

The children's behavioral health system in New York is in desperate need of a \$200 million investment to retain and build capacity

New York has an opportunity to lead the nation in securing access to mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) services for young people. Our state leaders are committed to enhancing care for children, youth, and families, but that commitment cannot be fulfilled without significant investments across the children's system.

Demand for children's behavioral health services has skyrocketed while New York's capacity to provide them has shrunk.ⁱ A problem decades in the making has become so severe it can no longer be ignored. Currently, families are sitting on waitlists for weeks, months, and sometimes more than a year to get the care they need. These waitlists are driven by a deeply inadequate reimbursement rate system that does not account for the complexity of children's care, the amount of care coordination required to work with children and families, and the challenges in providing critical care in homes and communities.

Enable the behavioral health system to expand to meet the urgent demand

The **Healthy Minds, Healthy Kids Campaign**, a collaboration between advocates, youth, parents, and New York's leading children's and behavioral health advocacy groups, is requesting immediate enhancements to the existing rate structure for children's outpatient behavioral health clinics (Article 31 and Article 32-822) services, Children's Home and Community Based Services (HCBS), and Child and Family Treatment and Support Services (CFTSS). **If these proposals are enacted, New York's outpatient mental health system could add 1,300 additional professionals to the workforce and serve over 26,000 additional children.**

Establish a care team coordination fee

Providers are responsible for coordinating with a growing array of care managers. They should be compensated for the time it takes to do so.

- \$7.50 Per Served Member Per Month (PSMPM) fee for children's clinics \$12,112,200
- \$7.50 PSMPM for CFTSS and children's HCBS \$8,324,766

Adjust children's clinic rates to reflect the unique & complex care children require

Account for the additional costs of serving children and their families. Enable providers to expand their capacity to meet the need.

- 35% enhancement for clinic visits provided to children \$117,569,701

Adjust CFTSS and children's HCBS to account for actual volume

Enable providers to expand capacity by acknowledging that the anticipated volume efficiencies have not materialized.

- Increase in CFTSS and children's HCBS rates to reflect the lack of economies of scale \$44,460,329

Trend rates to keep pace with inflation

Trends maintain, but do not advance, the children's behavioral health delivery system

- 3.2% trend for children's behavioral health clinic services: \$10,749,230
- 3.2% trend for children's HCBS and CFTSS services: \$2,107,748

Total investment in children's behavioral health \$195,264,778

^{i i} Healthy Minds, Healthy Kids. "An Urgent Crisis: Children, Youth, and Families Face Barriers to Mental Health Care Access in New York." January 14, 2025. https://healthymindshealthykids.org/hmhk-publication/?post_type=data_publications&post_id=20315. ⁱ Healthy Minds, Healthy Kids. "An Urgent Crisis: Children, Youth, and Families Face Barriers to Mental Health Care Access in New York." January 14, 2025. https://healthymindshealthykids.org/hmhk-publication/?post_type=data_publications&post_id=20315