

APA Advocacy



Remember, advocacy is an ongoing process, and we continue to work tirelessly to improve mental health care and access for all. If you have any further questions or need additional information, feel free to ask!

We've highlighted the APA's legislative goals and recent victories, emphasizing their impact on mental health care. If you'd like more details or want to get involved, scan the QR code above!

Psychiatry.org

Contact Us

- 📞 202-559-3900
- 🌐 <https://www.psychiatry.org/>
- ✉️ apa@psych.org
- 📍 800 Maine Avenue SW
Suite 900
Washington, DC 20024

APA Legislative Advocacy

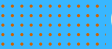


Goals & Legislative Victories

Psychiatry.org

Legislative Goals

- Workforce Equity Investments:
 - Advocate for increased funding and support to address workforce shortages in behavioral health care.
 - Specifically, push for the creation of 100 new graduate medical education (GME) slots dedicated to psychiatry or psychiatry subspecialties.
- Collaborative Care Model:
 - Promote legislation that authorizes grants and technical assistance for primary care practices.
 - These grants would facilitate the implementation of the evidence-based Collaborative Care Model, which focuses on early intervention and prevention of mental health and substance use disorders (SUD) within primary care settings.
- Telehealth Access:
 - Advocate for the extension of telehealth flexibilities beyond the public health emergency.
 - Specifically, delay the implementation of the in-person requirement for telehealth services related to mental health until December 31, 2024.



- Parity Compliance:
 - Work to eliminate the parity opt-out for non-federal governmental health plans.
 - Authorize funding for state insurance departments to enforce and ensure compliance with mental health parity laws.
- Crisis Services:
 - Advocate for funding to support the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.
 - Double funding for programs aimed at diverting mental health and SUD crisis response from law enforcement to mobile crisis teams.
- Physician Wellness:
 - Support exceptions to the Stark Law, allowing hospitals to provide evidence-based programs for physicians.
 - These programs aim to improve physicians' mental health, increase resiliency, and prevent suicide among medical professionals.
- Territory Medicaid Funding:
 - Extend Puerto Rico's higher federal Medicaid match through FY 2027.
 - Permanently extend a federal Medicaid match of 83% for American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Recent Legislative Victories

Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 (HR 2617):

Passed at the end of 2022, this federal funding legislation includes several APA initiatives and priorities.

Notable victories include workforce equity investments, telehealth access, health equity funding, and crisis services support.

Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act (H.R. 7666):

Passed by the U.S. House of Representatives, this bill aims to enhance mental health services.

It now awaits consideration in the U.S. Senate for potential inclusion in a broader mental health legislative package

