



**VENTURA COUNTY
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**
A Department of Ventura County Healthcare Agency


BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BRIDGE HOUSING (BHBH)

July 2023

1

What is BHBH?

State Funding & Oversight Agency	Dept of Health Care Services (DHCS)
County Eligible Agency	VCBH
Total Allocation for Ventura County	\$13,325,088
Applications Due to DHCS	April 28, 2023
Award Announcements	June 2023
Term	3 years (through June 30, 2027)
Target Populations	Homeless w/SMI; CARE Court Participants (SB 1338)



2

2

BHBH RFA Funding Details

The focus of BHBH funds is “immediate” housing. BHBH funding cannot be used to acquire property or to supplant other efforts such as CalAim, MHSA, etc... 75% of the BHBH funding must be spent on supportive bridge housing in the following categories:

- Short-term housing (less than 90 days);
- Interim housing (90 days up to 2 years w/1 year extension)
- Board & Care “Patches”;
- Housing Navigation and Supportive Services.

“The primary focus of the BHBH Program is to help people experiencing homelessness who have serious behavioral health conditions that prevent them from accessing help and moving out of homelessness.”



3

3

Community & Stakeholder Input

- VCBH conducted outreach to identify opportunities to fund short-term and interim housing.
- BHBH beds must be available within 1 year of award announcement (June 2023) and specifically identified Homekey Round 3 projects & existing shelter operators as obvious providers of such housing.
- CoC homeless market study in communities with Homekey Round 3 proposals.
- In April 2023 VCBH met with homeless individuals*, presented information on BHBH proposal and collected written surveys.

**Stakeholder input will be on-going.*



4

4

VCBH BHBH Proposal Details

VCBH is proposing a tapestry of short-term and interim bridge housing options for people living with homelessness and diagnosed with SMI as follows:

- Short-term (up to 90 days): 20 new shelter beds county-wide (funding for both build-out and operations); motel rooms up to 3 weeks at 6 different locations throughout the county;
- Interim (90 days to 3 years): Site-specific rental assistance at Homekey locations for 70 studio apartments; Scattered-site rental assistance for 5-6 family apartments (2 and 3 BDRMS);
- Incentive payments for new ARF beds;
- 4.0 FTE VCBH dedicated housing staff to provide required navigation and supportive services.



5

5

Target Population & Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility criteria for BHBH applicants:

- Homeless w/severe mental health diagnosis;
- Open to VCBH (treatment is voluntary);
- Referred through Coordinated Entry System (CES).

Additionally, CARE Court* participants will be prioritized and cities where Homekey sites are located will prioritize local residency.

**Ventura County may implement CARE Court in 2024 at the earliest. CARE Court is a court-ordered care plan for voluntary treatment of treatment resistant people with SMI. <https://www.chhs.ca.gov/care-act/>*



6

6

THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?

Susan.whitewood@ventura.org

(805) 981-3300

