



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 849

PRINTER'S NO. 1463

PRIME SPONSOR: Schlossberg

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2022/23	FY 2023/24
COVID-19 Response Restricted Account	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: House Bill 849, Printer's Number 1463 amends the Fiscal Code by adding Section 164-C Adult Mental Health Program funding. Under this Section, available federal funding is allocated across three main mental health care categories that focus on workforce, public safety, and expanded services and supports.

ANALYSIS:

House Bill 849 amends the Act of April 9, 1929, known as the Fiscal Code, to allocate \$100 million in COVID Relief - American Rescue Plan Act funds which was previously appropriated to the Department of Human Services as part of the General Appropriations Act of 2022 for mental health care services and supports. This funding is allocated across three main mental health care categories as was recommended by the Behavioral Health Commission for Adult Mental Health.

The three recommended mental health care categories and the allocated amount of funds to each category are:

- Increase workforce development programs and incentives - \$34 million
- Expend criminal justice and public safety programs - \$31.5 million
- Expend mental health services and supports - \$34.5 million

The legislation further assigns each category's available funding to the Commonwealth agencies to expand current mental health care programs, to develop new mental health care programs, to fund one-time payments to county mental health administrations, or to fund grants to eligible applicants to use in expanding or developing mental health workforce, services, and supports.

Increasing workforce development programs and incentives funding is allocated to Commonwealth agencies as follows:

- \$12 million - The Department of Labor and Industry for a grant program that focuses on recruitment and retention strategies for behavioral health care professionals.
- \$12 million - The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency to expand the School-Based Mental Health Internship Grant Program.
- \$10 million - The Department of Health to establish or expand a loan repayment program for eligible behavioral health care practitioners that provide services in a designated medically underserved or health professional shortage area.

Expanding criminal justice and public safety programs funding is allocated to Commonwealth agencies as follows:

- \$13.5 million - The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to establish a grant program for eligible applicants that provide comprehensive evidence-based mental health and substance use disorder treatment and support services for incarcerated persons or reentrants, establish or support existing specialty courts and services, create or expand co-responder models, or first responder crisis intervention training.
- \$7 million - The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency for prearrest diversion program.
- \$6 million – The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency for one-time grant programs focused on gun violence and mental health, trauma-informed care for victims and their families, and community outreach and education.
- \$5 million - The Department of Human Services for a one-time payment for criminal justice and public safety to each county mental health administration, which can be used by the counties for comprehensive evidence-based mental health and substance use disorder services and support for incarcerated persons, services for reentry, including partnerships with community-based organizations providing reentry services or supports, case management and service coordination for individuals incarcerated in county jails, and to create or expand partnerships with county jails or local law enforcement.

Expanding mental health services and supports funding is allocated to Commonwealth agencies as follows:

- \$18 million – The Department of Human Services for grants to county-provider partnerships that support suicide prevention and the crisis continuum of care through investments in mobile crisis teams, medical mobile crisis teams, crisis walk-in centers and crisis stabilization units. This funding can also be used by eligible applicants for one-time capital projects to establish, modify or improve facilities to provide crisis or mental health treatment supports and services.
- \$10 million - The Department of Human Services for a third-party contractor to award grants to support primary care practitioners and primary care practices in establishing or expanding the use of the collaborative care model.
- \$8 million - The Department of Human Services for one-time payments to the county mental health administrations to expand behavioral health services and supports. The services covered by this funding include utilization of telemedicine, suicide prevention and crisis intervention, and for the impacts of social determinants of health on behavioral health.
- \$3.5 million - The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs to award grants to applicants that develop and implement peer-lead mental health and substance use disorder services or develop recruitment and retention programs, and training for mental health and substance abuse peer workforce.
- \$3 million - The Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to award grants to eligible providers to invest in technology and training for behavioral health telehealth providers.

The legislation allows for a reasonable administrative fee of no more than 2% for direct costs associated with implementation, administration, and servicing the funding made available to the Commonwealth agencies related to their allocated funding, as follows:

Agency	Available Funds	Maximum 2% Administrative Fee
Department of Labor and Industry	\$12 million	\$240,000
Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency	\$12 million	\$240,000
Department of Health	\$10 million	\$200,000
Department of Human Services	\$10 million	\$200,000

The administrative fee applies only to specific allocations within the bill.

Study:

- The Legislative Budget and Finance Committee will complete a study on the impact of these mental health related programs, supports, and services that are funded through this legislation and prepare a report.
- The report must be submitted by June 30, 2027, to the Senate and the House of Representatives.

All funding under this legislation should be obligated by July 1, 2024, and paid by December 31, 2026. Unobligated funding remaining after July 1, 2024, will be recouped and reallocated in a manner to ensure all the funding is spent by the federal deadline.

This legislation will take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact for HB 849, as the \$100 million distributed by the bill was appropriated to the Department of Human Services for Mental Health Programs under the Act of July 8, 2022, known as the General Appropriations Act of 2022, Section 3006.

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House Appropriations Committee (D)

DATE: June 7, 2023

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.