

2023 Legislative Actions to Increase Access to Behavioral Health Care

MHA supported and the General Assembly passed legislation to expand behavioral health resources, including crisis services, those for the individuals at risk for emergency department use and protected telehealth flexibilities.



Secured Investment in Behavioral Health Initiatives

[SB 3: 9-8-8 Trust Fund - Funding](#): Requires the Governor to appropriate \$12 million to the 9-8-8 Trust Fund in fiscal year 2025. The dollars may be used for crisis call centers, mobile crisis team services, crisis stabilization centers, and other services to divert individuals from emergency departments.

[SB 255: Public Health - Home - and Community-Based Services for Children and Youth](#): Provides reimbursement for essential wraparound services, including repayment for intensive in-home services, family therapy, and other family-centered treatments. This bill also establishes a pilot program to run from fiscal years 2025 through 2027 to support children at risk for out-of-home placement.



Increased Access to Behavioral Health Services Including Maintaining Telehealth Flexibilities

[SB 534: Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2023](#): This MHA priority extends reimbursement parity and allows audio-only telehealth for an additional two years. The Maryland Health Care Commission will conduct a final study and make recommendations on telehealth in Maryland's health care system.

[HB 1148: Behavioral Health Care - Treatment and Access \(Behavioral Health Model for Maryland\)](#): Establishes the Commission on Behavioral Health Treatment and Access, implements a 500-person value-based purchasing pilot program to help individuals at risk of visiting emergency departments due to behavioral health crises, and, like the Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2023, extends telehealth via audio-only modalities for another two years.

[HB 48: Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Collaborative Care Model Services – Implementation and Reimbursement Expansion](#): Repeals the current Collaborative Care Pilot Program and requires the Maryland Department of Health to provide reimbursement for collaborative care services to Medicaid recipients.