

CHEAC Fiscal Training Series

GLOSSARY V.1

Term	Acronym	Description
1991 Realignment		A major change in the state and local government relationship in the areas of mental health, social services, and health. Realignment transferred programs from the state to county control, altered program cost-sharing ratios, and provided counties with dedicated tax revenues from the sales tax and vehicle license fee to pay for these changes. These local apportionments are allocated by the State Controller’s Office.
2011 or Public Safety Realignment or AB 109		A shift of responsibility and funding for lower-level offenders from the state to counties. This “realignment” is the result of Governor Jerry Brown signing AB 109 (Chapter 15, Statutes of 2011) into law.
AB 85 County Health Realignment Diversion		AB 85 (Chapter 24, Statutes of 2013) specifies changes to the 1991 realignment structure and redirects county health realignment funding for CalWORKs grant increases.
Adopted Budget		A spending and financing plan covering the fiscal year period July 1 through June 30, adopted by resolution of the Board of Supervisors no later than October 2nd. The budget is adopted, and all appropriations established, after a hearing in which changes may be made to the Approved Budget.
Allocated Costs		Central costs for services/obligations/infrastructure that are charged out to County departments based on varying criteria. Allocated costs include internal services or overhead costs, such as insurance, facility maintenance, debt service, fleet management, central information technology, central finance and accounting and central budget administration.
Appropriation		In adopting the budget the Board of Supervisors approves a legal limit on how much can be spent annually via an appropriation level for each budget unit and object of expenditure.
Approved or Approved Recommended Budget		Prior to June 30th, the Board of Supervisors considers the Recommended Budget, makes any revisions, reductions or additions and approves the Recommended Budget as revised. This becomes the Approved or Approved Recommended Budget and provides interim spending

		authority until a budget is adopted, no later than October 2nd.
Base or No Growth Budget		The cost in the budget year for each budget unit's current staffing level and programs. That is the amount needed to fund current staffing and programs, adjusted only for increases or decreases in the cost of doing business.
Budget Unit		A portion of the budget that includes a program, service or group of programs or services that have an overall appropriation level. May represent a department, or an agency may have multiple budget units representing departments or programs
California Budget Act		The predominant method by which state budget appropriations are made. It must be introduced by January 10 and there is a constitutional requirement for the Legislature to pass the Budget Bill to the Governor by June 15. The Budget Bill becomes the Budget Act upon the Governor's signature.
California Code of Regulations	CCR	The official compilation and publication of the regulations adopted, amended or repealed by state agencies pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). Properly adopted regulations that have been filed with the Secretary of State have the force of law.
California Department of Public Health	CDPH	California's state public health department also known as the state health jurisdiction
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	CDC	An agency of the US Department of Health and Human Services, providing national level public health services and functions
Centers for Medicaid and Medicare	CMS	An agency of the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) which administers and delivers Medicaid and Medicare programs.
Certified Public Expenditures	CPE	A permissible source of local funding used to receive federal Medicaid matching funds. Local government entities certify that they have incurred a CPE on items and services that are eligible for Medi-Cal funding. CPEs do not require a transfer of funds between government entities.
Community Based Organization	CBO	A nonprofit organization that is driven by community residents in all aspects of its existence, including governance and staffing. Program design, implementation, and evaluation components have community members involved with leadership.
Community Health Assessment	CHA	A state, tribal, local, or territorial health assessment that identifies key health needs and issues through systematic, comprehensive data collection, and analysis. Required for accreditation and Future of Public Health funds.
Community Health Improvement Plan	CHIP	Utilizes the results of community health assessment activities and the community health improvement process.

		Required for accreditation and Future of Public Health funds.
County Administrative Officer /County Executive	CAO	The County Administrator is responsible for the day-to-day functions of the county and prepares the annual budget for the Board of Supervisors. The office typically coordinates the activities of appointed and elected department heads to ensure the effectiveness of county operations and may perform topical analyses on issues before the Board of Supervisors.
County General Fund	GF	The County’s main operating fund. The General Fund is used to account for all of the County’s financial resources, except those required to be accounted for in another fund. All discretionary resources are accounted for in the General Fund, as are the budgets for most operating departments.
Department of Health and Human Services (US/Federal)	HHS	The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) provides for the nation’s health and human services through its agencies and programs that deliver health care, public health, and social services.
Departmental or Nondiscretionary Revenue		Revenue received by County departments or programs that are legally required to be spent on certain programs. This is distinguished from discretionary revenue that is accounted for in the General Fund.
Discretionary Revenue		Revenue that is not legally restricted for certain uses and can be allocated based on Board priorities. This generally includes discretionary revenue (like property taxes) and the General Fund’s available fund balance. Revenue from property tax, sales tax and certain other sources that is not legally restricted for particular uses. This is revenue that the Board of Supervisors can allocate as it wishes to fund local priorities.
Federal Financial Participation	FFP	A broad term for programs that the federal government is willing to share in the costs or “participate” in. Jurisdictions may not use the same work or the same matching funds for two different FFP programs
Fiscal Year	FY	The 12 month period for which a budget provides spending authority, July 1-June 30 for the state and counties.
Full Time Equivalent	FTE	The fractional equivalent of a full time staffer for the purposes of budgeting. For example, a .75 FTE would be budgeted at 75% the salary and benefits of an employee budgeted at 100% full time salary and benefits.
Fund		A fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts recording resources, liabilities and balances, and expenditures and revenues which are segregated for the purpose of carrying out specific activities. A fund can be made up of one or more budget units.

Fund Balance		Fund resources that are not spent in a prior year carry over into the next fiscal year as fund balance. In simple terms, fund balance is the difference between total actual financing sources and total actual expenditures at the close of the fiscal year. Fund balance is classified as either “obligated” or “available.” Obligated fund balance either is legally restricted or has been reserved by the Board of Supervisors for a particular purpose. Available fund balance is a resource that can be used along with revenue to cover the cost of appropriations.
Health Resources and Services Administration	HRSA	An agency of the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), supports equitable health care for the nation’s highest-need communities, including:
Indirect Cost Rate	ICR	The ratio between the total indirect expenses and some direct cost base.
Legislative Analyst’s Office		The California Legislature’s nonpartisan fiscal and policy advisor.
Local Government Agency	LGA	Designated local entity (usually a county or charter city) responsible for administering the Medicaid Administrative Activities and Targeted Case Management programs.
Local Health Department/Jurisdiction	LHD/LHJ	County or City level public health entities organized under state health departments/jurisdictions as part of the nation’s public health system.
Maintenance of Effort	MOE	Matching funds required as a condition of receiving certain state or federal funds.
Net County Cost	NCC	Department or budget unit appropriations in the General Fund, less all available departmental revenues. Net County Cost is the amount of discretionary resources allocated to a department or program. This is also referred to as the General Fund allocation or contribution
Rate Range Intergovernmental Transfer	Rate Range IGT	Rate range Intergovernmental Transfers (IGT) are used by counties in California to offset the cost of uncompensated health care provided by county health departments, public hospitals and other local care providers. The federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) provides a rate range for Medi-Cal managed care services, but the actual reimbursement rates that plans receive are set by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). The difference between the federal allowable rate and state actual rate represents the potential amount of federal reimbursement that counties can claim through a rate range IGT. The Local Health Department must have a contract with a Medi-Cal Manages Care Health Plan to participate in an IGT to obtain federal reimbursement for uncompensated health care.

Recommended Budget		The County Administrative Officer’s recommended expenditure, revenue and Net County Cost level for each budget unit. Based on CAO staff review and analysis of budget requests from departments and estimates of discretionary revenue the CAO presents a recommended balanced budget to the Board of Supervisors prior to the start of the new fiscal year.
Requested Budget		Expenditure, revenue and Net County Cost levels for each budget unit as requested by the County’s departments. Departments submit their budget requests to the County Executive Office for review.
Reserve		An amount in a fund to meet cash requirements, emergency expenditures or future defined requirements. A reserve is not an appropriation, and there is no limitation on the amount of reserve that can be established.
State Controllers Office	SCO	The State Controller is responsible for accountability and disbursement of California’s financial resources. Local government apportionments, reimbursements, mandates and other information may be found at Local Government https://sco.ca.gov/ard_local_gov.html
Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Authority	SAMHSA	An agency of the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS),
Welfare and Institutions Code	WIC	California statutes regulating public social services, health, mental health, developmental services and more.

RESOURCES V.1

[AB 85 - 1991 County Health Realignment Diversion - California State Association of Counties](#)

[Budget Act | Department of Finance \(ca.gov\)](#)

[Budgeting and Financial Management - Institute for Local Government \(ca-ilg.org\)](#)

[California Code of Regulations \(CCR\) | OAL](#)

[California State Controller's Office; Local Government](#)

[California's Counties - California State Association of Counties](#)

https://lao.ca.gov/1994/Proposition_172.pdf

<https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/OASAM/legacy/files/DCD-2-CFR-Guide.pdf> (Indirect Cost Rate Guide)

[Key Budget Terms \(saccounty.gov\)](#)

[LAO Health and Human Services \(ca.gov\)](#)

[Legislative Analyst's Office \(ca.gov\)](#)

[Public Health Finance Bootcamp](#)

[public saftey realignment final 10-17.pdf \(ca-ilg.org\)](#)

[Realignment Revisited: An Evaluation of the 1991 Experiment in State-County Relations \(ca.gov\)](#)

[Rethinking the 1991 Realignment \(ca.gov\)](#)

[Summary of the Public Health System in the United States - The Future of Public Health - NCBI Bookshelf \(nih.gov\)](#)

[The 2022-23 Budget: Public Health Foundational Support \(ca.gov\)](#)

[The 2024-25 Budget: Medi-Cal Analysis](#)