

APPENDIX A: Definitions of Terminology

Appendix A contains definitions of terms used throughout this Notification of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) document, including appropriate abbreviations. This is a non-exhaustive list of definitions relevant to understand aspects of behavioral health services in New Mexico.

Accountable Entity is a government, Nation, Pueblo, Tribe, or quasi-government entity within a Behavioral Health Region, who will serve as the regional representative within the proposed plan, and will serve as the fiscal agent of that region.

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is the Administrative Office of the Courts, which exists to enable the courts of New Mexico to accomplish their mission through: ensuring that the courts have adequate, equitably distributed resources; ensuring that the courts have and use current technology; providing a fair and equitable statewide human resources system; developing and implementing improved court processes and supporting courts in their use; collecting and providing information on and for the courts managing and accounting for the collection of revenue; ensuring sound financial, budgeting and procurement practices in the management of court resources; providing administrative support for the magistrate courts; and maintaining liaison with the legislative and executive branches of state government.

Administrative Overhead means indirect expenses associated with the general operation and management of an organization that are not directly attributable to a specific project or service. Administrative overhead does not include costs directly linked to program delivery or implementation.

Allowable Costs are those directly tied to the necessary costs used to implement the new or expanded behavioral health care service(s). Examples may include, though are not limited to, salaries, training, utilities, service delivery, etc.

Applicant refers to the selected Accountable Entity submitting a Behavioral Health Regional Plan proposal under this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). Please refer to the Regional Plan template.

Application means the final regional proposal submitted by an Applicant to the Health Care Authority in response to, and in accordance with, the terms of this regional plan template.

Awarded Applicant means the successful recipient is ultimately awarded funding by the New Mexico Health Care Authority, based on meeting the requirements as outlined in their Regional Proposal.

Behavioral Health (BH) is the umbrella term for mental health conditions (including psychiatric illnesses and emotional disorders) and substance use disorders (involving addictive and chemical dependency disorders). The term also refers to preventing and treating co-occurring mental health conditions and substance use disorders (SUDs).

Behavioral Health Executive Committee is the governing body established through the Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act. It is composed of the Secretary of the Health Care Authority; Directors of the Behavioral Health Services Division, Medical Assistance Division, and Administrative Office of the Courts; and three behavioral health experts designated by the AOC Director. The Behavioral Health Executive Committee designates behavioral health

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regions, reviews and approved regional plans, established funding strategies, and monitors implementation and outcomes. (*Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act, Senate Bill 3, 2025 Session, (2025), SB0003FCS*).

Behavioral Health Priorities are regionally identified focus areas that addresses significant behavioral health needs, service gaps, or system improvements within a behavioral health region. Each priority represents a targeted strategy within the Regional Plan to expand, enhance, or coordinate behavioral health services and must include defined activities, timelines, performance measures, and expected outcomes aligned with the goals of the Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act (BHRIA).

Behavioral Health Provider Index is a regional inventory of qualified and certified behavioral health service providers that deliver services described in the Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act (BHRIA). This list may include both Medicaid-enrolled and non-Medicaid providers and should reflect the range of provider types across the behavioral health continuum of care (e.g., inpatient and residential services, agencies, crisis providers, practitioners, and paraprofessionals).

Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act (BHRIA) refers to legislation enacted by the State of New Mexico (SB3, 2025), with a focus on rebuilding and strengthening the state's behavioral health system through coordinated regional planning, accountability across government branches, and sustainable funding investments.

Behavioral Health Region means a geographic area of the state that is designated in accordance with Subsection B of Section 3 of the Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act (*Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act, Senate Bill 3, 2025 Session, (2025), SB0003FCS*). On June 24, 2025 the Behavioral Health Executive Committee voted to adopt (13) Behavioral Health regions, which mirror the New Mexico state judicial districts. These are further defined in Section 1.4 of the NOFO.

Behavioral Health Services Division (BHSD) is the New Mexico Health Care Authority (HCA) division that serves as the adult mental health and substance use authority for the state of New Mexico.

Behavioral Health Services are a comprehensive array of professional and ancillary services for the treatment, rehabilitation, prevention, and identification of mental illnesses and substance misuse.

Behavioral Health Service Standards are a set of generally recognized standards developed by the Health Care Authority in consultation with other state agencies to ensure consistent quality, best practices, and evidence-based behavioral health service delivery.

Behavioral Health Stakeholders means representatives from the administrative office of the courts, the public defender department, the district attorney's office in the behavioral health region, behavioral health service recipients, behavioral health service providers, behavioral health care advocates, the health care authority, the department of health, the children, youth and families department, the university of New Mexico health sciences center, higher education institutions within behavioral health regions, Indian nations, tribes and pueblos, local and regional governments and other appropriate state or local agencies or nongovernmental entities, including school districts, local and regional law enforcement agencies, local jails or detention

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centers, behavioral health associations and local behavioral health collaboratives (*Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act, Senate Bill 3, 2025 Session, (2025), [SB0003FCS](#)*).

Cultural Competence means an awareness and appreciation of an individual’s customs, values, socioeconomic considerations, and beliefs and the ability to incorporate them into the screening, assessment, treatment and all Individual/family interactions to increase the quality of health care services and improve health outcomes.

Cultural Humility is a necessary component of cultural competence, including recognition of power dynamics and imbalances, and a desire to fix those power imbalances and to develop partnerships with people and groups who advocate for others.

Disproportionately Impacted Community means a community or population of people for which multiple burdens, including mental, substance misuse and physical stressors, inequity, poverty, limited behavioral health services and high unemployment, may act to persistently and negatively affect the health and well-being of the community or population (*Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act, Senate Bill 3, 2025 Session, (2025), [SB0003FCS](#)*).

Regional Plan means a proposal submitted by a region’s Accountable Entity to request funding under the Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act (BHRIA). See Regional Plan Template/NOFO.

Evaluation Plan means a structured framework that outlines the implementation of a project to determine its effectiveness and impact. An evaluation plan may include details regarding methods used, data sources and /or other ways in which outcomes will be measured, and timelines to assess progress toward defined goals and objectives.

Evidence-Based Practices are programs or practices that (1) incorporate methods demonstrated to be effective for the intended population through scientifically based research, including statistically controlled evaluations or randomized trials, (2) can be implemented with a set of procedures to allow successful replication in New Mexico, and (3) when possible, have been determined to be cost beneficial.

Health Care Authority (HCA) means the New Mexico Health Care Authority, which exists to ensure that New Mexicans attain their highest level of health by providing whole-person, cost-effective, accessible, and high-quality health care and safety-net services.

Incomplete Proposal means any regional proposal that fails to meet submission requirements or lacks required documentation, signatures, or supporting information as specified in the NOFO.

Letter of Support means a signed letter from the governing body or authorized executive of each county, nation, pueblo, or tribe within its respective Behavioral Health Region, endorsing the designated program or service.

Logic Model means a structured, visual framework linking resources, activities, outputs and outcomes to show how a program achieves intended results, often used to evaluate the effectiveness of program initiatives.

Medicaid is the medical assistance program established pursuant to Title 19 of the federal Social Security Act and regulations pursuant to that act.

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New Mexico Enhanced Sequential Intercept Model (E-SIM) means a strategic planning tool adapted for New Mexico that identifies intervention opportunities and gaps to prevent New Mexicans from entering or moving deeper into the healthcare or justice systems.

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) means an official public announcement of funding available for eligible applicants to apply for regional funding to support behavioral health initiatives under the Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act (BHRIA).

Performance Metrics mean quantifiable measures used to assess progress toward achieving project goals, including indicators of access, quality, timeliness, effectiveness, and sustainability of behavioral health services.

Promising Practices mean a program or practice that has shown potential to improve outcomes or increase efficiency and is worthy of further study through a pilot implementation (*Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act, Senate Bill 3, 2025 Session, (2025), [SB0003FCS](#)*).

Regional Behavioral Health Planning Committee means a multi-stakeholder body convened at the regional level to guide the development, coordination, and review of the Regional Behavioral Health Plan, including representation from counties, Tribes, Nations, Pueblos, service systems, and individuals with lived experience.

Regional Meeting means a meeting held by behavioral health stakeholders at a government-owned or operated facility within a behavioral health region (*Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act, Senate Bill 3, 2025 Session, (2025), [SB0003FCS](#)*).

Regional Plan means a plan that is developed collaboratively by behavioral health stakeholders to provide behavioral health services to a behavioral health region (*Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act, Senate Bill 3, 2025 Session, (2025), [SB0003FCS](#)*). Please see Regional Plan Template/NOFO.

Serious Mental Illness (SMI) is a determination based on the age of the individual, functional impairment, duration of the disorder, and the diagnosis.

Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) means a strategic planning tool that helps communities identify resources and gaps and develop plans to divert people with mental health disorders and substance misuse away from the criminal justice system and into treatment (per SB3).

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) means a disorder that affects a person's brain and behavior, leading to a person's inability to control their use of substances such as legal or illegal drugs.

Qualitative Data means data that represents information and concepts that are not represented by numbers. Qualitative data consists of descriptive information that may capture experiences, perceptions, and behavior.

Quantitative Data is data that can be counted or measured and expressed as a numerical value.