How are services for people with mental health disabilities in California funded?

Publicly-funded behavioral health services in California are funded by multiple sources - federal, state, and local. More than 35% of funding, however, comes from federal Medicaid dollars to provide medically necessary services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries.
Medicaid/Medi-Cal: Federal/state partnership to provide medically necessary services, including mental health services, to low-income people, people with disabilities, children, and older adults. This piece of the pie accounts for the federal government’s contribution.

MHSA: California Mental Health Services Act is (Proposition 63) is funded by a 1% state income tax of personal income in excess of $1 million. The funding is used to expand a continuum of mental health services and support county programs.

Realignment: State funding that is shifted to counties to provide local services. This is the primary state funding source of community-based mental health services, substance abuse services, and treatment in locked facilities.

SAMHSA: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration provides federal non-competitive block grants for mental health services.

Other: Primarily county funds including local property taxes, fees, etc.

**How are Medicaid funds used for mental health services in California?**

Approximately 90% of public mental health services are provided through the state’s Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) Consolidation 1915(b) waiver program. County behavioral health departments provide outpatient specialty mental health services are covered under Medi-Cal including:

1. **Mental Health Services** (counseling, assessment, service plan development)
2. **Targeted Case Management** (aid to access housing, work, etc.)
3. **Rehabilitation** (individualized assistance with recovery goals)
4. **Crisis Intervention, Stabilization, & Residential Services** (including at home)
5. **Transitional Residential Programs** (up to 18 months)
6. **Medication Support Services** (including informed consent and plan development)
Disability Rights California is funded by a variety of sources, for a complete list of funders, go to http://www.disabilityrightsca.org/Documents/ListofGrantsAndContracts.html