

Maimonides to open \$6M psychiatric emergency department under push from state

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Maimonides Medical Center will soon open a new psychiatric emergency department to accept patients in crisis, one of a growing number of specialty ERs in the city aimed at bolstering a critical juncture in mental health care.

The safety-net hospital built the new space, which opens to patients next month in Borough Park and will expand services later this year using a \$6 million grant from the state Office of Mental Health. The funding was part of a larger [\\$17 million](#) fundraiser from the state and private health insurers to boost the hospital's emergency and inpatient services.

The new space will house a comprehensive psychiatric emergency program, or CPEP, which will be specifically tailored to treat people decompensating from a severe mental illness when it opens its full suite of services in the coming months. CPEPs, which can serve as a gateway to long-term treatment, have been a focus of city and state officials concerned with gaps in services for people living on the streets and subways. Health systems across the city are now expanding their psychiatric emergency capacity using \$39 million that Gov. Kathy Hochul [allocated for the purpose](#) last year.

The new 24/7 emergency room will be equipped for short involuntary psychiatric holds, addiction counseling and connections to social services. It will also have private rooms for the first time, offering a more comfortable setting for patients, said spokeswoman Tina Lee. Last year, Maimonides received another \$5 million to build a 20-bed inpatient psychiatric unit for adolescents that is still under construction.

The health system is opening the new program at a time when safety-net hospitals, which mostly serve un- and underinsured patients, face deep funding cuts under President Donald Trump's Medicaid reductions, which are expected to cost New York hospitals [billions of dollars a year](#). Maimonides is one of 18 private hospitals in the state that receives more than a third of its service revenue from Medicaid.

Maimonides is not the only safety-net expanding its psychiatric emergency program. The city's public hospital system, Health + Hospitals, plans to put [roughly \\$20 million](#) towards the CPEP at Bellevue Hospital in Kips Bay, the busiest psychiatric emergency room in the city. That money was part of a \$28 million fund to bolster emergency services from nearby Mount Sinai Health System when it closed nearby Beth Israel earlier this year. Health + Hospitals faces a more than [\\$300 million annual loss](#) under the Medicaid cuts.

Wealthy systems are expanding services too. NYU Langone is building a [\\$7 million, 3,200 square foot CPEP](#) at its Sunset Park hospital using state funds. Mount Sinai, which wasn't included in the state's \$39 million investment, is spending [\\$8 million](#) to expand its CPEP at Mount Sinai West, a 514-bed hospital on the Upper East Side.

January 20, 2025: *This article has been updated to reflect that the \$6 million grant from the Office of Mental Health was for developing psychiatric emergency services, not the physical space.*