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The FY2025 Massachusetts State Budget: Implications for Behavioral Health

The Massachusetts Association for Mental Health is pleased to release this brief examining the provisions in the FY25 Massachusetts State Budget that most directly affect the behavioral health of individuals in the Commonwealth. This analysis details funding for the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the Department of Public Health/Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (DPH/BSAS), which collectively have authority over mental health services and substance use services in Massachusetts. It also includes information on appropriations for other state entities that benefit the behavioral health of the people of Massachusetts, including the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA), the Department of Children and Families (DCF), the Executive Office of Education (EOE), the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), and the Judiciary.

This document highlights select appropriations in the FY25 State Budget grouped by different topic areas, ranging from behavioral health promotion and prevention to child, adolescent, and older adult mental health services and recovery supports. It additionally includes an appendix of tables of state agency accounts, which include comparisons of funding levels between the FY25 and FY24 State Budgets. While bulleted highlights in the narrative are designed to call out particular behavioral health initiatives, MAMH underscores the critical importance of budgets for base operations and targeted programs, particularly at EOHHS' MassHealth program, DMH, and DPH, as outlined in the appendix of tables that follows the narrative. Those investments are essential to support of the core behavioral health system in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Thanks to the leadership of the Governor and the Legislature, and the engagement and advocacy of individuals and behavioral health stakeholders, the FY25 State Budget includes a significant funding increase to address the emergency department (ED) boarding crisis, large investments in the Commonwealth's behavioral health workforce, affordable housing, and resources for all populations, including refugees, homeless persons, and justice-involved individuals.

Behavioral Health Promotion/Social Determinants of Health

- \$9.2M for grants to local and regional boards of health (DPH 4512-2022)
- \$7.5M 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)

- A 10% increase to cash assistance benefits levels, increasing the maximum grant for a family of three from \$783/month to \$861/month, effective April 2025 (DTA 4408-1000)
- \$850K to support the State Action for Public Health Excellence Program (DPH 4510-0100)

Access to Behavioral Health Services (All Populations)

- \$1.8M for the Samaritans for suicide prevention services, including \$400K for Hey Sam, a dedicated peer-to-peer texting service for people up to 24 years old (DPH 4513-1027)
- \$1.1M for the United Way of Tri-County's Call2Talk program (DMH 5011-0100)
- \$1M for a public awareness campaign to promote the use of behavioral health services, particularly for populations most at risk of encountering barriers to such services (DPH 4513-2020)
- \$300K for the International Institute of New England for culturally and linguistically appropriate mental health services (DMH 5046-0000)
- \$250K for the NAN Project to increase mental health awareness and suicide prevention (DMH 5042-5000)
- \$50K for the National Association of Social Workers – MA Chapter to help connect consumers to licensed clinical social workers through the Therapy Matcher program (DMH 5046-0000)

Child and Adolescent Mental Health

- \$500K for the UMass BIRCh Project for the operation of its the School-Based Behavioral Health Technical Assistance Center to aid school administrators, teachers, and staff in the implementation of school-based supports and services (DMH 5042-5000)
- \$5M for the development of a statewide birth through higher education framework for mental and behavioral health (DESE 1596-2436)
 - This new line item is funded by the Fair Share Surtax, otherwise known as the Millionaire's Tax, an additional 4% surtax on personal taxable income above \$1 million annually
- \$3.875M for the Massachusetts Child Psychiatry Access Project (MCPAP), including \$675K for MCPAP for Moms to address the mental health and substance use condition concerns of pregnant and postpartum people (DMH 5042-5000)
- \$5M for mental health consultation services in Early Education and Care (EEC) programs that help to expand the capacity of EEC providers to address the behavioral health needs of children in their care by connecting children and their families to appropriate community resources, limiting expulsion and suspensions for behavioral health challenges, and providing trauma-informed professional development for EEC providers (DEEC 3000-6075)
- \$4.5M for the Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) for Youth to provide assertive community treatment (DMH 5042-5000)

- \$3.3M for Health Law Advocates' Mental Health Access Program (MHAP) for Kids (DCF 4800-0200)
- \$661.5K for the Safe and Supportive Schools grant program (DESE 7061-9612)
- \$6M for one-time grants to school districts to support the adoption, expansion, or strengthening of multi-tiered systems of support to address the social, emotional, and behavioral health needs of students, families, and educators (DESE 7061-0028)
 - This funding includes \$1M to support pilot programming to provide kindergarten to grade 12 students with mental health screenings
- \$3.5M for a pilot program to increase student access to tele-behavioral health services in public kindergarten to grade 12 schools; DPH must submit a report on the program to the Legislature by June 30, 2025 (DPH 4513-2020)
- \$10K for KyleCares for mental health awareness programming in high schools and colleges (DMH 5042-5000)
- \$4.2M for student behavioral health services at state universities and community colleges (DHE 7066-1123)
- \$4M for student behavioral health services at UMass (UMass 7100-0200)

Older Adult Mental Health

- \$11.7M for supportive senior housing (EOEA 9110-1604)
- \$2.5M for the geriatric mental health program, including Behavioral Health Outreach for Aging Populations (BHOAP) programs, formerly known as Elder Mental Health Outreach Teams (EMHOTs) (EOEA 9110-1640)
- Funds 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)

Substance Use Services

- \$100K for a public awareness campaign to promote the awareness of drug contamination in the Commonwealth (DPH 4512-0206)
- \$450K for Drug Story Theater to support substance use education performances and forums throughout the Commonwealth (DPH 4512-0205)
- Funds to support municipalities utilizing the MA Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaboration (MOAPC) grant program (DPH 4512-0200)
- Funds for the extended release of naltrexone program (DPH 4512-0200)
- \$150K for a pilot program to provide access to fentanyl testing strips or other drug checking equipment (4512-0206)
- \$1.5M to increase the availability of sterile and safe consumption equipment and syringe disposal services (DPH 4512-0206)
- Funds to promote pilot programming to advance the creation of new supportive places for treatment and related observations that offer medical monitoring, nasal naloxone

rescue kit distribution, counseling, and connection to primary care, behavioral health, and addiction treatment services (DPH 4512-0206)

- \$2M for the RIZE Foundation to assist in their work to end the opioid epidemic in the Commonwealth (DPH 4512-0205)
- \$1M for contingency management programs to support individuals with stimulant use condition (DPH 4512-0200)
- \$1M for supportive case management services (DPH 4512-0200)
- \$650K for the MA Consultation Service for Treatment of Addiction and Pain to provide case management and care navigation support to health care providers in providing care and identifying community-based providers for referral for pain management and treatment of substance use conditions (EOHHS 4000-0030)
- \$1M to increase the number of residential rehabilitation services, with priority given to families, youth, transitional age youth and young adults (DPH 4512-0200)
- \$175K to Volunteers of America of MA to expand clinical services and programming for men in recovery with co-occurring substance use and mental health diagnoses at Hello House (DPH 4512-0200)
- \$100K for a program to improve training for the care of newborns with neonatal abstinence syndrome at hospital-based facilities; DPH will also enhance data-sharing capabilities and collaborate across agencies to ensure coordination of services for such newborns (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)
- \$100K for the Gavin Foundation to provide comprehensive treatment for individuals experiencing a substance use condition and other behavioral health challenges (DPH 4512-0200)
- Funds to provide technical assistance and training to increase the number of substance use providers and to support existing substance use providers in delivering culturally, ethnically, and linguistically diverse services in communities of color (DPH 4512-0200)
- Funds for a program to support multidisciplinary, team-based substance use services for adults with severe and persistent substance use conditions (DPH 4512-0200)
- \$100K for Community Servings for workforce training programs for those recovering from a substance use condition (DPH 4512-0200)
- Funds for a voluntary training and accreditation program for owners and operators of alcohol and drug-free housing (DPH 4512-0200)
- \$500K to support the ongoing treatment needs of Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) clients after 90 days of care when there is no other payer for such treatment (DPH 4512-0200)
- \$4.5M for substance use step-down recovery services (DPH 4512-0200)

Emergency Department (ED) Boarding Crisis

- \$19M, a \$3.75M increase in funding over FY24 GAA, for the DMH Adult Emergency Room Diversion Initiative (DMH 5046-0000)

- \$6M for the DMH Child/Adolescent Emergency Room Diversion Initiative (DMH 5042-5000)
- \$1.25M to address ED boarding through staffing investments and rate incentives to operationalize existing capacity; priority will be given to support services and staff needs for children and adolescents; funds may be used for investments in crisis stabilization services for patients who are boarding (DPH 4513-2020)

Criminal Legal System

- \$1.5M 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 lock-up facilities and EDs to appropriate treatment (EOHHS 4000-0300)
- \$6M for DMH to support local jail diversion projects (DMH 5046-0000)
- \$1.35M for jail diversion programs primarily for nonviolent offenders with opioid addiction (DPH 4512-0200)
- \$18.6M for DMH forensic services, which provide court-based mental health assessments and consultations. The budget requires that not less than \$1.5M above the amount expended in FY24 must be expended for juvenile court clinics (DMH 5055-0000)
- \$5M for [mandated reforms](#) to the Department of Correction (DOC) mental and behavioral health residential treatment units (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)
- \$125K for the Disability Law Center to monitor the efficacy of service delivery reforms at [Bridgewater State Hospital](#), including the Old Colony Correctional Center units (DOC 8900-0001)
- \$15.7M 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, including \$1M for women and older adults returning from incarceration and \$1.5M for sober and transitional housing for parolees (Trial Court 0339-1011)
- \$2.75M 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)
- \$1.6M for re-entry programs that are intended to reduce recidivism rates (DOC 8900-1100)

Housing and Homelessness

- \$36.048M, a \$4.3M increase in funding over FY24 GAA, for the DMH rental subsidy program (DMH 5046-0000, DMH 5047-0001, and HLC 7004-9033)
- \$26.610 for the [Safe Haven program](#), including \$1M to expand the program in a geographically equitable way (DMH 5046-2000)
- \$10M to expand low-threshold housing 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 (DPH 4512-0200)
- \$8.9M 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)
- \$8.9M for permanent supportive housing units to house individuals experiencing homelessness and mitigate overcrowding in homeless shelters, including \$3M for the Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance (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)
- \$3M for housing assistance for a re-entry transition pilot program (DHCD 7004-9034)

Behavioral Health Workforce

- \$390M, a \$217M increase in funding over FY24 GAA, to fund the Chapter 257 rate reserve; This increased funding raises wages to no less than \$20/hour and raises salaries from the 50th to the 53rd percentile; EOHHS must also 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 (EOHHS 1599-6903)
- \$5M to community health centers to support the allied health workforce; workforce supports will prioritize the recruitment and retention of a culturally and linguistically diverse workforce (DPH 4513-2020)
- \$4M for the personal care attendant (PCA) quality home care workforce council, including \$500K to establish a psychiatry residency training program in Burlington to enhance access to psychiatry services in underserved and geographically isolated areas of the state (EOHHS 4000-0050)
- \$1M to address the addiction treatment workforce crisis through outreach and recruitment efforts and support to trainings and continuing education curriculum (DPH 4512-0200)
- \$500K for a mental health workforce pilot program administered by the MA Health and Hospital Association to encourage a culturally, ethnically, and linguistically diverse

behavioral health workforce through collaboration between colleges and behavioral health providers; the Department of Higher Education will submit a report on the program to the Legislature by April 1, 2025 (DPH 4513-2020)

- \$275K for the Train Vets to Treat Vets Program; the Executive Office of Veterans' Services will work with William James College to administer a behavioral health career development program for returning veterans (Veterans Services 1410-0075)

Parity Enforcement

- Language requiring the Division of Insurance to submit a report to the Legislature outlining actions taken to comply with mental health parity provisions established in the [2022 MA Mental Health Omnibus Law](#) by January 8, 2025 (DOI 7006-0029)

APPENDIX

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH (DMH)

Account	Description	FY 2024 GAA (\$000)	FY 2025 GAA (\$000)	Variance (FY24 GAA versus FY25 GAA) (\$000)
5011-0100	DMH Administration & Operations	33,150	35,008	1,858
5042-5000	Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services	120,605	131,351	10,746
5046-0000	Adult Mental Health and Support Services	596,627	612,937	16,310
5046-2000	Statewide Homelessness Support Services	27,624	26,610	-1,014
5047-0001	Emergency Services and Mental Health Care	22,282	22,372	90
5055-0000	Forensic Services Program for Mentally Ill Persons	16,805	18,590	1,785
5095-0015	Inpatient Facilities and Community-Based Mental Health	316,381	345,774	29,393

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (DPH)

Account	Description	FY 2024 GAA (\$000)	FY 2025 GAA (\$000)	Variance (FY24 GAA versus FY25 GAA) (\$000)
4510-0100	Public Health Critical Operations and Essential Services	23,992	47,744	23,752
4510-0110	Community Health Center Services	7,075	7,399	324
4510-0112	Postpartum Depression Pilot Program	860	860	500
4510-0710	Division of Health Care Quality and Improvement	15,200	19,415	4,215
4512-0200	Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS)	216,694	194,452	-22,242
4512-0204	Nasal Naloxone Pilot Expansion	1,165	1,257	92
4512-0205	Substance Use Grants	5,295	4,050	-1,245
4512-0206	Harm Reduction through Syringe Access	6,473	6,478	5
4512-0225	Compulsive Behavior Treatment Program Retained Revenue	1,000	1,000	0
4512-2020	DPH Public Safety Reform Matching Grants	3,500	0	-3,500

4512-2022	Grants to Local Boards of Health	15,050	9,176	-5,874
4513-1020	Early Intervention Services	42,900	30,900	-12,000
4513-1026	Suicide Prevention and Intervention Program	8,100	14,191	6,091
4513-1027	Samaritans Suicide Prevention Services	1,800	1,800	0
4513-1098	Services to Survivors of Homicide Victims	300	600	300
4513-2020	Behavioral Health Support	12,835	11,335	-1,500
4590-0250	School-Based Health Programs	26,066	22,305	-3,761

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

Account	Description	FY 2024 GAA (\$000)	FY 2025 GAA (\$000)	Variance (FY24 GAA versus FY25 GAA) (\$000)
4000-0007	Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Services	11,000	10,546	-454
4000-0300	EOHHS and Medicaid Administration	141,994	150,815	8,821
4000-0950	Children's Behavioral Health Initiative (CBHI)	315,283	315,283	0
1595-1071	Community Behavioral Health Trust Fund Transfer	200	200	0
1595-4512	Behavioral Health Access Outreach and Support Trust Fund	20,000	20,000	0

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ELDER AFFAIRS (EOEA)

Account	Description	FY 2024 GAA (\$000)	FY 2025 GAA (\$000)	Variance (FY24 GAA versus FY25 GAA) (\$000)
9110-1604	Supportive Senior Housing Program	9,493	11,719	2,226
9110-1630	Home Care Services	214,130	236,883	22,753
9110-1633	Home Care Case Management and Administration	78,456	95,153	16,697

9110-1636	Protective Services	43,199	47,886	4,687
9110-1640	Geriatric Mental Health Services Program	2,500	2,509	9
9110-1700	Elder Homeless Placement	286	286	0
9110-9002	Grants to Councils on Aging	28,200	29,631	1,431

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN & FAMILIES (DCF)

Account	Description	FY 2024 GAA (\$000)	FY 2025 GAA (\$000)	Variance (FY24 GAA versus FY25 GAA) (\$000)
4800-0038	Services for Children & Families	355,809	368,889	13,080
4800-0040	Family Support & Stabilization	88,757	139,539	50,782
4800-0041	Congregate Care Services	431,020	495,865	64,845
4800-0200	DCF Family Resource Centers	33,800	33,800	0
4800-1100	Social Worker Case Management	294,567	311,500	16,933

DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (DESE)

Account	Description	FY 2024 GAA (\$000)	FY 2025 GAA (\$000)	Variance (FY24 GAA versus FY25 GAA) (\$000)
7061-0028	Social Emotional Learning Grants	6,000	6,000	0
7061-9607	Recovery High Schools	2,909	2,920	11
7061-9612	Safe and Supportive Schools	650	661	11
7061-9408	Targeted Intervention	16,171	16,404	233
7061-9650	Student Wellness School Supports	1,000	0	-1,000

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DHCD)

Account	Description	FY 2024 GAA (\$000)	FY 2025 GAA (\$000)	Variance (FY24 GAA versus FY25GAA (\$000)
7004-0102	Homeless Individual Shelters	110,792	110,752	-40
7004-0104	Home and Healthy for Good Program	8,890	8,890	0
7004-0105	Sponsor-Based Permanent Supportive Housing	8,905	8,905	0
7004-0109	Shelter Workforce Assistance	10,000	10,000	0
7004-0202	Homeless Individuals Rapid Re-Housing Program	5,000	5,000	0
7004-3045	Tenancy Preservation Program	2,043	2,043	0
7004-9024	Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP)	179,597	219,239	39,642
7004-9030	Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP)	16,863	16,356	-507
7004-9033	Rental Subsidy Program for DMH Clients	16,548	16,548	0
7004-9034	Housing Assistance for Re-Entry Transition	3,000	3,000	0
7004-9316	Residential Assistance for Families in Transition	190,000	197,407	7,407

JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Account	Description	FY 2024 GAA (\$000)	FY 2025 GAA (\$000)	Variance (FY24 GAA versus FY25 GAA) (\$000)
0330-0599	Recidivism Reduction Pilot Program	1,315	1,333	18
0330-0601	Specialty Drug Courts	7,456	7,738	282

0330-0612	Substance Use Model	199	221	22
0330-0613	Council of State Governments Justice Reinvestment Reserve	8,663	8,663	0
0339-1005	Divert Juveniles from Criminal Justice	500	500	0
0339-1011	Community-Based Re-entry Programs	15,711	15,611	-100
0340-0203	Drug Diversion and Drug Prevention Education Programming	1,500	500	-1,000
8910-1010	Hampden Sheriff's Regional Mental Health Stabilization Unit	1,390	1,390	0
8910-1101	Middlesex Sheriff's Mental Health Stabilization Unit	1,822	1,822	0
8200-0200	Municipal Police Training Committee	17,444	21,461	4,017
8900-0002	Massachusetts Alcohol and Substance Abuse Center (MASAC)	22,822	23,746	924
8900-0003	Behavioral Health and Residential Treatment	4,913	5,003	90
8900-1100	Re-entry Programs	2,101	1,625	-476