



2021-2026 Strategic Plan: Term Definitions

Behavioral Health Professional:

- Healthcare professionals who assess, prevent, treat, and support individuals experiencing mental health issues, substance use disorders, and other behavioral challenges. These workers include, but are not limited to, mental health counselors, social workers, behavioral health case managers, outpatient clinicians, school clinicians, and other allied health professionals. They provide therapy, counseling, crisis intervention, and support services to help individuals improve their mental and emotional well-being, manage symptoms, and lead healthier, more balanced lives.

Primary Care Professional:

- Healthcare professionals who serve as the primary point of contact for patients in the healthcare system, providing comprehensive and ongoing care for a wide range of health issues. These workers include, but are not limited to, doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and other allied health professionals who offer preventive care, diagnose and treat common illnesses, manage chronic conditions, and coordinate specialist referrals. Primary care workers focus on maintaining overall health and well-being, emphasizing preventive measures, health education, and the long-term management of patient health.

Specialty Care Professional:

- Healthcare professionals with advanced training and expertise in a specific area of medicine, providing specialized care for medical conditions or patient needs. These workers include, but are not limited to, specialists like cardiologists, oncologists, neurologists, surgeons, nurses, therapists, and other allied health professionals with specialized skills in areas such as wound care or physical rehabilitation. Specialty care workers play a critical role in diagnosing, treating, and managing complex health issues that go beyond the scope of primary care.

Cultural Competency:

- Cultural competence is the integration and transformation of knowledge about individuals and groups of people into specific standards, policies, practices, and attitudes used in appropriate cultural settings to increase the quality of services; thereby producing better outcomes.
 - Principles of cultural competence may include but not limited to:

DHCD.ORG

1440 N. INDIAN CANYON DRIVE, PALM SPRINGS, CA 92262 PHONE: (760) 323-6113 FAX: (760) 323-6825

- Define culture broadly.
- Value clients' cultural beliefs.
- Recognize complexity in language interpretation.
- Facilitate learning between providers and communities.
- Involve the community in defining and addressing service needs.
- Collaborate with other agencies.
- Incorporate cultural competency in staff hiring and training
- Institutionalize cultural competence.
- Source: [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

Community Navigator:

- Facilitates access to and utilization of direct and supportive services by building individual connections and trust (I.E. Community Health Workers, Peer Support Specialists, Promotores, Parent Navigator, Community Outreach Coordinator, etc.).

Direct Healthcare Services:

- Direct healthcare services are services provided by healthcare professionals that involve direct interaction with patients for the diagnosis, treatment, and management of health conditions. These services include, but not limited to medical examinations, surgical procedures, prescription and administration of medications, and other forms of hands-on care, such as physical assessments, vaccinations, and urgent or emergency medical interventions. Direct healthcare services focus on addressing the health needs of patients through clinical and medical interventions which can be delivered in person and/or telehealth.

Supportive/Ancillary Healthcare Services:

- Supportive/ancillary healthcare services are a range of services that assist patients in managing health conditions and improving quality of life beyond direct medical care. These services address emotional, social, and practical support, and may include case management, nutrition counseling, palliative care, rehabilitation, mental health support, home health care, social work services, medical transportation assistance, support groups, and health education programs.

Underserved Communities:

- In terms of healthcare access, underserved populations include consumers who share one or more of the following characteristics:
 - Receive fewer health care services.
 - Encounter barriers to accessing primary health care services (e.g., economic, cultural, and/or linguistic).
 - Have a lack of familiarity with the health care delivery system.
 - Face a shortage of readily available providers.
- Source: [U.S. Department of Health & Human Services](#)

Geographic Dispersion:

- Increase the geographic accessibility to direct healthcare sites

Social Determinants of Health:

- Social determinants of health are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. SDOH can be grouped into 5 domains:
 1. Economic Stability
 2. Education Access
 3. Healthcare Access and Quality
 4. Neighborhood and Built Environment
 5. Social and Community Context
- Source: [U.S. Department of Health & Human Services – Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion](#)

Homelessness:

- Literally Homeless:
 - Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation; or
 - Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs); or
 - Is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution.
- Imminent Risk of Homelessness:
 - Residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance;
 - No subsequent residence has been identified; and
 - The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing.
- Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes:
 - Are defined as homeless under the other listed federal statutes;
 - Have not had a lease, ownership interest in permanent housing during the 60 days prior to the homeless assistance application;
 - Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during in the preceding 60 days; and
 - Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time due to special needs or barriers
- Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence:
 - Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence;
 - Has no other residence; and
 - Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing
- Source: [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#)

[DHCD.ORG](#)

1440 N. INDIAN CANYON DRIVE, PALM SPRINGS, CA 92262 PHONE: (760) 323-6113 FAX: (760) 323-6825

The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children and youth as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This definition also includes:

- Children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- Children and youth who may be living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, shelters
- Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings, or
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are children who are living in similar circumstances listed above
- Source: [California Department of Education](#)

Poverty:

- “Poverty is hunger. Poverty is lack of shelter. Poverty is being sick and not being able to see a doctor. Poverty is not having access to school and not knowing how to read. Poverty is not having a job, is fear for the future, living one day at a time. Poverty has many faces, changing from place to place and across time, and has been described in many ways . Most often, poverty is a situation people want to escape. So poverty is a call to action — for the poor and the wealthy alike — a call to change the world so that many more may have enough to eat, adequate shelter, access to education and health, protection from violence, and a voice in what happens in their communities.” – The World Bank Organization
- As the threshold to define "poor" expanded, the World Bank developed indicators to assess the causes of poverty, its non-income dimensions and its contributors. The indicator levels include:
 - Education.
 - Health.
 - Access to social services.
 - Vulnerability.
 - Social exclusion.
 - Access to social capital.
- Source: [The World Bank Organization](#)

Health Action Planning:

- Provides affordable housing developers a process for integrating health into affordable housing design and development activities. This innovative process pairs affordable housing developers with public health professionals to prioritize the health needs specific to their community through data analysis and community engagement, resulting in cost-effective strategies that amplify project goals and improve factors that drive health and well-being for residents.
- Source: [Enterprise Green Communities](#)

DHCD.ORG

1440 N. INDIAN CANYON DRIVE, PALM SPRINGS, CA 92262 PHONE: (760) 323-6113 FAX: (760) 323-6825

Health Education:

- Health education presents information to target populations on particular health topics, including the health benefits/threats they face, and provides tools to build capacity and support behavior change in an appropriate setting.
- Source: [Rural Health Information Hub](#)

School Resources:

- School-based health and wellness initiatives

Grantmaking Definitions:

- *Project deliverable*: an outcome that is achieved as a result of a project.
- *Performance measure*: a measure of how well a program, agency, or service system is working.
- *Evaluation*: a plan that demonstrates how you will evaluate the success of a project deliverable.