



FY2022: Budget Priorities

1.5M: Mental Health Advocacy Program for Kids: DCF Line Item #4800-0200

MHAP for Kids, a program offered through the Department of Children and Families’ Family Resource Centers (FRCs), ensures that children with high risk factors receive mental health services. MHAP for Kids improves the mental health of youth with unmet mental health needs by providing these children with an attorney trained in removing barriers to treatment and diverting children from the juvenile justice system. **MHAP for Kids’ staff attorneys are based out of 10 DCF FRCs serving children statewide and providing a statewide intake line.**

Approximately 64% of MHAP for Kids’ funding is state appropriation. MHAP for Kids is supported through an earmarked appropriation of \$950,000; the remaining funds are raised by Health Law Advocates. The state appropriation is vital to allowing MHAP for Kids to serve families in districts with fewer resources and focus on meeting critical mental health needs.

FY 21 GAA	FY22 Ask	FY22 Governor	FY22 House	FY22 Senate	Conference
\$17.45M for FRCs; \$950,000 MHAP	\$950,000 MHAP	\$16M for FRCs; No earmark	\$16M for FRCs; No earmark	\$23M for FRCs; \$1.5M MHAP	

\$500,000: Return to School “Bridge” Programs: DPH Line Item #4590-0250

The focus of Bridge programs is to ensure that youth who have been out of school for psychiatric or other hospitalizations can successfully transition back to school. Many districts already have these innovative programs, which provide emotional and academic support to students who have missed 5 or more days of school due to a mental health crisis, hospitalization, or serious medical problem. 50% of US high school students with serious mental illness drop out of school. Bridge programs are changing that script for Massachusetts youth with a short-term intervention that reduces drop-out rates to 8%.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Bridge programs continue to help schools create effective and efficient structures for helping students struggling with serious mental health and other medical challenges achieve success. Bridge programs have been working with school and district leaders, and entire school faculties across Massachusetts, to integrate school wide strategies and supports to promote mental health and equity for all students and families.

FY21 GAA	FY22 Ask	FY22 Governor	FY22 House	FY22 Senate	Conference
\$350,000	\$500,000	No earmark	No earmark	\$500,000	

\$150,000: School-based Behavioral Health Technical Assistance Centers



The FY21 budget includes a \$50,000 earmark in the DMH Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services line to support the planning and development for the Commonwealth to establish a school-based behavioral health technical assistance center.

Funding will be dedicated to planning and collaboration with community stakeholders as well as further qualitative and quantitative data collection to support the development of a school-based behavioral health technical assistance center.

FY21 GAA	FY22 Ask	FY22 Governor	FY22 House	FY22 SWM	Conference
\$50,000	\$150,000	No earmark	\$100,000	\$150,000	

Sustained funding for foundational programs



Level funding: The Children’s Mental Health Campaign (CMHC) has advocated for these priorities for several years. We appreciate the legislature’s ongoing, consistent funding of these important programs, and urge you to support ongoing sustainability.

Priority	FY 2021 GAA	FY22 Gov	FY22 House	FY22 Senate	Conference
Early Childhood Interagency Collaboration (5042-5000)	\$125,000	No earmark	No earmark	No earmark	
Mass Child Psychiatry Access Project (5042-5000)	\$3,875,000 earmark	No earmark	3,825,000 earmark	\$3,875,000 earmark	
School-based substance use verbal screening (4590-0250)	\$700,000	No earmark	No earmark	No earmark	
Early Ed and Care Mental Health Consultation (3000-6075)	\$2.5M	\$2.5M	\$2.5M	\$2.5M	

Supporting children’s behavioral health requires us to advocate for children at home with their families, in their schools and within the context of the broader community.



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