THREADS 2026

From THREADS to Fabric: Moving Systems from Concept to Practice



From Transitional Rent to Lasting Stability:

Braiding BHSA & Medi-Cal in San Diego's Flex Housing Pool

November 17, 2026

Presenters

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County of San Diego
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Housing & Homelessness Services

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Blue Shield of California –
Promise Health Plan

Dr. Heather Summers

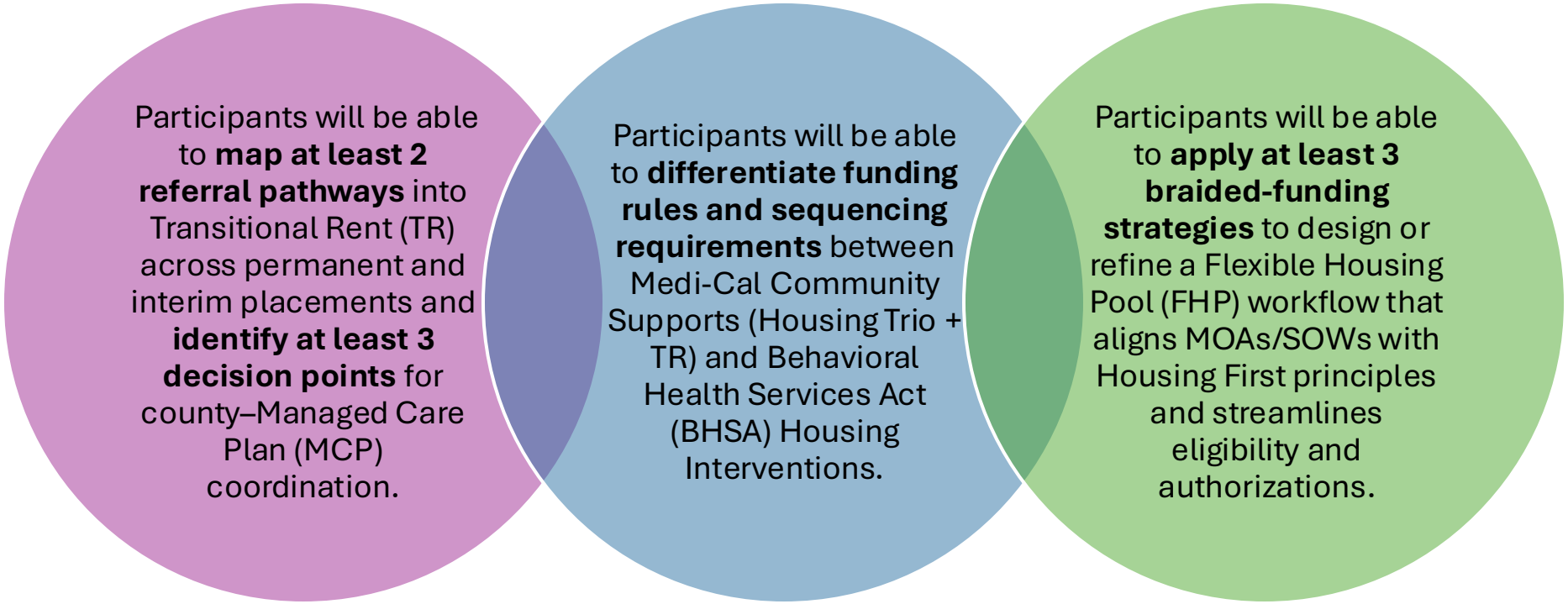
County of San Diego
Clinical and Safety Net Coordination

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

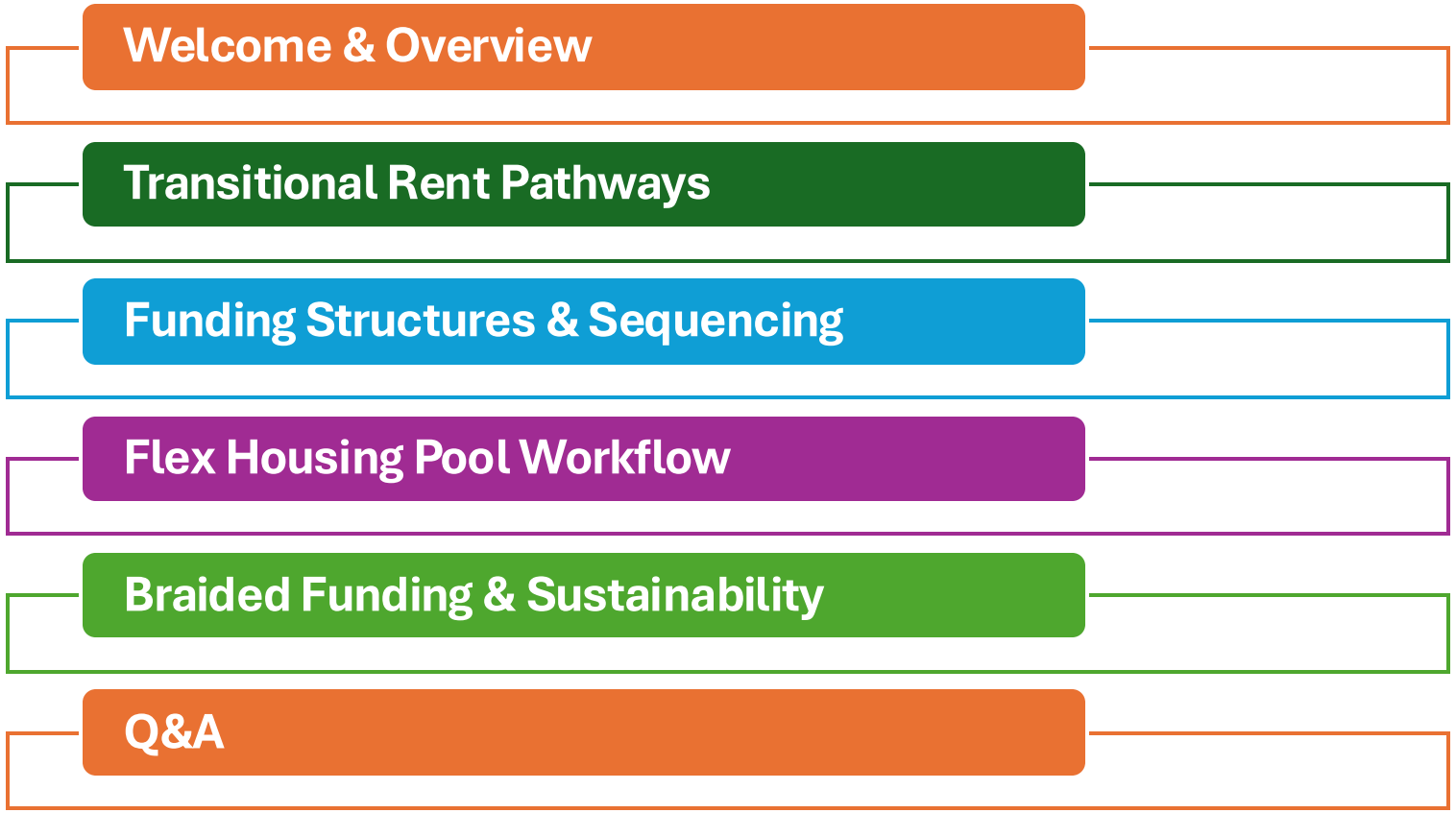
blue california
Promise Health Plan

THREADS 2026

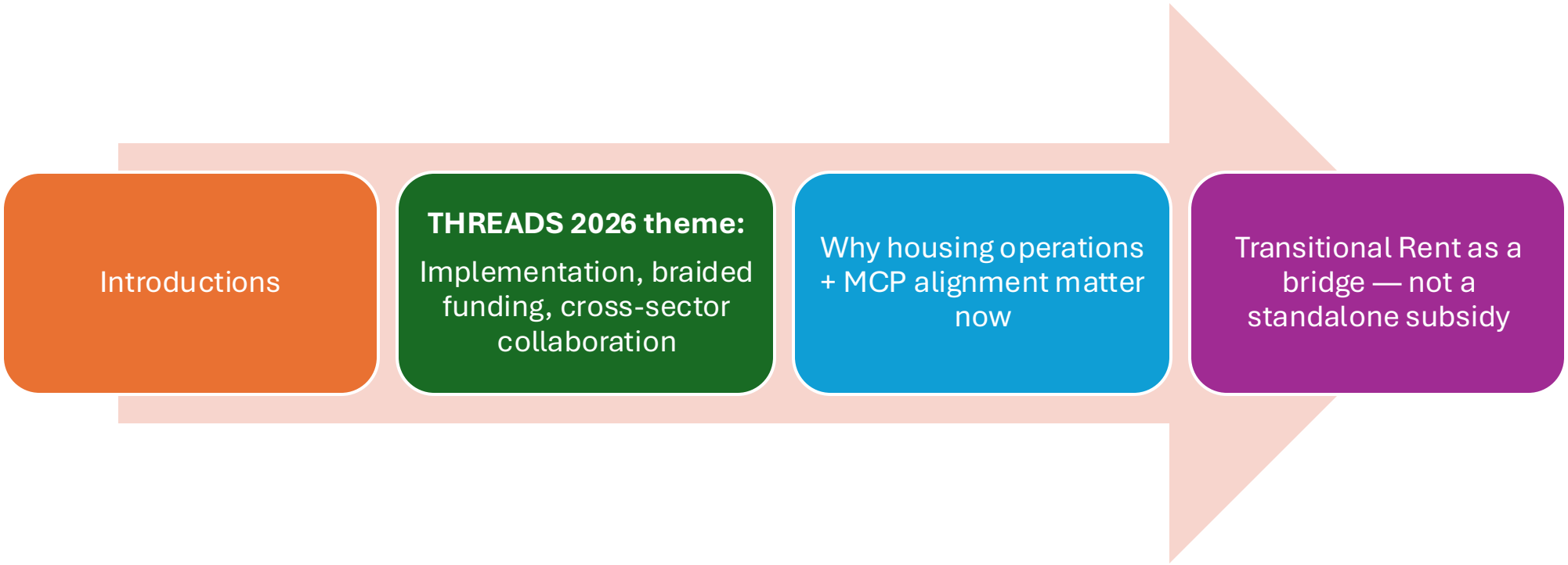
Learning Objectives



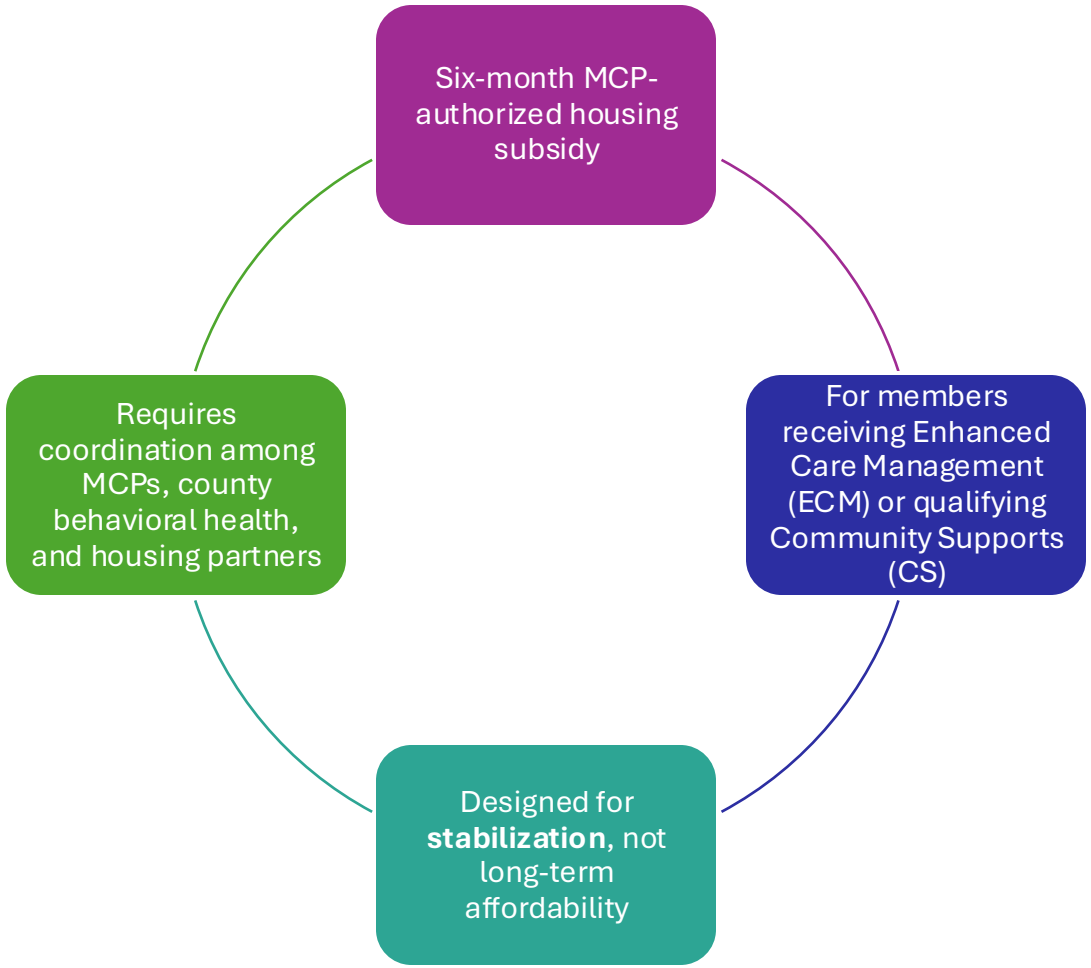
Session Roadmap



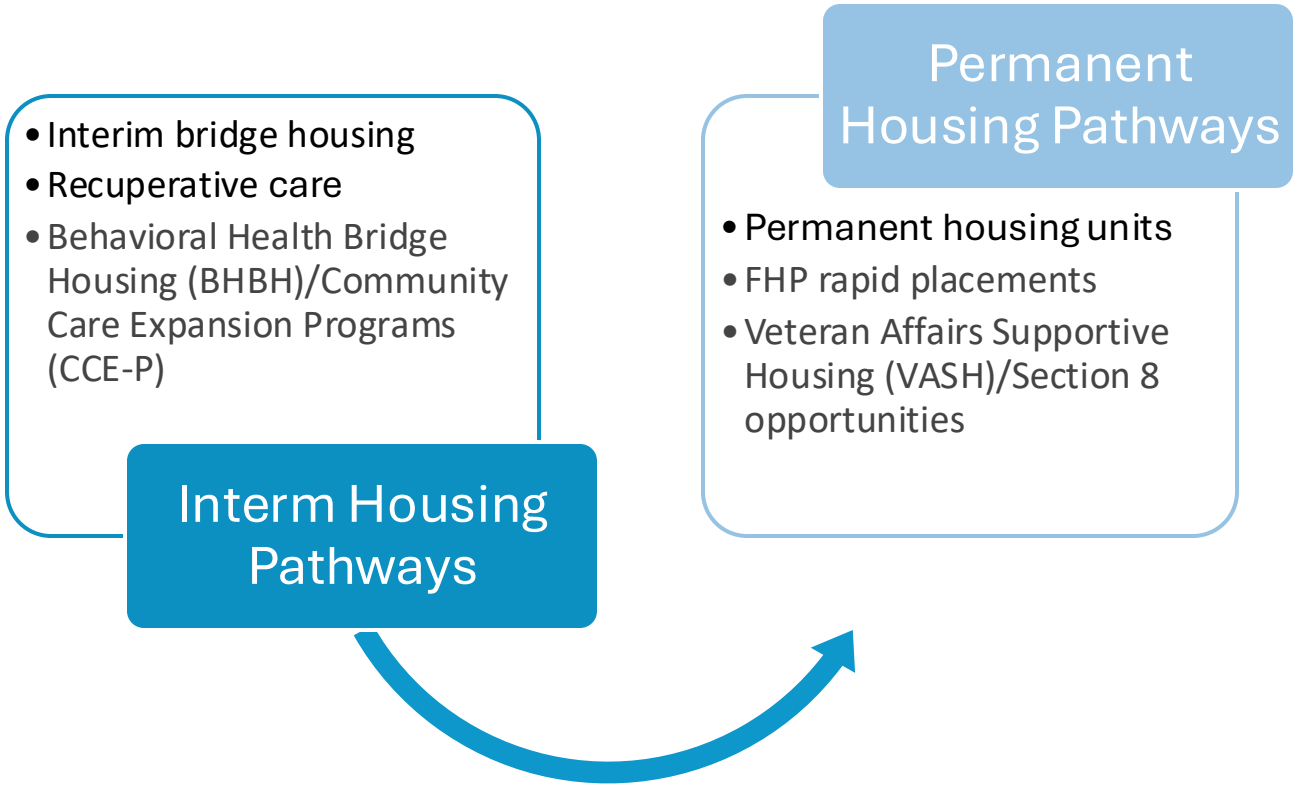
Welcome & Context



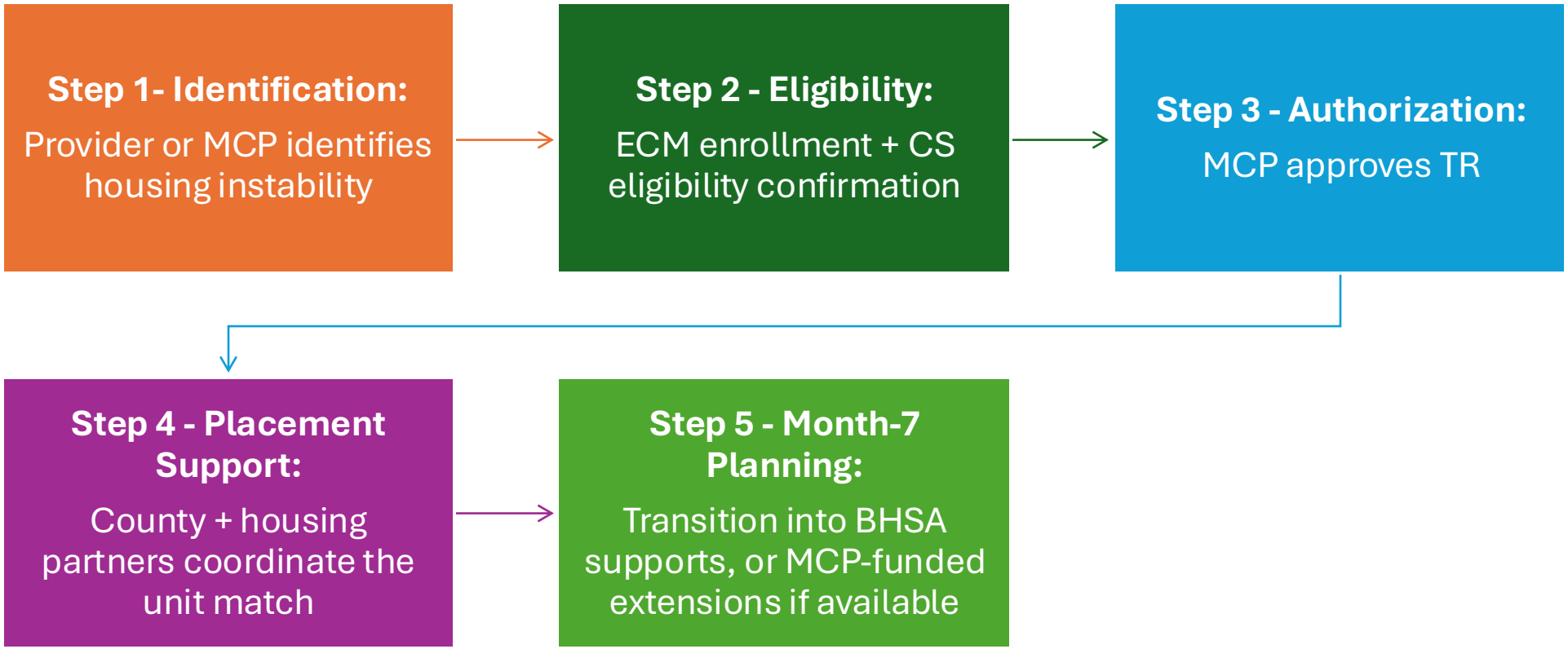
What Transitional Rent is (Medi-Cal Community Supports)



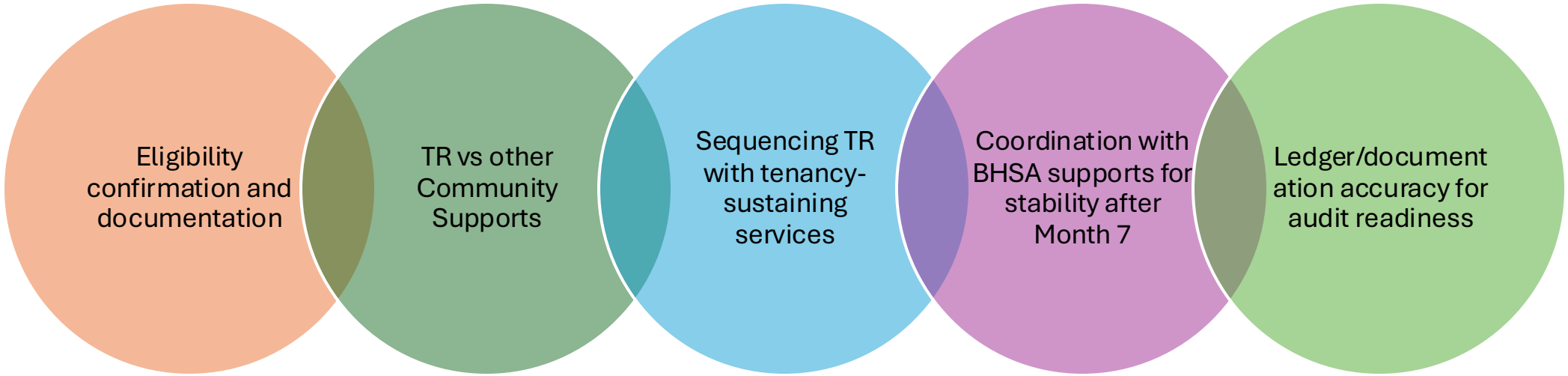
Referral Pathways (Overview)



Flow Diagram



Key Decision Points Between County & MCPs



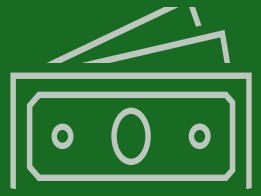
Example



A member entering interim housing under an FSP referral receives TR to stabilize while awaiting a PSH match.

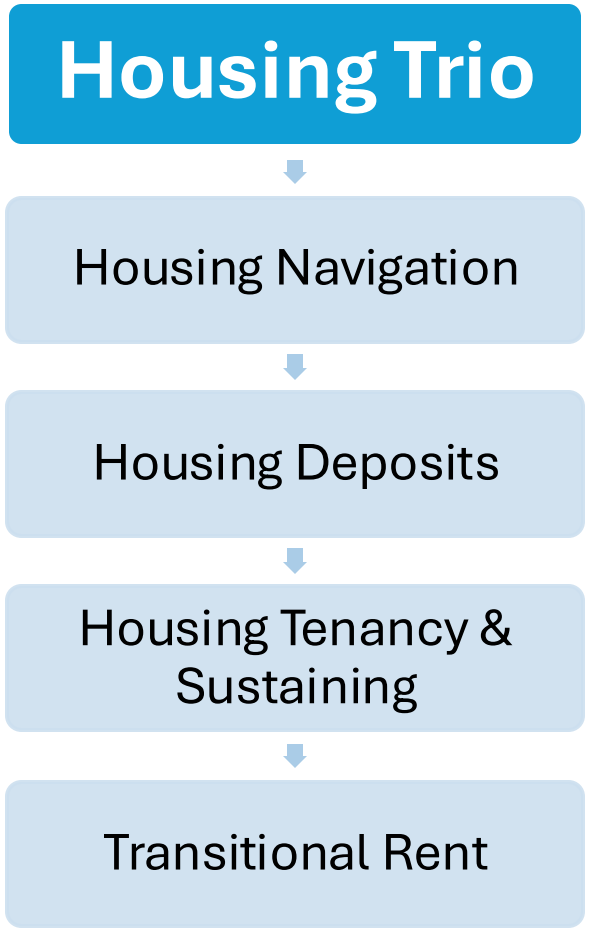


MCP authorizes TR; County ensures documentation and alignment with BHSA funding options.



Braided supports allow subsidy coverage beyond TR.

Medi-Cal Community Supports: Housing Trio



Transitional Rent Requirements

- Up to six months
- Must be authorized by MCP
- Paid directly to housing provider/landlord
- Requires attestation + documentation
- Must braid with long-term sustainability plan for Month-7

BHSA Housing Interventions

Prevention & retention supports

Shallow subsidies

Flexible Bridge Housing supports

Shared housing / recovery residence pathways

NOT duplicative with MCP TR — must braid, not overlap

Funding Rules: Do's and Don'ts

Do:	Don't:
• Sequence BHSA supports after TR ends • Use deposits + Housing Transition services before or during TR • Use Housing Tenancy Services concurrently	• Duplicate payment for same month • Apply BHSA subsidies where MCP has authorized TR • Skip authorization documentation — leads to denials

Compliance & Optimization

- Maintain clean ledger documentation
- Ensure release of information (ROI) and member consent
- Align workflows with MCP authorization windows
- Planning for Month-7 on day one
- Maintain shared documentation standards for audit readiness

Sequencing Example

01

MONTH 0–1:
Housing Transition + Deposits

02

MONTH 1–6:
Transitional Rent + Tenancy Sustaining

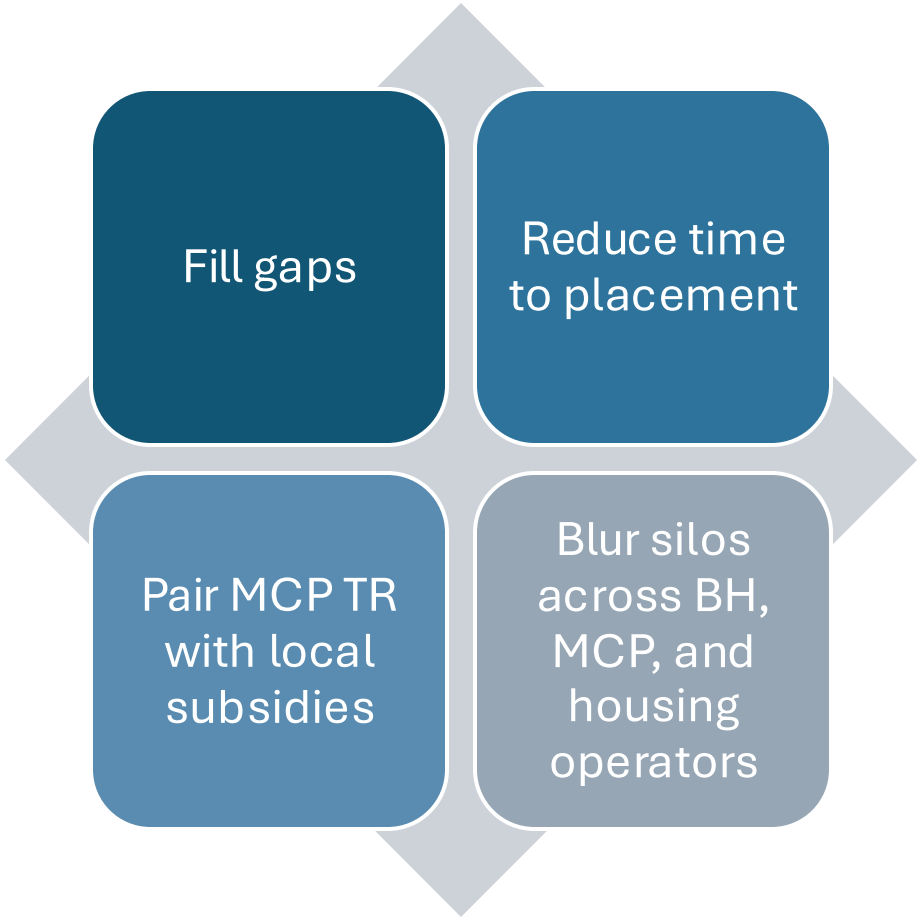
03

MONTH 7–12:
BHSA Bridge Or Shallow Subsidy

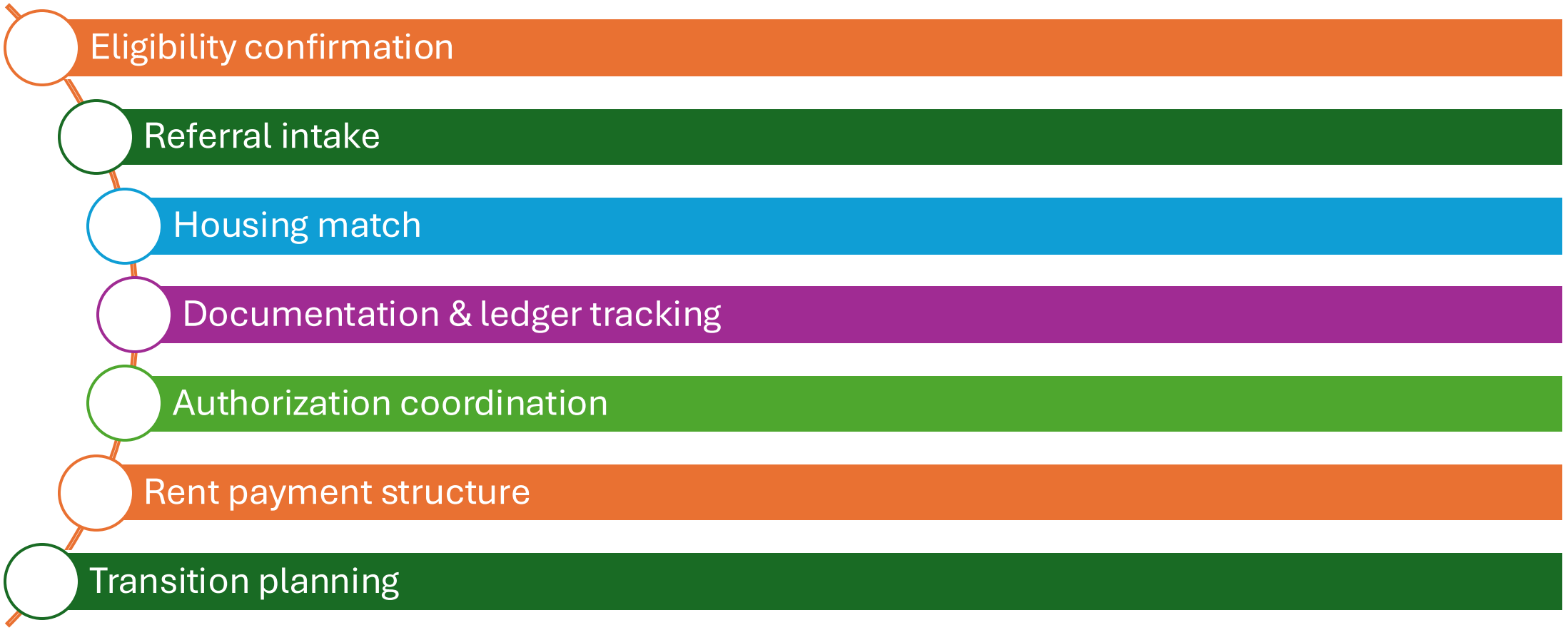
04

YEAR 2+:
Permanent Housing Subsidy Or PSH

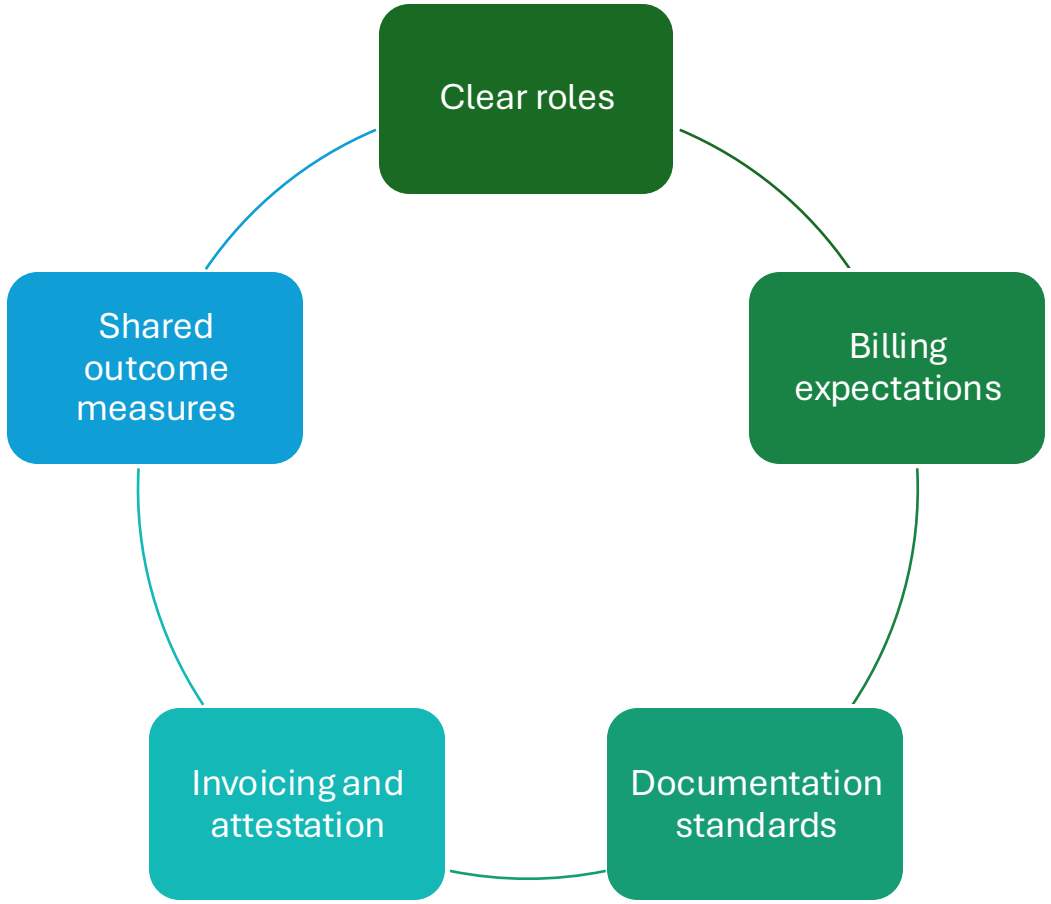
Why Flexible Housing Pools Matter



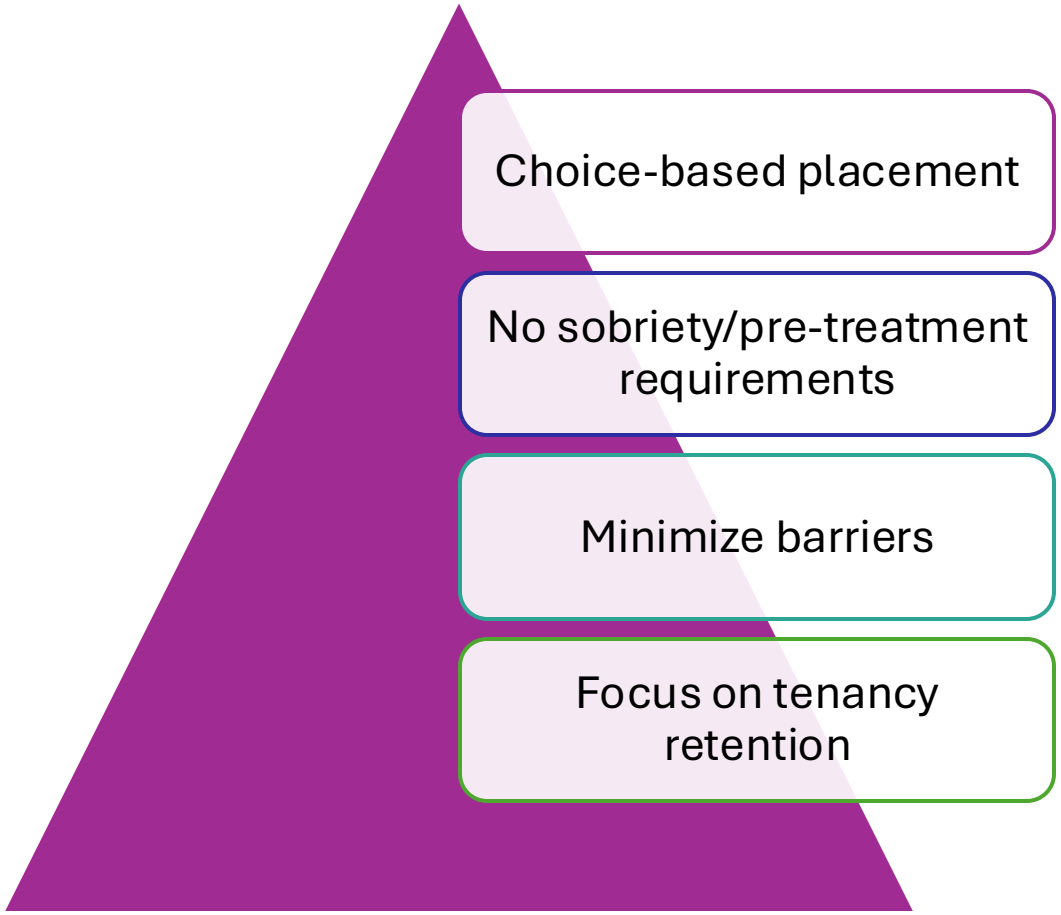
Core Workflow Elements



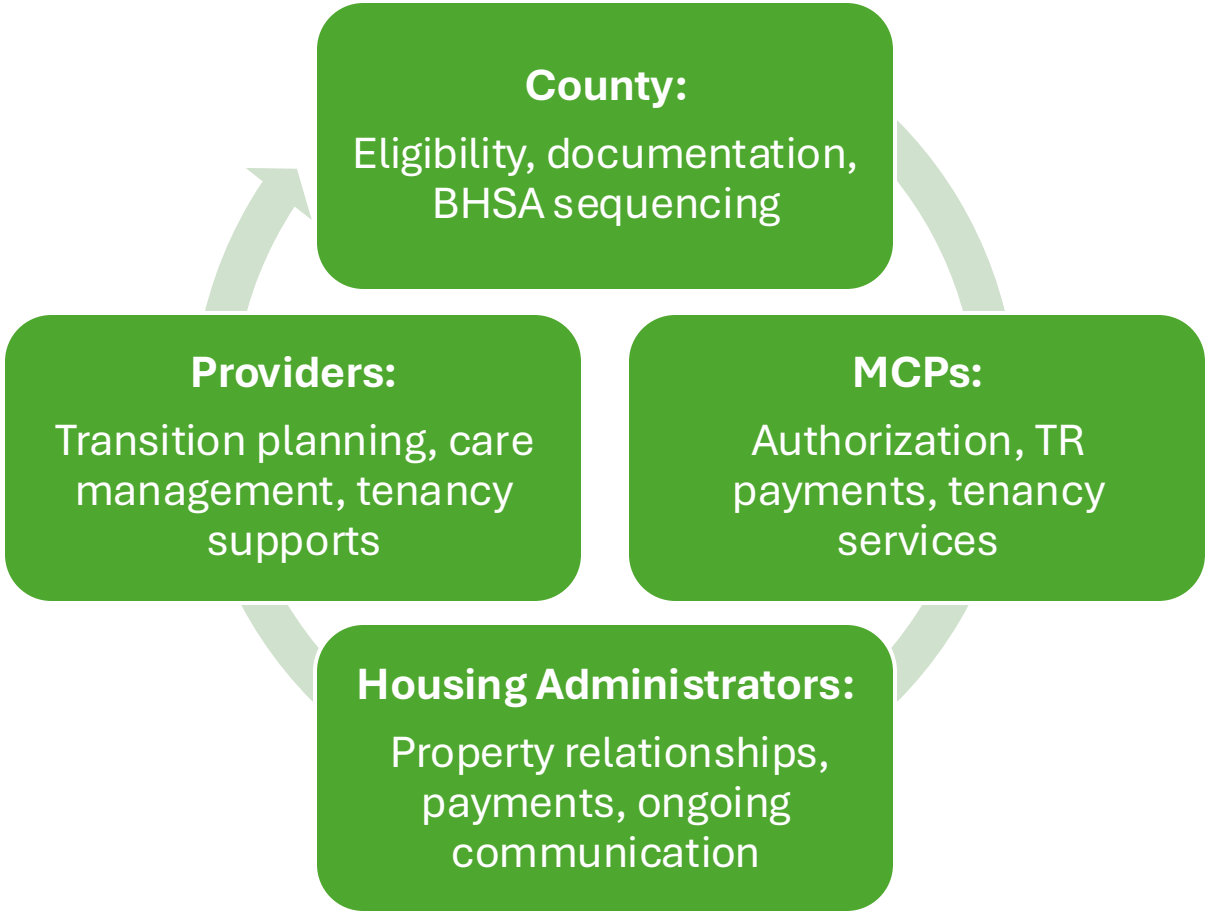
Aligning MOAs and SOWs



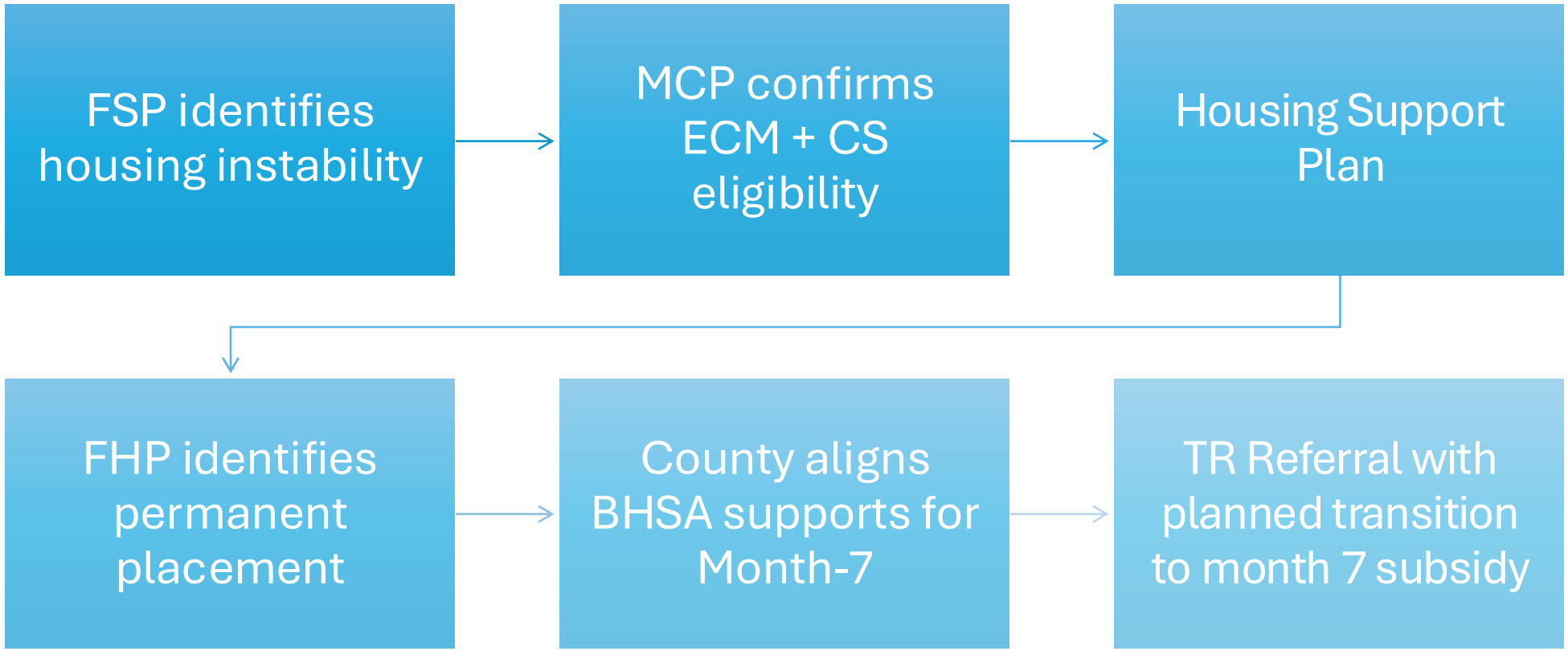
Housing First Alignment



Coordination Across Partners



Workflow Example



Why Braided Funding Matters

TR ends after six months

Housing markets require more time

MCP + BHSA + local subsidies create continuity

Reduced return to homelessness

Scaling Operational Subsidies



Use BHSA shallow subsidies



Leverage local and federal vouchers

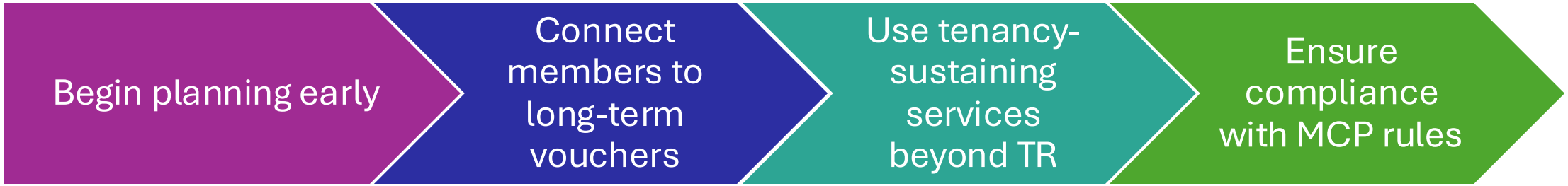


Bridge TR into longer subsidies via FHP

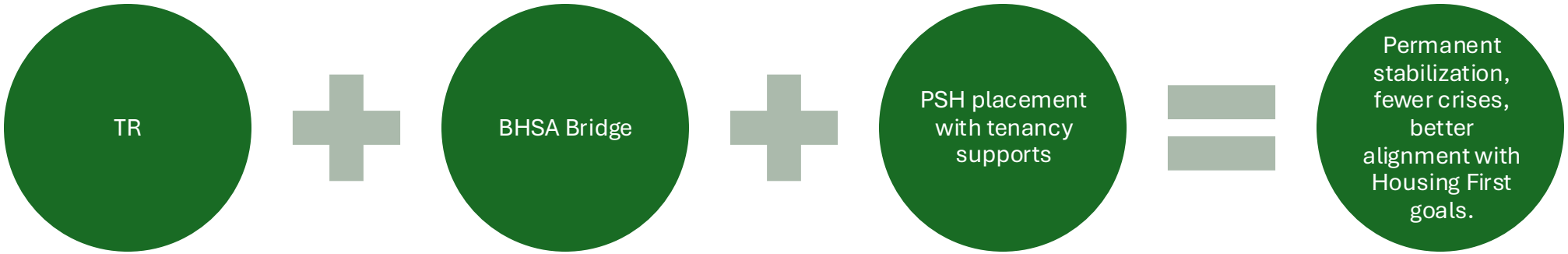


Explore partnership opportunities (Homekey, shared housing)

Extending Stability Beyond TR



Sustainability Case Example



Q&A

Resources & References

Peer-Reviewed & Government Sources

- CA DHCS — Community Supports Guidance (2023–2024)
- CA Health & Human Services — BHSA Housing Supports Overview (2024)
- National Academy of Medicine — Integrating Behavioral Health & Housing Systems (2022)
- HUD — Housing First Implementation Guide (2021)
- California Policy Lab — Flexible Housing Pool Impacts (2022)

Implementation Resources

- CSH — Medi-Cal Community Supports Implementation Toolkit (2023)
- Cal-ICH — Bridge Housing Models & Integration Strategies (2022)

Contact Information

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Housing & Homelessness Team
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Closing remarks

Resources

Contact information