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ACTING DIRECTOR

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
Department of Health Care Services



GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

DATE: May 12, 2020

Behavioral Health Information Notice No: 20-025

TO: California Alliance of Child and Family Services  
California Association for Alcohol/Drug Educators  
California Association of Alcohol & Drug Program Executives, Inc.  
California Association of DUI Treatment Programs  
California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals  
California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies  
California Opioid Maintenance Providers  
California State Association of Counties  
Coalition of Alcohol and Drug Associations  
County Behavioral Health Directors  
County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California  
County Drug & Alcohol Administrators

SUBJECT: Mental Health Services Act County Population

PURPOSE: This Information Notice (IN) is to inform counties of the data that the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will use to determine a county's population for the purposes of calculating the reversion period of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds distributed to a county in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21.

REFERENCE: Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5892(h)  
[MHSUDS IN 18-033](#)

**BACKGROUND:**

Welfare and Institutions Code, section 5892(h) requires MHSA funds distributed to a county to revert to state and be deposited in the Reversion Account if the county has not spent the funds within a specified period-of-time (i.e., reversion period). The reversion period depends upon the county's population and the program component.

MHSUDS IN 18-033 details the reversion period for funds distributed to a county with a population of 200,000 or more and for a county with a population of less than 200,000.

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**POLICY:**

To determine the county population, DHCS uses Department of Finance county population estimates data as of January 1 as reported in [State of California, Department of Finance, E-1. Cities, Counties and the State Population Estimates with Annual Percentage Change](#). For example, DHCS will use the January 1, 2020, estimate to determine the county population size and reversion period for funds distributed in FY 2020-21.

The City of Berkeley population data is extracted from within Alameda County. Tri-City population data is extracted from within Los Angeles County and includes the population from Claremont, La Verne and Pomona. Alameda County and Los Angeles County population has been decreased to account for City of Berkeley and Tri-City populations.

Enclosure 1, Population Estimates, January 1, 2020, is provided to assist counties with determining the population size for FY 2020-21.

Please send any questions regarding this Information Notice to [MHSA@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:MHSA@dhcs.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Marlies Perez, Chief  
Community Services Division

Enclosure