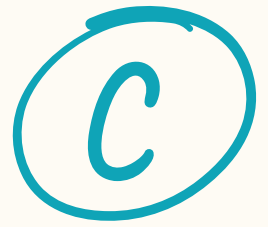


BHSA Racial Equity Scorecard

Kern County



Score: 21.5/45

Kern County's BHSA Integrated Plan demonstrates a foundational commitment to community-informed planning and clearly documents community feedback and how feedback informed certain plan decisions. The county has also outlined how it will prioritize developing a culturally and linguistically responsive workforce through training and recruitment. To further strengthen these commitments to racial equity, the county can add more specificity to its racial disparities reduction strategies, drawing a clearer line between its programming and its potential impacts on BIPOC, immigrant, and refugee populations.

Projected FY 2026-27 BHSA State Funding:

\$90,972,834

Projected FY 2026-27 BHSA Spending by Category:

Behavioral Health Services & Supports

\$31,840,492

Full Service Partnerships

\$31,840,492

Housing

\$27,291,850

Total FY 2025-26 MHSA State Funding Received:

Kern County's most recent MHSA Annual Update does not include a specific figure for MHSA State Funding received in FY 2025-26.

Domain	Strengths	Opportunities	Score
1. Community Engagement	➤ Summarizes priority themes identified during stakeholder engagement ➤ Integrated Plan details were shared with the community in English and Spanish ➤ Additional behavioral health goals were informed by community feedback	➤ Provide additional detail on how community feedback influenced planning decisions	4/6
2. Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Workforce	➤ Plan clearly states intent to prioritize bilingual and bicultural staff who reflect the community ➤ BH-CONNECT funds will be used to support the development of a diverse workforce	➤ Incorporate community health workers, promotores, and representatives into the county's workforce strategy ➤ Provide additional specificity and metrics for strategies to develop a culturally responsive workforce	3/5

Domain	Strengths	Opportunities	Score
3. Language Access	➤ Existing cultural competency plan could serve as a foundation for a strong language access strategy	➤ Explicitly integrate language access strategies from previous cultural competency plans into the integrated plan	0/5
4. Racially Equitable Behavioral Health Services and Supports Strategy	➤ Contains specific racial equity and disparities reduction strategies for Full Service Partnership	➤ Develop and clearly define racial equity strategies for all BHSS program areas ➤ Identify programming, including CDEPs, that specifically serve the needs of BIPOC, immigrant, and refugee communities	4/10
5. Funding Equity	➤ Clear intent to blend and braid funding to maintain and expand service availability, including for uninsured residents	➤ Develop a specific strategy to maintain service access for undocumented immigrants and others who are ineligible for Medi-Cal	2/3
6. Community-Based Care Approaches	➤ BHSA funds are primarily directed towards community-based programs and interventions ➤ Approach to reducing institutionalization focuses on expanding crisis response as opposed to expanding involuntary care	➤ Identify specific disparities as well as programs, services, partnerships, and initiatives to reduce disparities impacting BIPOC communities	3/4
7. Promoting Racial Equity and Addressing Racial Disparities	➤ Racial disparities identified for all Statewide Priority Goals ➤ Some specific strategies have been identified to reduce racial disparities	➤ Identify steps to improve data availability to permit robust disparities analysis that includes both race/ethnicity and spoken language across all measures	5.5/12

Domain	Strengths	Opportunities	Score
7. Promoting Racial Equity and Addressing Racial Disparities (continued)		➤ Develop and list specific strategies specifically intended to address observed racial disparities for all behavioral health goals	

The BHSA Racial Equity Scorecard Project evaluates county Integrated Plans across key behavioral health equity priorities.

For more information, visit
www.CPEHN.org/BHSAcorecards

