

Community Wellbeing Grant

2026-27

Frequently Asked Questions

General Information

□ What is the Community Wellbeing Grant?

The Community Wellbeing Grant is for communities and groups in the cities of Claremont, La Verne and Pomona that are doing the vital work of maintaining or improving the wellbeing of their members. Through monetary grants and technical assistance, the CWB program is committed to strengthening the capacity of local communities to increase social connection and mental wellbeing.

□ Who does this grant serve?

This grant is for communities who work, serve, and support children, youth, and young adults ages 0-25 and underserved communities within the cities of Claremont, La Verne, and Pomona.

□ Are there changes to the Community Wellbeing Grant?

Yes, the Community Wellbeing Grant is now funded through the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA). It supports Early Intervention (EI) efforts that help identify individuals who may be showing early signs of behavioral health needs and assist them in getting support as early as possible.

Funded projects must incorporate **outreach, access and linkage to care, and/or early intervention services.**



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What is Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA)?

The Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) is California's updated framework for planning, funding, and delivering behavioral health services. Enacted through Proposition 1 in March 2024, BHSA updates and expands the 2004 Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to better meet current community needs.

This reform builds upon the foundation established by the MHSA, which introduced a dedicated funding source through 1% tax on personal income over \$1 million.

Who can apply?

Any community whose members primarily reside and/or work in Pomona, Claremont, and La Verne. For the purposes of this program, community is defined as "a group of people who know each other well enough that they provide support to each other and can act together." Due to the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Early Intervention (EI) state funding requirements, communities who have projects that work, and/or support people **ages 0-25** are highly encouraged to apply.

All applicants must be connected to a non-profit **501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor** who can support the administration of grant funds on behalf of the community group. This updated focus reflects BHSA's commitment to early, strengths-based support across the lifespan: promoting recovery, reducing risk factors, and expanding access.

Can a community focusing on children apply for a grant?

Yes, with adult support and supervision communities who work, serve, and/or support people ages 0-25 years old are encouraged to apply. Any community of young children should have an adult willing to guide the process and to serve as the project leader. who is responsible for implementing the project.

Do I need a Fiscal Sponsor?

Yes, all applicants must be connected to a non-profit 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor who can support the administration of grant funds on behalf of the community group. This updated focus reflects BHSA's commitment to early, strengths-based support across the lifespan: promoting recovery, reducing risk factors, and expanding access.

Is this grant only for helping those with severe and persistent mental illness?

No. The Community Wellbeing Grants are intended to focus on community efforts that promote emotional and behavioral wellbeing, not efforts that seek to treat mental illness. The focus is on wellbeing and early intervention, not treatment of mental illness.

Who are considered underserved populations under BHSA?

Under the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA), underserved populations are communities that face barriers to accessing mental health or substance use services.

Barriers may include cost, lack of insurance, language access, transportation, stigma, cultural gaps in services, or provider shortages.

Organizations should clearly describe the population they serve, the barriers they face, and how the proposed project will improve access to behavioral health services.

Can individuals apply?

No, this grant is intended for communities. For the purposes of this program, community is defined as “a group of people who know each other well enough that they provide support to each other and can act together.”

Can a current MHSA grantee apply with the same project for the upcoming BHSA grant? Would they be considered a returning applicant?

Yes, returning grantees may reapply with their current project, as it will be considered a new project under the BHSA grant. However, the project must align with the updated BHSA regulations. All proposals should demonstrate one or more of the grant priorities, including outreach, access and linkage to care, and/or early intervention services.

Do current grantees have to apply each year for the Community Wellbeing Grant?

Yes, current grantees are required to submit a new application each year and must follow all application requirements for each funding cycle. Please note that the Community Wellbeing Grant program has been extended for an additional two years.

Can multiple applications be submitted from the same organization?

Yes, organizations may submit multiple applications. However, each proposed project must be clearly distinct, with no overlap in services provided. Additionally, each application must identify different individuals in leadership roles, with the exception of the Fiscal Sponsor, which may remain the same across applications.

How much funding is available?

Communities can receive a grant up to \$25,000 to fund projects designed to improve the wellbeing of their members.

Are all funds awarded at once?

Once a grant is awarded and a contract approved, grantees will initially receive 25% of their awarded amount. The remainder of the funds will be distributed on a quarterly basis upon submission of the financial report and receipts.

Are there restrictions on spending?

Yes, grant funds may not be used for administrative expenses, including staff salaries or stipends for paid staff time. We want communities to show how this project is sustainable once one-time funds end.

Should we include in-kind contributions in the calculations of our budget?

Yes, you can list them in the appropriate section on the budget only if it applies towards the project you are applying for. You can identify what these donations will be and how they will apply to for the overall project.

What can grant funds be used for?

Funds can be applied towards any reasonable expense including activities, supplies, marketing, food, training, outreach, early intervention services or other expenses necessary to achieve the proposed outcomes.

The grant application must demonstrate a clear connection between the proposal activities and the expected impact of improved wellbeing among communities members. The funds might be used to implement the project, but now to incentivize membership in the community.

Do communities have to request the full \$25,000 for their projects?

No, communities are not required to request the full \$25,000. Applicants may request only the amount needed to support their project. The budget section of the application should clearly outline the requested funding and provide a detailed breakdown of all proposed expenses.

Can funding be used to incentivize participants and/or speakers?

Yes, limited incentives are allowed. Communities may use gift cards, with a maximum of \$500 allocated toward gift cards. Applicants may also include promotional items in their budget such as raffle prizes or giveaways. Cash incentives are not permitted. Stipends may be used to compensate speakers or trainers providing a one-time service.

How do I apply?

Visit our website www.tricitymha.ca.gov under the Community Wellbeing Program to download the Community Wellbeing Grant application.

What documents are required?

You must submit a complete application with original or electronic signatures from the Project Leader, Community Leader and Fiscal Sponsor. A copy of the Fiscal Sponsors 501(c)3 status. Applicants may attach supporting documents as part of their submission.

What is the deadline?

Monday, April 13, 2026 by 12:00pm (noon). Once electronic copy to Daisy Martinez dmatinez@tricitymha.ca.gov. Upon receiving the application, communities will receive a notice of receipt. Once communities submit their application, no changes can be made to the proposal.

Can I submit late?

No, incomplete or late proposals will not be accepted.

Do I need a leadership team?

Yes, applicants must designate a leadership team that includes a Community Leader, Project Leader, and Fiscal Sponsor. It is strongly recommended that these roles be filled by three different people. At least two individuals must be actively involved in the project.

How many grants will be awarded?

The number of grantees who will be awarded depends on the number of applications and the requested funding amount. The number of awarded grants vary each fiscal year.

Can one person serve in a leadership role across multiple applications?

No. Each application must list different individuals in leadership roles. If multiple applications are submitted, the only role that may remain the same across applications is the Fiscal Sponsor.

Can individuals over age 25 participate in the project, and should they be included in the demographics?

Yes, individuals over the age of 25 may participate in project activities. However, the majority of participants served should be within the 0–25 age range. All participants—including those over 25, as well as staff and volunteers—should be included in the demographics section of the application.



For More Information

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