

AN OVERVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY-BASED MENTAL HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS ACT (S. 2183)

Overview

The Community-Based Mental Health Infrastructure Improvements Act (S. 2183), introduced on October 17 by Senators Gordon Smith (R-OR) and Jack Reed (D-RI), would amend the Public Health Service Act to create a new grant program that will explicitly support the construction, expansion, and modernization of facilities used to provide mental health and addiction treatment services. The bill also allows for the construction or structural modification of facilities to permit the integrated delivery of behavioral health and primary medical care services.

Currently, there is no federal funding available for construction of community mental health facilities. The bill was created to ensure that individuals with mental illness are not turned away because a facility does not have the resources to expand facilities to meet community need or because building expansion could not occur to keep up with a growing population due to ineligibility for funding.

Understanding S. 2183's Provision

Section 2: Community-Based Mental Health Infrastructure Improvement

\$20 million would be authorized to support the construction or modernization of facilities used to provide mental health and behavioral health services. Grants would be made to states and Indian tribes or tribal organizations, which would then be authorized to make sub-grants to individual community behavioral healthcare providers. To be eligible for the grants, states must be recipients of both a Community Mental Health Services Block Grant and a Substance Abuse and Treatment Block Grant.

Funds may be used for a variety of improvement-related activities, including:

- Construction, expansion, or modernization of facilities;
- Acquiring/leasing facilities and equipment;
- Construction, structural modifications, and equipment acquisition to allow integrated delivery of co-located behavioral health and primary/specialty care services to people with co-occurring behavioral health and chronic medical or surgical conditions

For more information, contact Chuck Ingolia, Vice President, Public Policy, at 301.984.6200, ext. 249 or chucki@thenationalcouncil.org