

September 22nd, 2026

Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act Update

Prepared By LFC Staff

The Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act (BHRIA) established a regionally driven framework to improve behavioral health services in New Mexico by creating a Behavioral Health Executive Committee and requiring regional plans based on identified service gaps and needs. The legislation assigns key implementation roles to the Health Care Authority (HCA) and the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), including planning, mapping service gaps, and adherence to clinical standards. Reporting to the Legislature includes quarterly updates to LFC and ties funding to approved regional plans that prioritize underserved communities and measurable outcomes. Common themes discovered within LFC's regional plan evaluations can guide development of a statewide behavioral health plan that directs resources to activities that will deliver high quality, evidence-based outcomes.

Priority Theme	Regions Identifying Theme	Regional Count	% of Regions
Youth, Family, School-Based & Caregiver Supports	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12	10	77%
Access, Treatment Capacity, Recovery & Continuum of Care	1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13	10	77%
Housing, Transportation & Basic Needs	5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13	8	62%
Workforce Development, Recruitment & Provider Support	1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13	8	62%
Crisis Response, Stabilization & Mobile Crisis Services	4, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13	6	46%
Justice, Diversion, Specialty Courts & Reentry	3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12	6	46%
Prevention, Wellness, Community & Cultural Supports	1, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11	6	46%
Care Coordination, Navigation & System Integration	3, 8, 11, 13	4	31%

Regional Plan Priorities

Sequential intercept (SIM) mapping is a framework used to help communities improve coordination across law enforcement, courts, and behavioral health services. Four dominant themes emerged across New Mexico's 13 behavioral health regions:

1. Expand access to behavioral health treatment and recovery services (10 regions)
2. Strengthen youth, family, school, and caregiver supports (10 regions)
3. Address housing, transportation, and other social determinants of health (8 regions)
4. Build and retain the behavioral health workforce (8 regions)

These 4 priority areas represent the majority of regional planning activity and common investment opportunities across the BHRIA framework. Beginning July 1, 2027 the BHRIA directs HCA to complete a statewide gap analysis of behavioral health services every two fiscal years. Analysis of gaps and overarching themes of the regional plans should be used to prioritize

activities and craft the development of a statewide behavioral health policy that recognizes common needs across the state while providing regions the resources needed to deliver targeted behavioral health services.

Funding for Nations, Tribes and Pueblos

On September 2nd, 2026, the BHEC approved a revised funding formula incorporating Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes (NPTs) while maintaining the total tribal set-aside of approximately \$10.4 million. NPT funds are now based on an equal base allocation plus a population-based needs adjustment.

- NPTs may participate by joining a regional plan, submitting a Tribal Plan addendum for direct funding, doing both, or opting out and participating later.
- Tribal Plans can be submitted directly to the HCA and will undergo review by LFC and BHEC approval before funds are awarded. Following approval, HCA will contract directly with and fund participating tribes.

BHRIA Regional Allocations Approved 09/02/2026			
	Formula Allocation Less Native American Allocation	Native American Allocation	Total Allocation
Region 1	\$8,073,455	\$2,412,329	\$8,718,174
Region 2	\$12,790,016	\$643,885	\$13,796,540
Region 3	\$8,085,082		\$8,085,082
Region 4	\$6,722,225		\$6,722,225
Region 5	\$9,444,484		\$9,535,776
Region 6	\$7,907,605		\$7,907,605
Region 7	\$7,603,390		\$8,311,791
Region 8	\$6,291,494	\$585,320	\$6,744,900
Region 9	\$6,606,437		\$6,606,437
Region 10	\$5,944,987		\$5,944,987
Region 11	\$3,610,281	\$4,228,976	\$8,929,580
Region 12	\$6,753,426	\$344,378	\$7,208,121
Region 13	\$9,721,393	\$2,230,838	\$11,488,782
Total	\$99,554,274	\$10,445,726	\$110,000,000

Regional Plans and Evaluations

- At the time of this brief, 11 of 13 BHRIA regional plans have been approved by the executive committee, with Regions 4 and 12 pending.
- LFC developed uniform evaluation guidelines for behavioral health services to review whether regional plans meet those standards and assess the adequacy, feasibility, and effectiveness of implementation of the BHRIA.
- Evaluations assess whether programs demonstrate measurable progress, causal pathways, and evidence-based assumptions, allowing for systematic identification of gaps and continuous improvement in behavioral health investments.
- Regional plans are living documents. The BHRIA and the LFC's evaluation process take this into consideration and plans may evolve over time as milestones are accomplished and a comprehensive, statewide behavioral health policy is developed.
- Approved plans, evaluations and other materials are available to the public through the [UNM Behavioral Health Technical Assistance Center \(BHTAC\)](#).