



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
One Ashburton Place
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

MAURA T. HEALEY
Governor

KIMBERLEY L. DRISCOLL
Lieutenant Governor

KIAME MAHANIAH, MD, MBA
Secretary

Tel: (617) 573-1600
Fax: (617) 573-1891
www.mass.gov/eohhs

August 13, 2026

Chair Aaron Michlewitz
House Committee on Ways and Means
State House
Room 243
Boston, MA 02133

Chair Michael J. Rodrigues
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State House
Room 212
Boston, MA 02133

Chair Mindy Domb
Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance
Use and Recovery
State House
Room 33
Boston, MA, 02133

Sen. John C. Velis
Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance
Use and Recovery
State House
Room 513
Boston, MA, 02133

Chair John J. Lawn, Jr.
Joint Committee on Health Care Financing
State House
Room 236
Boston, MA 02133

Sen. Cindy F. Friedman
Joint Committee on Health Care Financing
State House
Room 313
Boston, MA, 02133

Timothy Carroll
Clerk of the House
State House
Room 145
Boston, MA 02133

Michael D. Hurley
Senate Clerk
State House
Room 335
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Honorable Members of the House and Senate, Clerk Carroll and Clerk Hurley,



I write to submit a report of the expenditures for FY2025 from the Behavioral Health Trust Fund, pursuant to subsection (c) of section 1 of chapter 77 of the acts of 2022 and pursuant to line item 4000-0054 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023.

Sincerely,

Kiame Mahaniah, MD, MBA
Secretary
Executive Office of Health and Human Services

**FY25 Legislative Report
Behavioral Health Trust**

**Funded under Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023 | GAA: 4000-0054; \$192,000,000
Pursuant to Section 35 of Chapter 206 of the Acts of 2024, spending authority extended through FY27**

Overview

Pursuant to Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023 this report provides a high-level summary of FY25 activities and future Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) initiatives funded by the Behavioral Health Trust Fund. The Fund was established under Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2022 and credited with \$192 million for the purpose of “*addressing barriers to the delivery of an equitable, culturally competent, affordable and clinically appropriate continuum of behavioral health care and services.*” The Trust supports a number of behavioral health initiatives including student loan repayment under the MA Repay program, scholarships and internship supports, clinical supervision incentives, licensure fee waivers, promotion and prevention campaigns, school-based intervention, peer support for workers, behavioral health workforce research and benchmarking, and the establishment of a Behavioral Health Workforce Center at The Health Policy Commission, among other initiatives.

Detail

\$100,000,000	<i>...to enhance an existing student loan repayment assistance program for health professionals providing mental and behavioral health care;...</i> In partnership with the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers (Mass League), EOHHS implemented the Behavioral Health & Primary Care (BHPC) Loan Repayment Program and the Expanded Behavioral Health Student Loan Repayment (EBH) Program under the MA Repay initiative. MA Repay is a suite of student loan repayment programs designed to address critical shortages in the healthcare and direct services workforce. Currently, there are nine MA Repay programs which are funded by a variety of state and federal funding sources. In exchange for debt relief, awardees must commit to working in an eligible setting for one to five years. Award amounts vary from \$3,000 to \$300,000, depending on degree level, part-time or full-time status, and other program specifications. Of the \$100 million appropriated to MA Repay from the SFY24 BH Trust account, \$22.3 million supported loan repayment awards under the BHPC, \$66 million supported loan repayment awards under the EBH, and \$11.7 million supported administrative costs across both programs. Please see FY 25 activities below. Behavioral Health & Primary Care (BHPC) Loan Repayment Program • \$134 million in awards combined across 2 cohorts with \$22.3 million for cohort 1 coming from the SFY24 Behavioral Health Trust Fund appropriation
----------------------	--

	○ Cohort 1: Awarded 2,540 providers who applied between December 2022 and January 2023 (\$127.5 million in awards). ○ Cohort 2: Applications were collected in August 2024 alongside the Expanded Behavioral Health Loan Repayment Program. ● In March 2025, EOHHS announced awards for Cohort 2. Loan repayment awards were offered to 233 providers totaling over \$6.5 million. Expanded Behavioral Health (EBH) Loan Repayment Program ● \$66 million in awards from SFY24 Behavioral Health Trust Fund appropriation ● Expanded eligibility to a larger pool of behavioral health and SUD providers, including providers working in school-based settings and no less than \$2 million specifically for providers serving justice involved populations. ● In March 2025, EOHHS offered loan repayment awards to 1,403 behavioral health providers. ○ EOHHS and Mass League received more eligible applications than funds available and 907 providers were placed on a waitlist.
\$500,000	<i>... a campaign to promote and bring awareness to the public about programs designed to bolster the behavioral health workforce...</i>
\$700,000	<i>...a public awareness campaign to promote the availability and utilization of a no-cost annual mental health wellness exam and other consumer protection provisions...</i> EOHHS has designated the Department of Mental Health (DMH) as the host agency to support these initiatives through the newly established Office of Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention (OBHPP). Dr. Funmi Agucha oversees the work of the Office as Assistant Commissioner. FY25 marked the inaugural year of operations for the OBHPP. In its first year, the Office prioritized several initiatives to ensure its activities aligned with statewide behavioral health promotion and prevention priorities and community needs. These efforts included conducting a comprehensive landscape analysis of state agencies and departments, launching a Request for Information process with statewide provider organizations, and hosting community listening sessions to gather input directly from residents and stakeholders. This foundational year also focused on building internal infrastructure, engaging key partners across the Commonwealth, and embedding health equity throughout all aspects of the Office’s work. Looking ahead, OBHPP is preparing to launch a series of public information campaigns in FY26. In May 2025, the Office completed the Request for Quote (RFQ) process and selected a vendor to lead these efforts. The agreement includes the development and implementation of several campaigns aligned with OBHPP’s

	mission, including—but not limited to—promoting a free mental health wellness exam and advancing behavioral health workforce initiatives.
\$25,000,000	<i>...for a scholarship program...</i>
\$25,000,000	<i>...to provide stipends to support unpaid clinical hours required for field placements, internships, apprenticeships and practicums necessary for completing educational requirements or obtaining certification or licensure;...</i> A multi-year Interagency Service Agreement has been executed between EOHHS and the Department of Higher Education in FY25 for the administration of these funds through the operation of the Behavioral Health Workforce Scholarship Program and the Behavioral Health Internship Program. The programs are being administered through the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA). The Behavioral Health Workforce Scholarship program is designed to support eligible Massachusetts students in completing graduate-level degree and graduate-level certificate programs in behavioral health at eligible public and private Institutions of Higher Learning (IHEs). Scholarship funds will be available for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 academic years. Awardees will commit to applying newly advanced skills to high need behavioral health settings in the Commonwealth. The maximum scholarship award is \$25,000 per student over two academic years with a maximum service obligation of two years. The application for year-one scholarship awards received more than 1,300 responses. Awards are estimated to total approximately \$12.4 million and benefit approximately 1,000 graduate students. The application for year-two awards is anticipated to open in Fall 2025. The Behavioral Health Internship provides support for eligible Massachusetts students completing unpaid behavioral health field placements necessary for degree attainment in eligible behavioral health bachelor's or master's degree programs. In FY25, OSFA allocated approximately \$12.2 million in year-one funds to eligible Institutions of Higher Learning (IHEs) who in turn awarded eligible behavioral health students enrolled in the 2024-2025 academic year. The maximum internship award is \$20,000 per student over two academic years. Year-one internship awards have benefited approximately 1,700 students completing 2,141 terms of internship. OSFA is anticipated to distribute year-two allocations to eligible schools in Fall 2025.
\$20,000,000	<i>...to establish new, or enhance existing, clinical supervision of students pursuing degrees in behavioral health and behavioral health providers-in-training pursuing certification or licensure;...</i> EOHHS is administering these funds through the Behavioral Health Supervising Clinicians Incentive Program (SCIP) which was launched in Spring 2025. The program provides approximately \$17.9 million in funding for qualified behavioral health clinicians in community-based settings who agree to supervise students and

	clinicians-in-training. This supervision helps support students and trainees on their path to becoming a licensed clinician and sets them up for success in the field. SCIP will support 793 clinical supervisors at 71 behavioral health provider organizations and at least 1,491 supervisees over a two-year period across FY25-FY27. EOHHS prioritized funding for clinical supervisors with diverse backgrounds who provide behavioral health services in underserved areas across Massachusetts. Supervisors benefiting from SCIP will provide behavioral services in all priority languages in Massachusetts, and there is at least one clinical supervisor in each city and town identified in the Advancing Health Equity in Massachusetts initiative. Seventy-nine percent (79%) of awardee organizations provide substance use disorder treatment and 43% provide such treatment for children. EOHHS is working with vendor Public Consulting Group (PCG) in the administration of this program.
\$5,000,000	<i>...shall be expended to the MASSstrong Program to provide evidence-based and trauma-informed group peer behavioral health support to health care workers;...</i> Through an Interagency Service Agreement with EOHHS, funding for the MASSstrong Program is managed by the Center for Health Information and Analysis and the Betsy Lehman Center for Patient Safety. The program is administered by GPS Group Peer Support LLC. In its first months of operation, this new program is concentrating resources on building curricula that are relevant to priority populations within the health care workforce; training facilitators to conduct group peer support sessions for colleagues; and identifying partner organizations with employees or members poised to benefit from group peer support opportunities. Since receipt of funds in April 2025, GPS has run three facilitator training cohorts. Data from the first two training cohorts (one in English; one in Spanish) indicate that of the 127 registrants, 63 (50%) completed all aspects of the training. Among attendees who completed post-training surveys, the majority rated their overall training experience positively (69% excellent; 28% good) and 96% would recommend the training to others. Preliminary data was collected and prepared by GPS. An independent evaluator, Tury Research, is under contract with the Betsy Lehman Center to manage process and outcome evaluations for the program going forward. A total of \$352,941.96 was expended by GPS between April and June of 2025 to fund the facilitator training sessions, as well as for planning, marketing and outreach, technology, and curriculum development.
\$10,000,000	<i>...for a bridge program to help students in kindergarten to grade 12, inclusive, to transition into the communities following an extended absence due to mental health crises;...</i> The Brookline Center for Community Mental Health's bryt Program is utilizing the \$10 million allocated through the Behavioral Health Trust Fund to provide schools with resources to seed fund, and in some cases help sustain, the bryt Tier 3

	Intervention. Located in a dedicated space in the school and staffed by mental health and academic professionals, the bryt Intervention integrates direct clinical support, care coordination, family support, and academic coordination for students who have fallen behind in association with a mental health disruption. Through school year 2024-25, the Brookline Center has been able to provide 36 elementary, middle, and high schools from across the Commonwealth (Pittsfield to Nantucket) with funds and technical assistance allowing them to get and keep the work up and running, with 5-8 additional schools projected for funding in school year 2025-26, far surpassing initial projections when the funds were allocated. These schools include some of the largest in the state (for example, the high schools in Brockton, Lawrence, and Lowell, all with enrollments around 3,500) to some of the smallest (e.g., Erving Elementary with 113 students). One particular highlight is the COMPASS Program at Framingham High School, which specifically serves students involved with the Department of Children and Families, some of the Commonwealth's most vulnerable young people. During this time, the bryt Program has also been able to grow its impact by providing increased professional learning opportunities to schools, including an annual symposium that drew 400 participants in March 2025, and to develop its capacity through increasing team size and enhancing protocols and systems, including a completely rebuilt confidential student database.
\$3,000,000	<i>...to assist mental and behavioral health professionals with 1-time training or practice costs including, but not limited to, exam preparation, license and certification fees and continuing education;...</i> EOHHS has entered into a multi-year Interagency Service Agreement with the Department of Public Health (DPH) to implement licensure and certification fee waivers in FY25 and FY26 for first-time applicants in certain behavioral health roles. Fee waivers are being overseen by the Bureau of Health Professions Licensure (BHPL) and are being prioritized for behavioral health roles where individuals are most likely to work in community-based settings with high workforce needs. Approximately \$1.5 million in fees were waived in FY25, benefiting 10,514 individuals in roles such as Licensed Social Worker, Certified Community Health Worker, Licensed Applied Behavior Analyst, Licensed Mental Health Counselor and others.
\$500,000	<i>... for a comprehensive study and analysis of rates paid for behavioral health services by both private and public payers and the adequacy of said rates to support the provision of equitable, quality behavioral health service...</i>
\$500,000	<i>...to conduct a study of licensure and certification processes for the behavioral health workforce;...</i> This behavioral health rates study and the study of licensure and certification processes for the behavioral health workforce is incorporated into a multi-year Interagency Service Agreement between EOHHS and the Massachusetts Health Policy

	Commission (HPC) for the operation of the Behavioral Health Workforce Center (BHWC). These studies comprise a portion of the BHWC’s research agenda. HPC is conducting the study and analysis of rates paid for behavioral health services in collaboration with EOHHS, the Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA), MassHealth, and other stakeholders as needed. Data sources include the Commercial All Payer Claims Database (CHIA), MassHealth claims data (CHIA), and MassHealth and Medicare fee schedules. HPC anticipates the publication of a preliminary report and policy recommendations in December 2025 with publication of annual follow-up reports anticipated in September 2026 and September 2027. HPC is also conducting a study of licensure and certification processes for the behavioral health workforce in collaboration with EOHHS, the Department of Public Health, the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services, the Board of Registration in Medicine, and other stakeholders as needed. HPC anticipates the publication of a preliminary report and policy recommendations in March 2026 with the publication of annual follow-up reports anticipated in June 2027.
\$1,800,000	<i>...for a behavioral health workforce development center...</i> In September 2024, the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission (HPC) officially launched the Behavioral Health Workforce Center (BHWC) in partnership with EOHHS to strengthen the state’s capacity to identify and respond to current and ongoing behavioral health workforce needs. The BHWC is leveraging the HPC’s expertise in research, policy development, and stakeholder engagement to support the state’s efforts to retain and develop a diverse, highly skilled behavioral health workforce that can provide linguistically and culturally tailored care across the Commonwealth. The BHWC is tasked with conducting research, crafting actionable policy recommendations, and convening stakeholders, including an Advisory Group to inform the BHWC’s work. FY25 accomplishments include: • hiring BHWC Director, Senior Researcher and key staff • launching a Graduate Summer Fellowship • conducting extensive stakeholder engagement to establish relationships, build upon agency-level partnerships, and disseminate information about the BHWC • establishing and convening an Advisory Group consisting of 31 members, representing diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and expertise across state regions and behavioral health sectors • hosting two sub-group meetings of the Advisory for members with expertise in child- and youth-serving workforce and care delivery strategies to further inform research agenda • joining the Behavioral Health Workforce Center Alliance, a national consortium of 17 behavioral health workforce focused centers

	In addition to studies of rates paid for behavioral health services and the licensure and certification process for the behavioral health workforce, the BHWC research agenda includes a study to establish baseline behavioral health workforce needs throughout the Commonwealth and develop recommendations and strategies to meet those needs. HPC anticipates the publication of a preliminary report in May 2026. The publication of a follow-up report is anticipated in June 2027.
--	---