

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES IN THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

The American Rescue Plan provides historic investments to address surging mental and behavioral health and substance use disorder concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill funds a total of \$3 billion in block grants for prevention and treatment of substance use disorders and community mental health care services, which will provide funding for all 50 states and be administered through Montana DPHHS. Other investments include:

- \$420 million goes toward certified community behavioral health clinics (CCBHC) – in Montana, there are 3 CCBHCs (Rimrock in Billings, Center for Mental Health in Great Falls, and Western Montana Mental Health in Missoula)
- \$420 million for mental and behavioral health funds at the Indian Health Service
- \$50 million for local behavioral health services, such as telehealth and crisis intervention
- \$30 million for harm reduction services.

The American Rescue Plan also includes significant investments to support the mental and behavioral health workforce, including:

- \$100 million to support the recruitment, education and clinical training of mental and behavioral health providers
- \$140 million to support the mental health of essential health care workers which includes \$80 million for mental health and substance use disorder training for health care professionals, paraprofessionals, and public safety officers, \$20 million for a national education and awareness campaign to encourage healthy work conditions, and \$40 million to promote the mental health of the health professional workforce.

For children and adolescents, the American Rescue Plan allocates:

- \$80 million for pediatric mental health care grants
- \$30 million for Project AWARE, which is a federal program that supports mental and behavioral health among school-aged children
- \$20 million for youth suicide prevention.

In addition, the flexibility of other funding streams can also be used to hire more mental health professionals to amplify mental and behavioral health resources for children and youth, including the \$382 million for Montana K-12 schools, \$94 million for Montana institutions of higher education, and \$68 million for child care stabilization funds.