

September 9, 2024

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Aderholt, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chair Baldwin, and Ranking Member Capito,

Thank you very much for your continued dedication, diligent efforts, and steadfast support in continuing to work towards strengthening access to lifesaving and crucial mental health and substance use services for individuals and families in communities across our country. While we are attentive to the realities of the current funding environment, continued investments in mental health and substance use services are critical to ameliorating the complex mental health, substance use, and workforce shortage crises we face today.

Maintaining, and increasing where possible, investments in mental health and substance use services not only mitigates the serious, personal costs to individuals and families in our country, but it also supports staving off financial costs in other areas. One study has shown that for every dollar invested into early care and treatment for mental health and substance use challenges, there is a \$2-\$10 return in savings on health, criminal justice, education, and economic costs.¹

We, the undersigned, are writing to you now to strongly urge you to include funding in the final fiscal year (FY) 2025 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill at the following levels:

- \$400M (+\$15M over FY 2024) for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs), as proposed by the Senate
 - We also strongly urge the adoption of the Senate proposed report language that directs SAMHSA to consider and advance CCBHC independent accreditation and the CCBHC data infrastructure and repository initiative to further transparency and accountability.
- \$27.96M (level over FY 2024) for Mental Health Awareness Training (MHAT), as proposed by the Senate
 - We also strongly urge the adoption of the Senate proposed report language that highlights support for training for first responders to recognize the signs and symptoms

¹ <https://psu.pb.unizin.org/bbh143/chapter/7-4-prevention-of-substance-abuse-and-mental-illness-by-samhsa/>

of mental health challenges as well as encouragement to prioritize grantees where there is a high prevalence of youth substance use disorders.

- \$55.877M (level over FY 2024) for Primary and Behavioral Health Care Integration (PBHCI) Grants and \$2.991M (level over FY 2024) for PBHCI Technical Assistance, as proposed by both the House and Senate
- \$2.508B (+\$500M over FY 2024) for Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant (SUPTRS BG), as proposed by the House
- \$1.042B (+\$35M over FY 2024) for Community Mental Health Service Block Grant (MHBG), as proposed by the Senate

We are immensely grateful for your consideration and continued work to improve access to lifesaving mental health and substance use services. We welcome any questions or further discussion regarding the comments described here; please contact Reyna Taylor, Sr. Vice President, Public Policy & Advocacy, National Council for Mental Wellbeing at ReynaT@thenationalcouncil.org. Thank you very much for your dedication and efforts on this important issue.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

American Psychiatric Association

Employee Assistance Professionals Association

Faces & Voices of Recovery

Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

National Association for Behavioral Healthcare

National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors

National Council for Mental Wellbeing

National Eating Disorders Association

National League for Nursing

National Register of Health Service Psychologists

NCQA, National Committee for Quality Assurance

The Kennedy Forum

The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health

State and Local Organizations

Alabama Council for Behavioral Healthcare

Alabama

Alaska Behavioral Health Association	Alaska
AZ Council of Human Service Providers	Arizona
Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council	Colorado
CT Community Nonprofit Alliance	Connecticut
Ability Network of Delaware	Delaware
Georgia Association of Community Services Boards	Georgia
Community Behavioral Healthcare Association of Illinois (CBHA)	Illinois
Regional Health Systems	Indiana
LifeSpring Health	Indiana
Southwestern Behavioral Healthcare	Indiana
Cummins Behavioral Health Systems, Inc.	Indiana
Northeastern Center Inc.	Indiana
Hamilton Center, Inc.	Indiana
Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers	Indiana
Edgewater Health	Indiana
LifeSpring Health Systems	Indiana
Aspire Indiana Health, Inc.	Indiana
Family Health Center	Indiana
Porter-Starke Services	Indiana
Valley Oaks Health, Inc.	Indiana
INcompass Healthcare	Indiana
Edgewater Health	Indiana
Iowa Association of Community Providers	Iowa
Iowa Behavioral Health Association	Iowa
Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services, Maine	Maine
Association for Behavioral Healthcare	Massachusetts
Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs	Minnesota
MS Association of Community Mental Health Centers	Mississippi
Behavioral Health Alliance of Montana	Montana
Nebraska Association of Behavioral Health Organizations	Nebraska
NewBridge Services, Inc.	New Jersey
Oaks Integrated Care	New Jersey
Hudson Partnership Care Management Organization	New Jersey
Cumberland County Guidance Center	New Jersey
Mental Health Center of Passaic	New Jersey
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.	New Jersey
CPC Integrated Health, inc.	New Jersey
Hunterdon Health	New Jersey
Acenda Integrated Health	New Jersey

Mercer Council	New Jersey
Behavioral Health Providers Association of New Mexico	New Mexico
New York State Coalition for Children's Behavioral Health	New York
New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare	New York
The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers	Ohio
Oregon Council for Behavioral Health (OCBH)	Oregon
Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association (RCPA)	Pennsylvania
The Substance Use and Mental Health Leadership Council of RI	Rhode Island
Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations (TAMHO)	Tennessee
TAADAS	Tennessee
Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network	Tennessee
Vermont Care Partners	Vermont
West Virginia Behavioral Healthcare Provider Association	West Virginia