



- 1 supports, and other considerations for treatment and disposition  
2 planning.
- 3 (2) The following amounts to the Division of Mental Health, Developmental  
4 Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services:
- 5 a. Twenty-one million dollars (\$21,000,000) for behavioral health  
6 mobile crisis teams able to address the needs to children experiencing  
7 a behavioral health crisis.
- 8 b. Eleven million dollars (\$11,000,000) to increase the number of youth  
9 crisis stabilization beds available statewide and to create reserve crisis  
10 stabilization bed capacity.
- 11 (3) The following amounts to the Division of Social Services:
- 12 a. Six million dollars (\$6,000,000) to provide Division-based supports  
13 for families, including professional foster parenting programs.
- 14 b. Sixteen million dollars (\$16,000,000) to provide funding for intensive  
15 supports in the community, such as (i) programs that specialize in  
16 collaborating with parents who struggle with substance use and (ii)  
17 teams that coordinate and provide wraparound family services,  
18 including any of the following:
- 19 1. Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Team (START), a program  
20 model that pairs child welfare workers trained in family  
21 engagement with family mentors, who are peer support  
22 employees in long-term recovery, using a system-of-care and  
23 team decision-making approach with families, treatment  
24 providers, and the court. The program model provides for  
25 quick entry to START services to safely maintain child  
26 placement in the home, when possible, and rapid access to  
27 intensive addiction/mental health assessment and treatment.
- 28 2. Safe Babies Court, a pilot program that builds partnerships  
29 among the courts, child welfare agencies, and local agencies to  
30 provide services to children from birth through 3 years of age  
31 who are in foster care due to abuse or neglect. The program  
32 connects children and families with wraparound support and  
33 services to promote healthy child development and expeditious  
34 discharges from the foster care system.
- 35 c. Ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) to strengthen and expand the child  
36 welfare workforce. Funds provided pursuant to this subdivision shall  
37 be used to supplement, not supplant any county funding.

38 **SECTION 2.(b)** Allocation of Funds to Strengthen the North Carolina Behavioral  
39 Health Crisis System. – The Department of Health and Human Services shall allocate a portion  
40 of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this act to the Division of Mental Health, Developmental  
41 Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services as follows:

- 42 (1) Twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) for the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.
- 43 (2) Twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) to be used as start-up funding for new  
44 mobile crisis teams throughout the State.
- 45 (3) Sixty million dollars (\$60,000,000) to develop new behavioral health urgent  
46 care and facility-based crisis combination facilities, peer drop-in facilities, and  
47 additional North Carolina Systemic, Therapeutic, Assessment, Resources and  
48 Treatment (NC START) respite locations.
- 49 (4) Eighty million dollars (\$80,000,000) for a pilot program transporting  
50 individuals needing psychiatric hospitalization from hospital emergency

1 departments and behavioral health urgent care facilities to the inpatient facility  
 2 at which a bed has been located for each individual.

3 (5) Twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) to be used for housing supports for  
 4 individuals with serious mental illness and competitive integrated  
 5 employment training that enhances employment opportunities for individuals  
 6 with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

7 (6) Five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) to be used for grants made to an  
 8 owner, proprietor, local government, or person in control of a garage that has  
 9 a vertical height above three stories, or 30 feet, for funds to purchase signage  
 10 providing information on suicide prevention that is to be posted on each floor  
 11 of the garage above three stories, or 30 feet, in height, in each elevator lobby.  
 12 The Department shall develop and post on its website the mechanism by  
 13 which an applicant may apply for this grant funding and any design  
 14 suggestions or requirements for the signage being purchased with any funds  
 15 awarded.

16 **SECTION 2.(c)** Allocation of Funds for Community and School-Based Behavioral  
 17 Health. – The Department of Health and Human Services shall allocate a portion of the funds  
 18 appropriated in Section 1 of this act to the following Divisions within the Department as follows:

19 (1) The following amounts to the Division of Mental Health, Developmental  
 20 Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services:

- 21 a. Thirty-eight million dollars (\$38,000,000) to be used to expand the  
 22 number of certified community behavioral health clinics in this State.
- 23 b. Ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) to be used for an education  
 24 campaign to reduce stigma around mental health.
- 25 c. Thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) for the development of a  
 26 workforce training center that provides training to behavioral health  
 27 and intellectual and developmental disabilities providers at no charge  
 28 to the provider.

29 (2) Seven million dollars (\$7,000,000) to the Division of Health Benefits to  
 30 increase connections between primary care providers and psychiatry services  
 31 by funding the start-up costs associated with primary care practice adoption  
 32 of the collaborative care model and by continuing funding for the North  
 33 Carolina Psychiatric Access Line supporting primary care providers caring for  
 34 children with complex needs.

35 (3) Fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) to the Division of Central Management  
 36 and Support, Office of Rural Health, to expand the North Carolina Loan  
 37 Repayment Program to include all licensed providers of behavioral health  
 38 services practicing in rural and underserved areas of the State who are enrolled  
 39 Medicaid providers.

40 (4) Forty million dollars (\$40,000,000) for statewide expansion of school  
 41 behavioral health services. The Division of Child and Family Well-Being, in  
 42 collaboration with the Department of Public Instruction, may use these funds  
 43 to address the challenges and implement the strategies outlined in the NC  
 44 Unified School Behavioral Health Action Plan dated March 2023, such as  
 45 school-based tele-behavioral health pilot programs, Project AWARE  
 46 (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education), Project ACTIVATE  
 47 (Advancing Coordinated and Timely InterVentions, Awareness, Training, and  
 48 Education), a statewide school-based electronic health records system, locally  
 49 driven behavioral health initiatives, and training to connect schools to local  
 50 behavioral health providers. To meet the needs of young children in schools  
 51 and early child care and education settings, these allocated funds may be used

1 to expand access to professional development, technical assistance, screening  
2 and evaluation, and services for teachers, providers, and families to enable  
3 positive behavioral supports for children.

4 **SECTION 2.(d)** Allocation of Funds for Justice-Related Behavioral Health Matters.

5 – The Department of Health and Human Services shall allocate a portion of the funds  
6 appropriated in Section 1 of this act to the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities,  
7 and Substance Abuse Services as follows:

- 8 (1) One hundred eight million dollars (\$108,000,000) to operate  
9 community-based pre-arrest diversion and reentry programs and to fund local  
10 partnerships between law enforcement, counties, and behavioral health  
11 providers.
- 12 (2) Forty million dollars (\$40,000,000) to operate both community-based and  
13 detention center-based restoration programs.
- 14 (3) Two million dollars (\$2,000,000) to be used for judicial education programs  
15 designed to increase understanding of mental health issues and behavioral  
16 health treatment options.

17 **SECTION 2.(e)** Allocation of Funds to Improve the Capacity of the State Psychiatric

18 Facilities. – The Department of Health and Human Services shall allocate a portion of the funds  
19 appropriated in Section 1 of this act to the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities,  
20 and Substance Abuse Services as follows:

- 21 (1) Thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) to be used to support individualized  
22 community-based treatment and support for adults with long lengths of stay  
23 or repeated stays at State-operated psychiatric hospitals.
- 24 (2) Forty million dollars (\$40,000,000) to recruit and retain the healthcare  
25 workforce at State-operated healthcare facilities.
- 26 (3) Twenty-seven million dollars (\$27,000,000) to implement electronic medical  
27 records in all State-operated healthcare facilities.
- 28 (4) Three million dollars (\$3,000,000) for the purchase of automated medication  
29 dispensing cabinets at State-operated healthcare facilities.

30 **SECTION 2.(f)** Allocation of Funds to Improve Behavioral Health Data and

31 Technology. – The Department of Health and Human Services shall allocate a portion of the  
32 funds appropriated in Section 1 of this act to the following Divisions within the Department as  
33 follows:

- 34 (1) Twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) to the Division of Central Management  
35 and Support, Office of Rural Health, to increase access to telehealth services  
36 in rural and underserved areas of the State. These funds shall be used to  
37 purchase equipment and infrastructure for healthcare providers practicing in  
38 rural and underserved areas of the State and for broadband expansion in these  
39 areas. As used in this subdivision, "broadband expansion" means a program  
40 designed to expand broadband infrastructure or broadband utilization.
- 41 (2) The following amounts to the Division of Mental Health, Developmental  
42 Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services:
  - 43 a. Twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) to expand the centralized bed  
44 registry, known as BHSCAN.
  - 45 b. Ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) to provide funding and  
46 technological assistance to behavioral healthcare providers related to  
47 the modernization of data and technology, including funds to assist  
48 with connection to the Health Information Exchange (HIE), new staff,  
49 and changes in billing practices.

50 **SECTION 2.(g)** Allocation of Funds to Invest in Medicaid Rates. – Of the funds

51 appropriated in Section 1 of this act, the Department of Health and Human Services shall allocate

1 the sum of two hundred twenty-five million dollars (\$225,000,000) to the Division of Health  
2 Benefits to be used to increase rates paid to Medicaid behavioral healthcare providers for a period  
3 of three years.

4 **SECTION 2.(h)** Allocation of Remaining Funds. – Of the funds appropriated in  
5 Section 1 of this act, the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) shall be allocated to  
6 the Department of Health and Human Services to be used for administrative purposes related to  
7 one or more programs for which funds have been allocated under subsections (a) through (g) of  
8 this section.

9 **SECTION 2.(i)** Authorization for Time-Limited Positions. – As part of the  
10 implementation or administration of the programs for which funds have been allocated under  
11 subsections (a) through (g) of this section, the Department of Health and Human Services is  
12 authorized to create up to 48 time-limited positions.

13 **SECTION 3.** Timing of Funding. – The funds appropriated in Section 1 of this act  
14 shall become available during the course of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium as the funds are  
15 deposited into the ARPA Temporary Savings Fund, established under Section 1.3 of S.L. 2023-7.  
16 The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) shall not provide allocations of the  
17 funds appropriated in Section 1 of this act until the funds are available within the ARPA  
18 Temporary Savings Fund, in whole or in part. When any portion of the funds appropriated in  
19 Section 1 of this act becomes available, the Secretary of DHHS shall promptly allocate those  
20 funds for the uses described in Section 2 of this act and, at the discretion of the Secretary, shall  
21 prioritize the allocations, taking into account any time lines for the use of the funds, the best  
22 interest of the citizens of the State, and the avoidance of any disruption in services to those  
23 citizens.

24 **SECTION 4.** Report on Use of Funds. – In addition to any report required under this  
25 act or any other law, the Department of Health and Human Services shall submit a quarterly  
26 report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal  
27 Research Division beginning on January 1, 2024, detailing the use of funds appropriated in this  
28 act. Each report required under this section shall include the amount of funds received to date,  
29 how the funds were used during the quarterly reporting period, and the amount of funds that  
30 remained unspent at the end of the quarterly reporting period. The requirement under this section  
31 to submit a quarterly report shall end upon submission of the final report, which shall be no later  
32 than 90 days from the date the allocated funds have been fully expended.

33 **SECTION 5.(a)** Section 1 of this act is effective on the date the Current Operations  
34 Appropriations Act for the 2023-2024 fiscal year becomes law or July 1, 2023, whichever is later.

35 **SECTION 5.(b)** If, by June 30, 2024, no Current Operations Appropriations Act for  
36 the 2023-2024 fiscal year has become law, then this act shall expire on that date.

37 **SECTION 6.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes  
38 law.