



MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF ADVANCED PRACTICE PSYCHIATRIC NURSES



November 12, 2025

The Honorable Maura Healey
Governor, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
24 Beacon Street, Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Funding for the Department of Mental Health (DMH), the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS), and MassHealth to be able to meaningfully address the mental health and substance use needs of people throughout the Commonwealth in the FY27 State Budget

Dear Governor Healey:

On behalf of our 25 organizations that represent people with lived experience, family members, outpatient and inpatient behavioral health service providers, behavioral health clinicians, and advocates, we would like to thank you for your work to protect the health care delivery system in the Commonwealth and to urge you to prioritize behavioral health as a critical component of the health care continuum. We recognize that this budget cycle presents challenging fiscal constraints that require difficult choices. **As your Administration considers potential 9C cuts and crafts your FY27 state budget proposal, we respectfully request sufficient funding for the:**

- **Department of Mental Health (DMH), all accounts inclusive of child and adolescent mental health services; adult mental health and support services; inpatient facilities and community-based mental health; and homelessness support services;**
- **Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS); and**
- **MassHealth accounts that allow the Commonwealth to be able to meaningfully address the mental health and substance use needs of people throughout the state.**

Continued emergency department boarding,ⁱ long waits for outpatient careⁱⁱ and substance use disorder treatment,ⁱⁱⁱ and the growing number of homeless individuals^{iv} highlight the Commonwealth's ongoing need for behavioral health services. While many accounts across DMH, BSAS, and MassHealth are already experiencing budget shortfalls, the preservation of services and supports available to children, adolescents, families, adults, and older adults with significant behavioral health needs remains critical. Any reductions would mean that people would lose the mental health and substance use services they currently depend on for their health and resiliency. For those with the most severe and disabling conditions, taking these services and supports away would put them at immediate risk for homelessness and potentially incarceration. Reductions in one budget cycle will impact people in need of care for years.

Adequately funding behavioral health services also makes sense from a fiscal perspective in that it helps prevent the need for more costly services that result from care disruptions in the form of emergency room visits, hospitalizations, homelessness, and involvement with the justice system. Behavioral health investment is both wise stewardship of the Commonwealth's health care dollars and saves unnecessary and avoidable spending in other sectors.

We are happy to answer any questions and provide more information regarding specific line-items and programs. Please reach out to Jessica Larochelle at the Massachusetts Association for Mental Health at jessicalarochelle@mamh.org, Elizabeth Ganz at the Association for Behavioral Healthcare at eganz@abhmass.org, or Courtney Chelo at the Children's Mental Health Campaign at cchelo@eliotchs.org who can connect you with a representative of any of the signatory groups. We look forward to working with you toward our shared goal of serving the Commonwealth's most vulnerable residents.

Sincerely,

American Nurses Association Massachusetts
Association for Behavioral Healthcare
Center for Public Representation
Children’s Mental Health Campaign
Disability Law Center
Health Care For All
Kiva Centers
Massachusetts Association for Mental Health
Massachusetts Association of Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nurses
Massachusetts Association of Behavioral Health Systems
Massachusetts Clubhouse Coalition
Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association
Massachusetts Housing & Shelter Alliance
Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery
Massachusetts Psychiatric Society
Massachusetts Psychological Association
Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee
Metro Boston Recovery Learning Community
National Alliance on Mental Illness Massachusetts
National Association of Social Workers Massachusetts
Northeast Recovery Learning Community
Prisoners’ Legal Services of Massachusetts
Recovery Homes Collaborative
Southeast Recovery Learning Community

cc: Matthew Gorzkowicz, Secretary, Executive Office for Administration and Finance
Kiame Mahaniah, MD, Secretary, Executive Office of Health and Human Services

ⁱ Massachusetts Health and Hospital Association. Capturing a Crisis: Behavioral Health Boarding Reports. September 2025. Available at: <https://www.mhalink.org/bhboarding/>.

ⁱⁱ Association for Behavioral Healthcare. Issue Brief: Outpatient Mental Health Access and Workforce Crisis. 2022. Available at: <https://abh.memberclicks.net/assets/docs/eUpdates/ABH%20March%202022%20eupdate.pdf>.

ⁱⁱⁱ Association for Behavioral Healthcare. Issue Brief: 34 Days and Counting – Waits for SUD Treatment Lengthen Due to Workforce Crisis. May 2023 Available at: https://www.abhmass.org/images/SUD_Brief/ABH_SUD_Brief_Final_May_2023.pdf.

^{iv} HUD Exchange. HUD 2024 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs Homeless Populations and Subpopulations (Massachusetts). Available at: https://files.hudexchange.info/reports/published/CoC_PopSub_State_MA_2024.pdf.