

Proposition 64 marijuana tax revenues should invest in **services with a culturally responsive, racially just, healing-centered and trauma-informed approach** to address the root causes of substance abuse. Departments, organizations and services with a culturally responsive, racially just, healing-centered, and trauma-informed approach:

- Have a culture of safety, collaboration, and mutuality among staff and the people they serve;
- Build and maintain trustworthiness and transparency;
- Help peers support one another;
- Respect and value one's languages, cultures, communities, and life experiences;
- Recognize how institutional and individual racism influence trauma and health;
- Highlight strengths and resilience in the face of trauma; and
- Understand the historical and gendered roots of trauma.

To help ensure that the state of California responsibly and effectively funds substance abuse prevention, early intervention, and treatment with Proposition 64 revenue, there are **four key categories** that state government departments should require of both themselves and funded organizations:

1. Cross-sector collaboration
2. Training and capacity building
3. Relationship and engagement-centered assessment, interventions, and healing
4. Learning-centered innovation, measurement, and evaluation

Cross-sector collaboration

The California Department of Health Care Services, the California Department of Public Health, the California Department of Education and others should require and support cross-sector collaboration at the state, local, and tribal levels by:

- Reviewing how healing-centered and trauma-informed approaches are currently being used for substance abuse services;
- Establishing a plan to increase use of these approaches across sectors going forward;
- Requiring that Prop. 64-funded organizations collaborate with community members on programs, services, and identification of which resources are redundant or missing; and
- Organizing coalitions of different actors and organizations to consider how to most effectively share knowledge and training.

Training and capacity building

A culturally responsive, racially just, healing-centered and trauma-informed approach also requires adequate training and capacity for staff at all levels. State departments should:

- Provide tailored advice on trauma-informed and healing-centered work to funded organizations;
- Train state employees who work with target populations and require the same of funded organizations' employees; and
- Require funded organizations to contract with and help build the capacity of community-based services in communities harmed by the war on drugs and other punitive drug policies.

Relationship and engagement-centered assessment, interventions, and healing

Trauma-impacted people need compassionate, dependable, and trustworthy relationships with staff in order to restore their healing, wellbeing, interpersonal and community connections, and sense of agency. State departments should require that funded local entities:

- Identify and understand trauma among client groups, especially in collaboration with mental health professionals;
- Promote and retain staff who reflect, and are known to, the communities they serve;
- Innovate with programs that help communities cope with trauma, and measure them to see if they work; and
- Use Medi-Cal and other funding services as possible.

Learning-centered innovation, measurement and evaluation

In order to know what is working and where it is working, state departments should:

- Require and fund the collection, monitoring and communication of county and local-level trauma and resilience indicators;
- Fund a learning-centered innovation, measurement and evaluation framework and process for healing-centered, trauma-informed approaches;
- Measure the effectiveness of these approaches, and encourage funded organizations to learn, improve, and share findings with one another;
- Develop an “inquiry and evaluation model” that focuses on engaging vulnerable clients and centering their stories, helping communities determine their won metrics for success
- Consider client comfort, safety, and empowerment in evaluations