

FY25 State Budget

Behavioral Health Priorities



MAMH urges targeted investment in promotion and prevention initiatives, evidence-based treatment, and recovery supports and services to benefit people with behavioral health conditions.

Access to Care

\$19M, a \$3.75M increase in funding over FY24 GAA and level funding with FY25 H2, for the DMH Adult Emergency Department (ED) Diversion Initiative (DMH 5046-0000: Adult Mental Health and Supports Services)

This funding would expand mobile and site-based respite services to address the ongoing problem of adult ED boarding, evidenced by the 305 adult psychiatric patients boarding in Massachusetts acute care hospital EDs and medical-surgical units as of March 18, 2024 (MA Health and Hospital Association). The use of respite services to address ED boarding offers a therapeutic, community-based alternative to hospitalization.

\$2.5M, a \$1.25M increase in funding over FY24 GAA and a \$2.5M increase in funding over FY25 H2, to implement the pilot of the Middlesex County Restoration Center (EOHHS 4000-0300)

This funding supports the operations of the Restoration Center, including by directly funding behavioral health services not otherwise covered by insurance or state funding. Law enforcement can bring people needing mental health and substance use treatment to the Center, diverting them from costly and traumatic stays in hospitals and jails. The Center is a pilot program in anticipation of expansion across the state.

\$4.5M, a \$2M increase in funding over FY24 GAA and a \$1.99M increase in funding over FY25 H2, for Elder Mental Health Outreach Teams (EMHOTS) (EOEA 9110-1640: Geriatric Mental Health Services)

This funding supports the establishment of new EMHOTS, moving the Commonwealth towards statewide availability for the service. EMHOTS bring vital community-based behavioral health supports to older adults in their own homes and reduce reliance on EDs and expensive congregate care settings such as nursing homes. Currently, demand exceeds supply, but providers are available to provide additional services if funding becomes available.

Housing

\$21.548M, a \$5M increase in funding over FY24 GAA and FY25 H2, for the Department of Mental Health Rental Subsidy Program (DMH RSP) (HLC 7004-9033: Rental Subsidy Program for DMH clients)

This funding addresses the projected demand for rental subsidies in FY25 for DMH clients with severe and disabling mental health conditions. The funding will help house the substantial number of people with such conditions who, in the absence of affordable and supported community-based housing, are stuck in EDs, hospital units, nursing homes, group living environments, and on the streets.

\$27.624M, level funding with FY24 GAA and a \$1M increase in funding over FY25 H2, for the Safe Haven Program (DMH 5046-2000: Statewide Homelessness Support Services)

This funding addresses the pressing demand for low-threshold, supportive housing for people who are chronically unhoused with severe and often co-occurring mental health and substance use conditions. The \$1M increase would help move towards geographically equitable access by enabling the establishment and operation of two new Safe Haven programs for one year. We seek an earmark stating that “not less than \$1,000,000 shall be expended to expand safe haven housing in a manner that ensures geographically equitable access.”

For more information, contact **Jennifer Honig** or **Jessica Larochelle**, MAMH Co-Directors of Public Policy and Government Relations: jenniferhonig@mamh.org and jessicalarochelle@mamh.org