MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (MHSA) HOUSING PROGRAM OCICES

What is MHSA and How Does It Impact Housing with ICES?
The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Housing Program, launched in 2007 by the California Department of Mental Health, provides funding for supportive housing for individuals with serious mental illness. To obtain an MHSA Certification in Orange County through ICES, access points must follow the steps outlined in this document and email the Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA).

For MHSA opportunities in ICES, prioritization is as follows:
- **Priority Group 1: MHSA Certification** – Clients with an MHSA certification completed by OCHCA in HMIS are prioritized on the ICES Community Queue for matching to MHSA housing opportunities.
- **Priority Group 2: Mental Health Presumed Pre-Eligibility** – Clients with MH pre-eligibility, based on self-reported mental health status in their ICES Enrollment questions, are eligible for MHSA housing opportunities only after all individuals in priority group 1 have been offered the housing opportunity.

Note For Access Points: To prioritize individuals for MHSA housing opportunities, it is required that you complete the MHSA certification process as required by OCHCA. This process can be lengthy and time-consuming, involving multiple steps. It is essential for the <u>access point</u> to follow up in a timely manner and provide all required documentation as requested by OCHCA.

The following steps outline the process needed to obtain MHSA certification from OC Health Care Agency (OCHCA) Housing and Supportive Services (HSS).

1. Send an email to HSS@ochca.com with MHSA certification in the subject line.
2. Provide applicant's full name, HMIS UID#, and the agency name of the mental health provider in email request.
3. Attach HCA signed release forms for Housing and Supportive Services and a completed Disabling Condition Verification form.
4. HSS will review initial documents and provide next steps to complete the MHSA certification

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