



INNOVATION FACT SHEET

Overview

An innovative project is defined, for purposes of the CA Department of Mental Health (DMH) guidelines, as one that contributes to learning rather than a primary focus on providing that service. By providing the opportunity to “try out” new approaches that can inform current and future practices/approaches in communities, an innovation contributes to learning in one or more of the following three ways.

- Introduces new mental health practices/approaches including prevention and early intervention that have never been done;
- Makes a change to an existing mental health practice/approach, including adaptation for a new setting or community;
- Introduces a new application to the mental health system of a promising community-driven practice/approach or a practice/approach that has been successful in non-mental health contexts or settings.

The Innovation (INN) programs are research projects to evaluate the effectiveness of new approaches and practices. By their very nature, not all INN projects will be successful. Innovation projects are expected to be about one to three years long - although in some instances the length of the project may be extended. A thorough evaluation of each project will be conducted and the findings disseminated. Those projects deemed “unsuccessful” will be discontinued. To continue those projects showing positive outcomes, another funding source must be identified.

Approved Projects

INN-01: Integrated Community Services
INN-02: Family-Focus Crisis Management & Community Outreach
INN-03: Volunteer to Work
INN-04: OK to Be Me
INN-05: Vet Connect
INN-06: Community Cares Project
INN-07: Education, Research and Training Institute
INN-08: Project Life Coach
INN-09: Training to Meet the Mental Health Needs of the Deaf Community
INN-10: Consumer Early Childhood Mental Health

Approved Funding

- In 2009, Orange County was approved for \$2,893,800 in Innovation Community Planning Funds. Those funds not spent in the planning process were available for program funding.
- In 2010, a total of \$18,410,300 in program funding was approved, from Innovation allocations for FY 2008/09, 2009/10, and 2010/11.