



## **CARE Act Quarterly Implementation Update | March 2023**

This quarterly update summarizes progress made on CARE Act implementation through March 2023 and upcoming activities. At the end of this document is a high-level timeline of 2023 implementation activities.

### **Working Group**

On February 14, the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS) held the first CARE Working Group meeting. The meeting provided Working Group members an opportunity to meet each other and hear detailed implementation activities from CalHHS, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), and the Judicial Council of California (JC). The group also had an informational working session on meeting the housing needs of CARE participants, including a presentation from DHCS on the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program and from Herb Hatanaka, Executive Director of Special Services for Groups, on housing models across the continuum for people with behavioral health conditions. More information can be found on the CARE Act Working Group website. These meetings will continue quarterly through 2026.

### **Support for Counties**

CARE Act County Start Up and Planning Funding, including \$31M for all counties and an additional \$26M for Cohort 1 counties have been deposited in county treasuries. On November 9, 2022 DHCS released a Behavioral Health Information Notice (BHIN No. 22-059) on the use of these funds.

On November 30, 2022 and March 10, 2023, CalHHS hosted day long in person informational working sessions for counties and courts implementing CARE in 2023 (Cohort 1 Counties Glenn, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and San Francisco will begin on October 1, and Los Angeles on December 1). These meetings will continue through 2023.

The Governor's January 10 Budget includes investments in county behavioral health administrative costs and other resources to support the ongoing implementation of CARE. The Administration continues to work with

counties and stakeholders to refine the ongoing program cost estimate

DHCS has contracted with Health Management Associates, Inc (HMA) to provide training and technical assistance to county behavioral health agencies, supporters, and counsel, including data collection and annual reporting.

On February 22, DHCS released the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) RFA which will provide funding for housing programs that will prioritize CARE participants. DHCS continues to plan bridge housing technical assistance efforts.

## **Courts and Legal Services**

The Governor's January 10 Budget includes investments for court hearings, legal representation, court personnel or other implementation costs. JC continues to meet with other government partners in the CARE Act to align assumptions about capacity and costs.

On December 6, 2022 the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission released \$250,000 in planning grants to 18 qualified legal services organizations to support CARE Act training, support, and coordination.

On December 14, 2022, JC released draft rules and forms materials for public comment through January 27, 2023. This includes 11 draft rules and 11 draft forms, including the draft petition. CalHHS notified stakeholders about the opportunity to comment and disseminated an announcement about the posted draft materials for comment to the CARE Act e-mail listserv. JC is preparing rules and forms that are

expected to be approved in May 2023.

On February 1, JC published the CARE Act webpage on the California Courts website including background information, the CARE Act Fact Sheet, and a Glossary of CARE Act Terms.

On March 8, JC posted the CARE Act 101 webinar providing an overview of the court's role in implementation and highlighted areas of interest for local courts and justice partners.

On March 10, 2023, JC issued Intra-Branch Agreements for \$2,828,000 in planning and implementation funds to the seven CARE Act Cohort 1 courts.

JC continues to provide training and technical assistance for courts and their self-help centers.

## **Community Updates and Other Implementation Activities**

On December 19, CalHHS, DHCS, and JC posted a recorded informational webinar to share information and updates with CARE Act stakeholders, including an overview of the CARE process based on the enacted SB 1338, FAQs, and updates on completed and upcoming implementation activities.

CalHHS has posted Spanish translations of Care ACT FAQs and Fact Sheet. More information on the [CARE Act Working Group website](#).

# 2023 Milestones and Activities – CARE Act Implementation

## Q1 2023

- CalHHS hosted first CARE Act Working Group convening
- DHCS released RFA for county Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH funding)
- DHCS CARE Act TA vendor contract executed
- JC accepted public comment on Rules and Forms through January
- Cohort 1 Counties convene March 10

## Q3 2023

- CARE Act Working Group meets August 9
- Cohort 1 Counties convene on July 14 and September 8
- DHCS evaluation vendor selected
- Additional DHCS TA materials developed; TA activities continue
- DHCS will release RFA for additional BHBH funding

## Q2 2023

- DHCS releases RFI for evaluation and selects vendor
- DHCS will launch CARE Act TA website
- Initial DHCS TA materials developed and distributed and TA activities begin
- DHCS awards county BHBH funding
- CARE Act Working Group meets May 17
- Cohort 1 Counties convene on May 12
- JC adopts CARE Act Rules and Forms

## Q4 2023

- Cohort 1 begins October 1
- Cohort 1 Counties convene November 3
- CARE Act Working Group meets November 8
- Data collection/reporting commences for annual reports and evaluation
- DHCS will award additional BHBH funding
- Los Angeles County begins December 1