

CYBHI 2023:
**Implementing
the Vision**

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Executive Summary



“

California is transforming youth behavioral health care like never before and setting an example for the nation and world. This past year, we’ve made tangible progress towards ensuring every child in California has access to comprehensive, best-in-class resources— knowing that while not every child will need clinical mental health services, all children will benefit from a collective culture of care that provides children and families with the tools and resources they need for a lifetime of wellness.”

— Jennifer Siebel Newsom, First Partner of California

California is taking the lead on youth behavioral health. At a time when youth nationwide are facing a [mental health crisis](#)—one that particularly impacts young people of color, LGBTQ+ youth and youth in under-resourced communities—our state is taking bold steps and raising the bar on how states can meet the needs of kids and families.

The [Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative \(CYBHI\)](#) is a five-year initiative to transform the way California meets the behavioral health needs of children, youth and families. The initiative serves as the core of the [Master Plan for Kids’ Mental Health](#), the State of California’s historic investment to redefine the way our child- and family-serving systems take on these challenges so that our young people can thrive.

This essential work is well underway, and with the support and contributions of partners across sectors and systems, it is gaining momentum.

The strategies that the CYBHI is implementing are laying the foundation and developing the infrastructure to support a more coordinated, youth-centered, equitable, prevention-oriented and accessible system, one in which young people can find the support they need when, where and in the way they need it most.

These efforts are driven by the CYBHI's core values, which we are striving to weave into every aspect of our work. We seek to create a behavioral health system that centers and advances **equity** for children, youth and families, particularly those who face the greatest systemic barriers to wellness and are disproportionately

impacted by behavioral health issues. This system must be **created for, with and by youth and families**, centering their needs, voices and perspectives, and it must **prioritize prevention and early intervention** while also meeting young people's immediate needs. Achieving these goals requires us to **integrate the efforts of our child-serving systems** under shared vision, shared goals and shared accountability.

Breaking down the silos separating our child-serving systems and uniting the efforts of health, education and other sectors takes time, and the progress we have seen to date shows that it is possible. The achievements that CYBHI made in 2023 are putting into place the building blocks, initial investments and program expansions that will create a more equitable system for our kids and families.



2023 Progress At A Glance

As of January 1, 2024

PARTNER ENGAGEMENT

2100+

organizations engaged,
including:

674 children, youth, and family
engagement/leadership/
advocacy

833 health, behavioral health,
county behavioral health,
health plans, and social
services

400 early childhood, K-12, and
higher education

2500+

attendees for 28 CYBHI
public webinars

300+

attendees for 12 CYBHI
department public
webinars

245

expert/key informant
interviews/meetings with
individual experts

149

working group meetings

82

public webinars and
presentations

Twenty Workstreams. Four Strategies. One Vision.

In 2023, CYBHI workstreams accelerated next-level planning and design, working with partners including youth and families. Several workstreams moved into implementation across four core strategies: **Workforce Training and Capacity, Behavioral Health Ecosystem Infrastructure, Coverage, and Public Awareness**. Each of these strategies saw major progress, launching critical new programs and initiatives while strengthening existing efforts statewide.

Select 2023 Workstream Highlights

WORKFORCE TRAINING AND CAPACITY

- Launched Safe Spaces: Trauma-Informed Training for Education and Early Care Settings.
- Launched a statewide Certified Wellness Coach marketing and outreach campaign.
- Awarded **\$264.6M+** to expand the behavioral health workforce through education and training.
- Completed the first summer pilot cohort of the Youth Mental Health Academy, with 156 students from underrepresented backgrounds/regions taking part.
- Partnered with Sacramento County Office of Education and Santa Clara County Office of Education to administer grant funds to all **58 county offices** of education and provide them with technical assistance needed to implement the multi-payer fee schedule.
- Through CalHope Student Support and School Initiative, supported counties in providing social-emotional learning (SEL) communities of practice and launched resources, trainings and technical assistance to district and school staff to support SEL infrastructure across all 58 counties.
- Executed a contract with The Children's Partnership, who convened an advisory board to inform the design of the peer-to-peer California High School Pilot program and issued a Request for Proposals to identify high schools for the High School Youth Peer-To-Peer Demonstration Pilot.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ECOSYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE

- Awarded **3 of 6 rounds** of grant funding for a total of **\$180.5 million** to scale evidence-based and community-defined evidence practices and issued two additional funding announcements pending awards in early 2024.
- Launched two Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platforms for children, youth and parents or caregivers in January 2024.
- Reviewed, approved and began implementing plans for all **10 counties** participating in the Youth Suicide Reporting and Crisis Response Pilot Program.
- Began disseminating grants to implement mindfulness, well-being and resilience supports via all **58 county offices** of education.
- Supported the implementation of **147 interventions** across the state that increase access to behavioral health services on or near school sites through the Student Behavioral Health Incentive Program.
- Under the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program, **16 projects** began construction as of December 2023.
- Launched a statewide Behavioral Health and eConsult Services program in January 2024, designed with input from national academic leaders and behavioral health and primary care experts.

COVERAGE

- Implemented Dyadic Services as a Medi-Cal-covered benefit beginning January 1, 2023.
- Developed and planned the launch of the statewide, multi-payer fee schedule for school-linked behavioral health services. Cohort 1 launched in January 2024.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

- Awarded **34 grants** to CBOs and tribal organizations to implement local youth suicide prevention efforts as part of the Focused Youth Suicide Prevention Media and Outreach Campaign.
- Developed strategies and tested messages for the Focused Youth Suicide Prevention Media and Outreach Campaign and the ACEs and Toxic Stress Awareness and Healing-Centered Campaign.
- Engaged **60 community partners** and created a Youth Co-Lab to inform the development of Public Education and Change Campaigns.
- Entered into partnership with Public Health Institute to administer the CBO award and oversight for **25 to 30 local-level grants** supporting Public Education and Change Campaigns.
- Partnered with Child Mind Institute to begin the production of a new video series to provide parents with resources and enhance their skills to support their children's mental health.



While there is much more to be done, the CYBHI is on track to build the programs and relationships that will realize our vision of a more equitable behavioral health system for California's children, youth and families.

This report provides a deeper overview of the substantial progress the CYBHI has made in 2023 and the efforts we are currently engaged in as of January 1, 2024.

Our Workstreams

The scale of the transformation we seek to achieve requires a systemic vision and a coordinated approach driven by the leadership, partnership and commitment of state agencies, counties, community-based organizations, local education agencies and a wide range of other partners across multiple sectors, including health and education.

The CYBHI is overseen by the California Health & Human Services Agency (CalHHS), and its efforts are made up of 20 workstreams strategically designed to achieve four core strategies:



WORKFORCE TRAINING AND CAPACITY

Creating a larger, more representative workforce supporting the emotional, mental and behavioral health of California's young people.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ECOSYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE

Developing and transforming the infrastructure supporting the behavioral health of our children, youth and families to ensure there is no wrong door for help.



COVERAGE

Creating coverage pathways to access behavioral health services.



PUBLIC AWARENESS

Reducing stigma and raising awareness around emotional, mental, and behavioral health using culturally and linguistically appropriate campaigns.

Each workstream is managed by one or more CalHHS departments or offices that have deep connections to the issues and people it serves. These include:

- **Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)**
- **Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI)**
- **Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC)**
- **California Department of Public Health (CDPH)**
- **Office of the California Surgeon General (CA-OSG)**

Workforce Training and Capacity		Behavioral Health Ecosystem Infrastructure		Coverage	Public Awareness
Certified Wellness Coaches (HCAI)	Trauma-Informed Educator Training (CA-OSG)	School-Linked Partnership and Capacity Grants (DHCS)	Student Behavioral Health Incentive Program (DHCS)	Enhanced Medi-Cal Benefits – Dyadic Services (DHCS)	Public Education and Change Campaigns (CDPH)
Broad Behavioral Health Workforce Capacity (HCAI)	Youth Mental Health Academy (HCAI)	Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (DHCS)	Youth Suicide Reporting and Crisis Response Pilot Program (CDPH)		ACEs and Toxic Stress Awareness and Healing-Centered Campaign (CA-OSG)
Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platform and Next Generation Digital Supports (DHCS)				Statewide Multi-Payer Fee Schedule for School-Linked Behavioral Health Services (DHCS/DMHC)	Focused Youth Suicide Prevention Media and Outreach Campaign (CDPH)
Healthcare Provider Training and e-Consult (DHCS)					
Scaling Evidence-Based and Community-Defined Evidence Practices (DHCS)					
CalHOPE Student Services (DHCS)					Parent Support Video Series (DHCS)
Mindfulness, Resilience and Well-Being Supports for Children, Youth and Parents (DHCS)					
Youth Peer-to-Peer Support Program (DHCS)					

A group of people are sitting around a table, looking at a laptop and a smartphone. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. A purple rectangular box is centered over the image, containing white text.

Workforce Training and Capacity

Broad Behavioral Health Workforce Capacity

Managed by: Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI)

Workforce Training
and Capacity

About

What it is: The CYBHI's [Broad Behavioral Health Workforce Capacity](#) efforts seek to improve young people's access to high-quality behavioral health services by building and expanding a culturally and linguistically competent workforce through education and training.

Funding allocated: \$426.75 million

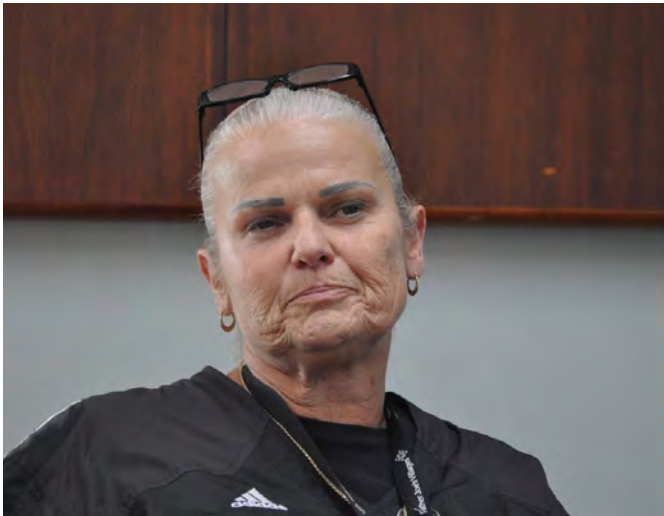


Image source: San Diego Uptown News, sdnews.com

“

When I received this scholarship, I just broke down and cried for several hours. So many incarcerated people are there because of substance use disorder and undiagnosed mental health problems. If I can help people make better decisions and guide them to a better life, I'm all in.”

— Kimberly Knopik, Allied Health Scholarship Recipient

2023 by the numbers:

\$264.6M+
awarded

200+
organizations supporting behavioral health professionals and students have been supported by this workstream's funding

Values in action: The CYBHI's Broad Behavioral Health Workforce Capacity efforts are investing in scholarships, loan repayments, recruitment and expansive training to create a workforce that is more reflective of California's diverse communities. Its work fills professional gaps while also promoting an emerging workforce that is culturally and linguistically adept, enriched with lived experiences and can better understand and serve the needs of California's children, youth, and families.

Broad Behavioral Health Workforce Capacity

Managed by: Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI)

Workforce Training
and Capacity

Highlights:

- January 2023 – Awarded \$59.4 million to establish a new Bachelor of Arts in Social Work and Bachelor of Social Work in seven institutions and establish or expand Master of Social Work programs in 16 education institutions throughout the state.
- January 2023 – Awarded over \$31.9 million in scholarship and student loan repayment programs to support 1,223 healthcare students and professionals throughout California.
- March 2023 – Awarded \$33.7 million to UC Berkeley Center for Social Work Education to provide behavioral health training and post-graduate fellowships for 892 students.
- March 2023 – Awarded \$109 million to support behavioral health providers at 134 community-based organizations.
- May 2023 – Awarded over \$23 million in Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Earn and Learn grants to six organizations that will provide education and paid job experience for 475 SUD counselors.
- August 2023 – The Behavioral Health Scholarship (BHSP) application cycle closed.
- October 2023 – The Health Professionals Pathway Program (HPPP) and Justice System Involved Youth Program application cycles closed.

Looking ahead: HCAI will roll out additional funding opportunities including: another BHSP cycle in April 2024, Social Work Education Capacity Expansion Program and Psychiatric Education Capacity Expansion Program cycles in Early 2024.

Workstream goals:

- Establish earn-and-learn models and training for the workforce that serves justice- and system-involved youth, building the behavioral health workforce pipeline, and increasing the diversity and the overall number of behavioral health providers serving children and youth.
- Improve access to and quality of behavioral health services by increasing the number of behavioral health professionals and evolving their training.

Safe Spaces: Trauma-Informed Training for Education and Early Care Settings

Managed by: Office of the California Surgeon General (CA-OSG)

Workforce Training
and Capacity

About

What it is: [Safe Spaces](#) is a free, online training designed to help early care providers, TK-12 educators and school staff recognize and respond to trauma and stress in children.

Funding allocated: \$1 million



Dr. Diana Ramos with education consultant Ricky Robertson

“

I found this course to be insightful in more ways than I anticipated. I believe in my heart this is part of a dire movement to support humanity in the shift from surviving to thriving authentically and in a healthy visceral manner!”

— Safe Spaces Participant

2023 by the numbers:

7.12.23

launched Safe Spaces training

40+

state and regional partners supported launch announcement

1,500+

completed the training

Values in action: Safe Spaces meets California’s youth where they are, integrating the efforts of our mental health and education systems so that students can get the support they need to thrive in the classroom and beyond. Launched in 2023, the training helps school and childcare personnel understand and identify how stress and trauma impact their students, enabling them to foster safe, supportive relationships, better support students and create learning environments that foster well-being and academic success.

Safe Spaces: Trauma-Informed Training for Education and Early Care Settings

Managed by: Office of the California Surgeon General (CA-OSG)

Highlights:

- Released Safe Spaces online training modules in English and Spanish.
- Created a [Safe Spaces](#) training webpage.
- Produced a [promotional video](#) highlighting features of the training and testimonials from members of the Expert Review Panel.
- Developed a Safe Spaces communications toolkit to support partners in promoting the training.
- Engaged more than 200 users in Safe Spaces beta testing.
- Launched a Safe Spaces “Take the Training” promotion, reaching more than 2 million people.
- Presented at 10+ schools, early care sites and conferences.



Partner Communications Toolkit includes a video, PowerPoint deck, flyer, social media and newsletter blurbs.

Workstream goals:

- Raise awareness of the impact of stress and trauma on health, development and learning.
- Provide mindsets and strategies to give early care providers and educators the tools to help young people experiencing an overactivated stress response feel safe, secure, and ready to engage and learn.

Looking ahead: In 2024, a Safe Spaces “Educator-to-Educator” promotion will launch using the voices of those who have implemented the training, and evaluation and progress reports will be shared in Spring and Summer 2024.

Certified Wellness Coaches

Managed by: Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI)

Workforce Training
and Capacity

About

What it is: The [Certified Wellness Coach](#) is a new profession that is helping increase our state's overall capacity to support the behavioral health and well-being of California's children and youth in a wide variety of settings, such as schools and community-based organizations.

Funding allocated: \$338.25 million

“

It's an opportunity to grow your career in the behavioral health field, gain a lot of meaningful experience, make connections to other professionals in the field, help a youth in your community, and figure out what type of setting you may be interested in working the long term.”

– California Alliance of Child and Family Services



Values in action: The Certified Wellness Coach profession was created as part of the CYBHI's efforts to support the development of a larger, more representative behavioral health workforce. Young people will be able to find increased support from people who they can connect with, who speak their language, understand their communities, and work in places that are convenient to youth such as schools, community-based organizations, and health providers. Through wellness promotion, screening, and crisis referral, Certified Wellness Coaches embody CYBHI's endeavor to render behavioral health support more inclusive and readily available to youth, bridging the crucial gap between need and accessibility.

Highlights:

- Development of HCAI-Designated Education Programs are underway at several California Community Colleges and California State Universities, with more being added on a rolling basis.
- Made key connections within the public education system, including school districts, county offices of education, and education-affiliated community-based organizations to discuss pipeline opportunities and develop plans for integration of Certified Wellness Coaches into the workforce.
- Launched an extensive statewide Certified Wellness Coach marketing and outreach campaign in California's diverse communities, to highlight opportunities and resources for potential employers, prospective applicants, parents and youth, and the general public.
- Created a [new website](#) and a [community narrative video](#) featuring key stakeholders articulating the necessity of Certified Wellness Coaches, their potential role, and the value they bring in supporting youth well-being and mental health.
- Secured a vendor to build out statewide certification platform.
- Plans to have Certified Wellness Coaches added to the multi-payer fee schedule in early 2025 are underway, which will allow for reimbursement of services through Medi-Cal and commercial insurance in school-linked and school-based settings.
- Developing a Certified Wellness Coach Employer Support Grant program to provide resources to organizations to integrate Certified Wellness Coaches into their teams and enhance services for children and youth, to be launched January, 2024.

Looking ahead: HCAI is launching the Certified Wellness Coach certification portal, employer support grant program and scholarship opportunities; designating CCC and CSU Certified Wellness Coach training programs; and supporting employers with workforce development and implementation.

Workstream goals:

- Build a workforce with knowledge of prevention and early intervention services that can support the behavioral health needs of California children and youth.
- Help create a more diverse and representative behavioral health workforce.
- Serve as a new, certified role for undergraduate degree holders keen on addressing young people's behavioral health needs, filling a crucial workforce gap between certificate-level positions requiring postgraduate-level clinical degrees; e.g., Masters in Social Work.

About

What it is: The [Youth Mental Health Academy](#) is a community-based career development program for high school students that takes place over the course of 14 months and includes mentorship, paid project-based learning, and paid internships in the mental health field. The Youth Mental Health Academy is administered by [The Child Mind Institute](#).

Funding allocated: \$25 million



Image source: The Child Mind Institute

“

With this program, I learned that I could be a researcher myself and it made me feel really confident in my scientific skills and my knowledge in psychology and I cannot thank this program enough.”

– Lizbeth, 12th-grade participant

2023 by the numbers:

156 students completed the pilot summer academy

100% of participants were from underrepresented backgrounds/regions

73.9% of participants were “Very Likely” going to **pursue a mental health career**

90% of participants reported an increased understanding of mental health careers

89% of participants felt confident in taking the necessary steps to **achieve career goals**

Values in action: The Youth Mental Health Academy fosters diversity in the mental health field, reflecting California's communities. Through mentorship and paid training for high school students in marginalized communities, it aims to close equity gaps, offering opportunities while augmenting the state's behavioral health workforce. This initiative not only paves the way for underrepresented youth into mental health careers but also envisions a future with high-quality mental health services delivered by a workforce that understands and represents the community it serves.

Highlights:

- The five-week pilot summer academy cohort operated at four college campuses across Los Angeles.
- The Academy convened a capstone event with 400 community stakeholders and participants. The event showcased student research projects exploring topics related to health inequity, mental health disorders and trauma.
- Developed year-round programming that will offer a monthly Zoom seminar on topics such as substance use prevention, bullying, gender, racism and neurodiversity in mental health.

Looking ahead: The current cohort will continue, culminating in hands-on paid internships in the summer. New applications will be accepted in the spring with the second cohort starting in the summer of 2024, and a third and final cohort will begin in the summer of 2025.

Workstream goals:

- Identify and support the early career development of 2,500 highly talented and culturally diverse California high school students interested in behavioral health careers.
- Provide community-based career development to rising high school juniors and seniors from structurally marginalized communities through paid project-based learning and paid summer internships.

CalHOPE Student Support and School Initiative

Managed by: Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

Workforce Training
and Capacity

About

What it is: [CalHOPE Student Support](#) enables California's schools to support proactive and early intervention and to collectively respond to the social, emotional, and mental health needs of students, families and educators, providing training to teachers and school staff, utilizing existing educational Communities of Practice to effectively provide counseling through social-emotional learning (SEL) environments. CalHOPE Schools Initiative provides additional support materials, such as curriculum, teacher guides, classroom materials, resource page, forums for educators, parents and youth, and mini professional development modules.

Funding allocated: \$45 million



Photo from CalHOPE Schools:
A Trusted Space®

2023 by the numbers:

6,000+ educators and school staff participated in monthly Community of Practice virtual and in-person sessions

500+ educators were enrolled in the SEL foundations course

70% of counties reported successful efforts to deliver resources, trainings, and technical assistance to district/school staff

Values in action: CalHOPE Student Support is a youth-centered initiative that leverages California's existing support network, enabling leaders from all 58 County Offices of Education (COEs) to participate in statewide SEL communities of practice, which aim to build leadership to strengthen SEL in schools across the state. Recognizing the impact of stress, trauma, anxiety and other challenges, CalHOPE Schools Initiative provides additional support materials. By partnering with County Offices of Education, the CalHOPE Student Support program serves communities in culturally competent ways and in partnership with youth.

Highlights:

- Increased partnerships among county leaders through the CalHOPE statewide community of practice and within regional districts/schools.
- Delivered resources such as A Trusted Space: Redirecting Grief to Growth, Angst: Building Resilience, and Stories of Hope to districts and schools – focusing on enabling SEL.
- Enabled counties to serve their local communities, for example:
 - » **Alameda** – Hosted ~1000-person Community School Summit.
 - » **Tuolumne** – Hosted ~400-person event for parents (Not My Kid: Mental Health Tools Every Parent Needs).
 - » **San Diego** – Helped organize ~100-person Mental Health Leadership Exchange event, which was put on by high schoolers, for high schoolers.

Looking ahead: DHCS will continue to promote video and co-curricular tools for schools across California.

Workstream goals:

- Build a shared understanding and foundation for SEL environments in schools across the state.
- Build a statewide network and infrastructure that allows COEs to share best practices and build collective capacity (building the capacity of our capacity builders).
- Create, vet, and share high-quality resources and tools.
- Showcase successful SEL efforts in COEs, districts, and schools.
- Help educators, students, and families recognize the impact stress, trauma, anxiety, and other challenges have on our mental health and how, together, we can strategically employ the necessary coping skills to create resilience within ourselves and within our community.

A young man and woman are sitting on concrete steps, smiling and talking to each other. The man is on the left, wearing a grey hoodie and dark pants. The woman is on the right, wearing a grey hoodie and light blue jeans. The background is a light-colored wall with a door. The entire image has a blue tint.

Behavioral Health Ecosystem Infrastructure

Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platforms & Next Generation Digital Supports

Managed by: Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

Behavioral Health
Ecosystem
Infrastructure

About

What it is: In partnership with Brightline and Kooth, DHCS launched the [Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platforms](#) for California's children, youth, and families. Designed with input from more than 1,000 unique and diverse stakeholders, the two web- and app-based platforms – **BrightLife Kids** for parents and caregivers, young children, and adolescents, and **Soluna** for teens and young adults – will offer all California residents, regardless of insurance coverage, free one-on-one support with live coaches, a library of multimedia resources, wellness exercises and peer communities moderated by trained behavioral health professionals to ensure the appropriateness of content and the safety of all users. These new platforms will complement existing services offered by health plans, counties and schools by providing additional care options and resources for California parents and caregivers, children, youth and young adults. DHCS also partnered with Child Mind Institute to develop next-generation digital support strategies, such as augmented reality tools, to enhance service delivery. These tools will go through extensive testing before they are made available to children, youth and families in 2026. Visit CalHOPE.org to find out more or to share these resources with youth and families.

Funding allocated: \$607.7 million (\$532.7M virtual services platform; \$75M Next Generation Digital Supports)

“

I really liked the colors, design and the starry-night theme of the app. I felt like the user interface was really easy to navigate and very enticing. The metaphor of mental health goals being constellations really stood out to me because I had never thought of comparing the two but I like the idea. I'm definitely curious to keep exploring.”

– Youth interviewee



Image source: Kooth

2023 by the numbers:

1000+ active youth users on 13–25 platform soft-launch in Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties

1000+ stakeholders engaged to inform the platform design

500+ children and youth engaged to help inform design and product decisions

Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platforms and Next Generation Digital Supports

Managed by: Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

Behavioral Health
Ecosystem
Infrastructure

Values in action: The platform, designed by and for youth, delivers digital coaching and wellness supports, including age-appropriate, equitable resources tailored to diverse communities and multimedia content to meet the unique needs of California’s children, youth, and families. This initiative transcends geographical barriers, emphasizing resource availability regardless of location, and aligns with the goal to offer timely and relevant support in a familiar, virtual environment.



Highlights:

- Launched Behavioral Health Services Platforms in January 2024.
- Engaged stakeholders in several ways (e.g., surveys, working sessions) to inform the platforms’ design.
- Selected vendors with youth input.
- Executed contracts with the vendors for each of the youth platforms – Brightline (ages 0-12 and caregivers) and Kooth (ages 13-25).
- Executed a contract with Child Mind Institute to develop next-generation digital supports.

Looking ahead: DHCS will continue to monitor rollout of the platforms, focusing on driving adoption and working with vendors to ensure a high-quality user experience for all Californians ages 0-25 and their parents or caregivers.

Workstream goals:

- Improve equity and access to free digital behavioral health services for children and youth throughout the state.
- Ensure Soluna is centered on the youth perspective (i.e., built by youth, for youth) and BrightLife Kids is centered on parents and caregivers.
- Ensure the safety and security of the platforms and deliver age-appropriate content, as applicable, self-service tools, peer-to-peer moderated forums, 1:1 coaching via in-app chat, video visits and by telephone and care navigation support to help youth and families get connected to community-based supports when they need assistance connecting to care options.
- Develop next-generation digital support tools to enhance care delivery and improve outcomes for children, youth, and families.

About

What it is: Through a partnership with the University of California, San Francisco Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Program (USCF CAPP), the [Behavioral Health eConsult Service](#) will provide pediatricians, primary care physicians and other practitioners (e.g., school-based services providers) access to consultation support from licensed behavioral health professionals. In addition to providing remote and real-time consultation support with behavioral health clinical experts, it will offer access to behavioral health resources, tools and supports, including trainings to strengthen the workforce and improve the capacity of primary care providers and pediatricians to provide behavioral health treatment to children, youth, and young adults.

Funding allocated: \$155 million

Themes for eConsult platform services identified by stakeholders



Asynchronous eConsults

Technology-enabled to specialists for asynchronous response to questions.



Warm Line

Specialists are accessible for real-time conversations with providers.



Support to PCPs for Care Coordination

Centralized repository of care-coordination materials and case-based support for care coordination during eConsult and Warm Line consultations.

2023 by the numbers:

150+

pediatricians surveyed about eConsult services needs and design

50+

experts interviewed

50+

academic papers / publications reviewed

50+

Think Tank members engaged

Values in action: Behavioral health consultation (e.g., eConsult) services enhance the capacity of primary care providers and pediatricians to deliver behavioral health care to children and youth in the primary care practice setting. This initiative equips healthcare professionals with expert support, fostering a responsive health ecosystem and improving equitable access to quality care. By bolstering the skills and capabilities of primary care providers, eConsult services significantly contribute to a stronger, more effective behavioral health workforce in California.

Highlights:

- Launched a statewide Behavioral Health and eConsult Services program in January 2024, designed with input from national academic leaders and behavioral health and primary care experts.
- Formed an expert working group to advise and inform the development of the eConsult platform.
- Completed a process to identify a technology services vendor to support the statewide launch of the eConsult service.
- Finalized and executed contract with UCSF.

Looking ahead: DHCS will work with UCSF to continue a successful rollout of the eConsult service across the state, including launching a new e-Consult portal, asynchronous consultation support, and learning management system in 2024.

Workstream goals:

- Connect pediatricians, primary care physicians, and other providers to behavioral health professionals to receive consultation and guidance when providing behavioral health care.
- Create learning opportunities for primary care and behavioral health professionals.
- Improve access to behavioral health tools, supports, and resources for primary care providers and pediatricians.
- Release statewide eConsult virtual portal to provide live and asynchronous BH consults and warmline support.

Scaling Evidence-Based and Community-Defined Evidence Practices

Managed by: Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

Behavioral Health
Ecosystem
Infrastructure



ROUND 1

Parent/caregiver support programs and practices



ROUND 2

Trauma-informed programs and practices



ROUND 3

Early childhood wraparound services



ROUND 4

Youth-driven programs



ROUND 5

Early intervention programs and practices



ROUND 6

Community-defined evidence programs and practices

About

What it is: The [evidence-based practices \(EBP\)](#) and [community-defined evidence practices \(CDEP\) grant program](#) aims to improve children and youth behavioral health by leveraging practices with robust evidence for effectiveness and prioritizing impact on racial equity and sustainability. Toward that goal, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will disburse grant funding to community-based organizations, schools or school districts, faith-based organizations, child care centers, providers, hospitals and clinics to build capacity and capabilities to deliver to communities in need.

Funding allocated: \$429 million

2023 by the numbers:

Awarded **\$180.5 million** across **325** grantees in three rounds of grants

Round 1 - **\$30.5M** of grants awarded across **63** organizations

Round 2 - **\$100M** of grants awarded across **193** organizations

Round 4 - **\$50M** of grants awarded across **69** organizations

Award announcements for Rounds 3 and 5 expected in early 2024

Values in action: This historic investment to scale EBPs and CDEPs demonstrates the state's commitment to nurturing a more equitable and sustainable behavioral health ecosystem for California's diverse and often underserved communities. By scaling EBPs and CDEPs throughout the state, DHCS aims to improve access to critical behavioral health interventions, including those focused on prevention, early intervention and resiliency/recovery for children and youth, with a specific focus on children and youth who are from the following groups: Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and/or the LGBTQIA+ community.

Scaling Evidence-Based and Community-Defined Evidence Practices

Managed by: Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

Behavioral Health
Ecosystem
Infrastructure

Highlights:

- Released a request for applications for round 1-5.
- Awarded \$180.5 million in funding across rounds 1, 2, and 4, focused on parent and caregiver support programs, trauma-informed programs, and youth-driven programs.
- Executed contract with grant third-party administrator California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions.

Looking ahead: DHCS will be awarding round 3 and 5 grants and releasing the round 6 RFA.

Workstream goals:

- Improve timely access to accessible, high-quality, appropriate, evidence-based (including community-defined evidence) care for all children and youth.
- Maximize impact and reduce disparities for all children and youth with an emphasis on programs and practices that focus on marginalized communities.
- Incorporate youth and family voices to ensure that the selected programs and practices resonate with a diverse audience.
- Focus on the upstream continuum of care to reduce the risk of significant behavioral health concerns in the future.

Mindfulness, Resilience and Well-Being Supports for Children, Youth and Parents

Managed by: Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

Behavioral Health
Ecosystem
Infrastructure



About

What it is: In partnership with the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE), the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is distributing \$65 million among California's 58 County Office of Education (COEs) to promote local [wellness](#), [mindfulness](#), [resilience and well-being](#) programs that support teachers and students in TK-12 schools. An additional \$10 million is being utilized to help scale parent and family support programs across the state.

Funding allocated: \$75 million

2023 by the numbers:

57 memorandums of understanding (MOUs) completed with individual counties

Values in action: The grants aim to support the adoption of and equitable access to evidence-based mindfulness, resilience and well-being tools, resources, and programs for teachers, youth, parents and families. To succeed in the overall mission of providing localized SEL support, this work is centered on the needs of young people to promote their well-being and tackle ongoing inequities.

Highlights:

- Executed subcontract with Kelvin, which will provide a SEL pulse tool to California schools at no cost to the school.
- Finalized the UC Berkeley SEL Ambassadors' Course for 24-25 school year.
- **Looking ahead:** DHCS will continue implementing SEL activities with all 58 counties statewide and facilitate the Social Emotional Learning and Wellness Conference later in the year.

Workstream goals:

- Support schools, districts, and COEs with the adoption of evidence-based tools, resources, and programs that support equitable access to mental health and wellness for students, families, and staff.
- Create new mindfulness-centered learning modules, facilitator guides, and workbooks, and provide stipends to facilitate engagement in module-based professional learning.
- Provide COEs with access to high-quality data that provides real-time, actionable information about student well-being while also measuring the impact of, and informing the improvement of, SEL, mindfulness, and wellness programming in school.

Youth Peer-to-Peer Support Program

Managed by: Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

Behavioral Health
Ecosystem
Infrastructure

About

What it is: The [Youth Peer-to-Peer Support Program](#) is an innovative collaboration between the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and The Children's Partnership (TCP), awarding \$8 million in grants to initiate peer-to-peer support programs in up to eight high schools across diverse Californian communities. This pilot initiative focuses on grades 9-12, aiming to establish and standardize best practices for peer-to-peer mental and behavioral health support systems within the school environment.

Funding allocated: \$10 million



Image source: The Children's Partnership

2023 by the numbers:

6

listening sessions were hosted

50+

diverse, representative youth from across the state were engaged

Values in action: Peer support in California high schools is a key strategy for promoting mental health resilience and well-being among adolescents. This program empowers students to offer direct, relatable support to their peers, reducing stigma and fostering a compassionate community. By embedding these supportive structures in the educational system it lays the groundwork for statewide peer-to-peer mental health strategies, enhancing empathy, resilience, and solidarity among youth.

Highlights:

- Executed contract between DHCS and The Children's Project (TCP).
- Convened an advisory panel to inform grant design.
- Executed subcontract with Youth Leadership Institute for youth outreach.
- **Looking ahead:** Releasing request for applications (RFA) for grants to eight high schools to conduct peer-to-peer support programs in Q1 2024.

Workstream goals:

- Define best practices and develop statewide standards for peer-to-peer support programs.
- Increase equity and diversity while promoting peer to peer supports for youth.

About

What it is: The child-and-youth-focused efforts of the [Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program's](#) (BHCIP) Round 4 aim to expand the continuum of behavioral health treatment and services for Californians aged 25 and under, including pregnant and postpartum women, their children, transition-age youth and their families.

Funding allocated: \$480.5 million



Kedren's Children Village Conceptual Exterior Layouts.
Image source: : Kedren

“

Thanks to the support of the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program, we can now build and deliver on the promise of a 'one-stop' village care model set by our founders.”

– Kedren CEO Dr. John H. Griffith

Values in action: BHCIP is a broader initiative with several funding rounds by DHCS aimed at enhancing California's behavioral health system by addressing various challenges. BHCIP's Round 4, with funding from the CYBHI, specifically targets individuals under 25, addressing the unique challenges they face. The round invests in infrastructure that fosters a spectrum of services for youth—from wellness centers to crisis stabilization units—and nurtures inclusive, accessible, and supportive environments so that all Californian youth and families have the opportunity to thrive.

Highlights:

- \$480.5 million awarded.
- 52 child- and youth-focused projects funded, which support:
 - » 509 new inpatient treatment beds, 76,977 new treatment slots.
- Out of the 52 awarded projects, 4 tribal entities were awarded.
- 16 projects began construction as of December 2023.
- **Looking ahead:** 14 additional projects are projected to break ground in the first quarter of 2024, and 16 projects are currently on track for completion in 2024.

Workstream goals:

- Invest in behavioral health and community care options that advance racial equity.
- Seek geographic equity of behavioral health and community care options.
- Address urgent gaps in the care continuum for people with behavioral health conditions.
- Ensure care can be provided in the least restrictive settings to support community integration, choice, and autonomy.

School-Linked Partnership and Capacity Grants

Managed by: Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

Behavioral Health
Ecosystem
Infrastructure

What resources are available to COEs/LEAs to implement the CYBHI fee schedule?

Building Operational Readiness



Expand provider capacity



Develop critical partnerships



Build necessary infrastructure

Image source: [CYBHI Fee Schedule introduction video](#)

About

What it is: The [School-Linked Partnership and Capacity Grants](#) program will provide \$550 million to support California's educational system. This funding aims to improve fee-schedule readiness (i.e., increase the number of LEAs who meet fee schedule's operational requirements) and expand access by increasing availability, equity, and range of behavioral health services.

Funding allocated: \$550 million (~\$400M toward TK-12 grants and ~\$150M toward higher education grants)

2023 by the numbers:

100% (58) of COEs engaged

5 workgroup meetings held

Multiple CYBHI fee schedule webinars hosted

~350 educational partners and stakeholders (including youth) engaged

Values in action: The School-Linked Partnership and Capacity Grants are a one-time investment enabling educational entities to build the necessary capacity, infrastructure, and partnerships needed to achieve a long-term and sustainable funding model. It will support fee schedule readiness to ensure increased access to behavioral health services and the expansion of service delivery by increasing capacity through training and development of infrastructure. The investment demonstrates California's commitment to early intervention and comprehensive support systems by channeling one-time funding toward a sustainable funding model.

School-Linked Partnership and Capacity Grants

Managed by: Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

Behavioral Health
Ecosystem
Infrastructure

Highlights:

- Created potential grant allocation model for TK-12 schools.
- Worked with COEs across the state to design a granting framework.
- Executed a contract with K-12 grant administrators, Sacramento County Office of Education and Santa Clara County Office of Education.
- Kicked off partnership and executed contracts with Sacramento County Office of Education and Santa Clara County Office of Education to administer grant funds to all 58 county offices of education and provide them with technical assistance needed to implement the fee schedule.
- Aligned granting timeline with fee-schedule rollout to promote support.

Looking ahead: DHCS and SCOE will begin disseminating grant dollars in mid-2024 to county offices of education.

Workstream goals:

- Increase the number of Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) who meet the operational readiness requirements needed to join the behavioral health provider network and utilize the fee schedule. This will ensure that one-time funds are used in a way that promotes long-term sustainability.
- Increase availability, equity, and range of behavioral health services in schools or school-linked settings by augmenting LEAs' capabilities and capacity. This provides an opportunity for educational entities to increase capacity and expand service delivery in the nearer term. Similarly, investments in the systems around school-linked services can help expand access to behavioral health care in schools.

Student Behavioral Health Incentive Program

Managed by: Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

Behavioral Health
Ecosystem
Infrastructure

About

What it is: The [Student Behavioral Health Incentive Program \(SBHIP\)](#) seeks to address behavioral health access barriers for Medi-Cal students through targeted interventions that increase access to preventive, early intervention or other behavioral health services provided by school-affiliated behavioral health providers for TK-12 children in public schools.

Funding allocated: \$388.99 million



“

It is important to note that the relationship being established between the [Local Educational Agencies (LEAs)] and CenCal Health is in and of itself, very significant... This program builds the foundation for a strong partnership focused on improving the health of students.”

– CenCal Health, reporting on their work in Santa Barbara County, June 2023 SBHIP Bi-Quarterly Report on Targeted Intervention 16 – Building Stronger Partnerships

2023 by the numbers:

As of November 2023 the program has engaged:

23 health plans (23 of 23 Medi-Cal managed care plans) across all **58** California counties

57 County Offices of Education (COEs)

332 Local Educational Agencies (LEAs)

58 County Behavioral Health Departments

500 stakeholders through SBHIP office hours

Student Behavioral Health Incentive Program

Managed by: Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

Behavioral Health
Ecosystem
Infrastructure

Values in action: Early identification and treatment through school-affiliated behavioral health services can reduce emergency room visits, crisis situations, inpatient stays and other high-cost placements. Schools are a critical point of access for these preventive and early-intervention behavioral health services. SBHIP seeks to provide additional avenues to access behavioral health services in school and school-affiliated settings, which are critical for improving children's mental health outcomes.

Highlights:

- 147 Targeted Interventions (TIs) are being implemented across the State.
- Approved 352 deliverables, including:
 - » 58 Needs Assessments: Identify the behavioral health needs, population disparities, and service delivery gaps and barriers within a county.
 - » 147 Project Plans: Outline selected TIs to address the behavioral health needs, gaps, and barriers identified in the Needs Assessment.
 - » 147 Bi-Quarterly Reports: Communicate project implementation status, challenges encountered, and any changes at regular intervals throughout the duration of SBHIP.
- Assisted in smooth transition of SBHIP responsibilities in counties that experienced MCP changes due to the 2024 Medi-Cal re-procurement process.
- Created a [Behavioral Health Resource Repository](#) to promote ongoing awareness and engagement of SBHIP stakeholders with other CYBHI programs.

Looking ahead: Continuing distribution of incentive payments and implementation of targeted interventions.

Workstream goals:

- Break down silos and improve coordination of child and adolescent behavioral health services for those enrolled in Medi-Cal through increased communication with schools, school-affiliated programs, managed care providers, counties, and mental health providers.
- Increase non-specialty services on or near school campuses.
- Increase the number of TK-12 students enrolled in Medi-Cal receiving behavioral health services provided by schools, school-affiliated providers, county behavioral health departments, and county offices of education.
- Address health equity gaps, inequalities and disparities in access to behavioral health services.

Youth Suicide Reporting and Crisis Response Pilot Program

Managed by: California Department of Public Health (CDPH)

Behavioral Health
Ecosystem
Infrastructure

About

What it is: The [Youth Suicide Reporting and Crisis Response Pilot Program](#) is a program to develop and test models for rapidly reporting and comprehensively responding to youth suicides and suicide attempts at the county level by providing crisis services and follow-up supports within school and community settings.

Funding allocated: \$35 million



“

With this pilot, we can expand and strengthen our increasing focus on preventing and responding to youth suicide and suicide attempts. By developing partnerships with community partners, nonprofits, parents and the school system, our young people and their families have continuous and integrated support every step of the way.”

– Nora Hana, Director for Comprehensive Health, San Joaquin County Office of Education

2023 by the numbers:

10 counties selected to participate: Alameda, El Dorado, Humboldt, Kern, Los Angeles, Riverside, Sacramento, San Diego, San Joaquin, and Solano.

Values in action: The Youth Suicide Reporting and Crisis Response Pilot Program strives to provide equitable, timely and culturally responsive services for youth, bolstering local suicide prevention and postvention strategies. By enhancing reporting and crisis response systems, the program aspires to prevent further suicides and attempts, showcasing a profound commitment to safeguarding youth well-being.

Youth Suicide Reporting and Crisis Response Pilot Program

Managed by: California Department of Public Health (CDPH)

Behavioral Health
Ecosystem
Infrastructure

Highlights:

- All 10 county implementation plans have been reviewed, approved, and counties have begun conducting activities.
- Selected UCLA as the independent evaluator.
- The Center for Applied Research Solutions (CARS) was chosen to provide in-depth training and technical assistance to the pilot program counties.
- Began hosting weekly topical webinars and Communities of Practice sessions to provide an overview of the components of crisis response and reporting systems and to build understanding of principles needed to identify and map strengths, gaps and needs in local crisis response systems at the local county level.

Looking ahead: The pilot program's counties are advancing with their implementation plans, developing asset maps, and conducting gap analyses to identify priorities and resources.

Workstream Goal:

- Support models for rapidly reporting and comprehensively responding to youth suicides and suicide attempts by providing crisis services in school and community settings.



Coverage

Enhanced Medi-Cal Benefits Dyadic Services

Managed by: Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

Coverage

About

What it is: On January 1, 2023, The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) implemented [dyadic care services](#) as a covered benefit under Medi-Cal. Dyadic care combines behavioral health treatment with pediatric care, primarily for children 0-5, to simultaneously support children

and their caregivers. Covered services include behavioral health well-child visits, navigation and follow-up for referrals, psychoeducation, family training and counseling, and specified mental and behavioral health screenings for caregivers.

Funding allocated: \$542 million



Values in action: Dyadic care's integrated approach enables early screening and treatment of behavioral health conditions, often overlooked in routine care, and addresses trauma before it escalates. By involving the entire family, it also screens for broader health and social issues. This holistic model ensures immediate, on-site intervention, reducing barriers to specialized care and promoting overall familial well-being.

Highlights:

- On January 1, 2023 the dyadic care services benefit went live in the Medi-Cal fee-for-service and managed care systems as described in the Medi-Cal provider manual.
- DHCS submitted a State Plan Amendment to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services regarding dyadic services in Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Clinics, and Tribal Health Programs.
- DHCS published, and later refined, the All Plan Letter (APL) 22-029, to provide Medi-Cal managed care health plans (MCPs) with guidance on coverage requirements.
- DHCS has initiated a series of technical assistance webinars and office hours focused on new Medi-Cal benefits, including dyadic services.
- DHCS developed a MCP monitoring reporting template to capture member utilization and provider network, including provider capacity.
- **Looking ahead:** DHCS to continue development of a Dyadic Services Casual Pathway visual outlining workstream activities, detriments and CYBHI outcome objectives.

Workstream goals:

- Implement dyadic services in Medi-Cal that provide support and care for children and their caregivers simultaneously, in a holistic way. Based on the HealthySteps model of care, which provides integrated behavioral care where pediatric mental health professionals are available to address developmental and behavioral health concerns and families are screened for behavioral health problems together.
- Add dyadic behavioral health visits for coverage as well as make slight modifications to existing Medi-Cal benefits.

Statewide Multi-Payer Fee Schedule for School-Linked Behavioral Health Services

Coverage

Managed by: Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC)

About

What it is: The [Statewide Multi-Payer Fee Schedule for School-Linked Behavioral Health Services](#) unites healthcare and education, ensuring sustainable reimbursements for specific services in school settings. It mandates Medi-Cal and commercial plans adhere to set rates for local education agencies and school-affiliated providers. This initiative also aims to develop and maintain a statewide network of school-linked behavioral health counselors, serving all children regardless of payer status.

Funding allocated: N/A

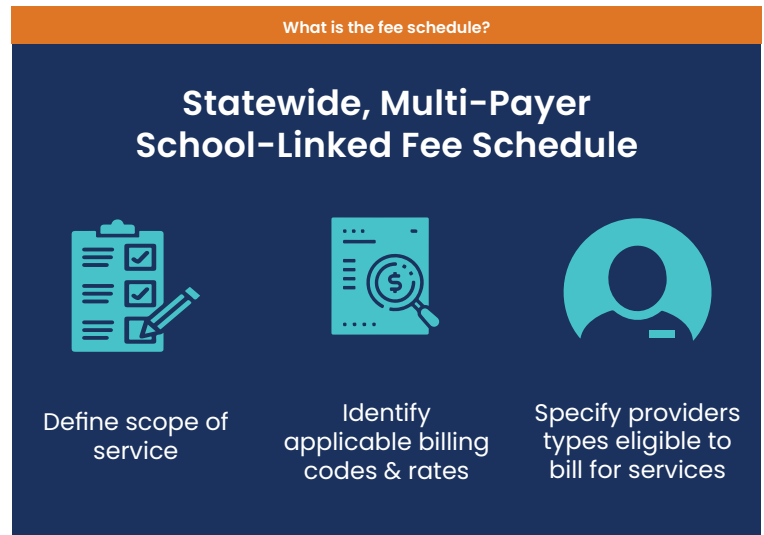


Image source: [CYBHI Fee Schedule introduction video](#)

2023 by the numbers:

140+ Local Education Agencies (LEAs) engaged as part of Cohort 1 selection

100% (58) of County Offices of Education (COEs) engaged

63 cross-sector partners engaged to be a part of Fee Schedule Working Group

Values in action: The Statewide Multi-Payer Fee Schedule exemplifies California's dedication to accessible behavioral health care for children and youth. Simplifying cost structures and facilitating easier access, it supports the CYBHI's vision that every young Californian deserves prompt and consistent mental health care. By broadening the reach of school-linked services and enhancing reimbursement processes, it eases administrative challenges and promotes a more inclusive, supportive environment for students' mental well-being, contributing to a healthier and more resilient future generation.

Statewide Multi-Payer Fee Schedule for School-Linked Behavioral Health Services

Coverage

Managed by: Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC)

Highlights:

- Published statewide multi-payer fee schedule for school-linked behavioral health services.
- Published guidance document (including finalized codes, set of eligible providers and rates).
- Approved readiness reviews and go-live for 47 LEAs across 25 counties (cohort 1).
- Selected Carelon Behavioral Health as the third-party administrator (TPA) for the fee schedule.

Looking ahead: DHCS and DMHC will onboard the first cohort of participating LEAs in January 2024 and a second cohort in July 2024.

Workstream goals:

- Increase access to school-linked behavioral health services for children and youth.
- Apply to multiple payers, including Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans (MCPs)¹, health care service plans, commercial health plans², and disability insurers³.
- Expand the types of practitioners eligible for reimbursement for school-based behavioral health services to include Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) credentialed providers and Certified Wellness Coaches⁴.
- Create a more approachable reimbursement model for schools, given the shift to fee-for-service reimbursement.
- Ease burdens for educational entities around contracting, rate negotiation and navigation of delivery systems with state-established rates for all included services.

1 Regulated by DHCS.

2 Regulated by DMHC.

3 Regulated by the California Department of Insurance (CDI).

4 Pending State Plan Amendment approval for PPS credentialed providers for 2024 and Certified Wellness Coaches for 2025.



Public Awareness

About

What it is: The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is implementing statewide and local level [Public Education and Change Campaigns](#) co-designed for and by youth to raise behavioral health awareness for children, youth and caregivers, and their communities in California. The goal of the campaigns is to reduce stigma around mental, emotional, behavioral health and substance use disorder, and to increase help-seeking behavior and wellness support.

Funding allocated: \$100 million

“

I want to reduce stigma in my generation. The older generations misunderstand us because they believe, the younger generation has access.”

– Youth Co-Lab Participant



2023 by the numbers:

84 applications received for the Youth Co-Lab as of 11/9/23

Engaged **60** community partners

CDPH consulted with **79** community partners to ensure campaign messaging will be culturally and linguistically appropriate and will be creatively designed for and by youth.

Values in action: These campaigns aim to educate the public and raise awareness to normalize and support the prevention and early intervention of mental, emotional and behavioral health issues and help tackle disparities and inequities by empowering diverse communities to build upon their own cultural best practices without stigma. By deploying multilingual and multicultural media efforts, these initiatives strive to resonate with and address the unique needs of various priority populations like Black and African American, Asian and Pacific Islander, Latino, Native American, and LGBTQ+, extending the reach to transitional-age youth, persons with disabilities, justice-involved, foster care youth, and individuals in rural areas, thereby fostering a more informed, empathetic, and supportive societal framework.

Highlights:

- CDPH established the [Youth Co-Lab](#), a youth-led collaborative, as a key achievement in ensuring youth perspectives inform the development of statewide and local mental health campaigns.
- Partnered with the Brain Trust Advisory Committee who provided expert advice to CDPH campaigns design and implementation, feedback on research and evaluation frameworks and statewide campaign scope of work.
- Contracted with Sentient Research to ensure development of a comprehensive evaluation plan.
- Awarded statewide campaign contract to media agency, Rescue Agency.
- Selected local-level administrator contractor, Public Health Institute, to manage and administer community based organization grants program.
- Released the Local-Level Campaigns Request for Application (RFA) and held two RFA informational webinars.
- Presented at the CDPH Tribal Equity Health Program Tribal Information Session to recruit Native American/Alaskan Native participants in the Youth Co-Lab.

Looking ahead: In 2024, CDPH will execute the cultural and linguistic and age appropriate, statewide and local level campaigns, with a Youth Co-lab Kick-Off Meeting to foster collaborative efforts with children, youth, caregivers, families and communities.

Workstream goals:

- Develop a Public Education and Change Campaign that creates awareness without the stigma of mental, emotional and behavioral health.
- Partner with community-based and tribal organizations to build and improve culturally, linguistically, and age-appropriate campaigns to diminish stigma and discrimination and bring awareness and connections with relevant resources.
- Partner with children, youth, caregivers, families, and communities to co-design, reflect, and share culturally, linguistically, and age-appropriate specific campaign(s).

ACEs and Toxic Stress Public Awareness and Healing-Centered Campaign

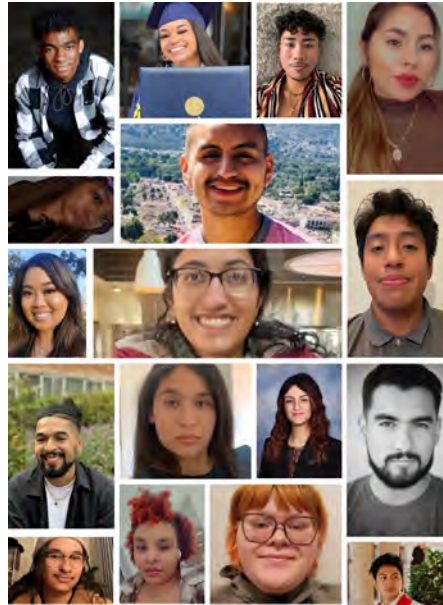
Managed by: Office of the California Surgeon General (CA-OSG)

Public Awareness

About

What it is: A statewide campaign to increase public understanding of [Adverse Childhood Experiences](#) (ACEs) and toxic stress, and provide youth and young adults (and parents and caregivers who support them) with the resources and strategies they need to manage stress, heal from adversity and end cycles of trauma.

Funding allocated: \$24 million



Campaign Youth Advisory Council

“

It is important to show that young people are not alone and that there is a reason for what they are feeling and experiencing, both mentally and physically.”

– Participant, UCAAN Youth and Young Adult Council Listening Session

2023 by the numbers:

8 academic subject matter experts serve as campaign advisors

17 youth and young adults serve as campaign advisors

7 listening sessions (6 English, 1 Spanish)

86 youth, caregivers, and CBO partners engaged

30+ presentations

Values in action: The ACEs and Toxic Stress Public Awareness and Healing-Centered Campaign is convening diverse youth and young adults, parents and caregivers, and community partners to incorporate diverse viewpoints and experiences. By embracing unique journeys, this initiative cultivates a richer, collaborative campaign. Unaddressed, ACEs can cause severe health issues. However, early understanding and management of ACEs and toxic stress by youth and young adults, facilitated by this campaign, can mitigate adverse impacts, aligning with CYBHI’s values to ensure youth are part of the solutions we seek to uplift.

ACEs and Toxic Stress Public Awareness and Healing-Centered Campaign

Managed by: Office of the California Surgeon General (CA-OSG)

Public Awareness

Highlights:

- Launched RAND pre-survey to measure baseline awareness of ACEs and their health impacts.
- Developed a Strategic Communications Plan.
- Developed and tested campaign concepts with target audiences.
- Promoted the campaign soft-launch through social media and public announcement.
- Created a [campaign input page](#) to encourage stakeholder involvement.
- Published an information landing page on osg.ca.gov.
- Launched two “Understanding ACEs” animated videos.
 - » [What are ACEs?](#)
 - » [How to Manage Stress.](#)
- Released a [report](#) summarizing youth listening sessions on ACEs and Toxic Stress.

Looking ahead: CA OSG will release an update about the campaign in Winter 2024 and the campaign will launch in Spring 2024.

Workstream goals:

- Increase awareness of ACEs and toxic stress, emphasizing that toxic stress is a treatable health condition.
- Support ACEs and toxic stress prevention and mitigation through resources and strategies for youth ages 16-25 and their caregivers.
- Primarily focus on economically disadvantaged, 2SLGBTQ+ and rural communities, BIPOC youth, tribal/indigenous communities, immigrant and refugee communities, and system-impacted youth.

Focused Youth Suicide Prevention Media and Outreach Campaign

Managed by: California Department of Public Health (CDPH)

Public Awareness

About

What it is: The [Focused Youth Suicide Prevention Media and Outreach Campaign](#) utilizes a data-driven, multicultural, and multilingual approach, focusing on Hispanic/Latinx, American Indian/Alaskan Native, and Black/African American youth, populations disproportionately impacted by youth suicide in recent years. The initiative combines media efforts with grants to youth-serving community-based organizations (CBOs) and tribal entities fostering evidence-based and community-focused suicide-prevention strategies.

Funding allocated: \$40 million

“

What I hope the campaign will get across is how brave someone is for speaking up and how speaking up can look different across environments – showing the nuances between these different interactions and how that first step can be kind of intimidating.”

– Youth Listening Session Participant



Image source: California Department of Public Health

2023 by the numbers:

66 youth and adults attended the first annual youth suicide convening

420 youth engaged in co-creation process

34 grants awarded to youth-serving community-based and tribal organizations serving **33** counties across the State.

Focused Youth Suicide Prevention Media and Outreach Campaign

Managed by: California Department of Public Health (CDPH)

Public Awareness

Values in action: This campaign embodies California’s unwavering commitment to addressing the urgent issue of youth suicide, especially among high-risk populations. Using focused, culturally specific messaging that is co-created with youth and supporting local prevention efforts, the campaign aims to increase awareness and utilization of resources, services and supports, offering hope to those who need it most. More than a prevention strategy, the campaign is both a data-driven approach to uphold health equity and a statewide affirmation of the intrinsic worth and potential of every young life.

Highlights:

- Contracted with The Center at Sierra Health Foundation, Civilian Agency, and the University of California Los Angeles to act as the Campaign’s grantee, media, and evaluation partners, respectively.
- Established a Youth Advisory Board to help inform the campaign’s media and program efforts.
- Awarded 34 grants to CBOs and tribal organizations to implement local youth suicide prevention efforts.
- Grantees began development of workplans to support local suicide prevention projects and develop local evaluation metrics.
- 2,614 youth and caregivers provided input on their knowledge, attitudes and behaviors related to mental health and youth suicide through the Mental Health + Support baseline evaluation survey.
- Held an in-person Community and Skill Building convening to foster collaboration among grantees and engage youth in media training and content development.
- Developed the look, feel, and messaging of the campaign based on best practices in suicide prevention and an extensive co-creation process with youth from the initiative’s primary audience.

Looking ahead: The campaign is poised to leverage media materials co-created with youth, transitioning from project implementation to campaign launch in Spring 2024.

Workstream goals:

- Reduce suicide ideation, attempts and deaths among California youth up to age 25 who are disproportionately impacted by suicide.
- Increase awareness of relevant suicide prevention and mental health resources, services, and supports.
- Increase help-seeking behavior and other evidence-informed suicide prevention strategies.

About

What it is: The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), in partnership with The Child Mind Institute (CMI), will produce a [parent-support video series](#) that will provide parents with resources and skills to support their children’s mental health.

Funding allocated: \$15 million



Image source: Child Mind Institute

“

Because it (the video series) captures the challenges that the average parent battles everyday. It is an opportunity for every parent to understand who they are as a parent and how they can do their job better.”

– From a parent surveyed on the parent support video series

2023 by the numbers:

15 children and youth from diverse, representative backgrounds interviewed

100 children and youth and **100** parents and caregivers surveyed

20 video topics tested for resonance, helpfulness and cultural relevance

Values in action: The Child Mind Institute’s parental-support video series equips parents and caregivers with evidence-based strategies and practical tools to help children facing behavioral health challenges. Focusing on children and youth needs, the series offers accessible knowledge to tackle issues of equity, stigma and access, empowering caregivers to effectively support their children’s well-being.

Highlights:

- Established a contract with The Child Mind Institute to develop the parent video series.
- Identified video topics that are most relevant from 20 potential topics with 215 stakeholders (children and youth and parents and caregivers).
- Developed media plan.

Looking ahead: DHCS, in partnership with CMI, will produce videos in English and Spanish on topics including caregiver self-care and parent-child relationships; positive youth development; developmental transformations and challenges; and family and community stressors.

Workstream goals:

- Reflect the concerns and lived experiences of a diverse group of California caregivers.
- Produce state-of-the-art, evidence-based materials for parents and caregivers.
- Establish a pathway to introduce parents and caregivers to a broad array of psychoeducation and evidence-based parenting interventions, with careful consideration of programs adapted for diverse populations, equity and inclusion.
- Build a resource library with supplementary materials and options for additional self-guided learning.

A woman with long dark hair, wearing white headphones, is looking towards the camera. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. A teal rectangular box is centered over the image, containing the text "Initiative-Wide" in white.

Initiative-Wide

About

What it is: The [Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative \(CYBHI\)](#) is a five-year initiative that is transforming the way California supports the needs of children, youth and families. Signed into law in 2021, the initiative serves as the core of Governor Newsom's [Master Plan For Kids' Mental Health](#). At the initiative level, the CYBHI oversees and supports its various workstreams; ensures that equity, centering youth, collaboration and integration are embedded into all its work; fosters public engagement and collaborative work between departments and workstreams; builds understanding of the needs the initiative was created to address and the work it is helping accomplish; and drives ongoing evaluation of its efforts and impact.



All of us in the child-serving system – public servants, educators, health care and service providers, policymakers, administrators, advocates, and so many others – must continue to take on this challenge together to create the transformative change we know is possible and can make a lasting difference in the health and wellbeing of California kids and families.”

– CalHHS Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly

Highlights:

- Published the [Youth at the Center Report](#), highlighting what children, youth, families and community members want in a re-imagined behavioral health ecosystem.
- Established the Children, Youth and Family Network to strengthen approaches to engagement, embed them in ongoing work and facilitate increased youth and family engagement by CYBHI workstreams.
- Published [Working Paper: California's Children & Youth Behavioral Health Ecosystem](#), describing a more integrated and equitable behavioral health system and the steps necessary to achieve it.
- Provided regular communications about the CYBHI's ongoing work through monthly written updates and quarterly public webinars.
- Launched the [CYBHI website](#).
- Developed and launched Transforming Together (T2), a three-year demonstration project to support the coordinated implementation of California's Community Schools Partnership Program and the CYBHI at the local level to build more integrated systems for student behavioral health. The working paper and T2, together with the implementation of multiple workstreams that advance coordination, are moving the vision of a more integrated system forward and breaking down silos.
- Established a [CYBHI Equity Framework and Toolkit](#) through the work of the CYBHI Equity Working Group to provide guidance and consultation on the use of data and workstream planning to advance equity.
- Developed and began implementing a comprehensive evaluation plan for CYBHI, including finalizing 15 evaluation outcomes for the initiative.
- Launched a multi-sector CYBHI Evaluation Advisory Group including youth and parents to provide input, advice, and innovative solutions to help shape the evaluation with a focus on centering equity.
- Launched [Stories from the Field series](#) to provide insight into youth and family behavioral health needs, illustrate CYBHI values.
- Launched a [webinar series](#) to support local school districts, county offices of education and their health partners to utilize the CYBHI tools and funding that increase access to integrated behavioral health services and supports for students.

Evaluation



In November 2022, we engaged [Mathematica](#) to guide CYBHI's evaluation efforts, helping to establish outcome goals and provide objective analysis of the initiative's progress in advancing equity and accessibility. Mathematica will use a data-driven approach that supports continuous improvement of the initiative's implementation.

Evaluation Approach

The CYBHI evaluation will focus on three elements:

EQUITY is at the heart of CYBHI's work, and every aspect of our evaluative process centers on principles of culturally responsive and equitable evaluation.

EVALUATION COMPONENTS: Our evaluation is divided into three key components:

- **Program evaluation** examines how we're making progress in improving health outcomes for children and youth.
- **Policy evaluation** looks at how the CYBHI is aligned with and relevant to the broader behavioral health landscape in California.
- **Systems-change evaluation** investigates the CYBHI's role in transforming California's behavioral health system.

CONTINUOUS LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY:

The CYBHI will share data regularly to help identify opportunities for improvement, and we will create a dashboard to update the public on our progress and inform training and technical assistance efforts for CalHHS.

Outcome Measures

Developed in collaboration with children, youth, families, subject matter experts and other partners, our evaluation outcomes measure the progress we are making toward a more integrated and youth-centered behavioral health system. They focus on three areas:



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- Increase in (a) overall social, emotional, and mental well-being and (b) improvement in children and youth's strengths and skills to address behavioral health challenges.
- Decrease in behavioral health challenges.
- Decrease in rates of suicidal ideation among children and youth.
- Decrease in emergency department visits and hospitalizations for behavioral health-related conditions.
- Increase in school engagement, as measured through reducing absenteeism and suspension.
- Decrease in stigmatizing attitudes toward behavioral health.



ACCESS AND EXPERIENCE

- Improvement in the experience of (a) accessing and (b) receiving behavioral health services and supports.
- Increase in (a) knowledge of available behavioral health supports and services and (b) increase in confidence that children, youth, and families can get supports and services when they self-identify need.
- Increase in children and youth who receive behavioral health services and supports.
- Increase representativeness in demographic characteristics and diversity in type of behavioral health professionals, especially in underserved communities.
- Increase in preventive services and family supports for children and youth of all ages.
- Increase in substance use prevention strategies, specifically for younger children and adolescents.



SYSTEM-LEVEL SUPPORT AND COLLABORATION

- Decrease in system-level barriers to behavioral health care for children and youth, especially in underserved communities.
- Increase in cross-sector collaboration within the behavioral health ecosystem.
- Increase in utilization of the school-linked statewide fee schedule.

Updating the Public

The CYBHI will uphold our commitment to transparency and engagement through a publicly available dashboard that will present specific metrics tracking community well-being and system effectiveness and keeping the initiative accountable for improving outcomes. We will release periodic evaluation reports and case studies that use qualitative and quantitative data to explore the broader activities of the initiative.

The lessons of our evaluation process and input from young people, families, partners and subject matter experts will help to hone our strategies and approaches, improving our ability to re-imagine and transform the way California meets the behavioral health needs of our kids and families.

Looking Ahead

CYBHI is positioned to reach major milestones in many of its workstreams in 2024, some of which will have already been achieved by the time of this report's release. The items below represent just a few examples of the milestones we already have achieved or plan to achieve in 2024.



January 2024 Highlights

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH VIRTUAL SERVICES PLATFORMS AND NEXT-GENERATION DIGITAL SUPPORTS:

On January 1, 2024, DHCS launched three new statewide digital services to support the behavioral health needs of youth, their families and the providers who serve them.

- **Youth and Families:** The CYBHI's new Behavioral Health Virtual Services Platforms provide free (regardless of payer ability), app-based behavioral health services and wellness support resources. BrightLife Kids provides coaching, community forums, digital resources and care coordination for children ages 0-12 and their families, while Soluna offers digital self-help tools, behavioral health content and community and virtual support for youth ages 13-25. For more information, visit [CalHOPE.org](https://www.calHOPE.org).
- **Providers:** Created in partnership with the UCSF Child Adolescent Psychiatry Program, the new e-Consult service is an easy-to-use tool enabling pediatric and primary care providers across the state to connect with behavioral health experts.

STATEWIDE MULTI-PAYER FEE SCHEDULE FOR SCHOOL-LINKED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES:

Also in January 2024, the State launched the first phase of the implementation of this new, sustainable funding mechanism for school-linked behavioral health services. The initial phase of implementation focuses on an initial cohort of "early adopter" LEAs and will expand to additional LEAs and select California Community Colleges campuses in July.

Selected Highlights of Efforts Planned for 2024:

- **Broad Behavioral Health Workforce Capacity:** Continuing to build a larger and more diverse behavioral health workforce through the roll out of additional funding opportunities such as scholarships, training programs, and grants.
- **Certified Wellness Coaches:** Rolling out the certification portal for pre-qualified Certified Wellness Coach applicants and developing a Certified Wellness Coach Employer Support Grant program.
- **Public Education and Change Campaigns:** Executing statewide and locally aligned public education campaigns to (1) reduce stigma and enhance behavioral health literacy for children, youth, families and communities, and (2) increase help-seeking behavior and wellness support.
- **ACEs and Toxic Stress Awareness and Healing-Centered Campaign:** Launching campaign raising awareness and supporting the prevention of ACEs and Toxic Stress.
- **Focused Youth Suicide Prevention Media and Outreach Campaign:** Launching suicide prevention and outreach campaigns focused on reaching youth who are at the highest risk in March 2024.
- **Scaling Evidence-Based and Community-Defined Evidence Practices:** Launching the final round of evidence-based and community-defined evidence practice grants, focused on community-defined programs and practices.
- **Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP):** Grantees construction on a number of projects funded through the BHCIP.
- **School-linked Partnership and Capacity Grants:** Awarding \$550 million in one-time funding grants to K-12 and higher education institutions to expand provider capacity, develop critical partnerships, and build the necessary infrastructure to support institutional readiness for the statewide multi-payer fee schedule.
- **Youth Suicide Reporting and Crisis Response Pilot Program:** Carrying out local-level implementation plans, including developing asset maps and conducting a gap analysis, to support the development and testing of models for rapidly reporting and comprehensively responding to youth suicides and suicide attempts at the county level.
- **Transforming Together Demonstration Project:** Beginning the implementation of the Transforming Together Demonstration Project, which brings health and education systems together to advance coordinated implementation of CYBHI and California's Community Schools Partnership Program.