



APPROPRIATIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

The Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG) is a coalition of national organizations representing consumers, family members, mental health and addiction providers, advocates, payers, and other stakeholders committed to strengthening Americans' access to mental health and addiction care. As trusted leaders in the field, our 70+ member organizations are dedicated to elevating the national conversation around mental health and addiction. What follows is a broad array of appropriations recommendations for mental health and addiction policies and programs, a majority of which are supported by the majority of the Mental Health Liaison Group full voting members.

The MHLG commends Congress for including substantial funds for mental health and substance use disorder treatment and services throughout its series of COVID-19 response legislation. Given the behavioral health challenges that Americans continue to experience, the appropriation of these funds is desperately needed by states and frontline providers to ensure the continued provision of crucial mental health and substance use services.

However, the crises in mental health and substance use grow relentlessly and there remains a strong need for increased attention and increased funding both now, during a public health and economic crisis, and for years to come. The regular funding levels, as expressed in the Fiscal Year 2021 Labor, HHS and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations legislation do not meet the need.

For purposes of clarity the funding levels referenced in this document are intended to compare “regular order” funding levels for FY2021 with requested adjustments and increases for FY2022.

However, fundamental, systemic, change is required in the levels of Federal funding in this area to adequately address the crying need. We would welcome the opportunity to work with you to set a new paradigm in terms of Congress addressing – in a fulsome way - the mental health and substance use disorders challenges faced by the American people.

ENDORSING ORGANIZATIONS

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health & Social Justice
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
National Board for Certified Counselors
National Council for Behavioral Health
National Disability Rights Network
SMART Recovery

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (SAMHSA)

(Dollars in millions)

Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG)

| FY 2021 Enacted | FY 2022 MHLG Request |
|---|-------------------------------|
| \$757.571 | \$833.328 (+\$75.757 vs FY21) |
| <p>The MHBG awards funding to states to supplement existing mental health services and/or to fund new activities. The additional \$75.8 million sought by MHLG would fund a Mental Health Block Grant ten percent set-aside to fund state implementation of the components of the Crisis Now model of crisis services. Funding crisis services will be especially crucial to addressing the significant trauma and mental health distress resulting from COVID-19 pandemic and the social isolation and economic pressures resulting from the infection's spread. While the set-aside would not fully fund the Crisis Now model in every state, it would aid in bolstering a comprehensive system that includes mobile crisis teams and crisis stabilization facilities providing short-term (under 24 hours) observation and stabilization in a home-like, non-hospital environment.</p> | |

Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SAPT)

| FY 2021 Enacted | FY 2022 MHLG Request |
|--|-----------------------------|
| \$1,858.079 | \$1,858.079 (level to FY21) |
| <p>The SAPT block grant distributes funds to eligible states and territories to plan, carry out, and evaluate substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery support services for individuals, families, and communities impacted by substance use disorder. In 2015, SAPT accounted for approximately 32 percent of total state substance use agency funding and 23 percent of total state substance use prevention and public health funding. Outcome measures from the most recent year for which data is available show that the SAPT has been successful in expanding treatment capacity by supporting approximately two million admissions to treatment programs receiving public funding.</p> | |

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

| FY 2021 Enacted | FY 2022 MHLG Request |
|--|----------------------------|
| \$24.0 | \$240.0 (+\$216.0 vs FY21) |
| <p>The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (Lifeline) was established by Congress to effectively reach and serve all persons who could be at risk for suicide in the US through a national network of crisis call centers. When the easily accessible 9-8-8 crisis hotline number, coupled with promotional and public education campaigns, is nationally available July 2022 usage of the Lifeline is anticipated to substantially increase and additional capacity and infrastructure updates are needed. MHLG hopes Congress will work to adequately respond to SAMHSA's and the VA's anticipated April 2021 needs estimate and looks forward to collaborating with you as more information is made available. Current estimates for the first year of 9-8-8 implementation are based on an initial analysis from Vibrant Emotional Health, the current administrator of the Lifeline.</p> | |

SAMHSA Center on 988 Implementation

| FY 2021 Enacted | FY 2022 MHLG Request |
|--|------------------------|
| --- | \$5.0 (+\$5.0 vs FY21) |
| <p>In response to the ongoing mental health and suicide crisis, Congress passed the bipartisan National Suicide Hotline Designation Act establishing 9-8-8 as the universal telephone number for the purpose of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system. The MHLG requests the inclusion of \$5 million for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Mental and Substance Use to coordinate a crisis care system encompassing nationwide standards and data analysis to expand the capacity of and access to local crisis call centers, mobile crisis care, crisis stabilization, and psychiatric emergency services provided by the National Suicide and Mental Health Crisis Response System, the Mental Health Block Grant crisis care set-aside program, Community Mental Health Centers, Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics and other community mental health and substance use disorder providers.</p> | |

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) Expansion Grants

| FY 2021 Enacted | FY 2022 MHLG Request |
|--|---------------------------|
| \$250.0 | \$300.0 (+\$50.0 vs FY21) |
| <p>Since launching in 2017, CCBHCs have dramatically improved access to a comprehensive range of mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) services to vulnerable individuals. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, CCBHCs have been on the front lines ensuring millions of Americans continue to receive medically necessary mental health and SUD services while also monitoring for COVID-19. CCBHCs are a successful, integrated, and modern way of delivering 21st century mental health care to patients with substance use disorder. The FY2022 allocation will allow for both the continued reach of the grant program while allowing previous grantees to reapply and continue their successful work in communities across the country.</p> | |

Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI)

| FY 2021 Enacted | FY 2022 MHLG Request |
|--|-------------------------|
| \$36.146 | \$40.0 (+3.854 vs FY21) |
| <p>During these unprecedented times, vital advocacy for people with mental health disabilities is needed to ensure access to health care, vaccines, education, employment, housing, and other critical supports to live and be self-sufficient in their communities and be free from abuse and neglect. The Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) program funds the sole nationwide network of agencies that provide this critical advocacy. We request increased funding for mental health advocacy so PAIMI can fulfill its mission on behalf of people with mental health disabilities.</p> | |

PARITY ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVES

(Dollars in millions)

| Program Title | Agency | FY2021 Enacted | FY2022 MHLG Request |
|---|---|----------------|--------------------------|
| Employee Benefits Security Administration | Department of Labor | --- | \$25.0 (+\$25.0 vs FY21) |
| Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services | Department of Health and Human Services | --- | \$10.0 (+\$10.0 vs FY21) |
| Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight | Department of Health and Human Services | --- | \$5.0 (+\$5.0 vs FY21) |

These requests would fund continued enforcement of parity requirements in Medicaid and CHIP programs, the ACA Marketplace, and most health care coverage programs subject to the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008. Despite agency efforts to work with states to implement parity over recent years, there remain issues with parity compliance and transparency across health care coverage programs. The MHLG requests additional appropriations to ensure the effective implementation and monitoring of insurance parity.

HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (HRSA)

(Dollars in millions)

Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) Program

| Program Title | FY 2021 Enacted | FY 2022 MHLG Request |
|--|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Behavioral Health Workforce Education & Training Grant | \$53.3 | \$90.0 (+\$36.7 vs FY21) |
| Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Loan Repayment Program | \$16.0 | \$25.0 (+\$9.0 vs FY21) |
| Mental and SUD Workforce Training Demonstration | \$29.7 | \$37.0 (+\$7.3 vs FY21) |

BHWET expands mental and behavioral health services for underserved populations by supporting pre-degree clinical internships and field placements for doctoral-level psychology students, master's-level social workers, school social workers, professional and school counselors, psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioners, occupational therapists, behavioral pediatrics, peer support specialists, training programs in psychiatry, substance use disorder prevention, and marriage and family therapists. MHLG requests increased investment needed in the workforce due to rising mental health and substance use disorder needs from anxiety, depression, isolation, and grief associated with COVID-19.

Mental and Behavioral Health Programs

| FY 2021 Enacted | FY 2022 MHLG Request |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| \$36.916 | \$40.916 (+\$4.0 vs FY21) |

Programs funded through HRSA's Mental and Behavioral Health account include the Graduate Psychology Education (GPE) Program, which provides grants to accredited psychology doctoral, internship and postdoctoral training programs to support the interprofessional training of psychology graduate students while also providing mental and behavioral health services to underserved populations.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH)

(Dollars in millions)

National Institutes of Health: Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Research

| FY 2021 Enacted | FY 2022 MHLG Request |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| \$42,934.0 | \$46,111.0 (+\$3,177.0 to FY21) |

Scientific advances have led to astounding discoveries about the mental health and substance use disorders. Continued investments in research will aid in developing rapid, effective treatments for behavioral health disorders and facilitate early identification and intervention. MHLG requests that increases be distributed evenly among all NIH Institutes, including: National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH); National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA); National Institute on Alcohol Abuse (NIAAA) and National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD).

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC)

(Dollars in millions)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Research

| Program Title | FY 2021 Enacted | FY 2022 MHLG Request |
|---|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Firearm Injury and Mortality Prevention Research | \$12.5 | \$25.0 (+\$12.5 vs FY21) |
| Suicide Prevention Activities | \$12.0 | \$36.0 (+\$24.0 vs. FY21) |
| Adverse Childhood Experiences | \$5.0 | \$7.0 (+\$2.0 vs FY21) |
| National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) | \$24.5 | \$29.5 (+\$5.0 vs. FY21) |
| National Center for Injury Prevention and Control | \$12.0 | \$36.0 (+\$24.0 vs FY21) |

The CDC is the nation's leading health protection agency and therefore is a natural fit to study suicide prevention efforts, the ramifications of Adverse Childhood Experiences, and the impact of violence on the nation's mental health and wellbeing. The increased funding requests made by the MHLG above reflect the need for further research and surveillance efforts and to test and implement innovative prevention and recovery strategies.

The Mental Health Liaison Group requests a **three-percent funding increase** for any SAMHSA program or line item not listed below to reflect the rising needs of Americans living with mental illness and substance use disorders coupled with the anxiety, fear, and isolation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. These programs are vital to the intervention, treatment and recovery supports necessary for Americans living with addiction. We ask that you continue supporting such line items with this nominal increase in FY 2022.

ADDITIONAL FY 2022 LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

(Dollars in millions)

| Program | FY 2021 Enacted | FY 2022 MHLG Request |
|--|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration | | |
| PATH Homelessness Program <i>(Center for Mental Health Services)</i> | \$64.6 | \$71.0 (+\$6.4 to FY21) |
| Project Aware State Grants <i>(Center for Mental Health Services)</i> | \$107.0 | \$110.0 (+\$3.0 vs FY21) |
| Mental Health First Aid <i>(Center for Mental Health Services)</i> | \$24.0 | \$29.0 (+\$5.0 vs FY21) |
| Crisis Response Grant Program <i>(Center for Mental Health Services)</i> | --- | \$12.5 (+\$12.5 vs FY21) |
| Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Centers <i>(Center for Substance Abuse Treatment)</i> | \$4.0 | \$8.0 (+\$4.0 vs FY21) |
| Practice Improvement and Training Programs <i>(Science and Service)</i> | \$7.8 | \$9.8 (+\$2.0 vs FY21) |
| Minority Fellowship Program <i>(Health Surveillance and Program Support)</i> | \$16.2 | \$20.2 (+\$4.0 vs FY21) |
| Practitioner Education Program <i>(Health Surveillance and Program Support)</i> | \$2.0 | \$10.0 (+\$8.0 vs. FY21) |
| Health Resources and Services Administration | | |
| Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment | --- | \$50.0 (+\$50.0 to FY21) |
| Mental and Behavioral Health | \$36.916 | \$40.916 (+\$4.0 vs FY21) |
| Graduate Psychology Education (GPE) Program | \$19.0 | \$23.0 (+\$4.0 vs FY21) |
| Screening and Treatment for Maternal Depression | \$5.0 | \$10.0 (+\$5.0 vs FY21) |
| Maternal Mental Health Hotline | \$3.0 | \$5.0 (+\$2.0 vs FY21) |
| Primary Care Training and Enhancement Grant Program: Eating Disorders Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral Training | \$48.9 | \$49.9 (+\$1.0 vs FY21) |
| Department of Education | | |
| Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) Grant Program | \$1,210.0 | \$1,210.0 (level to FY21) |

ADDITIONAL FY 2022 APPROPRIATIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

(Dollars in millions)

| Program | FY 2021 Enacted | FY 2022 MHLG Request |
|--|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Department of Justice | | |
| Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry Grant Program | --- | \$10.0 (+\$10.0 vs FY21) |
| STOP School Violence Act | \$79.0 | \$87.0 (+\$8.0 vs FY21) |
| Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act | \$43.0 | \$50.0 (+\$7.0 vs FY21) |
| Department of Veterans Affairs | | |
| Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program | --- | \$20.0 (+\$20.0 to FY21) |
| Precision Medicine for Veterans Initiative | --- | \$3.0 (+\$3.0 to FY21) |
| Expanded Telehealth Grants (P.L. 116-171, Section 701) | --- | \$1.0 (+\$1.0 to FY21) |
| Readjustment Counselor Scholarship Program (P.L. 116-171, Section 502) | --- | \$2.0 (+\$2.0 to FY21) |
| Health Professional Scholarship Program | \$17.1 | \$21.5 (+\$4.4 to FY21) |
| Education Debt Reduction Program | \$103.0 | \$159.5 (+\$56.5 to FY21) |
| Employee Incentive Scholarship Program | \$2.0 | \$2.0 (level to FY21) |
| Specialty Education Loan Repayment Program | \$4.0 | \$8.0 (+\$4.0 vs FY21) |