

California Health Facilities Financing Authority
Community Services Infrastructure Grant Program (SB 843)
Report to the Legislature – March 2018

Senate Bill 843 (2016) is intended to expand community alternatives to jail and prison through establishing a one-time competitive grant program: the Community Services Infrastructure Grant Program (CSI). The program seeks to expand access to jail and prison diversion programs and services for those with mental health illness, substance use disorders, or who have suffered from trauma. Working with counties, the grant program will fund facility acquisition, construction/renovation, equipment acquisition, and applicable startup or expansion costs for facilities that provide mental health services, substance use treatment, and/or trauma recovery services. The California Health Facilities Financing Authority (“Authority”) is assigned responsibility for developing the program as well as awarding and administering the grants.

Program Funding

The program was initially allocated funding by SB 826, in the 2016-17 budget. This allocation included a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$67,500,000 with \$1,687,000 for administrative costs.

In January 2017, the Authority was notified that the Governor’s proposed 2017-18 budget recommended reverting the \$67,500,000 and \$1,687,000 appropriation allocated from the General Fund in the 2016-17 budget. As a result of the possible funding reversion, the Authority postponed development of the program pending resolution of the funding availability.

In the approved 2017-18 budget (AB 97), funding was fully restored, consisting of \$67,500,000 in a one-time General Fund appropriation with \$1,687,000 for administrative costs. Funds must be awarded by June 30, 2020, and the projects funded must be operational with funds fully disbursed by June 30, 2022.

Program Development

Authority staff began seeking stakeholder input to assist in the development of the regulations shortly after the 2017-18 budget was approved in July 2017. The various stakeholders that Authority staff have met with or spoken to include, but are not limited to: legislative staff, the Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health, the Board of State and Community Corrections, the Council of State Governments Justice Center, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the County Behavioral Health Directors Association, San Francisco District Attorney’s Office and various county behavioral health departments. The Authority will continue to seek stakeholder input in the development of program regulations. As authorized by SB 843, Authority staff will also consult with their technical advisor to aid in the regulations and program development.

The program will incorporate certain elements and lessons learned from the current Investment in Mental Health Wellness Grant Program. Authority staff is considering modification to the

readiness and feasibility section of the application but will keep the administrative processes as similar as possible to leverage the various counties knowledge and familiarity with the Authority's administrative processes from the Investment in Mental Health Wellness Grant Program.

Next Steps

Authority staff continues to seek stakeholder input to develop program regulations and expects to present regulations for consideration and approval by the Authority in the Summer of 2018. Authority staff is pursuing the adoption of the program regulations through the emergency rulemaking process. A funding round will open soon after approval of the emergency regulations by Office of Administrative Law.

Summary of Awards

The Authority has not yet awarded grants under the program. All funding allocated to the Authority for grants remain available for future grant awards.