

Mental Health Services Act Round Two Innovation Planning, 2016

Frequently Asked Questions

NOTE: This document will be updated periodically as questions are received. Please check back weekly for updates at [MHSA Components](#) or <http://tinyurl.com/jh6wvu4>. Questions will be accepted until Wednesday, November 16 at 5pm. This document will be final on Friday, November 18, 2016 at 12 noon.

How are underserved groups identified in this process?

Each applicant is asked to identify how the project addresses a need in the Mental Health system. There is no preference for a certain population.

The scoring for the proposal reflects the need to work with the population that the project will benefit to identify the need, develop an idea and to review the project plan.

Outreach will be done to each of the previously identified underserved groups: Latinos, LGBTQ, Native Americans, and Veterans to ensure that the opportunity to develop a project is shared with potential applicants.

Should we include evaluation in the workplan?

No. Evaluation will be designed after the projects have been scored and the overall Innovation Component Plan is developed. It is the intention of the Mental Health Services Department to centralize the evaluation for all Innovation projects.

The scoring of the proposal reflects the need to demonstrate capacity for evaluation, data collection and reporting. The agency/proposer's capacity to participate in the evaluation is important for innovation projects.

How do I know if my idea has been tried before?

Google the idea to see what else has been tried. The Scoring Committee will be reviewing Google search results as part of the scoring process, and the Mental Health Services Act Oversight and Accountability Commission will be googling the idea prior to state approval.

I have a lot of ideas. Can I submit more than one plan?

Yes

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Updated 11/07/16

I am working with a larger collaborative/coalition/consortia to submit an idea. Can I submit an idea separately as well?

Yes.

I'd like more funding for my programs. How can I develop an Innovative idea for my current programs?

Mental Health Services Act Innovation funding is not like typical funding. It is not meant to support an existing program. This is a learning project. Focus your innovation idea on areas where you would like to learn.

To develop an innovative idea:

First look to the parts of your program or services that are not working. It is particularly helpful to think about areas where there aren't evidence based practices to guide you.

Next, talk to the people who are affected by the lack of effective services in the area you are looking into. Get a good understanding from their perspective about why it is not working. Look at the data related to the area that you are considering. (See Document 5: Data resources)

Then, ask the people who are affected by the lack of effective services what they think might work. What would they like to try?

Take the ideas that you hear and consider each of them separately using the innovation criteria. Develop those that fit the guidelines into a plan.

I don't have a computer/printer. Can I get a hard copy of the documents?

Yes. Contact Felix or Rocío and a copy will be made for you to pick up. It can also be mailed to you if you prefer.

Felix Bedolla, MHSA Project Manager: 707.299.1759, Felix.Bedolla@countyofnapa.org

Rocío Canchola, Staff Services Analyst II: 707.299.2119, Rocio.Canchola@countyofnapa.org

I would like to partner with an agency that is located outside of Napa County. Can an out-of-county agency submit an idea?

Yes. As long as the idea is focused on learning in Napa County and is of benefit to Napa County residents.

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Updated 11/07/16

I have a great idea, but I don't know who to partner with to implement it. Can I still send in my idea?

Please contact Felix or Rocío for technical assistance. We are happy to talk to you about your idea and to suggest agencies you may consider contacting to partner on your idea.

Felix Bedolla, MHSA Project Manager: 707.299.1759, Felix.Bedolla@countyofnapa.org

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You are welcome to complete an Innovation Project Plan without a partner agency. Remember that the scoring criteria include points for the Innovation and for the Implementation. Without a partner agency, you may score lower on Implementation. The following is from the Scoring Criteria (see Document 7).

Innovation Project Plans with high scores for Innovation AND low scores for implementation, will be included in a workplan to assist stakeholders to further strengthen implementation and prepare for Round 3. This work plan would be about learning how to engage and support underserved communities; it IS NOT A GUARANTEE OF INNOVATION FUNDING.

My innovation idea is the result of data that I collected previously. Can I use that data to show the need for the idea, or do I need to talk to people now as well? Do I get a higher score for talking to people more recently?

All ideas should include the most recent data available, but there is not a preference for data collected previously or currently.

The scoring is based on the involvement of the target population in identifying the need and developing the idea.

Does it increase my score if I talk to more people?

The number of people that you should consider talking to in order to understand the need and develop the idea depends on your learning goal, the target population and the size of the target population. The scoring depends on the involvement of the target population at each planning step.

Plan to scale the target population involvement to mirror the scale of your innovation idea. An idea that is intended to be tested community-wide and for all residents would likely incorporate more input than an idea designed for a smaller segment of the population.

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Updated 11/07/16

Are capital expenses allowable?

Given the nature of innovation funding, the limited timeline and the scoring criteria, it is unlikely that capital expenses would be funded using innovation funds. However, if you feel the capital expense meets the innovation criteria, you are welcome to submit it as part of your idea.

Do we need to include funding for evaluation staff in our idea?

The scoring criteria include evaluation capacity. Each idea should include the organizational capacity to participate in data collection and reporting.

Can the innovation funds be extended past June 2019?

No. Innovation funds that are unspent as of June 30, 2019 are no longer available to Napa County and will revert to the state.