

## Rebuild Illinois' Mental Health Workforce Increase Mental Health Funding as Workforce Crisis Deepens, Waitlists Surge

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### 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, Illinois Partners for Human Service, NAMI Chicago, One Hope United

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