



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Budget & Legislative Update

November 2025

Michelle Gibson, MPH

Deputy Director

Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Bureau

Los Angeles County Dept of Public Health





Federal Updates



Item US Government Shutdown

Status Shutdown continues without resolution.

- Summary
- The government shutdown began on October 1, 2025.
 - Lawmakers remain unable to reach an agreement on how to fund the government for fiscal year 2026.
 - Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) continue to operate because they have been designated as “essential services”.
 - CalFresh Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits are now being impacted by the federal government shutdown.

Item **Executive Order (EO) 14356 Ensuring Continued Accountability in Federal Hiring**

Status 10/15/2025 - Issued, pending operationalizing language and regulations

- Summary**
- Imposes a freeze on most federal civilian hiring and requires agencies to establish Strategic Hiring Committees and submit Annual Staffing Plans.
 - These plans must align with the administration's priorities and are subject to approval by the committees.
 - The order aims to improve efficiency and accountability by ensuring new hires and positions support administration goals, with exceptions for national security, immigration, and public safety.

Item **H.R. 2483 - SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act of 2025**

Status 9/19/2025 - Passed Senate.

- Summary**
- Renews and strengthens important programs for prevention, treatment, and recovery through 2030.
 - Helps individuals in recovery re-enter the workforce.
 - Reauthorizes specialized programs that treat pregnant and postpartum women with substance use disorders.
 - Reauthorizes comprehensive opioid recovery centers that provide a full spectrum of support services for individuals with substance use disorder.
 - Expands of access to fentanyl and xylazine test strips, a critical tool to help lower overdose deaths
 - Helps more health care workers enter the behavioral health workforce, including measures to expand student loan repayment for focus on addiction medicine and recovery in underserved areas, increasing capacity of recovery programs.
 - Ensures that 9-8-8 Suicide Prevention Lifeline is protected from cybersecurity threats.
 - Trains first responders to administer life-saving opioid overdose reversal medications.

Item **H.R. 5462 - “Michelle Alyssa Go Act”**

Status 9/18/2025 – Introduced.

Summary • Amends title XIX of the Social Security Act to revise the definition of institution for mental diseases (IMDs) under the Medicaid program to exclude from such definition institutions having 36 beds or less if such institutions meet certain standards.



State Legislative Report Highlights



Bill **AB 1037 (Elhawary) The Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Care Modernization Act**

Summary The SUD Care Modernization Act would address historical stigmas, outdated policies, and significant statutory barriers to align with evidence-based best practices, enable more successful engagement and treatment of people with SUDs, and ultimately save lives.

Status AB 1037 was signed by the Governor and chaptered on 10/10/2025.

Position **DPH Position:** Support
County Position: Support (LA County Sponsored)
CBHDA Position: Support

Bill **AB 309 (Zbur) Hypodermic Needles and Syringes**

Summary	Would extend existing laws that authorize syringe services programs (SSPs). AB 309 would eliminate the current January 1, 2026 repeal date of this authorization and the need for future reauthorization.
Status	AB 309 was signed by the Governor and chaptered on 10/13/2025.
Position	DPH Position: Support County Position: Support CBHDA Position: No position taken

Bill **AB 255 (Haney) The Supportive-Recovery Residence Program**

Summary	Would allow state departments or agencies to fund supportive-recovery residences (SRRs) that have been certified by a National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) affiliated organization, comply with Housing First components, and meet other specifications.
---------	--

Status	AB 255 was vetoed by the Governor on 10/1/25.
--------	---

Position	DPH Position: Watch County Position: Watch CBHDA Position: Support
----------	---