



COMMUNITY SERVICES AND SUPPORTS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (MHSA)



INFORMATION SHEET

What are Community Services and Supports (CSS)?

CSS is one of five components of Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) passed by California voters in 2004. It provides funds for direct services to individuals with severe mental illness.

CSS is the largest component of the MHSA. The focus is community collaboration, cultural competence, client and family driven services and systems, wellness which includes concepts of recovery and resilience, integrated service experiences for clients and families, as well as serving the unserved and underserved. Housing is also included in the CSS component.

CSS Results:

- Elimination of disparity in access
- Improvement of mental health outcomes for racial/ethnic populations and other unserved and underserved populations

Strategies: Full Service Partnership, General System Development, Outreach & Engagement

What is a Full Service Partnership (FSP)?

FSP programs provide wraparound services to consumers. They provide integrated services to the most unserved or underserved and those at high risk for homelessness, incarceration, hospitalization, and out-of-home placement. MHSA mandates that the majority of CSS funding must be used for services to this population. This FSP strategy is a “whatever it takes” approach to engaging service recipients as partners in their own self care, treatment, and recovery. The ACT (Assertive Community Treatment) model provides comprehensive community based psychiatric treatment, rehabilitation, and support.

FSP Results:

- Decreased incarcerations
- Decreased psychiatric hospitalizations
- Decreased medical hospitalizations
- Decreased homelessness
- Increased employment

FSP Strategy: ACT Model team treatment approach providing comprehensive, community-based psychiatric treatment, rehabilitation, and support 24 hours per day, 365 days per year

FSP Services Include:

- Case management
- Outreach and engagement
- Initial and ongoing assessments
- Psychiatric services
- Employment and housing assistance
- Family support and education
- Services and supports critical to an individual’s ability to live successfully in the community

What is General System Development (GSD)?

The GSD strategy focuses on increasing capacity to provide crisis services, peer/family supports, and drop-in centers for individuals with mental illness and serious emotional disturbance. These programs are focused on reducing stigma, encouraging and increasing self-care, recovery and wellness, and accessing community resources. The goal is to increase overall well-being and decrease the need for more intensive and expensive services.

GSD Results:

- Decreased stigma
- Increased self-care
- Increased access to community resources
- Decreased need for extensive and expensive services

GSD Strategy: Approach focused on the improvement of programs, services and supports and/or changing service delivery systems and building transformational programs & services

GSD Services Include:

- Peer support
- Education and advocacy services for clients and families
- Mobile crisis teams
- Services that promote interagency and community collaboration
- Services that help develop the capacity to provide values-driven, evidence-based and promising clinical practices

What is Outreach and Engagement (O&E)?

O&E funded program strategies focus on special activities needed to reach diverse underserved communities. Services include community outreach to diverse community based organizations. Crisis-oriented respite housing was also established to avoid unnecessary incarceration, provide short-term housing, and linkages to services.

O&E Result:

Diverse and underserved communities are reached

O&E Strategy: Approach using special activities to reach diverse underserved communities that have high needs and are disproportionately unserved

O&E Services Include:

- Community outreach to diverse communities and community—based organizations
- Short-term services that engage participants
- Linkages to services and supports