

SUMMARY

AB 348 establishes presumptive eligibility for Full Service Partnership (FSP) programs for those with serious mental issues who are experiencing homelessness, being released from incarceration or being discharged from involuntary hospitalization.

BACKGROUND

Proposition 1, passed by Californian voters in March 2024, aimed at strengthening the state's behavioral health system by funding mental health treatment, and housing for individuals facing homelessness through a \$6.38 billion generable obligation bond.

Full Service Partnerships provide intensive, recovery-oriented services for people with complex mental health disorders. FSPs offer stabilizing assistance and quality of life improvements through comprehensive support that includes housing, employment assistance and 24/7 crisis intervention.

California's behavioral health crisis has caused individuals to cycle between emergency rooms, jails and the streets. FSPs are a proven solution in reducing reliance on these systems while promoting community safety. In fact between 2021 and 2022, the state has seen a 41 percent reduction in psychiatric hospital admissions after clients join FSPs. Today, FSPs remain a vital resource for behavioral health systems, but administrative barriers prevent some of the most vulnerable Californians from accessing. Ultimately, leading to chronic homelessness and recidivism.

PROBLEM

Despite support for FSP interventions, eligibility and enrollment varies by county, creating an inequitable service system. Overly complicated and fragmented criteria has blocked some of the individuals most in need from being served. Additionally, the lengthy

case review and evaluation process causes unacceptable delays and disrupts the continuity of care. Establishing eligibility criteria will streamline the process and is particularly urgent as California prepares to implement Proposition 1.

SOLUTION

To ensure California's most vulnerable populations are prioritized under FSPs, AB 348 will establish presumptive eligibility for individuals that have serious mental illness and meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Is experiencing unsheltered homelessness
- Is transitioning to the community after six months or more in a secured treatment institution
- Has experienced two or more emergency department visits in the last six months
- Is transitioning to the community after six months or more in a state prison or county jail
- Has experienced two or more arrests in the last six months

By creating a presumptive eligibility requirement for Proposition 1 funding, California can guarantee that valuable resources are directed to services and individuals with the most need.

SUPPORT

California Behavioral Health Association (**Co-Sponsor**)
Steinberg Institute (**Co-Sponsor**)
California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives, Inc.
Californians for Safety and Justice

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