

Fiscal Year 2022

\$50M Innovation Fund to Address Emergency Department Boarding: Line Item (4000-0052)

FY 2022 Funding Request: \$50M to address the root causes and create solutions to pediatric emergency department “boarding”

About the \$50M Innovation Fund

The FY21 budget included \$10M for a new grant program within the Executive Office of Health and Human Services dedicated to the rapid creation of inpatient mental health acute care beds with priority given to the creation of beds specifically for children and adolescents. The Children’s Mental Health Campaign proposes an expansion of this fund through the creation of a \$50M Innovation Fund that can address emergency department boarding and create better systems for supporting children in crisis.

- Support renovations to existing beds to facilitate safe and private accommodations
- Increase the capacity of community-based acute treatment (CBAT) residential units for inpatient diversion or step down
- Support development of Community Stabilization Beds
- Ensure child safety through room modification, specialized training for nurses and others working with children on de-escalation and injury prevention
- Ensure collateral contacts (family or otherwise with knowledge of the situation and can offer relevant information) extend beyond patient discharge and handoff to other services
- Investigate best practices, data collection, and evaluation
- Create a set of services and supports to provide behavioral health services in the environment the child is boarding in (children often board in the emergency department but may be sent to “board at home.”)
 - Better delivery of behavioral health services
 - Support for collateral contacts
 - Developmental pediatrician and ABA supports for kids with co-occurring Autism spectrum disorder or intellectual/developmental delays (ASD/IDD)
 - Services for addressing co-occurring substance use disorders

Why funding is needed

The boarding crisis has dramatically intensified in recent years and has been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving children boarding longer than ever before. Reducing the wait time for psychiatric placements is critical to removing some of the burden faced by children in the Commonwealth. State and hospital leaders repeatedly cite limited bed availability data as a central issue preventing timely psychiatric placements. Existing efforts have not adequately addressed the boarding problem, therefore more action is needed.

Updates

FY21 GAA	FY22 Ask	FY22 Governor	FY22 House	FY22 Senate	Conference
\$10M	\$50M	Not included	Not included		