

MHSOAC Review Tool for CSS Housing

Reviewers: The following criteria are from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Adopted (Final) Regulations (Title 9) and Executive Order S-07-06. These criteria reflect principles and practices that MHSOAC, DMH and many contributing stakeholders have identified as essential to expanding, developing and supporting Californians who are homeless and have a mental disability.

- Executive Order S-07-06 states that **“supportive housing combines permanent, affordable housing with a range of support services that help people with mental illness and other disabilities stabilize their lives and function as members of the community.”**

Criterion	
<p>The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), Section 3.7 (e) provides that prevention services should strive to “treat the whole person, with the goal of self-sufficiency for those who may have otherwise faced homelessness or dependence on the State.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Successful programs should emphasize client-centered, family focused and community-based services that are culturally and linguistically competent and are provided in an integrated services system. 	
<p>One of the critical components identified in Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 5840 (d) 5 is the reduction in stigma.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The housing development should incorporate specific strategies to assist in promoting respect, acceptance, dignity, and social inclusion for those individuals who are diagnosed with a mental illness or seeking a mental health service. Examples of such strategies can include tenant involvement in making decisions on living space and arrangements, program planning, and tenancy rules. 	

Criterion	
<p>The MHSA Code of Regulations, Title 9 clarifies how MHSA funds are to be used and the parameters for participation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The housing opportunities under the MHSA must be “designed for voluntary participation.” The county’s application must demonstrate that participation in supportive services cannot be a condition of the client’s tenancy in the Housing program. 	
<p>The MHSA Housing Program Application, 4.2.5 Section D.1 requires that the proposed supportive housing development is consistent with the county mental health department’s CSS planning process and approved Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The housing development should demonstrate consistency with the county’s approved CSS plan and documentation should be provided on the local review/stakeholder process. Specific information should be provided on how the development meets priorities and goals that were identified in the approved Plan. 	