



RESTORATION CENTER

CREATING A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS AND URGENT CARE CENTER

Line item **EOHHS and Medicaid Administration**

4000-0300

Include \$1.85 million for Middlesex County Restoration Center.

Outside **Criminal Justice and Community Support Trust Fund**

Section

Include an outside section using the language from S.1868 creating a trust fund to collect outside sources of funding like federal and philanthropic grants.

THE PROBLEM

- People in behavioral health crisis often end up arrested or boarding in emergency departments waiting for hospital beds.
- Nearly 50% of those incarcerated or detained in the Middlesex County Jail and House of Correction have a mental health condition, and 75% have a substance use condition.
- Anecdotally, up to 75% of police officer time is spent on behavioral health calls for service.
- People with behavioral health conditions are 16 times more likely to be killed by police than the general public.
- Though individuals with a behavioral health diagnosis only accounted for 14% of emergency department (ED) visits in 2015, they accounted for 71% of all ED visits that “boarded” (spent extra time in the ED without treatment waiting for an inpatient bed). ED boarding increased from 17% of all ED visits in 2011 to 23% in 2015, driven largely by psychiatric boarding.
- There is no place where people can get urgent and crisis behavioral health services combined with wrap-around social supports needed to prevent criminalization and hospitalization.

WHAT THIS FUNDING ACHIEVES

- This funding and trust fund would support the launch of a pilot in FY2022 of these services in Middlesex County, leveraging external sources of funding to boost the impact of state funding.
- The Middlesex County Restoration Center Commission has spent three years assessing service gaps and designing a model of behavioral health crisis care with wrap around social service supports.

WHY THIS MATTERS

People with behavioral health conditions and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) are disproportionately represented in our criminal legal system and in police interactions, and are less likely to receive needed care in our health system. A Restoration Center would provide timely behavioral health care to people in crisis in a setting that is less traumatizing than a jail or an extended amount of time in an ED, while wrapping social services and behavioral health after-care supports around the individual to prevent future behavioral health crises from occurring. This is an expansion of access to behavioral health and social services that our most vulnerable residents need most.

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