



**AMERICAN  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION**  
SERVICES, INC.

**American Psychological Association Services, Inc.**  
Public Witness Written Testimony Submitted March 20, 2023  
**Katherine B. McGuire, Chief Advocacy Officer**  
United States House of Representatives  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education  
**Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations**

---

The American Psychological Association Services (APA Services) is the companion organization of the American Psychological Association (APA), which is the nation's largest scientific and professional nonprofit organization representing the discipline and profession of psychology, as well as over 146,000 members and affiliates who are clinicians, researchers, educators, consultants, and students in psychological science.

To boost critical research funding, support the psychology workforce, improve access to mental and behavioral health services across the lifespan, and address social determinants of health, APA Services requests the following funding levels for FY 24 within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Education, and U.S. Department of Labor.

**Boosting Critical Research Funding:**

APA Services endorses the Ad Hoc Group's request of at least \$50.924 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in FY 24. We also support the President's request for a \$200 million increase for the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to help combat the growing mental health crisis, including \$20 million for the study of the mental health impacts of social media. APA Services supports language directing NIMH to collaborate with the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the National Institute of Minority Health

and Health Disparities on research in the populations most vulnerable to mental health disorders. APA Services recommends at least \$900 million for the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). Finally, APA Services urges the Committee to provide \$25 million for gun violence research in FY 24 at NIH and \$35 million at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

**Supporting the Psychology Workforce:**

The nation's mental and behavioral health workforce must be expanded to meet the growing demand for services. To address this, APA Services supports increased funding for the following programs within HHS' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Within HRSA, APA Services joins the Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG) in urging the Committee to provide \$30 million for the Graduate Psychology Education Program and \$387 million for the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) Programs. APA Services joins the Coalition to Stop Opioid Overdoses (CSOO) in requesting the Committee provide \$15 million for the Integrated Substance Use Disorder Training Program (ISTP). These programs are increasing training opportunities for doctoral, internship, and post-doctoral residents in integrated settings, specifically for medically underserved populations.

Within SAMHSA, APA Services requests \$36.7 million for the Minority Fellowship Program (MFP). This increase will support MFP's dual mission to increase the diversity of the mental health and behavioral health workforce while improving access to mental health and substance use disorder services in underserved communities.

**Improving Access to Mental and Behavioral Health Care Across the Lifespan:**

APA Services joins the MHLG in requesting \$1.7 billion for SAMHSA's Community Mental Health Block Grant including a 5% set-aside for prevention and early intervention; \$2.7

billion for the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Services Block Grant and \$2.0 billion for the State Opioid Response (SOR) Grants in FY 24. APA Services also supports the request for \$713.4 million for Opioid Overdose Prevention and Surveillance at CDC. This funding would support the integration of state and local prevention and response efforts, provide support for providers and health systems prevention (including the use of prescription drug monitoring programs as a clinical decision support tool), enhance partnerships with public safety and first responders, and establish and improve linkages to medications for opioid use disorder.

APA Services also supports \$160 million for the SAMHSA Minority AIDS Initiative for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, \$836 million for 988 and Behavioral Health Crisis Services grants, \$100 million for the Mobile Mental Health Crisis Response program, \$11 million for the Suicide Prevention Resource Center, \$28.2 million for the National Strategy on Suicide Prevention (NSSP), \$10 million for the 988 Coordinating Office, and \$104.9 million for the Promoting Integration of Primary and Behavioral Health Care (PIPBHC) grant program.

Additionally, we ask the Committee to include \$50 million for the State/Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention Program and \$12 million for the Campus Suicide Prevention Grant Program. The Committee should also include \$150 million through the Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education to address the mental health of college students.

To ensure that K-12 students receive a well-rounded education, access to school-based mental health services, and programs that foster safe and healthy schools, APA Services requests \$1.48 billion for Title IV-A, the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant, and \$244 million for Project AWARE. To increase the number of mental health providers in school settings, APA Services requests \$428 million within the Safe Schools National Activities for the

School Based Mental Health Services Professional Demonstration Grant and the School-Based Mental Health Services Grant Programs. APA Services also urges the Committee to include \$16.26 billion for Part B (Grants to States) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide equitable education for students with disabilities.

APA Services urges the committee to prioritize the highest possible funding level for essential public health programs, including the Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant and Healthy Start at CDC, Safe Motherhood and Infant Health at CDC, and research supporting healthy pregnancy at NIH.

Finally, APA Services urges the Committee to provide much-needed funding to support Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) enforcement. Within the DOL's Employee Benefits Security Administration, APA Services requests \$10 million for MHPAEA enforcement, with 10% allocated to the Office of the Solicitor for parity litigation. To support parity act enforcement within HHS, APA Services requests \$10 million for CMS's Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services.

**Addressing Social Determinants of Health & Social Safety Net:**

Within HHS' Administration for Children and Families, APA Services supports \$1.7 billion for the Social Services Block Grant. In addition, APA Services urges the Committee to provide \$13.1 billion for the Head Start Program, \$9 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant, \$360 million for Preschool Development Grants, and \$125 million for CAPTA Title I to support state child abuse prevention and treatment services.

Improving the health of the entire population requires an expansion of where we see interventions occurring across the entire continuum of behavioral health needs and how they are carried out. Successfully addressing the health inequities caused and exacerbated by the

pandemic requires a fundamental shift in how we approach behavioral health and that is where we bring forth the robust body of psychological science to demonstrate the importance of behavioral health in improving population health.

APA Services is dedicated to a population-health approach to address societal concerns whether in rural areas or communities that are under resourced. As such, APA Services supports the \$100 million request for CDC's Social Determinants of Health (SDOH), which will provide tools that support community efforts to improve health. To expand the reach of federal school-based health education, APA Services requests \$90 million for the CDC Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH), to increase access to health services, implement evidence-based sexual health education, and foster supportive environments for young people to learn. APA Services also supports \$160 million for the SAMHSA Minority AIDS Initiative to expand efforts at preventing domestic HIV transmission and to increase treatment options for those living with co-morbid conditions.

Finally, APA Services supports \$5 million for CDC's Office of Rural Health to address unique rural health care needs, coordinate efforts across CDC's portfolios, tailor scientific and communications resources, and improve public health functions and service delivery. Again, APA Services thanks the Subcommittee for the opportunity to share our FY 24 funding requests and we urge your full consideration.