



RIGHT HELP, RIGHT NOW

A Transformational Behavioral Health Plan for Virginians

Governor Glenn Youngkin is proposing a transformational three-year plan to finally fix Virginia's inadequate and overburdened behavioral health care system. For too long, too many Virginians have suffered in crisis, battled substance use disorders, and gone without access to the urgent care they needed. This comprehensive approach is built on six pillars, sets clear and achievable three-year goals, and includes immediate action to get people the "right help, right now." **The Governor's revised budget includes over \$230 million in new funding, including an initiative to fully-fund 30+ new mobile-crises teams across the Commonwealth so Virginians who call the "9-8-8" hotline can receive the care they need.**

SIX PILLARS

- **OFFER SAME-DAY CARE FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISES**
We will make a historic effort to offer Virginians access to same-day care for their behavioral health needs by implementing the best-in-class CrisisNow model, fully-funding mobile crisis teams, and building out the new 9-8-8 crisis hotline.
- **RELIEVE LAW ENFORCEMENT BURDENS & REDUCE CRIMINALIZATION OF MENTAL HEALTH**
We will relieve the burden on law enforcement so they can keep us safe and reduce the criminalization of mental health by streamlining the discharge of temporary detention orders, allowing attending physicians to discharge temporary detention orders, and funding in-hospital monitoring alternatives to law enforcement.
- **EXPAND CAPACITY TO SERVE PEOPLE**
We will ensure that we can serve people by expanding capacity throughout the behavioral health system, including pre-crisis prevention services, crisis services, and post-crisis recovery and support by expanding the use of community-based care, increasing access to telebehavioral health, and increasing school-based support for students.
- **TARGET SUPPORT FOR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS & OVERDOSE**
We will engage directly on substance use disorders and overdose by developing better mobile treatment and crisis response, invest additional funding to wage war on fentanyl overdoses, and reduce barriers to recovery and re-entry.
- **STRENGTHEN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE**
We will create a pipeline of professionals who can help people by expanding our recruitment strategies, supporting targeted increases in rates and compensation, and providing funds to educate new psychiatrists, psychiatric nurse practitioners, and other behavioral health workers.
- **IDENTIFY INNOVATIONS TO CLOSE CAPACITY GAPS**
We will relentlessly pursue best-in-class solutions and identify innovations to close capacity gaps by streamlining administrative requirements, better-aligning the behavioral health provider network, and developing outcome-based payment strategies and incorporating behavioral health innovations in rebid of the Medicaid managed care contract.

THREE YEAR, ACHIEVABLE GOALS

Together, we can fundamentally change the Commonwealth’s approach to behavioral health and substance use disorders. We can go from a slow evolution to an accelerated revolution by scaling a three-year transformational plan. For the first time ever, we will look comprehensively at the entirety of our system and set achievable targets that will improve outcomes – making sure people who need it most get the right help, right now.

CATEGORY	CURRENT	IMMEDIATE ACTION	THREE-YEAR GOAL
Mobile Crisis Teams	36	70	70
Crisis Receiving Center Slots	186	290	500
Short Term Crisis Beds	252	324	400
Medicaid Waiver Priority 1 Waitlist	3,128	2,028	0

IMMEDIATE ACTION TO GET STARTED

Governor Youngkin is proposing over \$230 million in new funding. This is a giant step forward when combined with the funding appropriated in the last budget—bringing the commitment to over \$660 million in next fiscal year. The Governor’s budget proposal includes:

- \$20 million to fund 30+ new mobile crisis units, meeting our statewide goal in the first year, to respond to 9-8-8 hotline calls
- \$58 million to increase the number of Crisis Receiving Centers and Crisis Stabilization Units, fully-funding the number of necessary centers in Southwest Virginia and Hampton Roads
- \$15 million to expand the elementary, middle, and high school-based mental health program to dozens of new communities
- \$9 million to expand tele-behavioral health services in public schools and on college campuses
- \$20 million for partnerships with hospitals for alternatives to emergency departments for crisis
- \$9 million for transportation and in-hospital monitoring by law enforcement and other personnel
- \$8 million for Serious Mental Illness housing, creating 100 new placements for SMI patients with extraordinary barriers to discharge
- \$57 million for 500 additional Medicaid Waiver Priority 1 Waitlist Slots and increased provider rates
- \$15 million in opioid abatement initiatives including a campaign to reduce fentanyl poisoning among our youth

“We are committed to ensuring that Virginians experiencing behavioral health crisis know who to call, who will help, and where to go.”

