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Senate Bill 599 Behavioral Health Crisis Response Grant Program - Funding

Budget and Taxation Committee

March 6, 2025

Position: SUPPORT

The Mental Health Association of Maryland is a nonprofit education and advocacy organization that brings together consumers, families, clinicians, advocates and concerned citizens for unified action in all aspects of mental health and substance use disorders (collectively referred to as behavioral health). We appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of Senate Bill 599.

SB 599 will provide level funding for Maryland’s Behavioral Health Crisis Response Grant Program for the next three years. This program, established by the General Assembly in 2018, awards grants to local behavioral health authorities to develop and expand crisis response services in jurisdictions across the state. It is currently supporting the following critical crisis response needs:

Appendix I . Number of Grants and Funds Distribution

Jurisdictions	Grant Allocation	Service Provided
Baltimore City	\$849,144	Adult Mobile Crisis
Baltimore County	\$304,855	Urgent Care Services
Calvert	\$382,976	Crisis Call Center
Carroll	\$373,171	Youth and Adult Mobile Crisis
Frederick	\$862,830	Walk-in Crisis Services for Youth and Adults
Harford	\$111,000	School-based Mobile Crisis Services
Howard	\$810,372	Adult Crisis Beds
Midshore	\$413,000	Youth Mobile Crisis
Prince George’s	\$806,652	Adult SUD Observation Chairs
Washington	\$96,404	Adult Mobile Crisis Services
TOTAL	\$5,010,404	

Crisis response services are an essential component of Maryland’s behavioral health system of care. They provide early intervention to stabilize individuals experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis quickly and at the lowest level of care appropriate, and they are a key strategy in the state’s ongoing efforts to reduce preventable emergency department visits, inpatient hospitalizations, homelessness and criminal justice involvement.

For these reasons, MHAMD supports SB 599 and urges a favorable report.

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