



# Acute Psychiatric Hospitals

## Staffing Regulation Program Flexes

April 16, 2026

# APH Regulatory Changes

Effective June 1, 2026, all Acute Psychiatric Hospitals (APH) will need to comply with staffing ratio regulations.

# APH Regulatory Changes

Proposed APH staffing ratio regulations:

Title 22, Section 71215.1

(h) The hospital shall maintain, at all times, the following minimum nurse-to-patient ratios:

(1) At least one licensed nurse for every six adult patients.

(2) At least one licensed nurse for every five patients below the age of eighteen.

# APH Regulatory Changes

Facilities that are unable to meet the new regulatory changes, despite best efforts, may submit a request for Program Flexibility to the Centralized Program Flex Unit.

# How To Apply For Program Flexibility



Submit all requests through the Risk & Safety Solutions (RSS) webpage.

An applicant must be an authorized user and associated to the facility to submit an online application.



A username and password is needed to log in. For first time flex applicants, providers must go to the RSS Registration Page to register for an account.



Links to the RSS webpage can be found on the CPFU website here:  
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/ProgramFlexibility.aspx#>

# Program Flex Requirements

- All requests must include:
- Each regulation for which the facility requests flexibility
- An explanation of the alternative concepts, methods, procedures, techniques, equipment, personnel qualifications, bulk purchasing of pharmaceuticals, or pilot projects the facility proposes to use
- Supporting evidence demonstrating how the facility's alternative concepts, methods, procedures, techniques, equipment, personnel qualifications, bulk purchasing of pharmaceuticals, or pilot projects meet the intent of the regulation

# Program Flex

# Application Completion

Include the following:

- Accurate contact information of applicant
- Submit regulation(s) the facility would like to flex
- Requested timeframe of the flex
- A full and complete alternative concept
- Justification for the request

# Documentation Needed

Facilities must demonstrate a need for Program Flexibility by submitting:

- A detailed summary of recruitment efforts including outcomes of recruitment efforts
- Evidence of recruitment efforts including job postings and advertisements
- Salary and Benefits information
- Barriers to hiring and a demonstrated effort to mitigate those barriers
- An alternative concept that explains how the facility will keep patients safe and work towards compliance with the new regulations

# Helpful Hints for Facilities



Include the requested supporting information with the initial submission



Ensure that the information is easy to locate within the provided documents



Thoroughly complete all sections of the application and ensure contact information is correct



Monitor associated email for any requests from evaluators through the RSS platform



Ensure that you have demonstrated a need for program flexibility

# Resources

Visit our Website:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/ProgramFlexibility.aspx#>

RSS How to Apply Video:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SveFPrXK\\_ho](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SveFPrXK_ho)

Contact CPFU:

[CentralizedProgramFlexUnit@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:CentralizedProgramFlexUnit@cdph.ca.gov)

Manager Contact:

[Danielle.Boles@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Danielle.Boles@cdph.ca.gov)

# QUESTIONS?