

The FY22 Supplemental Budget: Implications for People with Behavioral Health Conditions

On April 4, 2022, Governor Baker signed "[An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2022 to Provide for Supplementing Certain Existing Appropriations and for Certain Other Activities and Projects](#)," into law. It authorized \$1.6 billion in direct appropriations to support the Commonwealth's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic and invest in immediate needs.

MAMH led advocacy efforts to secure a \$4 million increase for the Department of Mental Health (DMH) Rental Subsidy Program. This is the largest increase the program has received in one year and will help an additional 284 individuals with serious behavioral health conditions secure affordable, supportive housing. MAMH also successfully advocated for \$10 million to support the implementation of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, which launched on July 16, 2022. Below is a summary of these and various other provisions in the law that affect people with behavioral health conditions of all ages, their families, and their communities.

- **\$5 million for housing repairs and additional housing vouchers**
\$4 million of these funds will support the DMH Rental Assistance Program, a program of DMH and the Department of Housing and Community Development, which provides rental assistance, as well as clinical and tenancy supportive services. \$1 million of these funds will support DMH housing repairs. [DMH line item 5046-0000]
- **\$10 million to support implementation of the new 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline**
The new 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline went live nationwide on July 16, 2022. Like all states, Massachusetts must field calls from people with behavioral health emergencies and concerns and provide compassionate, informed responses and referrals to services. These investments are being implemented in coordination with a larger, statewide process delineated in the [Roadmap for Behavioral Health Reform](#). [DPH line item 4513-1026]
- **\$55 million for rate enhancements to human services providers**
This amount supplements \$346 million of federal funds, for a total of \$401 million for rate enhancements. This funding is essential given the difficulty of attracting and retaining human service workers at this time across all behavioral health services. [A&F line item 1599-6903, Chapter 257 and Human Service Reserve]
- **\$10 million to support services for immigrants and refugees**
These funds will support services, including behavioral health services, through the Office of Immigrants and Refugees. [EOHHS 4003-0100]
- **Extension of the COVID-19 state of emergency eviction protections**
The emergency eviction provision, established in [Chapter 257 of the Acts of 2020](#), provided Massachusetts tenants with protections against eviction from housing. It was set to expire on April 1, 2022, but this law extends these protections until March 31, 2023.