

BHSA Racial Equity Scorecard

Orange County



Score: 35.5/45

Orange County's Integrated Plan demonstrates a strong commitment to equity, culturally and linguistically sensitive care, and data-informed decision-making. The plan incorporates community voice, emphasizes community-based care through the expansion of culturally and linguistically competent staff, and uses field-based services to support access to care for historically underserved populations. The county also includes explicit funding strategies to provide services to uninsured or underinsured residents, promoting continuity of care.

Nonetheless, the county can continue to strengthen its plan by providing more specific detail on the strategies mentioned in its integrated plan, particularly by describing services will be delivered in a culturally responsive manner and by incorporating language access strategies that already exist in its Cultural Competence Plan. The county can also improve its community engagement by documenting if and how community input lead to the adoption of specific strategies within the plan.

Projected FY 2026-27 BHSA State Funding:

\$245,000,000

Projected FY 2026-27 BHSA Spending by Category:

Behavioral Health Services & Supports

\$100,450,000

Full Service Partnerships

\$71,250,000

Housing

\$73,500,000

Total FY 2025-26 MHSA State Funding Received:

\$222,950,000

Domain	Strengths	Opportunities	Score
1. Community Engagement	➤ Demonstrated key best practices for community engagement, including partnering with a diverse range of CBOs and providing culturally responsive engagement supports such as translation services, participant stipends, transportation, and virtual options ➤ Shared data and materials with community participants in multiple languages to support informed participation	➤ Strengthen accountability by providing a detailed summary of community input and more clearly documenting how community feedback shaped specific strategies, investments, and priorities for the county in the Community Planning Process sections of the plan	6/6

Domain	Strengths	Opportunities	Score
2. Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Workforce	➤ Clearly identifies critical workforce gaps, including peer support specialists and community health workers ➤ Outlines strategies to expand these roles through training pipelines, internships, and early-career pathways ➤ Demonstrates broader system coordination through partnerships with HR, academic institutions, and a planned workforce collaborative	➤ Include defined metrics to assess progress toward building a more diverse and representative workforce	4/5
3. Language Access	➤ Although not referenced in its Integrated Plan, Orange County has a foundation for language access in behavioral health, reflected in its robust <u>2024-2025 Cultural Competence Plan</u>, which could be leveraged in its integrated plan	➤ Explicitly incorporate language access strategies into the integrated plan, either directly in the plan or by clearly explaining how other strategies outlined in the 2024-2025 Cultural Competence Plan or language access plan will be applied across the Integrated Plan ➤ Incorporate opportunities for community input to inform language access priorities	0/5
4. Racially Equitable Behavioral Health Services and Supports Strategy	➤ Outreach and Engagement services include the use of culturally and linguistically responsive staff, including peers and community health workers, to improve access and engagement ➤ FSP includes bilingual staff and partners with CBOs to enhance culturally responsive service delivery ➤ Housing Interventions integrate Housing First	➤ 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	9/10

Domain	Strengths	Opportunities	Score
4. Racially Equitable Behavioral Health Services and Supports Strategy (continued)	principles with multilingual outreach and culturally affirming case management ➤ SUD program incorporates evidence-based practices and is expanding access through mobile treatment ➤ Use of clearly defined racial equity and disparities reduction strategies in programming for Children's and Adults' System of Care and Early Intervention to ensure a more consistent and comprehensive approach to reducing disparities		
5. Funding Equity	➤ Clear effort to braid other funding sources to ensure sufficient BHSA funds ➤ Funding approach is designed to ensure key services like Behavioral Health System Access, Intake and Outpatient Services, and Crisis Residential Programs maintain access for uninsured and underinsured residents	➤ Expand the use of a braided funding model into as many BHSS programs as possible to ensure access to more services for those who are uninsured or otherwise not eligible for Medi-Cal	3/3
6. Community-Based Care Approaches	➤ BHSA funds are not used for law enforcement-led crisis response, ensuring that funds aren't used for potentially harmful approaches to care ➤ No stated plan to expand locked facilities ➤ Expansion of community-based and outpatient treatment options ➤ Local disaggregated data on crisis intervention utilization were provided by the county	➤ Include specific strategies to reduce the overrepresentation of BIPOC individuals in institutional settings and crisis utilization in the county's Integrated Plan	3/4

Domain	Strengths	Opportunities	Score
7. Promoting Racial Equity and Addressing Racial Disparities	➤ Comprehensive data disaggregated by race is provided across all six goals ➤ Disaggregated data by spoken/written language for Access to Care and Homelessness was provided ➤ Transparent acknowledgment of data gaps for specific measures related to priority statewide goals ➤ Specific strategies related to disparities reduction for the goals of Access to Care and Untreated Behavioral Health Conditions	➤ Include shared specific strategies to reduce disparities in Institutionalization, Homelessness, Justice Involvement, and Removal of Children from Home into the Final Integrated Plan	10.5/12

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

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



**California Pan-Ethnic
HEALTH NETWORK**