



November 11, 2022

TO: CSAC Board of Directors  
County Administrative/Executive Officers  
County Legislative Coordinators

FROM: Graham Knaus, CSAC Executive Director  
Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez, CSAC Deputy Executive Director, Legislative Affairs  
Jolie Onodera, CSAC Senior Legislative Representative, Health and Behavioral Health

RE: Guidance Issued on General Uses of CARE Court Start-Up Funding

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has released guidance for the General Uses of the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act Startup Funding via [Behavioral Health Information Notice \(BHIN\) 22-059](#). This guidance closely follows the provisional language included in [AB 179](#), which provided for broad uses of the \$57 million in state funding to be allocated to counties to address CARE Court planning costs.

This guidance covers the allocations for both the [\\$26 million](#) for the initial cohort of seven counties and the [\\$31 million](#) for all counties to prepare for implementation. More detail on the allocations, which have now been distributed to counties, including the methodology used, may be found [here](#). The guidance is as follows:

**POLICY:**

*Of the \$57 million, \$31 million is available for each county and the City and County of San Francisco to support planning and preparation activities, including, but not limited to, hiring, training, and development of policies and procedures, and to support information technology infrastructure costs, including, but not limited to, changes needed to electronic medical record systems, changes to collect needed reporting data, and case tracking and new billing processes to bill commercial plans, and excluding capital expenses.*

*Of the \$57 million, \$26 million is available to support Cohort I county planning and preparation to implement the CARE Act.*

We will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Graham Knaus