

INNOVATION DEFINED

The MHSO Oversight and Accountability Commission's Innovation Committee defines Innovative Programs as novel, creative, ingenious mental health approaches developed within communities in ways that are inclusive and representative, especially of un-served, underserved, and inappropriately served individuals.

An Innovative Program is one that contributes to learning in one or more of the following ways:

- Introduces new, never-been-done-before, mental health practices or approaches
- Makes a change to an existing mental health system practice or approach including adaptation for a new setting
- Introduces a new application to the mental health system of a promising community-driven practice or approach that has been successful in a non-mental health setting

INNOVATION NEEDS

Needs to...contribute to learning

Needs to...try new things out (vs. doing things that are already accepted practices)

Needs to...Include one or more of the MHSO Essential Elements listed below

Increase access to underserved groups

Increase the quality of services with better outcomes

Promote interagency collaboration

Increase access to services

INNOVATION CLARIFICATIONS

Innovation may introduce a novel, creative ingenious approach to a variety of mental health practices, but is not limited to direct mental health services. As long as the Innovation contributes to learning and maintains alignment with the MHSA Essential Elements it may affect any aspect of mental health practices or assess a new application of a promising approach to solving persistent seemingly intractable mental health challenges. These approaches can include the following:

- Administrative/governance/organizational practices, processes or procedures
- Advocacy
- Education and training for service providers
- Outreach, capacity building and community development
- Planning
- Policy and system development
- Prevention and early intervention
- Public education efforts
- Research
- Services and/or treatment intervention

A practice or approach that has been successful in one community mental health setting cannot be funded as an Innovative Program in a different community even if the practice or approach is new to that community, UNLESS it is changed in a way that contributes to the learning process.

Addressing an unmet need is not sufficient to receive funding under this component

By their very nature, not all Innovative projects will be successful and can be terminated

No time limit on projects. If the project is successful it can be sustained through the CSS or PEI funding

An innovative project can add a learning strategy to a currently approved CSS or PEI plan

Innovation projects are similar to pilot projects or demonstration projects in that they are time-limited

Leveraging with collaborative partnership is encouraged

Can involve regional collaboration with other counties

Analysis of effectiveness and reporting of progress is required.

INNOVATION POSSIBILITIES

Can be based on what has been learned during large community planning processes for CSS, PEI or WET

Can be informed by lessons learned during the implementation of CSS

Can focus on innovative co-occurring disorder treatment

Can measure outcomes and effectiveness of PEI Project Community Capacity Building (evaluation)

More than 1 project can be created

The resource paper can be found at <http://www.dmh.ca.gov/MHSOAC/docs/InnovationResourcePaper111907.pdf>

