



Request for Letters of Interest

Substance Use Disorder Pilot Program

The State of California has adopted the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Criteria as the standard for treating substance use disorders (SUD) using a holistic, person-centered approach to treatment and co-occurring disorders. The Commission recognizes that counties and their partners are struggling to meet those standards due to a lack of adequately trained medical prescribers available to provide evidenced-based medications for addiction treatment (MAT), which is an under-utilized and high-impact intervention for SUD clients. As a result, the Commission has authorized \$20 million to increase access to MAT via a pilot program intended to reduce financial barriers to meeting these best practice standards.

The intent is to offer a total of \$16 million spread among three various-sized counties over a three-year period to supplement costs associated with the addition of medical prescribers in both residential and non-residential specialty SUD treatment settings. The addition of these prescribers will enable specialty SUD treatment agencies to better meet the ASAM Criteria by offering MAT. The remaining \$4 million will be dedicated to technical assistance and training efforts to provide support and promote program sustainability.

The goals of this pilot program are to improve access to effective SUD services by increasing the number of medical prescribers working in specialty SUD systems and providing training relative to ASAM guidelines to sustain programs over time. The Commission is gauging interest from county behavioral health departments and other interested organizations to participate in the pilot program.

To indicate interest, please submit a letter that addresses the following questions. The letters should be no longer than three pages, single spaced, in 12-point font. The questions are as follows:

1. Please indicate your level of interest in this project and confirm your ability to receive funds from the Commission to participate in the project.
2. Please discuss the populations you would intend to serve. The Commission may prioritize access to historically underserved communities.
3. This is a short-term incentive grant. Please discuss opportunities for matching funds and fiscal sustainability if you receive an award.
4. Briefly discuss the feasibility of partnering with medical prescribers.
5. Please describe the impact or benefit you anticipate resulting from participation in this pilot program.

Letters should be submitted via email at Procurements@mhsoc.ca.gov no later than 5:00 P.M. on **Tuesday, January 9, 2024**. Please include "SUD Pilot Program" as the subject line on your email.