

**Summary Request:** 1915 (c) (Home & Community Based Services, HCBS) waiver for individuals with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) who need Adult Residential Facilities and Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly to allow CA to leverage Federal Financial Participation (MediCal matching) and most importantly increase the viability and performance of this critical component of both the housing continuum and the continuum of care, reducing hospitalization and homelessness and increasing wellness for individuals with SMI who require housing coupled with 24/7 services.

This is currently in place for individuals with IDD (but not SMI). It appears to be facilitated through the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), the Regional Centers, Department of Social Services (DSS) Community Care Licensing (CCL) and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). The 1915 (c) waiver for IDD was approved in March (link to renewal) with updated rates reflected in the tiered rate structure . (Note: AB 136 (2021) ordered rate increases.)

Related checkboxes on the 1915 (c) waiver application form are attached. There may be a need for advocacy with the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in order to provide check boxes for individuals with SMI in all age groups. Also, California would have to build a mechanism to facilitate drawing down MediCal funding for individuals with SMI who are on SSI who need an Adult Residential Facility (ARF) or Residential Care Facility for the Elderly (RCFE). Perhaps it would be facilitated between the Dept of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division (DSS CCL), DHCS, the 59 Behavioral Health Agencies and/or CalMHSA.

Note: Small ARFs and RCFEs have not shown the capacity to access current funding sources (such as Community Care Expansion (CCE) funds, Behavioral Health Bridge Housing operational funds, or MediCal funding) in order to meet their monthly operational costs and ongoing maintenance costs.

For larger ARFs, (such as Psynergy), they have set up MediCal billing at an adjacent address to their ARFs, and they have applied (although not yet received) CCE funds.