

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bud L. Williams

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to Provide Funding for the African Diaspora Mental Health Association's State-of-the-Art Clinic.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Bud L. Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>	<i>1/10/2025</i>

HOUSE No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act to Provide Funding for the African Diaspora Mental Health Association's State-of-the-Art Clinic.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Act shall be known and cited as the "ADMHA Equity and Community Advancement
2 Act."

3 Section 2: Findings and Purpose

4 Whereas, the African Diaspora Mental Health Association (ADMHA) is the only
5 minority-owned mental health clinic in Western Massachusetts and the surrounding cities and
6 towns; and

7 Whereas, ADMHA is uniquely positioned to provide culturally competent mental health
8 and substance use disorder services tailored to the African American population and other
9 underserved communities; and

10 Whereas, ADMHA addresses critical gaps in equitable access to mental health and
11 substance use disorder treatment, consistent with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts'
12 commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion; and

13 Whereas, there has been no prior legislation before the Massachusetts House or Senate to
14 specifically address equity in mental health service delivery for minority populations through
15 capital investments;

16 Therefore, the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts finds that a one-
17 time appropriation of \$1,500,000 is necessary for ADMHA to complete its state-of-the-art
18 mental health and substance use disorder clinic and enhance services that address urgent public
19 health and safety needs, including but not limited to combating opioid addiction and reducing
20 gang and gun violence.

21 Section 3: Appropriation of Funds

22 The sum of \$1,500,000 is hereby appropriated from the general fund and made available
23 to the African Diaspora Mental Health Association (ADMHA) for the exclusive purpose of
24 completing its state-of-the-art mental health and substance use disorder clinic, located in
25 Springfield, Massachusetts, and enhancing its programmatic offerings.

26 Section 4: Use of Funds

27 The allocated funds shall be used for the following purposes, including but not limited to:

28 1. Completion of the facility's physical infrastructure, including additional treatment
29 rooms and therapy spaces.

30 2. Installation of advanced telehealth technology to expand access to services.

31 3. Development of culturally tailored opioid addiction recovery programs.

32 4. Creation of specialized programs addressing gang and gun violence prevention.

- 33 5. Expansion of staff training on implicit bias and cultural competence.
- 34 6. Recruitment of additional licensed mental health professionals.
- 35 7. Establishment of a community resource center offering support groups and educational
36 workshops.
- 37 8. Procurement of medical equipment for substance use treatment, including MAT
38 (Medication-Assisted Treatment).
- 39 9. Implementation of a youth mentorship and mental health resilience program.
- 40 10. Development of a crisis intervention team in collaboration with local law
41 enforcement.
- 42 11. Creation of a trauma-informed care initiative targeting survivors of violence.
- 43 12. Expansion of outpatient services for individuals with co-occurring mental health and
44 substance use disorders.
- 45 13. Construction of ADA-compliant spaces to ensure accessibility for all clients.
- 46 14. Development of community outreach programs to raise awareness of available
47 services.
- 48 15. Implementation of data analytics systems to measure program outcomes and
49 effectiveness.
- 50 16. Support for family-focused therapy programs addressing intergenerational trauma.

51 17. Introduction of workforce development initiatives for community members pursuing
52 careers in mental health.

53 18. Establishment of a partnership program with local schools to address the school-to-
54 prison pipeline.

55 19. Creation of culturally competent wellness programs addressing health disparities.

56 20. Collaboration with other community-based organizations to develop holistic service
57 networks.

58 Section 5: Community Benefits

59 The funding authorized under this Act is expected to yield measurable community
60 benefits, including:

61 1. Improved mental health outcomes for underserved populations.

62 2. Decreased rates of opioid overdose and related fatalities.

63 3. Reduction in gang-related and gun violence incidents through preventive
64 programming.

65 4. Increased employment opportunities for local residents in healthcare and
66 administrative roles.

67 5. Enhanced public safety and community resilience through collaborative intervention
68 efforts.

69 Section 6: Reporting Requirements

70 ADMHA shall submit a detailed report to the Department of Mental Health and the
71 General Court within one year of receiving funds, outlining:

- 72 1. The use of funds and progress toward completing the clinic.
- 73 2. Quantitative and qualitative data on program implementation.
- 74 3. Demonstrable impacts on community health and safety.

75 Section 7: Effective Date

76 This Act shall take effect immediately upon its passage.