

Integrated Youth Mental Health Drop-In Centers

The 2019-20 budget includes \$14.5 million in state funds to support the development of youth drop-in centers that provide integrated mental health services for individuals between the ages of 12 and 25 years of age and their families. The focus of these centers shall be on vulnerable and marginalized youth and disparity populations, including but not limited to LGBTQ, homeless and indigenous youth.

The Commission is authorized to establish criteria for the release of these funds. Those criteria can include consideration of gaps in local service delivery systems, availability of matching funds, ability to document key outcomes associated with the use of the funds, level of youth and community involvement and other criteria.

The availability of these funds builds upon the internationally recognized Headspace model of Australia and the work of Santa Clara County to adapt that model through the Allcove program. Santa Clara has developed the Allcove program with input and leadership of youth.

The Commission is seeking guidance on how best to utilize these funds, which are one-time and are intended to support the development of youth drop-in programs that can be sustained using other available resources. Funds are available over a four-year period and the Commission has discretion in determining who is eligible to receive these funds, how they can be used and how they are awarded.

Funding can be used for technical assistance, program monitoring and evaluation.

Authorizing legislation is clear that these funds can be used to build upon and extend the impact of existing programs and funding but cannot be used to supplant local funding for existing programs.