* support:

- Staff/contracted positions relevant to BHSSA
- Technical assistance contracts
- Software and IT infrastructure (e.g. SAS, Tableau)

Recommend encumbering remaining funds to support:

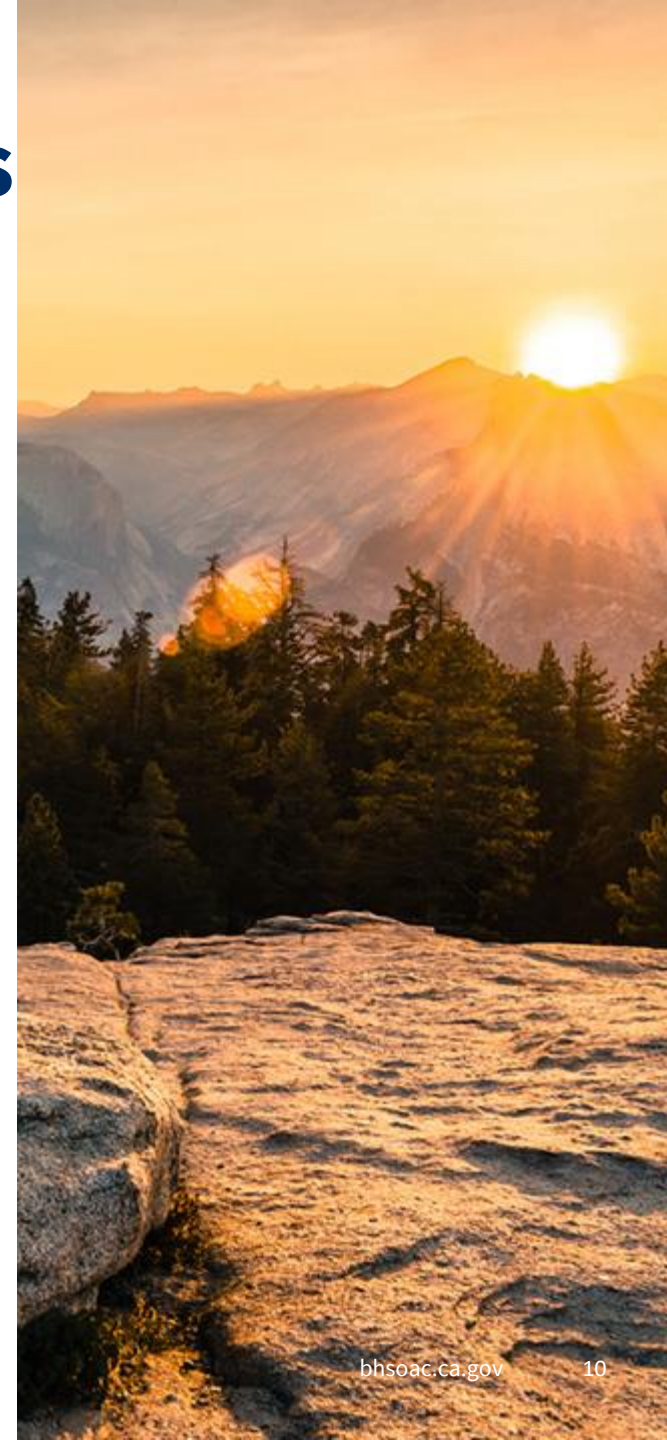
- Grant management software
- Additional technical assistance in the form of statewide suicide prevention training (amend current TA contract)
- SUD pilots for youth who are justice-involved and at risk of school failure (competitive procurement)



Considerations for BHSSA Evaluation Funds

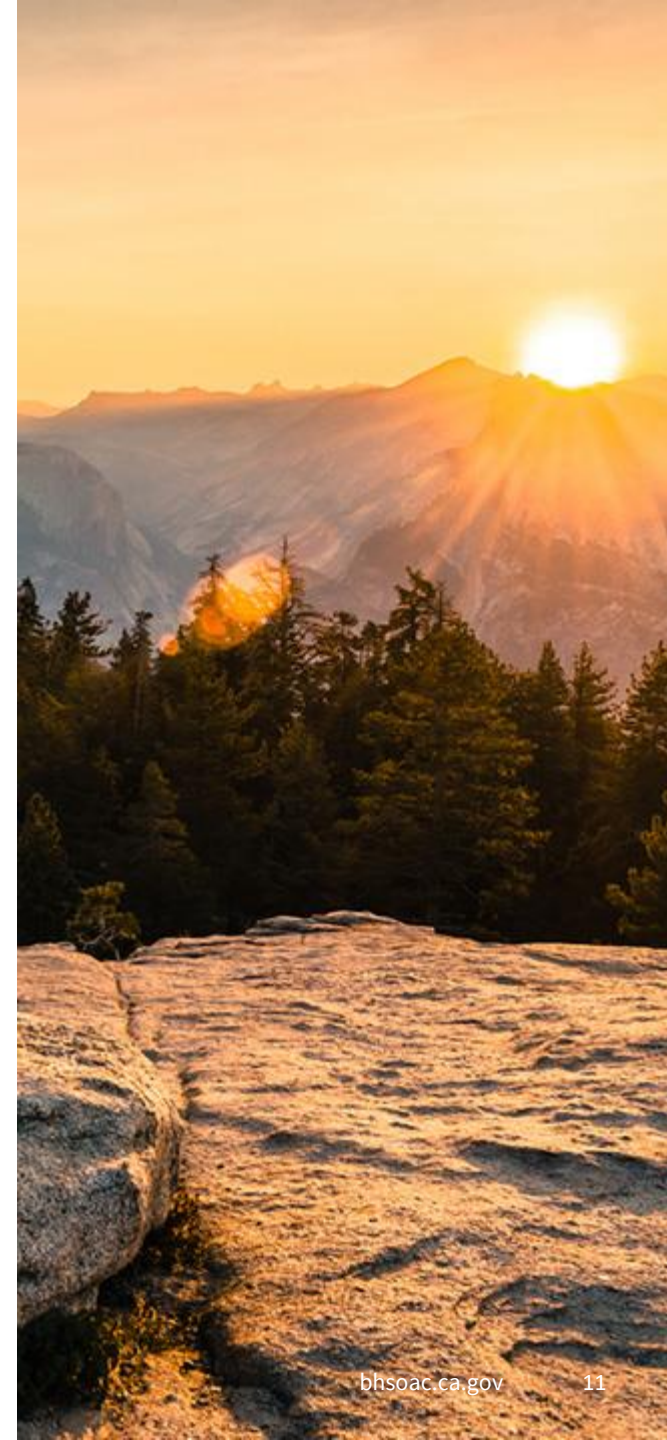
Existing law requires the Commission to:

- Develop metrics and a performance outcome monitoring system for publicly reporting on the performance of services provided.
- Propose contracting with entity with expertise in performance outcome monitoring systems to build and pilot a tool for local education agencies and schools.



Discussion Questions

- What questions and feedback do the Commissioners and the public have on the proposed areas of funding for the one-time administrative funds and evaluation funds?
- Understanding there are limitations to how the funds can be used, particularly the evaluation dollars, are there other ideas we should consider that help align BHSSA with BHSA?



Next Steps

- Bring full outline of plans for one-time funds to Program Advisory Committee and the Budget and Fiscal Committee in November.
- Present outlines for RFPs and/or contract/IAA amendments for the suicide prevention training, SUD pilots, and performance management system.

