

City Breaks Down Nearly \$900M in ThriveNYC Spending

The city has spent about \$345 million in the three previous fiscal years on ThriveNYC, its signature mental health initiative, with an additional \$251 million slated to be spent this year through June, de Blasio administration officials said in a briefing with reporters Tuesday.

The administration provided a [breakdown in spending](#) across a dozen agencies and more than 40 ThriveNYC programs following several media reports that criticized a lack of transparency into how the program is spending its money and how well it's performing.

Health Department officials will appear next week before the City Council Committee on Mental Health, Disabilities and Addiction to defend including \$251.8 million for ThriveNYC in the city budget for fiscal 2020, which starts July 1. In all five-year spending on ThriveNYC for fiscal 2016–2020 will be about \$850 million. That excludes \$2 million in spending on the 21 staffers assigned to ThriveNYC in the mayor's office and Health Department.

The city [created ThriveNYC](#) in 2015 with the goal of expanding access to mental health services.

The largest spending areas in the current fiscal year are \$47.5 million for the Mental Health Service Corps, a program to place clinicians in mental health centers, substance-use facilities and primary care practices. The spending plan includes \$36 million for NYC Safe, which funds a Health Department–NYPD collaboration on responding to crises involving people with serious mental illnesses. An additional \$13.2 million is allocated for clinics in schools and \$12.1 million for NYC Well, a city hotline.

City officials will face questions next week about how well the program is working. Figures show it spent \$1.1 million on evaluations of the program in fiscal 2016 and 2017. A spokeswoman for the mayor said those studies are ongoing and the money doesn't include budgets for research operations within the Health Department.

"We'll have more to say about outcomes," the spokeswoman said.