Innovation Regulations Quick Guide Reference

Definition of Innovation:

A project that ***contributes to learning*** rather than a primary focus on providing a service. Innovation projects are an opportunity to try out new approaches that can inform current and future practices/approaches. By their very nature, not all innovation projects will be successful, but all innovation projects will contribute to learning.

Innovation projects must have a primary purpose:

Innovation plans must meet one of the following as a primary purpose for developing and evaluating the new or changed mental health practice:

- ☐ Increase access to mental health services to underserved groups;
- ☐ Increase the quality of services with better outcomes;
- ☐ Promote Interagency collaboration;
- ☐ Increase access to mental health services.

Innovation projects must contribute to learning in one or more of the following ways:

- ☐ Introduces new mental health practices/approaches including prevention and early intervention that have never existed before ***or***
- ☐ Makes a change to an existing mental health practice/approach, including adaption for a new setting or community ***or***
- ☐ Introduces a new application to the mental health system of a promising community-drive practice/approach or a practice/approach that has been successful in a non-mental health context or setting

Examples of projects:

- Administrative/governance/ organizational practices, process, or procedures
- Advocacy
- Education and training for service providers (including non-traditional mental health practitioners)
- Outreach, capacity building, and community development
- Planning
- Policy and system development
- Prevention, early intervention
- Public Education efforts
- Research
- Services and/or treatment interventions

Key Reminders:

- ➢ A practice or approach that has been successful in one community mental health setting cannot be funded as an Innovative Program in a different community even if the

practice or approach is new to the community, *UNDERLINE*UNLESS it is changed in a way that contributes to the learning process.

➢ Addressing an unmet need is not sufficient to receive funding under this component.
➢ Leveraging with collaborative partnership is encouraged.
➢ Projects can involve regional collaboration with other counites.
➢ Analysis of effectiveness and reporting of progress is required.
➢ Project cannot exceed 5 years from start of implementation.

General Standards of Mental Health Services Act:

These standards need to be considered when developing a new Innovation project.

1. Community Collaboration
2. Cultural Competence
3. Client Driven Mental Health System
4. Family Driven Mental Health System
5. Wellness, Recovery, and Resilience Focus
6. Integrated Service Experience

Definition of Underserved:

➢ Clients of any age who have been diagnosed with a serious mental illness and/or serious emotional disturbance and are receiving some services but are not provided the necessary or appropriate opportunities to support their recovery, wellness and/or resilience.
➢ Clients whose family members are not receiving sufficient services to support the client's recovery, wellness, and/or resilience.
➢ Clients at risk of homelessness, institutionalization, incarceration, out-of-home placement, or other serious consequences.
➢ Members of ethnic/racial, cultural, and linguistic populations that do not have access to mental health programs due to barriers such as poor identification of their mental health needs, poor engagement and outreach, limited language access, and lack of culturally competent services.
➢ Those in rural areas, Native American rancherias and/or reservations who are not receiving sufficient services.
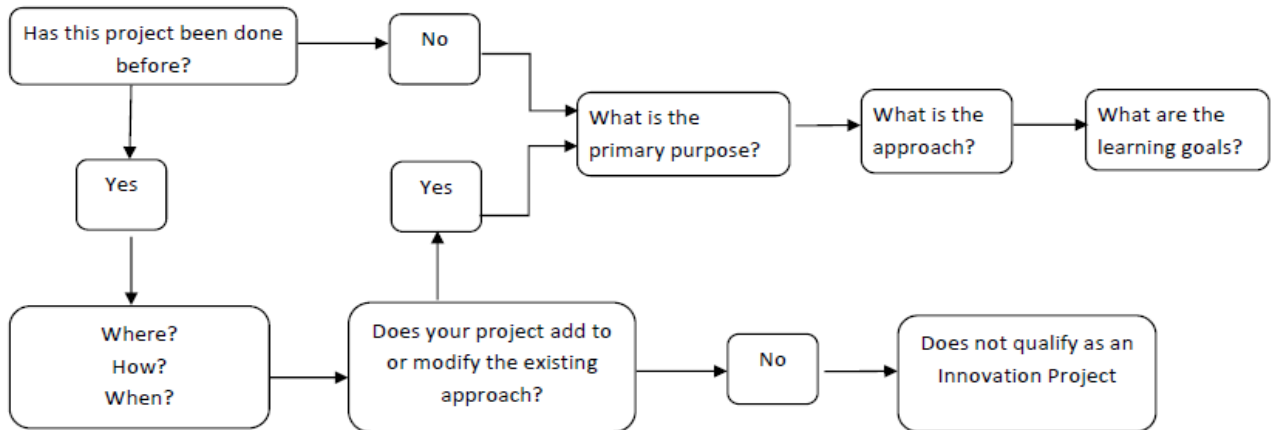
Learn more about Innovation at the State Level at https://mhsoac.ca.gov/what-we-do/innovation

Tri-City Innovation resources can be found at https://tricitymhs.org/mhsa/innovation/

Please contact **Paulina Ale**, *Program Coordinator-Innovation for further questions:*
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Innovation Project Plan Worksheet

Innovation Project Flow Chart

1. **Select one or more of the following primary purpose of the project:**
   - ☐ Increase access to mental health services to underserved groups
   - ☐ Increase quality of mental health services, including measurable outcomes
   - ☐ Promote interagency collaboration related to mental health services, supports, or outcomes
   - ☐ Increase access to mental health services

2. **Identify which of the 3 approaches the project will implement:**
   - ☐ Introduces a new mental health practice or approach.
   - ☐ Makes a change to an existing mental health practice that has not yet been demonstrated to be effective, including, but not limited to, adaption for a new setting, population, or community.
   - ☐ Introduces a new application to the mental health system of a promising community driven practice or an approach that has been successful in a non-mental health context or setting.

3. **What primary problem or challenge are you trying to address with this Innovation project?**

4. **What has been done elsewhere to address this problem?**

5. **Provide a brief overview of proposed project.**

6. **Who is the target population?** *(age, demographics, etc.)*

7. **What makes this project innovative?** *(Describe the key elements or approaches that will be new, changed, or adapted in your project. What distinguishes your project from similar projects that were already tested or implemented?)*

8. **What do you want to learn or better understand as a result of the Innovation project? Why are these goals prioritized?**

9. **How can learning from this Innovation project enhance our mental health system as a whole?**