

BHSA Racial Equity Scorecard

Santa Clara County



Score: 24/45

Santa Clara County's integrated plan reflects best practices in community engagement, including the use of trusted community-based organizations as partners to engage immigrant, refugee, and BIPOC communities. The county also used a robust, multistage process to review community feedback and make revisions to its plan. However, the plan's strategies rarely articulate a specific component for reducing racial disparities, despite acknowledgments that behavioral health disparities exist by both language and race/ethnicity. Going forward, Santa Clara can strengthen its plan by documenting how it has incorporated specific disparities reduction strategies into its programs across all of its BHSS programs, and by incorporating existing language access provisions directly into the integrated plan.

Projected FY 2026-27 BHSA State Funding:

\$160,000,000

Projected FY 2026-27 BHSA Spending by Category:

Behavioral Health Services & Supports

\$64,000,000

Full Service Partnerships

\$48,000,000

Housing

\$48,000,000

Total FY 2025-26 MHSA State Funding Received:

\$25,580,096

Domain	Strengths	Opportunities	Score
1. Community Engagement	➤ Engaged a wide range of CBOs serving BIPOC, refugee, and immigrant communities ➤ Partnered with CBOs serving specific communities to host in-language town halls during the community planning process ➤ Robust multistage process for gathering and reviewing community feedback, and making documented revisions to the integrated plan	➤ Build on initial community engagement successes by expanding multilingual engagement and meeting formats in future planning cycles ➤ Incorporate additional best practices for community engagement, such as providing stipends and transportation to participants	6/6
2. Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Workforce	➤ Community health workers are used as part of homeless outreach strategy to help connect people to housing and behavioral health services in shelters	➤ Articulate a specific strategy to advance culturally and linguistically competent workforce recruitment and retention	3/5

Domain	Strengths	Opportunities	Score
2. Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Workforce (continued)		➤ Establish metrics to track progress towards advancing a more diverse, culturally/linguistically competent workforce	
3. Language Access	➤ Dedicated outpatient sites provide services in Spanish and Vietnamese ➤ County maintains in-language crisis and non-crisis phone lines with periodic audits to ensure appropriate connection to interpreters for all callers ➤ Although not referenced in its Integrated Plan, Santa Clara County has a foundation for language access in its robust Cultural Competency Plan, which could be leveraged in future plan revisions	➤ Explicitly incorporate language access strategies into the integrated plan, either directly in the plan or by clearly explaining how other strategies outlined in the Cultural Competency Plan will be applied across the Integrated Plan ➤ Incorporate opportunities for community input to inform language access priorities	2/5
4. Racially Equitable Behavioral Health Services and Supports Strategy	➤ Several BHSS program areas feature programs specifically intended to serve immigrant, refugee, and BIPOC communities	➤ Across all BHSS program areas, identify specific programs tailored for BIPOC, immigrant, and refugee populations ➤ Incorporate CDEPs into early intervention services through partnerships with CBOs to enhance the cultural relevance of services and improve outcomes for underserved or inappropriately served populations ➤ Throughout the plan, explicitly articulate how existing programs and strategies will reduce identified disparities	4/10

Domain	Strengths	Opportunities	Score
5. Funding Equity	➤ Demonstrates a comprehensive strategy to blend and maximize multiple federal, state, and local funding streams alongside BHSA revenue	➤ Develop a strategy using state and local funds to preserve service availability for uninsured residents regardless of immigration status	2/3
6. Community-Based Care Approaches	➤ Trusted Response Urgent Support Team (TRUST) crisis response strategy does not use law enforcement responders ➤ Identifies specific racial disparities impacting institutionalization	➤ Ensure all community-based alternatives are exhausted before making investments in locked facilities	3/4
7. Promoting Racial Equity and Addressing Racial Disparities	➤ Identifies disparities by race/ethnicity across all statewide priority goals	➤ Expand data collection to systematically measure and track language disparities alongside race and ethnicity across all goals ➤ Identify how behavioral health programming will address and reduce identified disparities	4/12

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

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

