

Rebuild Illinois' Mental Health Workforce

Increase Mental Health Funding as Workforce Crisis Deepens, Waitlists Surge

Human Toll of Illinois' Mental Health Workforce Crisis

Illinois' Medicaid mental health **workforce crisis deepens** as treatment professionals leave at unprecedented rates for better paying jobs when the need is at an all-time high due to the pandemic. With more than 4,000 unfilled positions statewide, **access to care is shrinking day by day** with fewer people to deliver care.

Many Community Mental Health Centers are **closing intake**, positions go unfilled for a year or more, and **services are pulled out of underserved communities** because there is no one to provide care. Mercer projects staffing vacancies to more than double by 2026. The time is now to address this workforce crisis.

Fewer Treatment Professionals Means

- Hospitalization, criminalization, homelessness, substance use, school dropout, suicide.
- First three-quarters of 2020: **Nearly 1,000 Illinoisans took their own lives.**
- **Waitlists surge into the tens of thousands statewide** as access narrows.

Racial Injustice

Black and Latinx Illinoisans are disproportionately impacted by the workforce shortage. **Over two-thirds of Black and Latinx** individuals with a mental health need do not access care. **Scarce treatment options are evaporating in these communities** as the workforce crisis worsens.

Illinois Ranks at the Bottom Nationally

Illinois is **75% below national average** in use of community mental health care.

Support HB4238

Rebuild Illinois Mental Health Workforce Act

Modernize Medicaid Funding to Retain, Recruit Clinical Staff; Shrink Waitlist Surge

\$130M, 60% paid with federal Medicaid dollars, in new funding for *specific* community mental health services to regain, retain staff; drive down waitlists. Rate add-on & directed payments for these services will have an immediate statewide impact particularly in underserved communities.

- ✓ **Individual Therapy:** \$27.1M
- ✓ **Case Management:** \$15.6M
- ✓ **Community Support Individual services:** \$55.3M
- ✓ **Assertive Community Treatment services:** \$14.4M
- ✓ **Community Support Team services:** \$17.6M

Rebuild Illinois Mental Health Workforce Coalition

Supporting HB4238



Other Supporting Organizations: AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Envision Unlimited, NAMI Chicago

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