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The FY2023 Massachusetts State Budget: Implications for People Living with Behavioral Health Conditions

The Massachusetts Association for Mental Health is pleased to release this brief examining the provisions in the FY23 Massachusetts State Budget that will affect individuals with behavioral health conditions and their families. This analysis details funding for the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the Department of Public Health/Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (DPH/BSAS), which respectively have jurisdiction over mental health services and substance use services in the Commonwealth. It also includes information on appropriations for other state agencies and programs that benefit the behavioral health of the people of Massachusetts.

This document highlights select appropriations in the FY23 State Budget grouped by different topic areas, ranging from behavioral health promotion and prevention to child, adolescent, and older adult mental health services. It additionally includes an appendix of tables of state agency accounts, as well as comparisons of funding levels between the FY23 and FY22 State Budgets. Thanks to the leadership of the Governor and the Legislature, and the engagement and advocacy of individuals and behavioral health stakeholders, the FY23 State Budget includes some of the largest investments in mental health and substance use services in recent decades.

Behavioral Health Promotion/Social Determinants of Health

- \$15M for grants to local and regional boards of health (DPH 4512-2022)
- \$20M for a community empowerment and reinvestment grant program to develop, strengthen, and invest in communities that are disproportionately impacted by the criminal justice system, have a high percentage of individuals with incomes significantly below the poverty line, or have a large population of socially and economically disadvantaged and historically underrepresented groups (EOHED 7002-2021)

Access to Behavioral Health Services (All Populations)

- Establishes the Behavioral Health Access and Crisis Intervention Trust Fund and payor surcharge to support a community behavioral health crisis system, including a Behavioral Health Help Line and behavioral health crisis intervention services available 24/7 in mobile and community settings, for all residents (Outside Sections 22 and 65)
- Requires the Health Policy Commission (HPC) to evaluate and make recommendations for an equitable and sustainable funding source for the Behavioral Health Help Line and behavioral health crisis intervention services (Outside Section 150)

- \$550K for MAMH to manage [Network of Care](#), the singular place where all mental health, substance use, and related social services programs and organizations are curated into a statewide, online, searchable tool (EOHHS 4000-0300)
- \$1M for a public awareness campaign to promote the awareness and use of behavioral health services that reaches the populations most at risk of encountering barriers to such services (DPH 4513-2020)
- \$1.4M for the Samaritans for suicide prevention services, including \$1M for Hey Sam, a text-based mental health support line for youth and young adults (DPH 4513-1027)

Child and Adolescent Mental Health

- \$113.1M, a \$14.7M increase, for DMH child and adolescent mental health services (DMH 5042-5000)
- \$150K for MAMH and the BIRCh Center to continue collaborating on the School Mental Health Technical Assistance Center to aid school administrators, teachers, and staff (DMH 5042-5000)
- \$6M to strengthen multi-tiered systems of support, which foster positive school climates for the social-emotional and behavioral health needs of students (DESE 7061-0028)
- \$600K for the Safe and Supportive Schools program (DESE 7061-9612)
- \$3.5M for a pilot program to increase student access to tele-behavioral health services in schools (DPH 4513-2020)
- \$500K for the Bridge for Resilient Youth in Transition (BRYT) Program to support youth who have a prolonged absence return to school post hospitalization (DPH 4590-0250)
- \$4.2M for student behavioral health services at state universities and community colleges (DOE 7066-1123)
- \$3.5M for early childhood mental health consultation services in early education and care programs to limit the number of youth expulsions and suspensions from such programs (DEEC 3000-6075)
- \$2.3M for [Health Law Advocates'](#) Mental Health Access Program (MHAP) for Kids (DCF 4800-0200)
- \$267.8M for eligible children with MassHealth to receive Children's Behavioral Health Initiative (CBHI) services (EOHHS 4000-0950)
- \$3.9M for the Massachusetts Child Psychiatry Access Project (MCPAP) and \$675K for MCPAP for Moms to address the mental health and substance use condition concerns of pregnant and postpartum people (DMH 5042-5000)

Older Adult Mental Health

- \$2.5M for the geriatric mental health program, including an expansion of Elder Mental Health Outreach Teams (EMHOTs) into new communities (EOEA 9110-1640)
- \$7.1M for DPH suicide prevention programming, including a program for older adult suicide prevention, and a veterans-in-crisis hotline for veterans or concerned family members seeking counseling programs (DPH 4513-1026)
- \$7.9M for supportive senior housing (EOEA 9110-1604)

Substance Use Services

- \$135M to reduce stigma, expand access, support implementation, and increase competencies for medication assisted treatment (MAT) (Outside Section 17)
- \$105M for residential treatment and 24-hour diversionary care (Outside Section 17)
- \$80M to ensure appropriate assessments for levels of care using American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria and to support integration of physical health, mental health, and substance use care across all provider settings (Outside Section 17)
- \$35M to support evidence-based peer and paraprofessional recovery services (Outside Section 17)
- \$10M to expand low-threshold housing for homeless individuals with substance use and mental health conditions at risk for HIV (DPH 4512-0200)
- \$3M to preserve and expand programs currently funded by the Massachusetts Access to Recovery (MA-ATR) program (DPH 4512-0200)
- \$1M for an interagency service agreement between DPH/BSAS and the MA Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) to support workforce development (DPH 4512-0200)
- \$1.5M for outpatient and mobile services for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, and/or blind and have substance use conditions (DPH 4512-0200)
- \$3M to provide technical assistance and training to increase the number of providers delivering culturally, ethnically, and linguistically diverse services in communities of color (DPH 4512-0200)
- \$1M for supportive case management services (DPH 4512-0200)
- \$1M to increase the number of residential rehabilitation services, with priority given to families, youth, transitional age youth and young adults (DPH 4512-0200)
- \$500K for a voluntary training and accreditation program for owners and operators of alcohol and drug-free housing (DPH 4512-0200)
- \$100K for a statewide program to improve training for the care of newborns with neonatal abstinence syndrome at hospital-based facilities (DPH 4512-0200)
- \$7M for opening 10 new recovery centers not currently funded by DPH (DPH 4512-0200)
- \$5M to provide technical assistance and training to the service systems on medication management, MAT, and treatment of co-occurring conditions (DPH 4512-0200)
- \$3M for a program to support multidisciplinary, team-based substance use services for adults with severe and persistent substance use conditions (DPH 4512-0200)

- \$1M for contingency management programs to support individuals with stimulant use condition (DPH 4512-0200)
- \$4.5M for substance use condition step-down recovery services (DPH 4512-0200)
- \$1.4M for family intervention and care management services programs, a young adult treatment program, and early intervention services (DPH 4512-0200)
- Establish a pilot program, subject to appropriation, for the delivery of MAT for opioid use condition at all county correctional facilities (Outside Section 116)

Trauma-Responsive Services

- \$3.5M for the Massachusetts Center on Child Wellbeing and Trauma (OCA 0930-0101)
- \$2.0M for the Home Base Program for clinical care, education, and training in veterans' behavioral health, including post-traumatic stress (DVS 1410-0012)
- \$3.5M for a grant program out of the Department of Transitional Assistance to support economic mobility among high-risk young parents experiencing acute trauma, multi-system involvement, mental health concerns, and/or domestic violence (DTA 4401-1003)
- \$100K for the medical On-Site Academy to address the many behavioral health needs of employees working in the medical field (DPH 4510-0100)
- \$75K for DPH to provide information about the health risks and emotional trauma inflicted by the practice of female genital mutilation (DPH 4510-0100)
- Funds in the DPH sexual assault and domestic violence program for supervised visitation and trauma services for children who witness violence and targeted services for DCF-involved families (DPH 4513-1136)

Emergency Department (ED) Boarding Crisis

- \$115 million to expand outpatient and urgent behavioral health services at MassHealth (EOHHS accounts)
- \$4M for the DMH Adult Emergency Department (ED) diversion initiative (DMH 5046-0000)
- \$6M for the DMH Child/Adolescent ED diversion initiative (DMH 5042-5000)
- \$2.5M to address ED boarding through staffing investments and rate incentives to operationalize existing capacity and promote culturally and linguistically competent workforce development (DPH 4513-2020)
- Requires the Health Policy Commission (HPC) to report on the ongoing effects of COVID-19 on behavioral health-related boarding in acute care hospital settings, including EDs, and review boarding in other states, as well as best practices to address the problem (Outside Section 145)
- \$5M for DMH to contract with a private health care facility for additional continuing care beds (DMH 5095-0015)

Deinstitutionalization

- \$145K for a special commission on the history of state institutions, including the history of the Walter E. Fernald State School and the Metropolitan State Hospital (DMH 5011-0100)

Criminal Legal System Diversion

- \$2M above the amount made available in FY22 for the DMH jail diversion program (DMH 5046-0000)
- \$1.4M for jail diversion programs primarily for nonviolent offenders with opioid addiction (DPH 4512-0200)
- \$1M for the continuation of a pilot program to establish the Middlesex County Restoration Center overseen by the [Middlesex County Restoration Center Commission](#) to divert persons experiencing mental health or substance use conditions from jail facilities and EDs to appropriate treatment (EOHHS 4000-0300 and Outside Section 142)
- \$3.6M for a matching grant program to support municipal public safety reform, including jail diversion programs, restoration centers, de-escalation specialists and training, behavioral health specialists and supports, and alternative emergency response (DPH 4512-2020)
- \$12.7M for DMH forensic services, which provide court-based mental health assessments and consultations. Funding includes \$1.5M above the amount made available in FY22 for juvenile court clinics (DMH 5055-0000)
- \$4.8M for [mandated reforms](#) to the Department of Correction (DOC) mental and behavioral residential treatment (DOC 8900-0003)
- \$8.7M for the implementation of the recommendations set forth by the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Review, including recidivism reduction, and \$5.1M for the development of a behavioral health strategy, including statewide capacity to track behavioral health services utilization and outcomes for persons in the criminal justice system within the Medicaid management information system (Trial Court 0330-0613)
- Require DOC and the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association to report on the use of all carceral facilities, including number of beds, housing unit function, average daily out of cell time on each unit, and average count per unit (Outside Section 69)
- \$2.5M for the regional [section 35 program](#) in western Massachusetts that houses individuals who are involuntarily committed for treatment of an addiction to alcohol or drugs (DOC 8910-0104)
- \$125K for the Disability Law Center to monitor the efficacy of service delivery reforms at Bridgewater State Hospital, including Old Colony Correctional Center units (8900-0001)
- Require EOHHS to study the prescribing and treatment history, including court-ordered treatment and treatment in the criminal legal system, of people who suffered fatal overdoses from 2019-2021, and annually thereafter (Outside Section 138)

- \$5.9M for re-entry programs that are intended to reduce recidivism rates (DOC 8900-1100)
- \$13.6M for community-based residential re-entry programs to reduce recidivism by providing transitional housing, workforce development, and case management to individuals returning to the community after incarceration (Trial Court 0339-1011)
- \$3.8M for a re-entry workforce development and supportive services program for returning individuals transitioning from carceral facilities to a steady job or career (EOLWD 7003-0150)

Housing and Homelessness

- \$12.5M for the DMH rental subsidy program (DHCD 7004-9033)
- \$24.6M for DMH statewide homelessness support services, which includes funding to annualize the cost of the three [Safe Havens](#) created in FY22 (5046-2000)
- \$250K for a Safe Haven program in Boston (DMH 5046-0000)
- \$110M for a homelessness program to assist individuals who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless, including \$500K for the Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance (MHSA) to create permanent supportive housing for persons with disabilities experiencing homelessness (DHCD 7004-0102)
- \$6.4M for the Home and Healthy for Good program to reduce the incidence of chronic and long-term homelessness, including \$250K for a supportive housing initiative for unaccompanied homeless LGBTQ young adults and \$500K for a permanent supportive housing program for people experiencing long-term homelessness and complex medical and behavioral health needs (DHCD 7004-0104)
- \$7.1M for permanent supportive housing units to house individuals experiencing homelessness and mitigate overcrowding, including \$2.1M for MHSA to sustain low-threshold sponsor-based leasing (DHCD 7004-0105)
- \$5M for the rapid transition of homeless individuals into sustainable permanent housing (DHCD 7004-0202)
- \$9.5M for housing and supportive services for unaccompanied youth (EOHHS 4000-0007)
- \$10M for expanding low-threshold housing opportunities for homeless individuals with substance use and mental health conditions at risk for HIV (DPH 4512-0200)
- \$10M to procure additional family supportive housing programs for families affected by substance use conditions (DPH 4512-0200)
- \$2M for housing assistance for a re-entry transition pilot program (DHCD 7004-9034)

Behavioral Health Workforce

- \$230M to fully fund the [Chapter 257 rate reserve](#) (EOHHS 1599-6903); EOHHS must report a comparison of the median salary of each category of human service provider with the 75th percentile wage estimate for each position as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for Massachusetts
- \$20M for a loan forgiveness program for clinical behavioral health workers across DMH (DMH 5095-0017)
- \$5.5M for a loan forgiveness program for mental health professionals, including \$3M for a loan repayment assistance program to enhance recruitment and retention of child and adolescent psychiatrists at community mental health centers and community health centers (DPH 4513-2020)
- \$7M to address the addiction treatment workforce crisis through outreach and recruitment efforts and support to complete trainings and continuing education curriculum and another \$2M for such efforts at local and regional education institutions and vocational-technical high schools, prioritizing support for a culturally, ethnically, and linguistically diverse workforce (DPH 4512-0200)
- \$500K for a mental health workforce pilot program to encourage a culturally, ethnically, and linguistically diverse behavioral health workforce through collaboration between colleges and behavioral health providers (DPH 4513-2020)
- Require UMass Amherst, in consultation with EOHHS, to study the feasibility of establishing a Massachusetts School of Health Sciences Education and Center for Health Care Workforce Innovation at the UMass Mount Ida campus (Outside Section 146)
- \$1M for a public information campaign to educate and promote awareness of the availability of student loan forgiveness and other programs (EOHHS 4000-0100)

APPENDIX

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH (DMH)

Account	Description	FY 2022 GAA (\$000)	FY 2023 GAA (\$000)	Variance (FY22 GAA versus FY23 GAA) (\$000)
5011-0100	DMH Administration & Operations	30,024	32,381	2,357
5042-5000	Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services	98,409	113,089	14,680
5046-0000	Adult Mental Health and Support Services	509,966	518,652	8,686
5046-2000	Statewide Homelessness Support Services	24,163	24,616	453
5047-0001	Emergency Services and Mental Health Care	22,247	22,279	32
5055-0000	Forensic Services Program for Mentally Ill Persons	11,095	12,698	1,603
5095-0015	Inpatient Facilities and Community-Based Mental Health	255,779	274,929	19,150

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (DPH)

Account	Description	FY 2022 GAA (\$000)	FY 2023 GAA (\$000)	Variance (FY22 GAA versus FY23 GAA) (\$000)
4510-0112	Postpartum Depression Pilot Program	300	360	60
4512-0200	Bureau of Substance Addiction Services	175,584	218,209	42,625
4512-0204	Naloxone Distribution Programs	1,040	1,056	16
4512-0205	Substance Use Prevention, Intervention, and Recovery Programs	5,115	5,275	160
4512-0206	Harm Reduction Efforts	6,400	6,900	500
4512-2020	Municipal Public Safety Reform	1,280	3,610	2,330
4512-0225	Compulsive Gambling Treatment Program	1,000	1,000	0
4513-1026	Suicide Prevention and Intervention Program	7,050	7,076	26
4513-1027	Samaritans, Inc.	650	1,400	750
4513-2020	Behavioral Health Outreach, Access, and Support	12,532	13,034	502
4590-0250	School-Based Health Programs	15,524	22,941	7,417

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES (EOHHS)/MASSHEALTH

Account	Description	FY 2022 GAA (\$000)	FY 2023 GAA (\$000)	Variance (FY22 GAA versus FY23 GAA) (\$000)
4000-0300	EOHHS and Medicaid Administration	120,585	126,030	5,445
4000-0007	Unaccompanied Homeless Youth	8,000	9,500	1,500
4000-0430	MassHealth - CommonHealth	191,450	209,967	18,517
4000-0500	MassHealth - Managed Care	6,048,312	5,983,594	-64,718
4000-0601	MassHealth - Senior Care	3,714,226	3,808,876	94,650
4000-0700	MassHealth - Fee for Service Payments	3,135,854	3,785,206	649,352
4000-0880	MassHealth - Family Assistance	448,184	325,501	-122,683
4000-0940	MassHealth - ACA Expansion Populations	3,675,947	3,411,962	-263,885
4000-0950	Children's Behavioral Health Initiative	266,796	267,783	987
4000-0990	Children's Medical Security Plan	16,207	17,017	810
1595-1071	Community Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention Trust Fund	200	200	0

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ELDER AFFAIRS (EOEA)

Account	Description	FY 2022 GAA (\$000)	FY 2023 GAA (\$000)	Variance (FY22 GAA versus FY23 GAA) (\$000)
9110-1640	Geriatric Mental Health Services Program	1,200	2,500	1,300
9110-0600	Community Choices	253,513	284,589	31,076
9110-1604	Supportive Senior Housing Program	7,763	7,936	173
9110-1630	Home Care Services	184,910	200,391	15,481
9110-1633	Home Care Case Management and Administration	64,433	78,456	14,023
9110-1636	Protective Services	35,871	42,764	6,893
9110-1700	Elder Homeless Placement	286	286	0
9110-9002	Grants to Councils on Aging	18,172	24,889	6,717

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN & FAMILIES (DCF)

Account	Description	FY 2022 GAA (\$000)	FY 2023 GAA (\$000)	Variance (FY22 GAA versus FY23 GAA) (\$000)
4800-0038	Services for Children & Families	300,256	318,880	18,624
4800-0040	Family Support & Stabilization	70,067	72,757	2,690
4800-0041	Congregate Care Services	307,777	336,941	29,164
4800-0200	DCF Family Resource Centers	25,000	28,300	3,300
4800-1100	Social worker case management	265,310	286,153	20,843
0950-0030	Commission on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren	214	269	55

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF EDUCATION (EOE)

Account	Description	FY 2022 GAA (\$000)	FY 2023 GAA (\$000)	Variance (FY22 GAA versus FY23 GAA) (\$000)
3000-6075	Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Services	3,000	3,500	500
7061-0028	Grants to Districts to Implement Multi-Tiered Systems of Support	6,000	6,000	0
7061-9612	Safe and Supportive Schools	511	600	89
7061-9607	Recovery High Schools	2,700	2,809	109
7066-0016	Foster Care Financial Aid	1,485	1,485	0

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DHCD)

Account	Description	FY 2022 GAA (\$000)	FY 2023 GAA (\$000)	Variance (FY22 GAA versus FY23 GAA) (\$000)
7004-0102	Homeless Individual Shelters	57,855	110,000	52,145
7004-0104	Home and Healthy for Good Program	3,890	6,390	2,500
7004-0108	HomeBASE	25,971	59,411	33,440

7004-9024	Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program	129,982	154,300	24,318
7004-9030	Alternative Housing Voucher Program	8,685	13,685	5,000
7004-9033	Rental Subsidy Program for DMH Clients	12,548	12,548	0

MASSACHUSETTS REHABILITATION COMMISSION (MRC)

Account	Description	FY 2022 GAA (\$000)	FY 2023 GAA (\$000)	Variance (FY22 GAA versus FY23 GAA) (\$000)
4120-0200	Independent Living Centers	8,000	8,000	0
4120-4010	Turning 22 Programs and Services	332	347	15
4120-1000	Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission	415	428	13
4120-2000	Vocational Rehabilitation for People with Disabilities	18,455	23,301	4,846
4210-3000	Employment Assistance	2,454	2,480	26

JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Account	Description	FY 2022 GAA (\$000)	FY 2023 GAA (\$000)	Variance (FY22 GAA versus FY23 GAA) (\$000)
0330-0599	Recidivism Reduction Pilot Program	999	1,127	128
0330-0601	Specialty Drug Court	6,873	7,335	462
0330-0612	Sequential Intercept Model Project	183	238	55
0330-0613	Council of State Governments Justice Center	7,963	8,663	700
0339-1005	Divert Juveniles from Criminal Justice	500	500	0
0339-1011	Community-Based Reentry Programs	9,641	13,612	3,971
0340-0203	Drug Diversion and Drug Prevention Education Program	500	500	0

8910-1010	Hampden Sheriff's Regional Mental Health Stabilization Unit	1,224	1,390	166
8910-1101	Middlesex Sheriff's Regional Mental Health Stabilization Unit	1,266	1,822	556
8200-0200	Municipal Police Training Committee	3,578	11,697	8,119
8900-0002	Massachusetts Alcohol and Substance Abuse Center	20,503	21,983	1,480
8900-0003	Behavioral Health and Residential Treatment	4,804	4,826	22
8900-1100	Re-entry Programs	1,530	5,873	4,343