

State Mental Health Agency Financing Behavioral Health Crisis Services, 2025

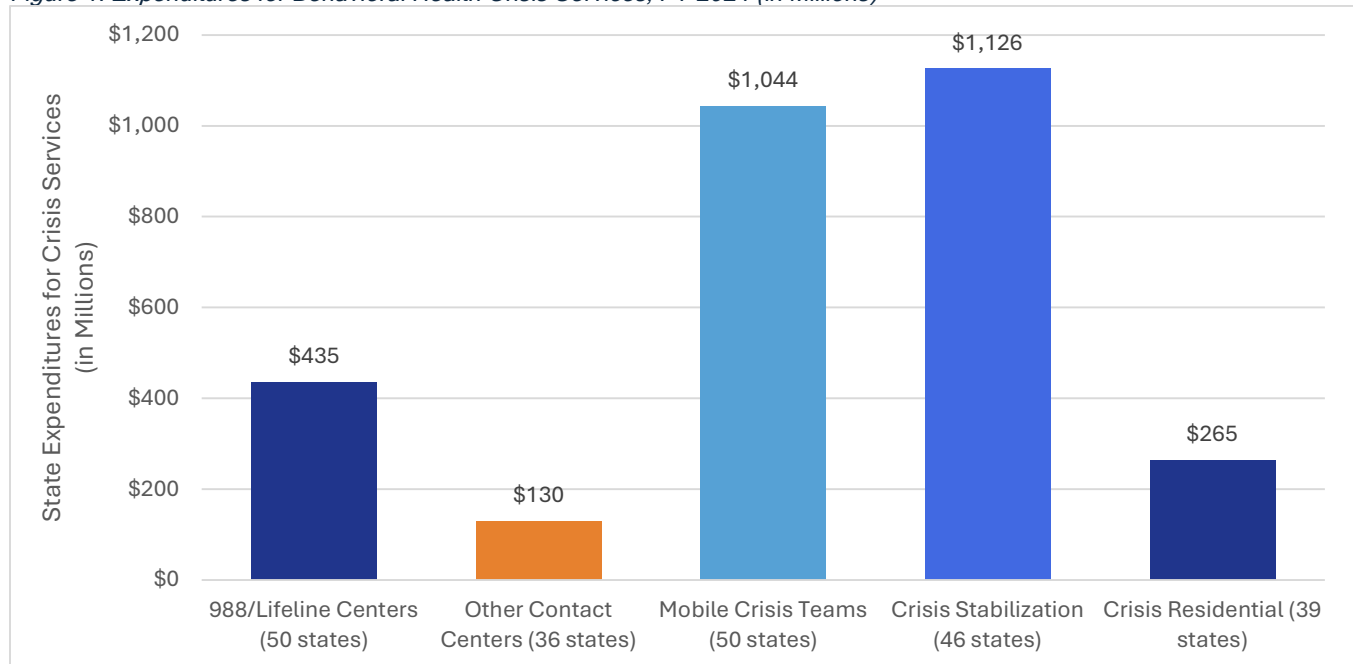
NRI 2024-2025 State Profiles

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In fiscal year (FY) 2024, State Mental Health Agencies (SMHAs) administered over **\$3 billion** to support the behavioral health crisis service continuum. This report details these expenditures by crisis service type—including 988/Lifeline contact centers, other crisis contact centers, mobile crisis teams (MCTs), and crisis stabilization programs. This report also details the primary funding sources used to sustain this growing infrastructure.

In 2024, 38% percent of SMHA crisis spending supported crisis stabilization programs, 35% supported MCTs, 15% supported 988/Lifeline contact centers, followed by 9% for crisis residential programs, and 4% for other crisis contact centers. Figure 1.

Figure 1: Expenditures for Behavioral Health Crisis Services, FY 2024 (in Millions)



Funding 988/Lifeline Contact Centers:

Forty-seven states expended \$436.5 million in FY24 to support 202 988/Lifeline contact centers, an average of \$8.7 million per state, with the median state expending \$4.3 million. The average expenditure per 988/Lifeline contact center was \$2.2 million, with a median of \$2 million. Table 1.

States used a variety of funding sources to finance 988/Lifeline contact centers, with Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) 988 Grants (46 states), state government funds (40 states), and the Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) the most frequently used funding sources.

\$1 Billion

Expended for Mobile
Crisis Services in
FY 2024

\$3 Billion

Expended for
Behavioral Health Crisis
Services in FY 2024

**988/Crisis
Contact Centers**

Rely on State Taxes and
SAMHSA Funds

Table 1: Expenditures for Behavioral Health Crisis Services, FY 2024

Crisis Services	Total Expenditures (\$ Millions)	Mean Expenditures Per State (\$ Millions)	Number of States Reporting	Total Number of Programs	Mean Expenditures Per Program (\$ Millions)	Number of States Reporting*
988 Contact Centers	\$436.54	\$8.73	50	202	\$2.19	50
Other Contact Centers	\$129.63	\$5.40	26	371	\$0.66	24
Mobile Crisis Teams	\$1,043.89	\$24.85	42	2,448	\$0.49	41
Crisis Stabilization Services	\$1,128.68	\$28.94	37	807	\$1.80	39
Short-Term Crisis Residential	\$264.57	\$13.92	19	556	\$0.93	19
Total	\$3,003.32	\$60.06	50	4,384	\$0.82	50

* States reporting both number of programs and expenditures

Funding Other Crisis Contact Centers:

Twenty-six SMHAs expended \$129.6 million in FY24 to support 371 other crisis contact centers, an average of \$5.4 million per state. Average expenditures per other crisis contact center was \$660,000. SMHAs used a variety of funding sources to finance other crisis contact centers, with state government funds (25 states) and the MHBG (13 states used the MHBG 5% set-aside, and 10 states used other MHBG funds) cited as the most frequently used funding sources.

Funding Mobile Crisis Teams:

Forty-two states expended more than \$1 billion to support 2,448 MCTs, an average of \$24.9 million per state. The average expenditure per MCT was \$490,000. States used a variety of funding sources to finance MCTs, with state government funds (40 states), Medicaid (35 states), and the Mental Health Block Grant (24 states used the MHBG 5% set aside and 12 states used other MHBG funds) the most frequently used funding sources.

Funding Crisis Stabilization Programs:

Thirty-eight SMHAs expended \$1.1 billion in FY24 to support 807 crisis stabilization programs, an average of \$28.9 million per state. The average expenditure per crisis stabilization program was \$1.8 million. SMHAs used a variety of funding sources to finance crisis stabilization programs, with state government funds (38 states), Medicaid (31 states), and the MHBG (17 states used the MHBG 5% set-aside, and five states used other MHBG funds) as the most frequently used funding sources.

Funding Short-Term Crisis Residential Programs:

Nineteen SMHAs reported spending \$265 million to support 556 short-term crisis residential programs, an average of \$13.9 million per state. The average expenditure per crisis residential program was \$930,000. SMHAs used a variety of funding sources to finance crisis residential programs in FY24, with state government funds (28 states), Medicaid (19 states), and the MHBG (12 states used the MHBG 5% set-aside, and 8 states used other MHBG funds) as the most frequently used funding sources.

Funding Sources for Crisis Services:

Caution: Not all states were able to report details about how much funds were received from each funding source (see row “Funds Not Specified in Table 2). The following analysis excludes “funds not specified” to provide a clearer picture of reported funding streams.

State General Funds are the Cornerstone: State funds were the largest single source of funding in FY24 for crisis services, contributing \$940 million and representing 46% of all specified crisis funding.

State funds were the major source of funding for crisis stabilization (54%), 988/Lifeline contact centers (43%), and MCTs (39%).

Medicaid is a Major Partner: As the second largest source of crisis services funding at \$572 million (28% of specified funds), Medicaid is a major funder of MCTs (35%), crisis stabilization (33%), but is infrequently used to fund 988/Lifeline centers.

SAMHSA Funds Provide Important Flexible Funds: SAMHSA funding, including the 988 Grants and the MHBG, constituted over 16% of all crisis service funding. SAMHSA funds were a major funding source for 988/Lifeline contact centers, representing 38% of funds in FY24.

Table 2: Crisis Service Funds, by Source, FY 2024

	988/Lifeline Centers		Other Contact Centers		Mobile Crisis Services		Crisis Stabilization	
	Funding Amount	States Reporting	Funding Amount	States Reporting	Funding Amount	States Reporting	Funding Amount	States Reporting
State General Funds	\$161,128,831	25	\$29,896,424	11	\$262,555,083	25	\$486,416,513	23
MHBG 5% Set-aside	\$13,035,007	15	\$4,738,202	9	\$20,335,072	13	\$16,122,860	10
Other MHBG Funds	\$17,632,416	12	\$2,825,733	4	\$48,593,663	13	\$6,206,504	9
Other SAMHSA Funds	\$111,552,862	33	\$14,400,157	10	\$45,692,141	14	\$15,567,009	8
Medicaid	\$4,673,412	3	\$30,215,282	3	\$237,538,540	14	\$300,227,611	14
City/County	\$0	0	\$2,438,128	2	\$24,468,258	3	\$18,135,491	2
Other Funds	\$70,465,211	6	\$2,893,624	3	\$34,542,051	5	\$55,611,181	9
Funds Not Specified	\$58,051,274	13	\$42,226,369	9	\$370,166,359	16	\$230,392,521	2
Total	\$436,539,013	50	\$129,633,920	24	\$1,043,891,168	42	\$1,128,679,691	39

Table 3: Percent of Crisis Service Funds, by Source, FY 2024

	988/Lifeline Centers		Other Contact Centers		Mobile Crisis Services		Crisis Stabilization	
	Funding Amount	States Reporting	Funding Amount	States Reporting	Funding Amount	States Reporting	Funding Amount	States Reporting
State General Funds	43%	25	34%	11	39%	25	54%	23
MHBG 5% Set-aside	3%	15	5%	9	3%	13	2%	10
Other MHBG Funds	5%	12	3%	4	7%	13	1%	9
Other SAMHSA Funds	29%	33	16%	10	7%	14	2%	8
Medicaid	1%	3	35%	3	35%	14	33%	14
City/County	0%	0	3%	2	4%	3	2%	2
Other Funds	19%	6	3%	3	5%	5	6%	9
Funds Not Specified	13%	13	33%	9	35%	16	20%	2
Total	\$436,539,013	50	\$129,633,920	24	\$1,043,891,168	42	\$1,128,679,691	39

This report was prepared by the NASMHPD Research Institute (NRI) based on information submitted and reviewed by SMHAs during FY 2025. Copies of this Profiles report and other Profiles reports are available at: www.nri-inc.org/profiles. SMHA staff have access to additional detailed state-by-state Profiles data on the Profiles website.

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