

Call for Membership Applications for the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative Equity Working Group

[To apply, please complete this online application.](#)

Applications are due June 27, 2022

About the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI)

The Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative aims to reimagine the ecosystem that supports behavioral health and social and emotional wellbeing of ALL children and youth ages 0-25. The reimagined ecosystem will focus on promoting wellbeing and preventing behavioral health challenges, and on routinely screening, supporting, and serving ALL children and youth for emerging and existing behavioral health (mental health and substance use) needs. It is a five-year, whole child, equity-centered, catalytic systems change initiative bringing together partners from across systems and sectors including health, education, and beyond—with children, youth, and families engaged and centered in the effort and reimagined ecosystem.

Purpose of the CYBHI Equity Working Group

The purpose of the CYBHI Equity Working Group is to advise CalHHS and its Departments on an equity framework for the initiative and make recommendations for applying the framework to embed equity into the processes, design, planning and implementation of the overall approach to the Initiative and activities, services, programs, and policies of the individual workstreams in order to build a behavioral health system for children and youth that addresses current inequities.

The CYBHI Equity Working Group will advise, guide, develop practical applications and recommendations, and help hold accountable and build capacity of the CYBHI in its effort to center and advance equity in the development and implementation of a reimagined behavioral health ecosystem for children and youth ages 0-25, particularly children, youth and families that face the greatest systemic barriers to wellness and are disproportionately impacted by behavioral health issues including children and youth of color, LGBTQ+ youth, low-income families, and children and youth from underserved communities.

To achieve this purpose, focus areas for the Equity Working Group will include:

- Developing and helping apply a recommended equity framework for the CYBHI (including defining equity, key dimensions of equity, and specific populations of focus; developing an Equity Tool; identifying key capabilities and ways to build them; developing recommendations for how to center equity in ongoing stakeholder engagement and embed a focus on equity through continuous learning and improvement)

- Supporting the use of data to advance equity
- Serving as thought partner and go-to resource on advancing equity through the work of the CYBHI.

The Equity Working Group may define additional focus areas and approaches to ensure that equity is embedded into the processes, design, planning, and implementation of the overall CYBHI as well as and activities, services, programs, and policies of the individual workstreams of the Initiative.

Equity Working Group (EWG) Membership:

The CYBHI is seeking up to 25 experts from state and local government, advocacy and community-based organizations, education, healthcare, child-serving organizations/agencies, people with lived experience (e.g. youth who have faced behavioral health needs and challenges, parents and family caregivers who have addressed behavioral health needs of a child or youth), and community stakeholders to serve on a statewide Equity Working Group focused on ensuring that equity principles will be embedded throughout the CYBHI initiative.

To ensure the Equity Working Group is well-rounded and representative of the individuals and communities that will be served through the initiative, the CYBHI is looking for a range of individuals across diverse backgrounds (e.g., varied demographics, geographies, lived experiences, areas of professional expertise, language, and other backgrounds).

In order to address the needs of California’s diverse population, CalHHS is seeking people who represent and have knowledge of diverse communities, including the racial, cultural, ethnic, sexual orientation, gender, economic, linguistic, age, disability, and geographical diversity of California.

Other potential considerations for application selection include:

- Demonstrated professional and/or personal expertise and involvement in advancing diversity, equity and inclusion in organizations, communities, or other entities (e.g., policy and advocacy work; building capacity for advancing equity through trainings and tools; working on programs/initiatives that focus on advancing cultural competence, equity, justice, and anti-racism in education, healthcare, and other sectors).
- Knowledge of and professional/personal experience working with children and youth, including children and youth with behavioral health needs.
- Knowledge of and experience related to inequities in access to behavioral health services and supports, including school- and workplace-based services, health care, community-based services and supports.

- Knowledge and experience in evaluating data and initiatives/programs with an equity centered lens.
- Knowledge and experience developing a vision for how to deliver systems change¹ and working on efforts that lead to systems change.
- Professional and/or personal/lived experience in any of the following sectors or entities:
 - child/youth serving agencies
 - schools/educational settings (including early childhood, K-12, higher education)
 - community-based organizations focused on supporting children, youth, and families, including those with behavioral health needs
 - clinical/care delivery settings for children and/or youth
 - philanthropy
 - local government (including county behavioral health system)
 - research and/or academic institutions
 - cross-sector initiatives focused on children and youth and / or behavioral health

Member Expectations/Commitment:

- The Equity Working Group will convene beginning in July 2022 for one year
- Members will participate in at least three working group meetings between July-December 2022 and at least two meetings between January-June 2023
- Additional meetings may be scheduled for working committees or focused on specific working group activities.
- Meetings are anticipated to be virtual in 2022

General application information:

Thank you for taking the time to apply. The application review process and timing are as follows:

¹ Kramer, Mark R., John Kania, and Peter Senge. "[The Water of Systems Change](#)." Report, FSG, May 2018; Source: California Health and Human Services Agency

| Deliverable/Activity | Date |
|--|--|
| 1. The CYBHI releases Equity Working Group application | June 2, 2022; application due date June 22, 2022, 5 pm |
| 2. Members are informed of interview status | June 29, 2022 |
| 3. Interviews (as needed) | June 30-July 8, 2022 |
| 4. Member selection | By July 15, 2022 |
| 5. Equity Working Group Meeting # 1 | Week of July 25, 2022 |