



# Behavioral Health – Housing and Homelessness Services

*An Overview for the Behavioral Health Commission*  
06/17/26



**HEALTH AND HUMAN  
SERVICES AGENCY**  
**EL DORADO COUNTY**  
*Transforming Lives and Improving Futures*

## *Housing Services At a Glance. . .*

01



### **Housing & Disability Advocacy (HDAP)**

Disability benefits advocacy for homeless individuals

02



### **Home Safe Program**

APS-linked housing stability for elders & adults

03



### **BH Bridge Housing (BHBH)**

Interim housing for people with SMI/SUD

04



### **Medi-Cal Transitional Rent**

New mandatory Medi-Cal benefit for BH members

05



### **No Place Like Home (NPLH)**

PSH development — El Dorado Haven with Mercy Housing

06



### **Coordinated Entry System (CES)**

How El Dorado County connects people to resources

# Housing & Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP)

CDSS



## What It Does

- Outreach & case management for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness who are likely eligible for SSI/SSDI disability benefits
- Assists with disability benefit applications and appeals (Contract w/Maximus)
- Provides housing supports and financial assistance while awaiting benefit decisions



## Who It Serves

Homeless or at-risk individuals likely eligible for disability benefits (SSI/SSDI)



# Home Safe Program

CDSS



## Who It Serves

- APS clients (current or in intake process) who are experiencing — or at imminent risk of — homelessness
- Homelessness must be a result of elder/dependent adult abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or financial exploitation
- Adults 60+ (elder) or adults 18–59 with a disability (dependent adult)



## Housing Services

Short-term financial assistance, eviction prevention, landlord mediation, heavy cleaning to maintain safe housing, housing navigation, legal services



## APS Integration

Home Safe strengthens collaboration between APS agencies and the local homeless response system — services are NOT contingent on the outcome of an APS investigation



## Case Management

Housing-related intensive case management to address root causes and support ongoing stability — connects to resources in the community

# Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) Program

DHCS

Statewide investment (AB 179, 2022) to fund bridge housing settings — including emergency shelter, interim housing, rental assistance, and recuperative care — for people experiencing homelessness with serious SMI or SUD.



## Who It Serves

- Individuals experiencing homelessness with serious mental illness (SMI) and/or substance use disorder (SUD)

Priority: CARE Court participants



## What It Provides

- Emergency shelter, interim housing, rental assistance, recuperative care
- Supportive services: symptom management, housing navigation, recovery support
- Bridge to permanent housing while BH treatment needs are stabilized



## Program Structure

- Funded through DHCS to county Behavioral Health Agencies
- Behavioral Health Housing and Homelessness and Clinical staff partner to provide needed housing and supportive services

*Program Sunset: 06/30/2027*



**On the horizon...**



# Transitional Rent

A mandatory Medi-Cal benefit providing up to 6 months of rental assistance to members with behavioral health needs who are experiencing — or at risk of — homelessness.



## Effective Date

Mandatory for all Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans statewide as of January 1, 2026



## Policy Framework

Part of CalAIM Community Supports & the BH-CONNECT Medicaid waiver demonstration



## Administered By

CA Dept. of Health Care Services (DHCS) through Medi-Cal managed care plans (MCPs)

# Who Is Eligible?

Three criteria must ALL be met:

1



# How the Benefit Works

6

months maximum  
rental assistance

*per member per  
authorization*

Combined 12-month  
cap with Recuperative  
Care & STPHH



Covers rent in both interim and permanent housing settings



Payment rates reflect local rental costs; reimbursable ceilings set by DHCS county by county



Can be combined with other Community Supports (Housing Deposits, Tenancy Sustaining Services, etc.)

The Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) requires counties to commit to funding long-term housing interventions once the temporary (maximum 6-month) Transitional Rent period expires

# No Place Like Home (NPLH) Program

HCD

HCD program funding permanent supportive housing (PSH) for persons with serious mental illness who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness — with flexible, voluntary, individualized behavioral health services available to all tenants.

## Local Spotlight

### El Dorado Haven

Placerville, CA · Mercy Housing California

**Units:** 65 affordable apartments; incomes 20–60% AMI

**Reserved:** 10 units set-aside for NPLH leveraging Public Housing Authority (PHA) Project-Based Vouchers (PBV)

**Opens:** Groundbreaking March 2025 · Summer 2026



## NPLH General Eligibility

- ▶ Serious Mental Illness (SMI) — including adults with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression, or other qualifying diagnoses
- ▶ Currently homeless, chronically homeless, or at imminent risk of chronic homelessness
- ▶ In need of mental health services — does not need to be currently receiving them
- ▶ Enrolled in Medi-Cal or otherwise eligible for county Behavioral Health services
- ▶ Low-barrier — sobriety, criminal history, and treatment participation are NOT disqualifying factors

## HOW TO REFER



**Internal / FSP-Eligible:** Directly through El Dorado County Behavioral Health — FSP-eligible clients or anyone currently enrolled in BH programs can be referred



**Via Coordinated Entry (CES):** Referrals will be accepted through Tahoe Coalition for the Homeless (TCH) Front Door - standard CES intake and prioritization applies

# Coordinated Entry

*A community-wide intake & triage system that matches people to the right resources*

1



## Outreach & Access

Anyone at risk contacts a CES access point — in-person, by phone, or virtual. In El Dorado County, the 'Front Door' is Tahoe Coalition for the Homeless (TCH) at (530) 600-2822.

2



## Standardized Assessment

A trained staff member completes a standard VI-SPDAT or similar triage tool to score vulnerability and needs. Data is entered into HMIS.

3



## Prioritization & Matching

Highest-need individuals are matched first using a community-wide priority list. Matching considers household type, needs, and available resources.

4



## Referral to Programs

CES staff refer to available resources: shelter, rapid rehousing, PSH, Navigation Center, and other county programs.

5



## Housing Placement

Client is connected to housing and supportive services. Follow-up ensures successful placement; unhoused individuals remain on the prioritized list.

# Thank You

El Dorado County HHSA · Behavioral Health Division · June 2026

## Resources & Further Information

- ▶ Medi-Cal Transitional Rent (DHCS)  
[dhcs.ca.gov/calaim](https://dhcs.ca.gov/calaim)
- ▶ CalAIM Community Supports – Transitional Rent  
[dhcs.ca.gov/calaim-community-supports](https://dhcs.ca.gov/calaim-community-supports)
- ▶ BH Bridge Housing Program (DHCS)  
[dhcs.ca.gov/behavioral-health-bridge-housing](https://dhcs.ca.gov/behavioral-health-bridge-housing)
- ▶ Housing & Disability Advocacy Program (CDSS)  
[cdss.ca.gov/hdap](https://cdss.ca.gov/hdap)
- ▶ Home Safe Program (CDSS)  
[cdss.ca.gov/home-safe](https://cdss.ca.gov/home-safe)
- ▶ No Place Like Home Program (HCD)  
[hcd.ca.gov/grants-and-funding/programs-active/no-place-like-home-program](https://hcd.ca.gov/grants-and-funding/programs-active/no-place-like-home-program)
- ▶ El Dorado County Opportunity Knocks (EDOK) Continuum of Care (CoC)  
[El Dorado Homeless Continuum of Care](#)
- ▶ Tahoe Coalition for the Homeless (CES)  
[tahoecoalitionforthehomeless.org](https://tahoecoalitionforthehomeless.org)
- ▶ Mercy Housing California — El Dorado Haven (EDH)  
[El Dorado Haven | Mercy Housing](#)



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