

Missouri Legal Services

*Providing free civil (non-criminal) legal assistance
to people who need it most and can afford it least.*

Presented by Staff Attorneys/Project Directors

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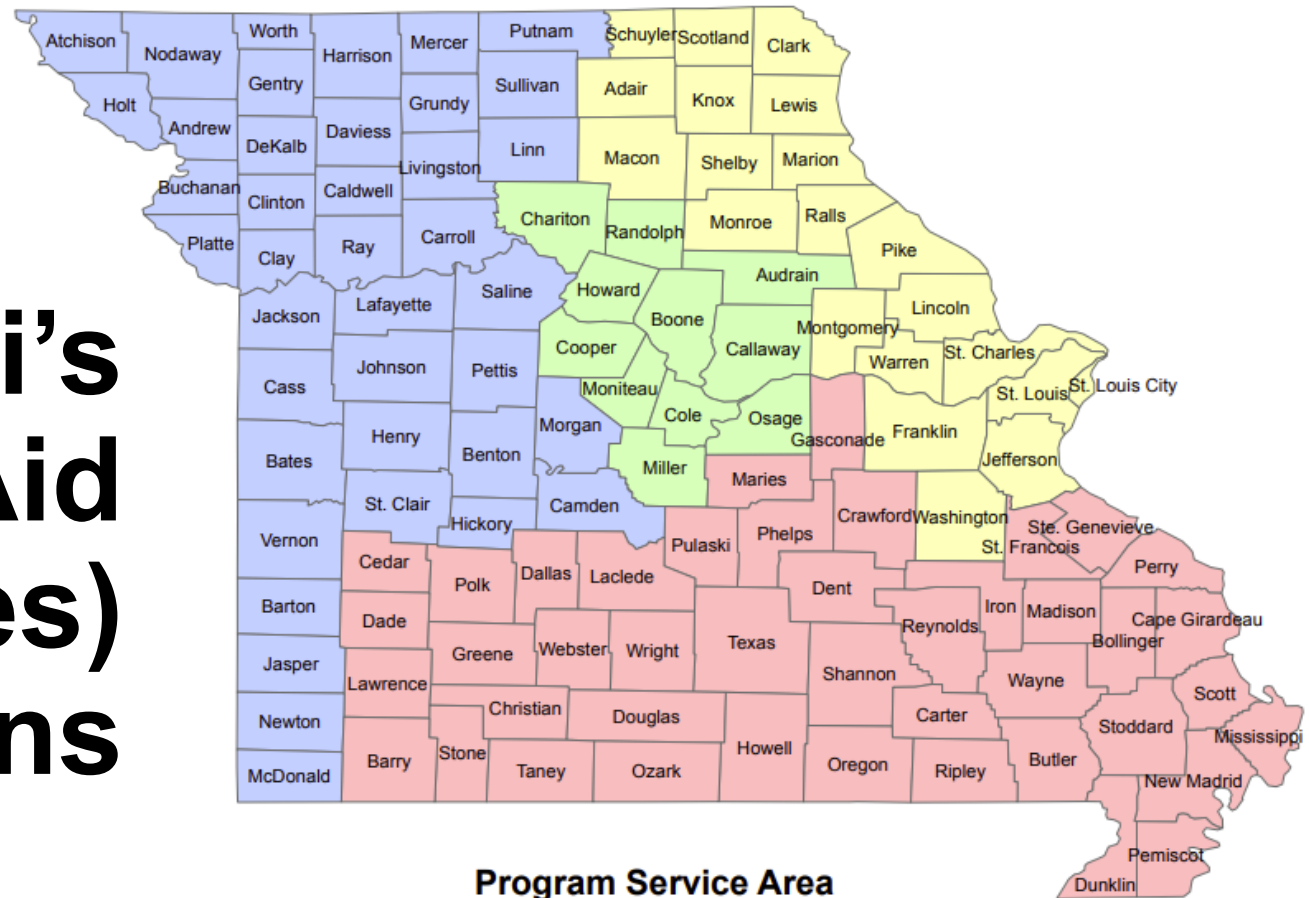


Overview

- Free legal services for Missourians provided statewide
- Legal rights and government-administered benefits
- Ways to contact your local legal aid organization



Missouri's Legal Aid (Legal Services) Organizations



Services Generally Available Statewide

- Minor Guardianship
- Landlord/Tenant: eviction defense, habitability, etc.
- Domestic: divorce, custody, orders of protection
- State Level Public Benefits: MO HealthNet, SNAP, TA, Childcare assistance, HCB/Vendor, BP/SAB
- Non-probate planning: DPOA, beneficiary deed
- Low Income Taxpayer Clinic: IRS disputes
- Migrant Farmworkers Project



Advocates for Family Health Project:

- Specializes in coverage issues experienced by MO HealthNet (Medicaid) Managed Care enrollees:
 - MO HealthNet for Families, Children, and Pregnant Women; Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP); and the Adult Expansion Group
- Helps participants having problems with their Managed Care Plan or unpaid medical bills that should have been paid for by MO HealthNet coverage
- Advises and assists with denial of service or equipment appeals
- Hotline telephone number – 1-866-897-0947

Services Available in Select Counties

- Adult guardianship
- Federal Level Benefits: SSI/SSD/Retirement, Medicare, student loan discharge
- Special Education & education equity advocacy
- Consumer protection: foreclosure prevention, bankruptcy, debt collection defense/creditor harassment, unfair and deceptive practices and fraud, probate for small estates, real estate tax appeals
- Unemployment appeals
- Marketplace enrollment/appeals
- Immigration law

Reasons a Case Might Not be Accepted:

- Conflict of interest
- Income or assets are too high
- Problem is not [yet] a legal issue
- Client's legal issue* or legal status is a type we are not allowed to help with
- Case exceeds current caseload capacities

* We cannot help with personal injury; worker's compensation; criminal (including traffic violations); class actions; or public housing evictions related to charge or conviction for drug sale, distribution, manufacture or possession

What is the Charge for Services?

- Nothing!
- We are non-profit organizations, and *there is no charge* for legal services.
- Clients may have to pay certain filing or litigation fees associated with their cases.

Government Benefits and Legal Rights

Applicants & recipients of government-administered programs have various Constitutional rights, including:*

- Right to file an application
- Right to timely decision on the application
- Right to written notice about any Agency decisions
- Right to appeal Agency adverse decisions
- Right to know basis upon which adverse decisions made

* United States Constitution, 5th & 14th Amendments; Constitution of State of Missouri, Article I, Sec. 10 (due process provisions)

Government Benefits and Legal Assistance

Attorneys and paralegals help with these due process issues:

- Determining whether the Agency is correctly terminating/reducing/denying benefits or approved the correct amount/type of benefits
- When the Agency assesses an overpayment/claim against a benefit recipient for allegedly receiving benefits in error
- When the Agency refuses to provide medically necessary services or equipment to Medicaid enrollees under 21
- When the Agency accuses a recipient of fraud

Government Benefits and Legal Assistance (cont.)

If Medicaid (or other) benefits are being reduced or denied:

- Do not assume the Agency (FSD, MHD, MCO, etc.) is correct
- Do not assume the participant should just re-apply
- Review the notice reporting the adverse decision: there will be instructions and a **deadline to appeal**
- If the client would like legal review of the decision, send them to the appropriate legal services organization
- **Failure to appeal can lead to significant consequences concerning healthcare access or finances**

Government Benefits and Legal Assistance (cont.)

Resource for Providers and Advocates: Legal Services Office Hours

- Opportunity to ask legal advocates your questions about Medicaid & Marketplace coverage, issues, etc.

- 1st Thursdays from 1-2 p.m.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85702071618?pwd=6KQw4GJGHAc4rJusuLwxKbc4G15M3y.1>

- Or e-mail KBrown@lawmo.org to request an invitation

H.R. 1 Effects on Benefit Recipients

- Medicaid [changes include](#)
 - Retroactive (“prior quarter”) coverage shortened: one month for AEG; two months for all other programs
 - Effective date: applications submitted on/after January ‘27
 - AEG only:
 - Work requirements similar to SNAP (eff. Dec. ‘26)
 - Eligibility reviews twice per year (eff. Dec. ‘26)
 - Copays (eff. Oct. ‘28)
- SNAP [changes include](#)
 - Expanded work requirements (fewer [exemptions](#)):
 - 18-64 y.o.
 - veterans, homeless, youth exiting foster care
 - Effective date: at application/recertification, beginning Nov. ‘25

H.R. 1 Effects on Benefit Recipients (cont.)

- Medicaid, SNAP, Medicare, Marketplace (with PTCs):
 - Loss of eligibility for most [non-citizen groups](#), including survivors of domestic violence/trafficking, refugees, asylees
 - **Still eligible: LPRs (green card holders), Cuban/Haitian Entrants, COFA migrants**
 - Other options:
 - possible [ACA](#) eligibility without tax credits if $\geq 100\%$ FPL
 - pregnancy Medicaid coverage still available (only while pregnant), regardless of immigration status
 - Emergency Medicaid (EMCIA)
 - Effective dates:
 - Medicare: July 2025 for new enrollees; current enrollees TBD
 - SNAP: November 2025
 - Medicaid: October 2026
 - APTCs: January 2027

H.R.1 (One Big Beautiful Bill Act)

Timeline of Key Provisions Impact in Missouri



Note: This timeline does not include all provisions from H.R.1.

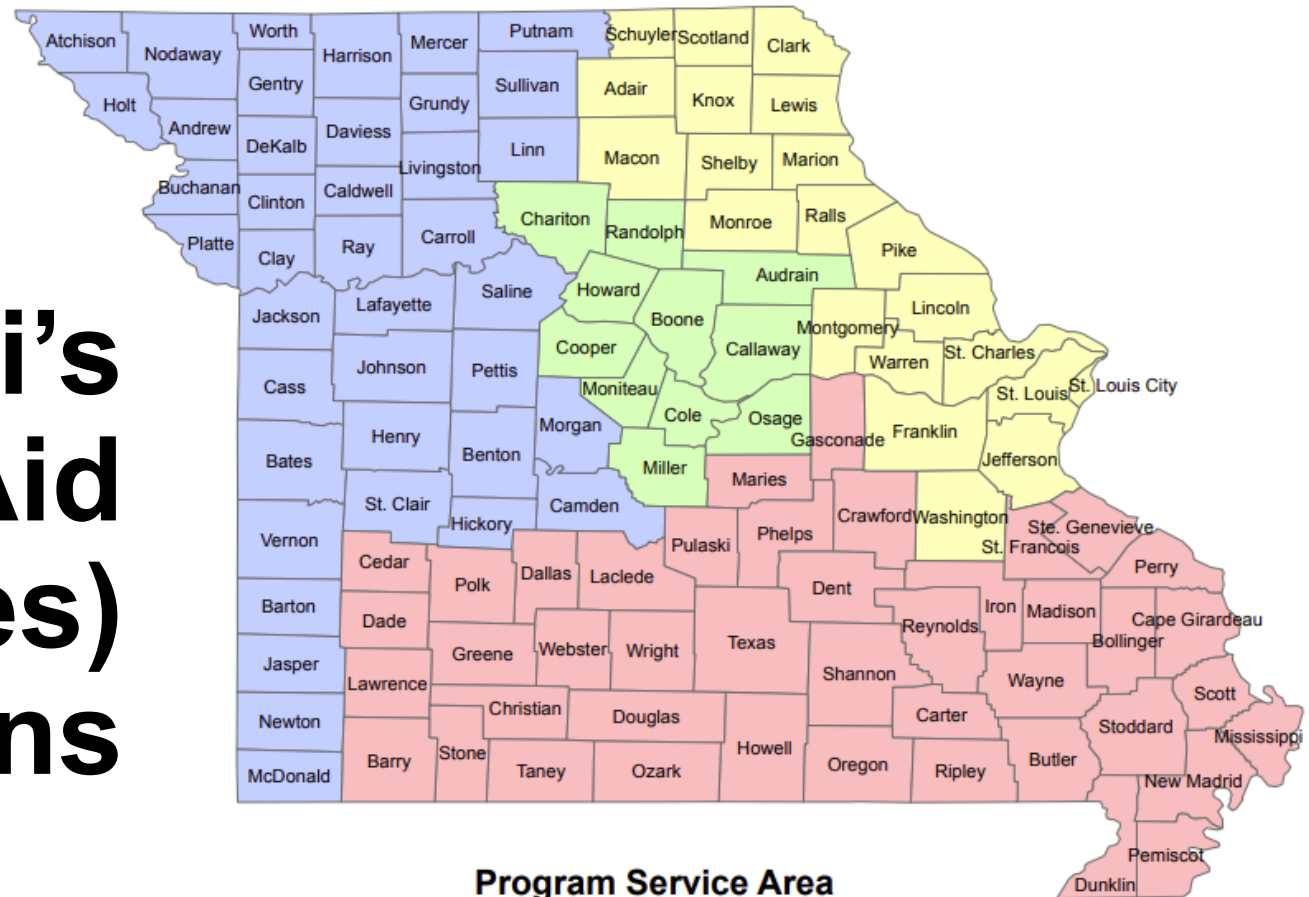
Missouri H.R. 1 Implementation

See DSS website for updates & details:

<https://mydss.mo.gov/hr1>

- Timelines
- In-depth explanations for participants, stakeholders/partners, and rural healthcare

Missouri's Legal Aid (Legal Services) Organizations



Program Service Area

- Legal Aid of Western Missouri
- Legal Services of Eastern Missouri
- Mid-Missouri Legal Services
- Legal Services of Southern Missouri



Legal Services of Eastern Missouri:

701 Market Street

Suite 1100

St. Louis, MO 63101

314-534-4200 • 1-800-444-0514

Hannibal Office:

801 Broadway, Hannibal, MO 63401

573-248-1111 • 1-800-767-2018

Union Office:

20 S. Church St., Union, MO 63084

636-583-7877 • 1-866-583-7877



Central Office:
4001 Dr. Martin
Luther King, Jr.
Blvd., Ste. 300
Kansas City, MO
64130
(816) 474-6750

**St. Joseph
Office:**
3110 Karnes
Rd., Suite 100
St. Joseph,
MO 64506
(816) 364-2325
or
(800) 892-2101

Joplin Office:
Gryphon Building
1027 S. Main
Street, Ste. LL7
Joplin, MO
64801
(417) 782-1650
or
(800) 492-7095

**Warrensburg
Office:**
305 N. Holden St.
Warrensburg, MO
64093
(660) 747-7101 or
(800) 892-2943

LAWMO is comprised of a Central Office in Kansas City and several smaller offices focusing on geographic areas.



Legal Services of Southern Missouri

809 North Campbell
Springfield, MO 65802
(417) 881-1397
(800) 44-4863

Sikeston Office

2201 East Malone Avenue, Suite A
Sikeston, MO 63801

Cape Girardeau Office

1704 Broadway, #102
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

West Plains Office

408 Washington Avenue, Suite 200
West Plains, MO 65775

Rolla Office

1000 North Pine, Suite B
Rolla, MO 65401



Mid-Missouri Legal Services:

117 N. Garth Ave.

Columbia, MO, 65203

573-442-0116 • 1-800-568-4931

Jefferson City Office:

3218 Emerald Lane Suite A

Jefferson City, MO 65109

573-634-4545 • 1-800-568-4931



MHAP

Maternal Health
Access Project



MO-CPAP

Missouri Child Psychiatry
Access Project

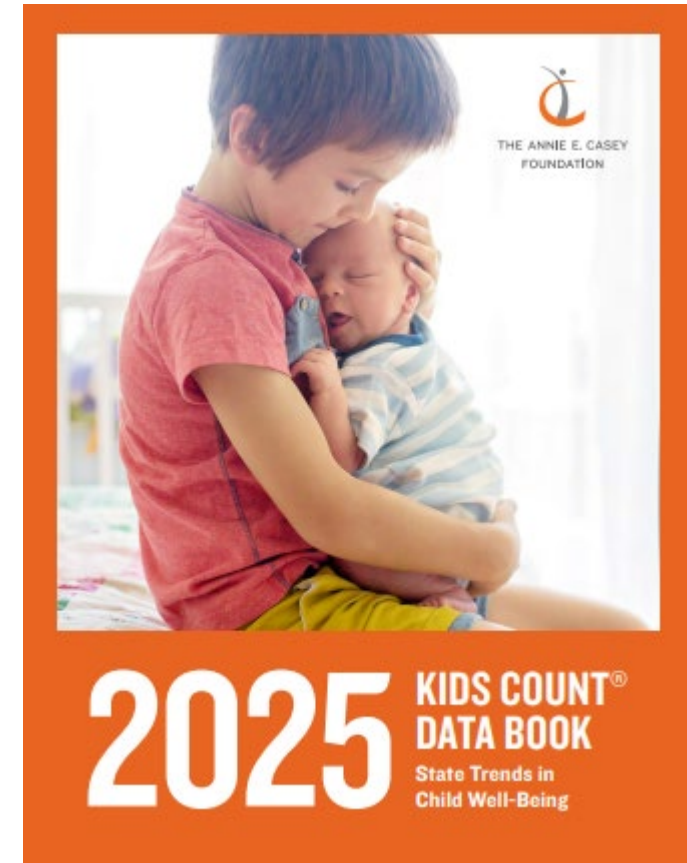
Pediatric Mental & Behavioral Health

- Mental/ behavioral health conditions occurring during childhood, teen, or young adult years (aged 0-21).
- Nationwide, 1 in 7 children will experience a pediatric mental or behavioral health condition.
- Among children with a MBH condition, over 1/3 will have 2 or more conditions.

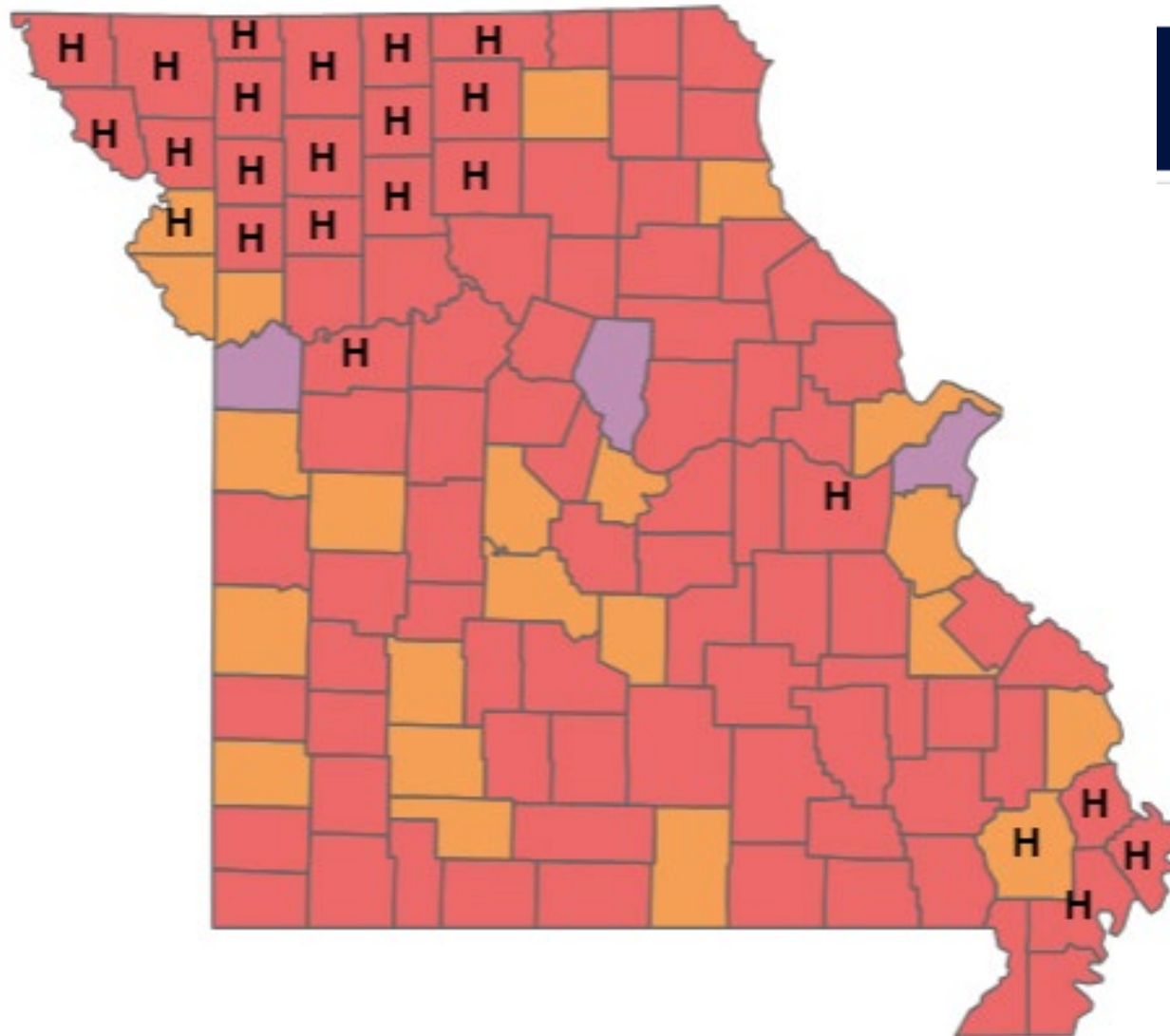


The State of Children's Mental Health in MO

- **Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death** for children aged 10-17, and the 3rd leading cause of death for those aged 18-25.
- **16% of children** aged 3-17 have been **diagnosed with depression or anxiety**.
- **1/3** of high school students reported **being sad or hopeless almost every day** for 2 or more weeks in a row.
- Only one Missouri county has an adequate supply of Child & Adolescent Psychiatrists (CAPs) to address its children's mental health concerns.



Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Workforce



County Map

20+ CAPs | 11-20 CAPs | 1-10 CAPs | No CAPs

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) (2024)

Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) (2025)

Perinatal Mental & Behavioral Health

- Mental/ behavioral health conditions occurring during pregnancy or in the 12 months following delivery
- Perinatal mood and anxiety disorders (PMADs) and substance use disorders are among the most common obstetric complications
- An estimated 1 in 5 women worldwide will suffer from a maternal mental health complication



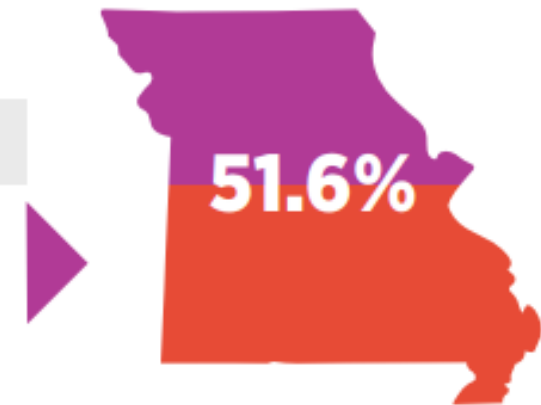
Distance Should Not Mean Danger

A recent survey of non-birthing hospitals found:

Average **27.8 miles** to the nearest delivery center

Some as far as **65 miles**

51.6% of Missouri counties
are classified as a maternal care desert



2025 PAMR Findings

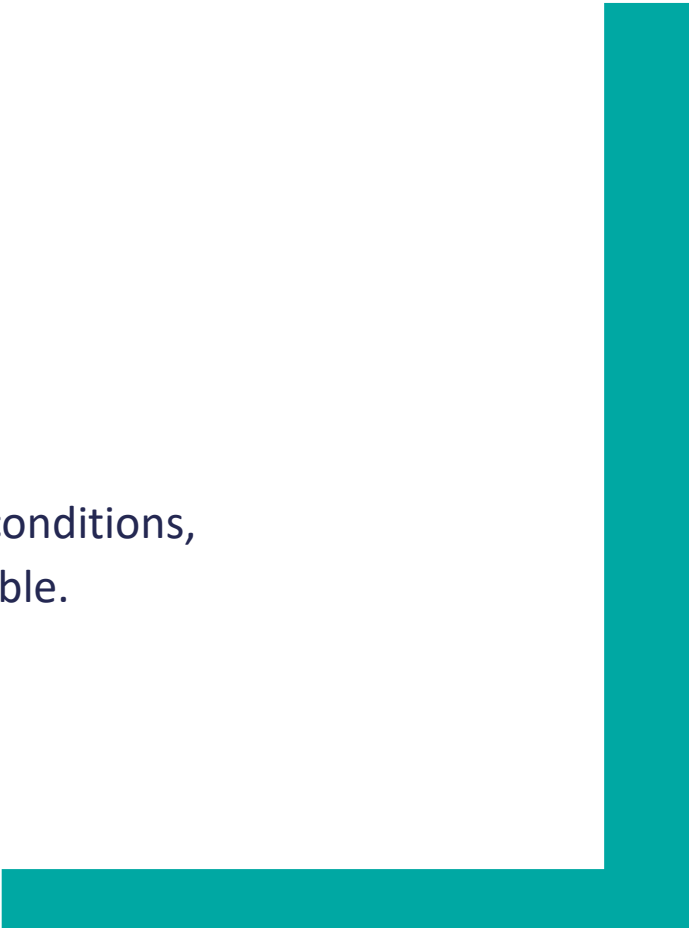


- Between 2018 and 2022, Missouri had a pregnancy-related mortality ratio (PRMR) of 32.3 deaths per 100,000 live births
- This rate is 2.5x as high for Black women
- Mental health conditions, including substance use disorder (SUD), were **the leading underlying cause of pregnancy-related death**



100%

of all pregnancy-related deaths due to mental health conditions,
including SUD, were determined to be preventable.



MISSOURI'S PSYCHIATRY ACCESS PROJECTS

What are MHAP & MO-CPAP?

- Missouri's **statewide psychiatry access program for perinatal & pediatric providers.**
- Designed to give perinatal & pediatric care providers throughout the state the tools they need to confidently **diagnose, treat, and access care coordination** for their patients' mental and behavioral health concerns



How can MHAP & MO-CPAP help?

1. Psychiatric Consultation

- Real-time phone consultation with a specialist psychiatrist available within 30 minutes.
- Perinatal Psychiatrists available M-F 9am-5pm
- Child & Adolescent Psychiatrists available M-F 9am-5pm
- Consultations can discuss screening, diagnosis, treatment options, and/or medication management.

2. Resource & Referral

- Linkages to resources to promote perinatal mental health and wellness with the active support of a resource & referral specialist.
- Children & Families receive care coordination services designed to link them to community-based resources, such as therapy or counseling services, regardless of location or insurance status.

3. Training & Education

- Trainings and toolkits for providers and staff on a wide range of topics related to pediatric & perinatal mental and behavioral health.
- MO-CPAP also offers monthly Lunch & Learn webinars on a variety of pediatric mental and behavioral health topics, which provide free CEU credit for attendance.

Who can utilize MHAP & MO-CPAP?

Anyone in the state providing healthcare and/or social services to patients in the perinatal period or to children aged 21 or younger!

OB/GYNs

Pediatricians

Family
Medicine
Providers

Midwives

Doulas

Community
Health
Workers

Behavioral
Health
Clinicians

Social Workers
& Case
Managers

Registered
Nurses

Psychiatrists

Nurse
Practitioners

Home Visitors

REGISTERING

Registering



Scan the QR code or register online at https://redcap.link/Registration_Form



PSYCHIATRIC CONSULTATION

Accessing a Psychiatric Consultation

Step 1:

Request the consult (call 844-538-2279 or online request).

Step 2:

Select when you would like a call back – either within 30 minutes or at a scheduled time convenient for you.

MHAP is available: M-F 9am-5pm

MO-CPAP is available: M-F 9am-5pm

Step 3:

Psychiatrist will call you directly at the agreed upon time.

Step 4:

After the call, psychiatrist will complete a call summary, which you will receive via email.

Possible Consultation Topics

MHAP

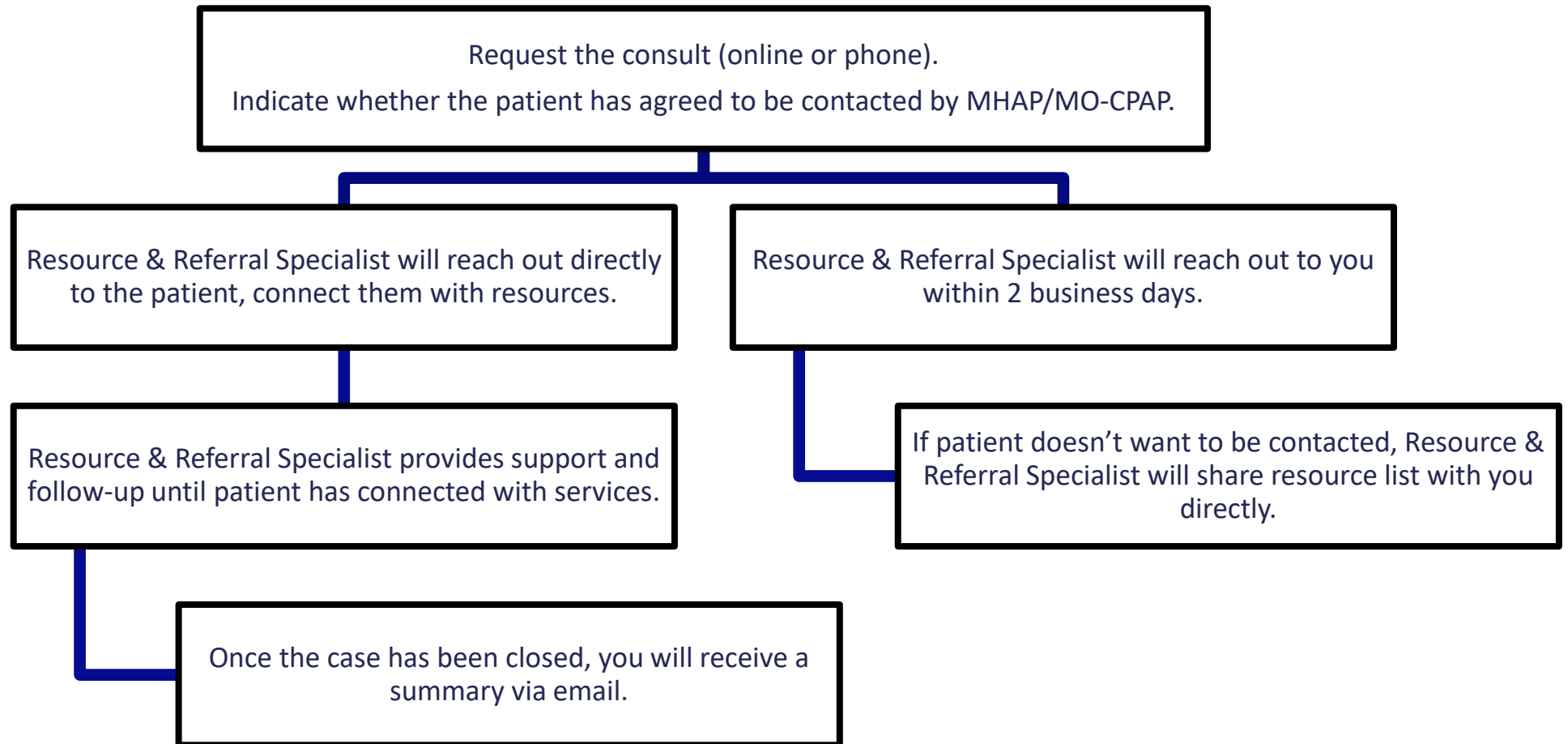
- Conducting medication assessments and risk/benefit analyses during pregnancy and postpartum
- Safely dosing, titrating, and weaning perinatal patients from psychotropic medications
- Safety of medications during breastfeeding
- Determining appropriate next steps to recommend to a patient with a mental/behavioral health concern
- Treatment of SUDs during pregnancy and postpartum
- Beginning bridge care while patient is waiting to see a specialist psychiatrist

MO-CPAP

- Adolescent Mental Health Screening
 - *When to use, what to use, how to interpret*
- Nonpharmacological Treatment Planning
- Diagnostic Clarity
- Assistance with Safety Risk Assessments
- Conduct Risk/Benefit Analyses of Medication
 - *Medication Review*
- Dosage, titration, and/or weaning of psychotropic medications.
- Assisting PCPs with Providing Bridge Care

RESOURCE & REFERRAL

Resource & Referral Services



Some of the resources to which Resource & Referral Specialists can help link your patients include:

Primary
Care

Individual
Therapy

Group
Therapy

SUD
Treatment

Support
Groups

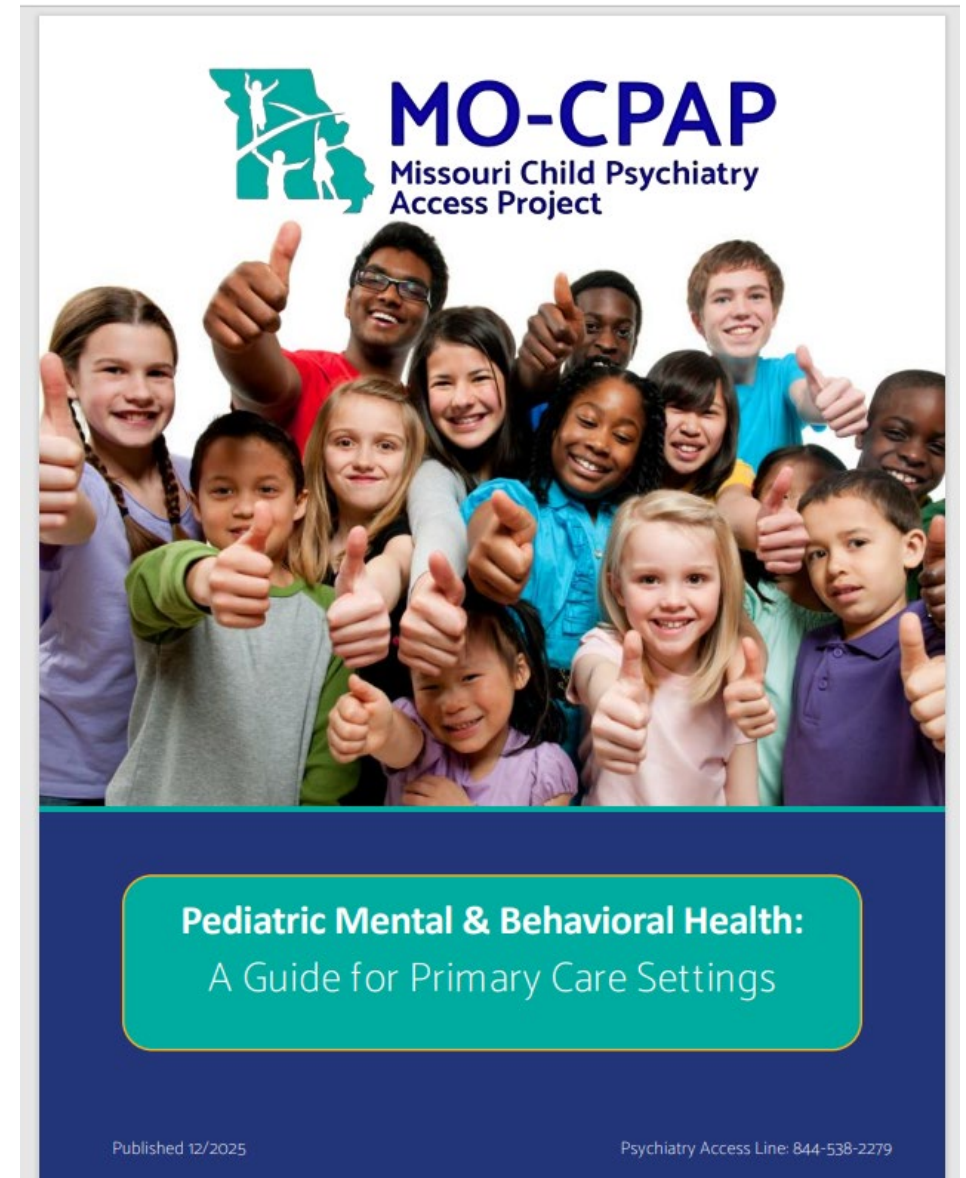
Home
Visiting

TRAINING & EDUCATION

Training and Education

Every professional who registers for either program will have access to training and educational materials generated by the program(s).

MO-CPAP offers an online library of pre-recorded pediatric mental health webinars as well as diagnosis flowcharts, medication decision trees, parent guides, and more!



FAQs



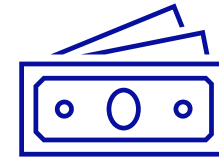
Can patients or families call MO-CPAP or MHAP for themselves?

No. MO-CPAP & MHAP do **not** provide direct care to patients and should not be used as a substitute for specialty care and services.



Is there a limit to how often I can call MO-CPAP or MHAP?

No. Providers may utilize MO-CPAP & MHAP as much or as little as they'd like. There are no strings associated with registering and no limits on utilization.



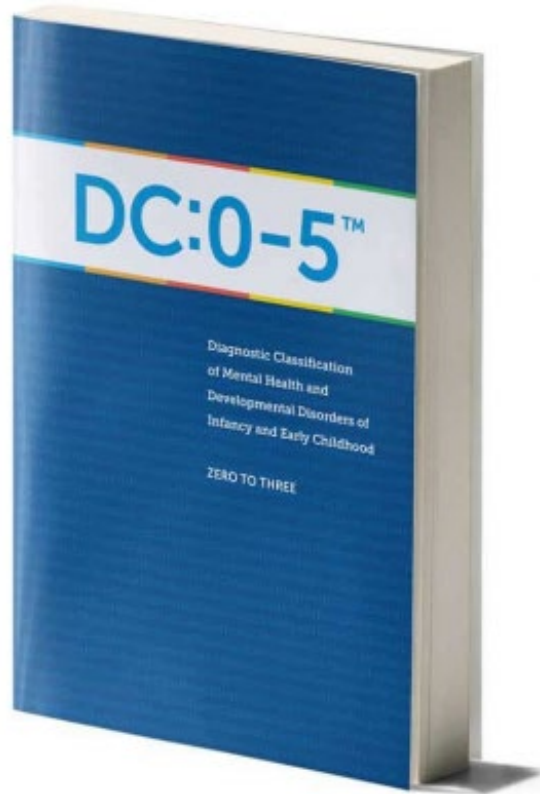
How much will MO-CPAP and MHAP cost providers and/ or patients?

Nothing. There is **no cost** to providers or patients for utilization of MO-CPAP or MHAP services.

FUTURE SERVICES



DC:0-5



- DC:0-5 (Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health and Developmental Disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood)
- Designed to assist clinicians in assessing mental health and developmental disorders in children from birth to 5 years old.
- DC:0-5 trained Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists
- Incorporate IECMH principles and DC:0-5 assessment knowledge into consultations
- Provide training on IECMH principles associated with DC:0-5

CONNECTION WITH RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION

- Our programs are collaborating with the Department of Mental Health & the Department of Health and Senior Services to provide care through the Rural Health Transformation Program & ToRCH hubs.
- MHAP & MO-CPAP will provide slightly different services designed to better support their population needs.
 - Both programs will offer:
 - More support for non-pharmacological interventions & treatment options through consultation with a clinical mental health specialist.
 - Additional technical assistance designed to support providers in identifying clinical workflows, integrating screenings & assessments, and locating appropriate resources with assistance from a Resource & Referral Specialist.

WAYS PUBLIC HEALTH
AGENCIES CAN SUPPORT
CHILDREN & FAMILIES WITH
MO-CPAP & MHAP



- Integrate into direct services
 - *If your LPHA does direct services or is connected to a health system, LPHA providers can register with MO-CPAP & MHAP to utilize our services with patients.*
- Embed into WIC clinic visits
 - *MHAP can support training & education for WIC staff on how to talk about mental health including screenings & connections to care.*
 - *MO-CPAP can support conversations on early childhood mental health concerns, supporting parents, & connecting to appropriate next steps.*
- Connect to School-Based or Childcare Center Initiatives
 - *Some LPHAs connect with local public schools to provide a variety of services or participate in the Childcare Health Consultation program.*
 - *MO-CPAP can provide additional education on school-or-daycare-based supports & connection to treatment options.*
- Promote to pediatric & perinatal health, social service, & school professionals in your county.
 - *A MO-CPAP and/or MHAP representative is happy to come to your county to provide materials, accompany to site visits, be a partner for your Community Health Assessment plans, or provide virtual/on-site learning opportunities through your LPHA.*

To register and access services:



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Registration Link:

https://redcap.link/Registration_Form

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Government.

QUESTIONS?