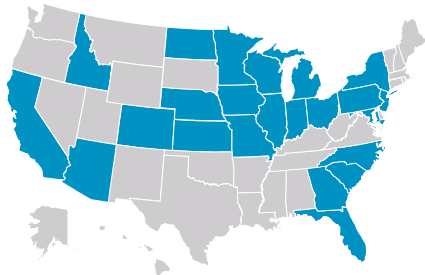


Funding Strategies for County Behavioral Health Crisis Care



America's 3,069 counties are a cornerstone of the nation's health systems, investing over \$100 billion annually in community health and hospitals, which includes behavioral health crisis care services. **County-based behavioral health programs operate in 23 states, serving 75 percent of the U.S. population.** Counties also deliver Medicaid-eligible services and bridge funding gaps in administering the program. Finally, by providing wrap-around human services supports such as housing assistance, employment services and food security programs, counties ensure timely community-based support for residents experiencing a crisis.

Counties can leverage diverse funding streams and intergovernmental and cross-sector partners to improve coordination of care for individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders.

Primary Behavioral Health Funding Streams



Federal Funding
(Grants/Block Grants)



State/Federal
Funding (Medicaid)



State Funding



Local Funding



Public-Private
Partnerships

Creative Funding Strategies

Counties across the country are developing innovative strategies to fund behavioral health care.

Blending occurs when financial resources from various funding streams are combined into a unified pool of commingled funds to support an initiative or acquire specific services.

Braiding combines multiple funding streams to provide specific services simultaneously, requiring interagency coordination and collaboration.

Sequencing organizes different funding streams to provide distinct services along the crisis care continuum.



Learn more and discover available county funding opportunities to support community members experiencing a behavioral health crisis by visiting our interactive resource table.

Reducing Barriers

Counties are applying a variety of creative solutions to overcome barriers to behavioral health care funding.



Overcoming Insufficient and Inconsistent Funding Streams

Counties can blend, braid and sequence various funding sources from federal, state and local sources, as well as private grants and donations.



Managing the Rising Cost of Care

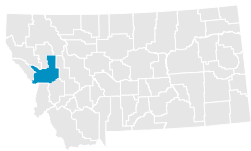
Counties can leverage state and federal funding sources such as Medicaid, Institutions for Mental Disease waivers and opioid settlement funds to cover the cost of care while working to establish comprehensive insurance reimbursements through state, federal and private collaboration.



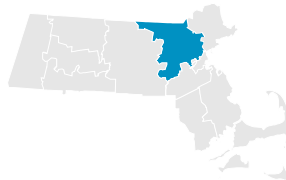
Navigating Limited Local Revenue

Counties can encourage community involvement to increase awareness and support for behavioral health initiatives, which can result in additional funding through local fundraising efforts, non-profit or community organization resources and philanthropic donations.

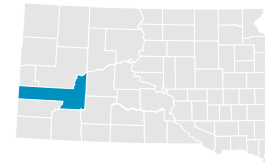
Counties in Action



Missoula County (Mont.) leverages funding from Montana's HB 872, which includes a historic \$300 million investment in behavioral health and developmental disabilities service systems. This bill supports the [Behavioral Health Systems for Future Generations](#) initiative aimed at enhancing infrastructure, improving access to care and ensuring long-term sustainability.



Middlesex County (Mass.) leverages the MassHealth Behavioral Health Initiative to fund Community Behavioral Health Centers through a Medicaid 1115 demonstration waiver, which enhances reimbursements for outpatient and crisis care, including mobile crisis services. The county also secured additional federal investments for the [Middlesex County Restoration Center](#).



In 2022, The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust awarded a \$4 million grant to Pivot Point to fund the first 36 months of operations of the new **Pennington County (S.D.)** Crisis Stabilization Unit. This award builds on and enhances the services offered by Pennington County's [Care Campus](#).

The National Association of Counties would like to thank The Pew Charitable Trusts and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation for their support of this resource. All counties featured in this publication are part of the [Safety and Justice Challenge](#).

Learn more and discover additional NACo resources to support counties
in advancing behavioral health solutions.

