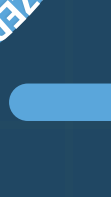




REBUILDING THE CONTINUUM OF CARE

Approximately **1.7 million** Californians have a serious mental illness (SMI) and **5.6 million** have a substance use disorder (SUD).

While in need of care, these individuals too often face a fractured continuum of care that leads them toward system involvement rather than treatment.



INCARCERATED

UNHOUSED



HOSPITALIZED

WHO GETS CARE...WHERE AND WHEN?

A team of researchers partnered with behavioral health leaders in 8 California counties (representing nearly half of the state) to understand how counties assess and place people with SMI across different levels of care, and the barriers that block progress.

COUNTY INSIGHTS

The research highlighted a system that is both under-resourced and fragmented, with inconsistent practices and limited capacity undermining equitable access across the continuum of care including:

- Wide variation in assessment practices
- Persistent shortages in intensive programs such as FSPs and ACT
- Significant gaps in care continuity, particularly during transitions from residential to outpatient care

*We just don't have enough capacity to meet the **growing need**... We're seeing people with higher acuity needs and more people coming in the front door.*

*The door leading into the county system is on very loose hinges. The door exiting the county system is **rusty**.*

REBUILDING THE CONTINUUM OF CARE

As part of California's behavioral health transformation, Proposition 1 commits roughly **4 billion dollars** in competitive BHCIP grants to build an array of care facilities for individuals with behavioral health conditions.

Echoing insights from counties, a secondary landscape analysis of the crisis continuum in particular found that even with new BHCIP investments, California still risks facing significant shortages especially amongst the mid-levels of care.

People with SMI and SUD deserve a behavioral health system built for recovery, dignity, and hope at every stage of need.

California must not lose focus in delivering on that promise.

Achieving it will require more than new facilities – it demands sustained investment in providers, strong accountability, and a unified system that consistently puts patient care above all else.