

WORKFORCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) provides funding for services and supports that promote wellness, recovery and resiliency. A portion of the MHSA funds have been specifically set aside for Workforce Education and Training. The County must show that these funds will:

- Expand the capacity of postsecondary education to meet the needs of identified mental health occupational shortages
- Expand loan forgiveness and scholarship programs offered in return for a commitment to employment in the local public mental health system
- Create stipend programs for persons enrolled in academic institutions who want to be employed in the mental health system
- Train staff members to provide services in accordance with MHSA principals
- Promote the employment of mental health consumers and family members within the mental health system
- Promote the inclusion of cultural competency in all training and education programs

Workforce Education and Training Programs Include:

- Addressing identified occupational community based shortages in both county mental health and private organizations
- Education and training for all individuals who provide public mental health services
- Contributing to the development and maintenance of a culturally competent workforce, that includes consumers and family members, who are capable of providing consumer and family-driven services that promote wellness, recovery, resilience, and lead to measurable, value-driven outcomes

Proposed Use of Funds

- Workforce Staffing
 - Behavioral Health Services training
 - Consumer Support positions
- Mental Health Career Pathway Programs
 - Mental Health Paraprofessional Training Program
- Training and Technical Assistance
 - Mental health training for Law Enforcement Officers
 - Recovery Education Institute
 - Consumer/family member training
- Residency/Internship Programs
 - Funding for approximately 12 FTE in County and contracted sites to allow greater use of students and to attract bilingual/bicultural interns
- Financial Incentive Programs
 - Support for County and contracted employees who are part-time MSW students