



The Impact of the Governor's Proposed Changes to the Mental Health Services Act (Prop. 63) on Organizations Serving Children

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Who We Are

The Children's Partnership is a California advocacy organization advancing child health equity through research, policy and community engagement.



Mental Health Services Act

- **Proposition 63 – Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)**
 - Passed by voters in November 2004
 - + 1% tax on individual incomes over 1 million dollars
 - Includes extensive local stakeholder process for county spending
 - Projected revenues are \$3.5 billion statewide
 - Included required local spending on local “innovation” which has been a key source of funding for Community-Defined Evidence Based Practices (CDEPs) and culturally-responsive healing approaches not traditionally funded or recognized by medical model of Evidence Based Practices (EBPs)
 - In 2015, the MHSAOAC added a child/youth set-aside in Prevention & Early Intervention to regulations (Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 9, § 3706)

Three Key Components to MHSA Modernization

- **A bond** to fund behavioral health-related housing
 - \$4.68 billion bond on the March 2024 ballot
 - AB 531 (Irwin) is the general obligation bond proposal
- **Re-works existing county spending** of MHSA revenue on mental health services
 - Adds requirement for 30% of county spending on Housing Interventions
 - Requires inclusion of Substance Use treatment in county programming
 - Significant changes to existing categoricals, especially to Prevention and Early Intervention
 - SB 326 (Eggman) is the MHSA reform proposal; Will need approval by voters in March 2024
- **Changes aimed at more transparency and accountability**
 - Preserves independent Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC);
 - Transfers regulatory authority to Dept. of Health Care Services (DHCS)

Housing Goals

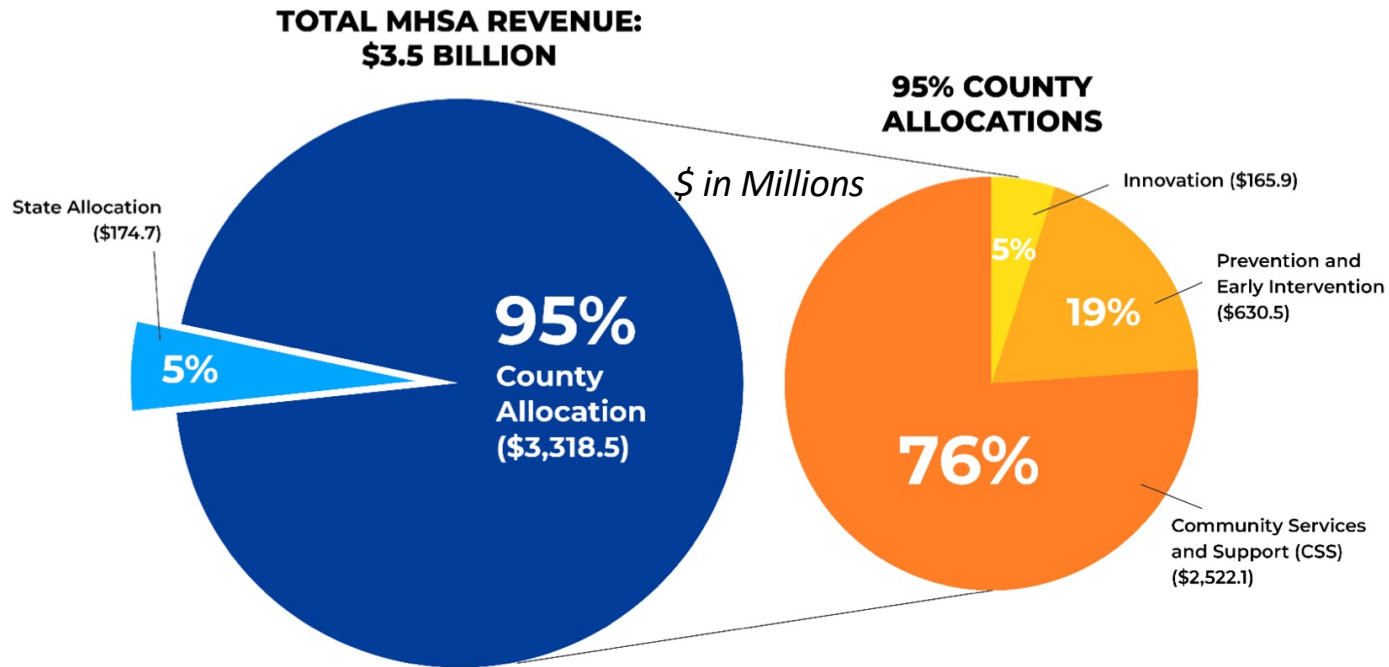
- 10,000 new residential treatment and housing settings:
 - Unlocked community behavioral health residential settings
- Permanent supportive housing for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness who have behavioral health conditions
- Housing for veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness who have behavioral health conditions



Stephen, right, and partner Molly Bodkin live with their children and pets in a modified school bus parked on a San Francisco street. They were helped by Catholic Charities to apply for the emergency housing voucher program. (Paul Kuroda/For The Times)

Comparison of Existing MHSA Allocations and Proposed BHSA Allocations

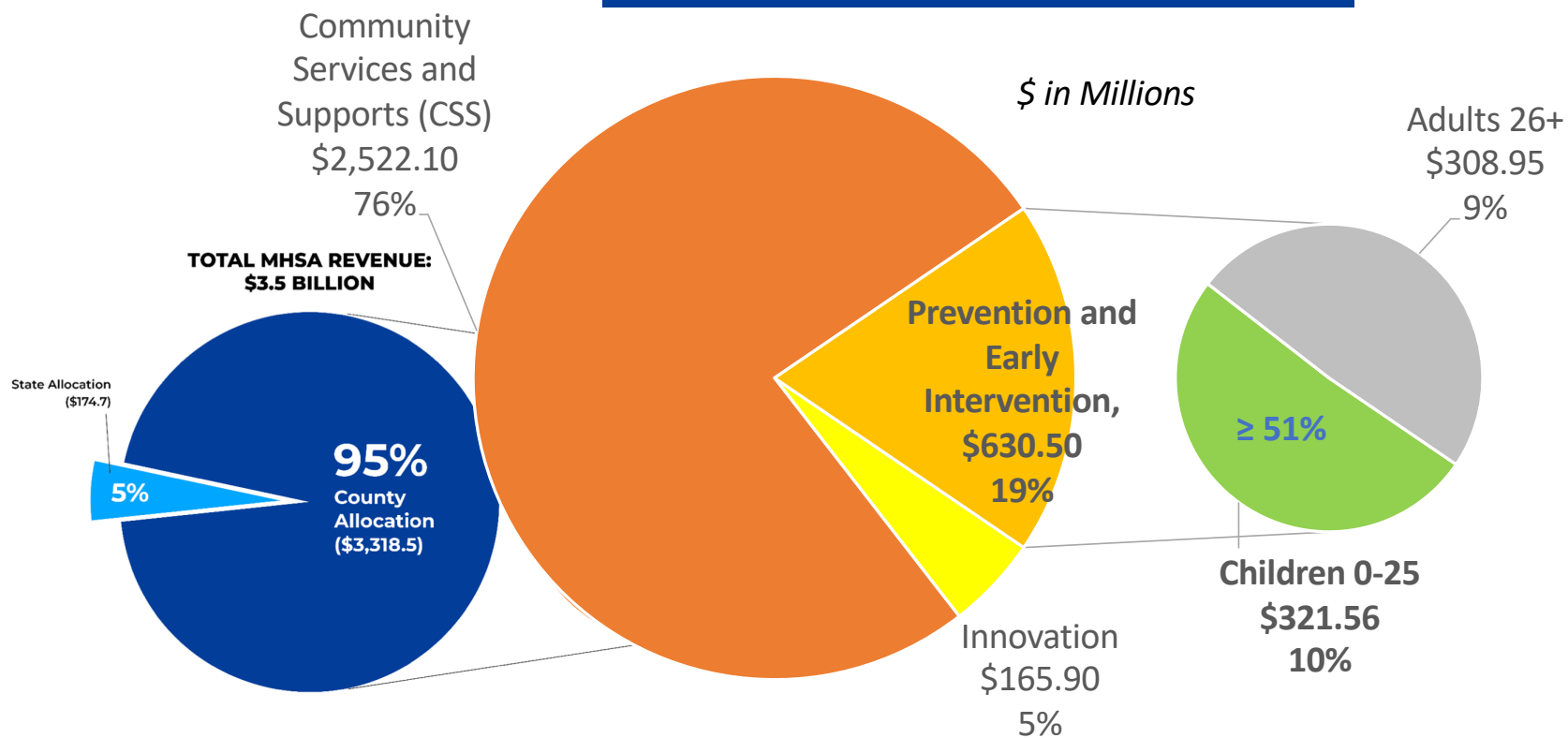
CURRENT ALLOCATION



From: https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Fact-Sheet_BHSA-Legislative-Reform.pdf

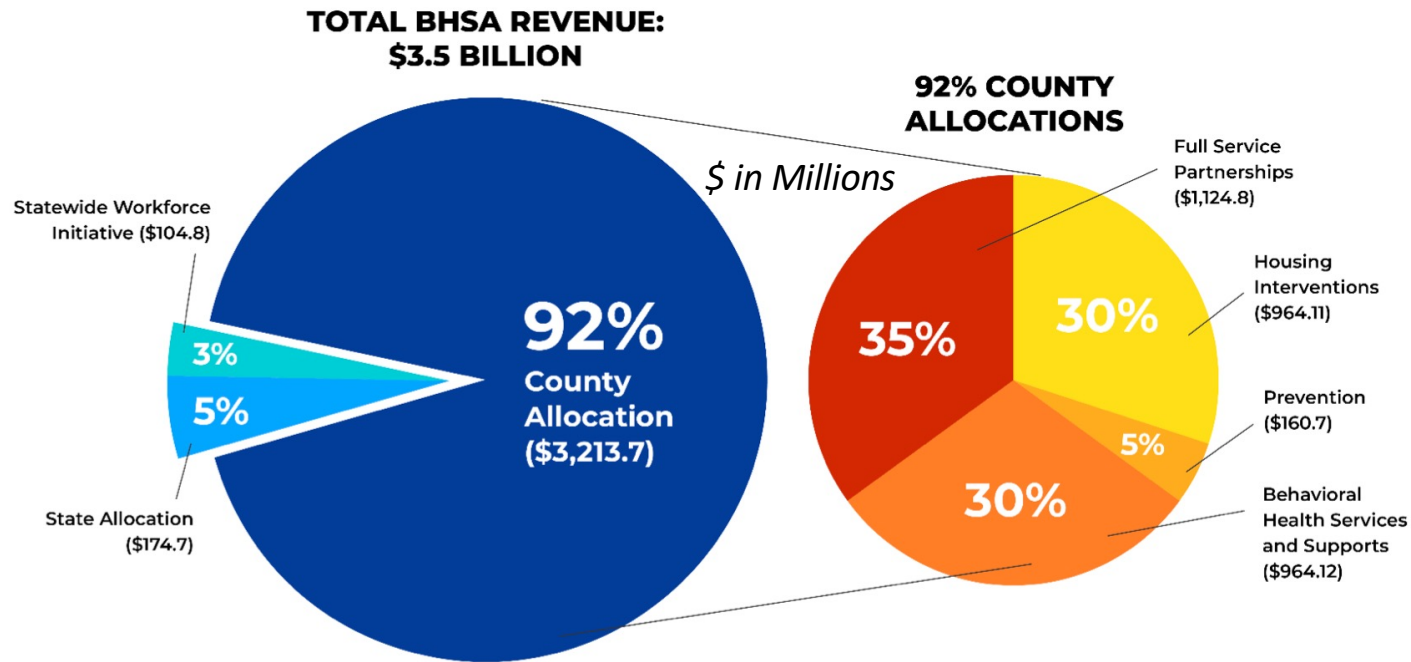
Comparison of Existing MHSA Allocations and Proposed BHSA Allocations

Current County Allocation, In Millions



Comparison of Existing MHSA Allocations and Proposed BHSAs Allocations

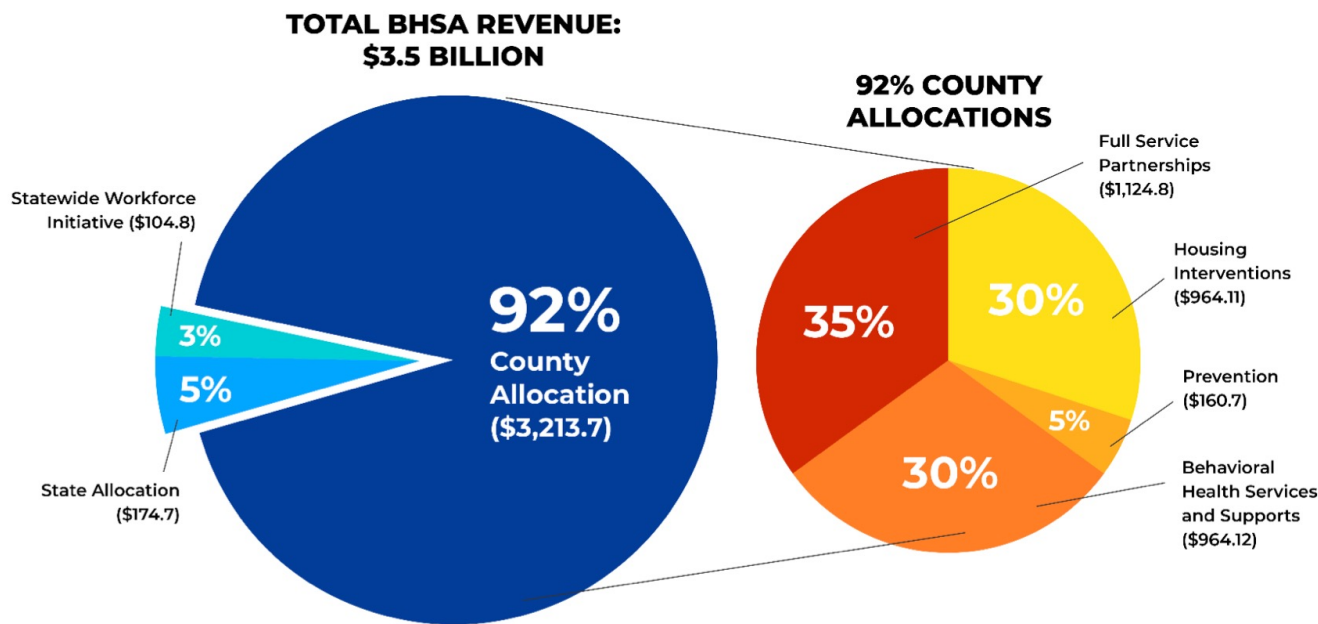
PROPOSED ALLOCATION



From: https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Fact-Sheet_BHSA-Legislative-Reform.pdf

Comparison of Existing MHSA Allocations and Proposed BHSA Allocations

PROPOSED ALLOCATION



Prevention – *not for direct services*; Intended for upstream, population health and community-level interventions (e.g. school- or classroom-wide programs)

BHSS – *the majority of BHSS services are to be spent on Early Intervention*; There is no age-specificity for Early Intervention services, though there is a requirement that EI programs should include “access and linkages” to county behavioral health for children with serious emotional disturbance.



Takeaways

- The proposal seems to unfairly pit children and youth, particularly children and youth of color who are most impacted by mental health disparities, against the varying and politically potent needs of adults with severe mental illness for a smaller set of resources.
- Community-defined evidence-based practices (CDEPs) are at risk of losing a key ongoing revenue source and associated political will (Innovation).
- Appears to not acknowledge the new UCSF [Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness](#) which establishes that poverty and income loss are the most direct drivers of homelessness, *not mental illness*
- Appears to avoid the reality that 25% of homeless people in California are families and unaccompanied youth
- Missed opportunity to prioritize families with an adult with substance use or severe mental illness or system-involved or unaccompanied youth for housing – people who are most likely to be ensnared in child welfare and criminal-legal or juvenile-legal systems.

THANK YOU!!



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