

Organization of State Mental Health Agencies, 2023

NRI's 2023 State Profiles

April 2024

Highlights Based on 46 States Responding to the Organization Component of NRI's 2023 State Profiles *With Supplemental Information From The 2022 SAMHSA Uniform Reporting System (URS)*

State Mental Health Agencies (SMHAs) are responsible for administering over \$51 billion dollars each year to provide mental health services to more than 8 million individuals. SMHAs vary widely regarding how they are organized within state governments and how they organize the delivery of mental health services within each state.

SMHA Location in State Government:

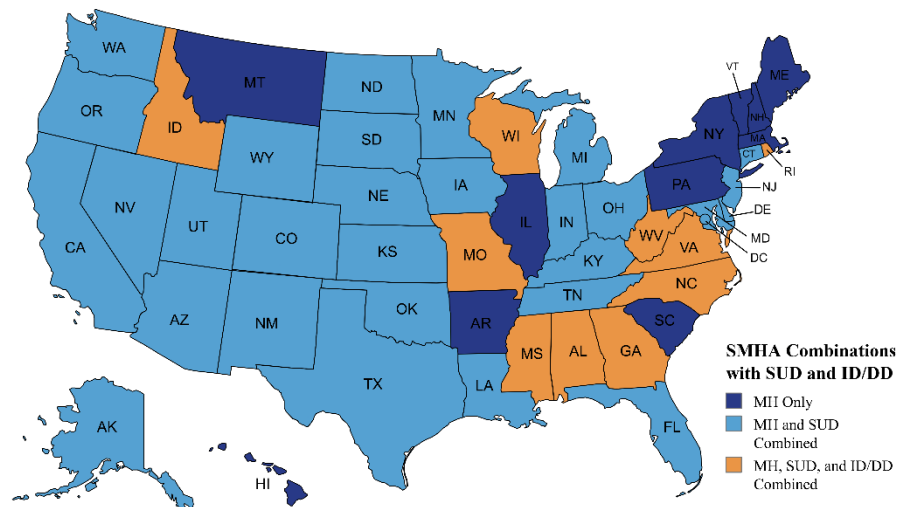
State Mental Health Agencies (SMHAs) are most often administratively located within a larger umbrella human services agency. In 2023, 19 SMHAs were located within state Departments of Human Services or Departments of Social Services, six SMHAs were in Health Departments, three were located in the Medicaid Authority, five were in a Department of Health and Human Services, and four SMHAs were located in some other state department. Fourteen SMHAs were either independent state Departments of Mental Health, Department of Behavioral Health (combining mental health and substance use services) or Departments of Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disability. (see Table 1)

The SMHA's Director is a member of the Governor's Cabinet in 12 States (AL, CT, GA, ID, MN, MO, ND, NE, NY, OH, RI, and TN). In eight states, the SMHA Director reports directly to the Governor, while in 28 states the SMHA's Director reports to a department head, with one level between the SMHA's Director and the Governor. In 12 states, there are two levels between the SMHA leader and the Governor, and in three states there are three or more levels between the SMHA and the Governor. In 10 states, a Mental Health (or Behavioral Health) Board or Commission is charged with direct oversight of the SMHA (AL, GA, ID, IN, MD, MO, MS, OK, OR, and SC).

Disability Responsibilities of SMHAs

In addition to mental health services, the SMHA is often responsible for providing other disability services. In 39 states, responsibility for both mental health (MH) and substance use services (SUD) are combined into a single agency. Mental health services and SUD services are located within the same state umbrella agency in seven additional states. Most, but not all, states that have combined MH and SUD into a single behavioral health agency have also combined planning, data systems, financing, and licensing for MH and SUD.

Figure 1: Organizational Responsibilities of MH, SUD, and ID/DD Services, 2023



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SMHAs are organized as Independent State Agencies

39

SMHAs are responsible for both MH and SUD Services

22

Fund Community MH Thru City/County Government

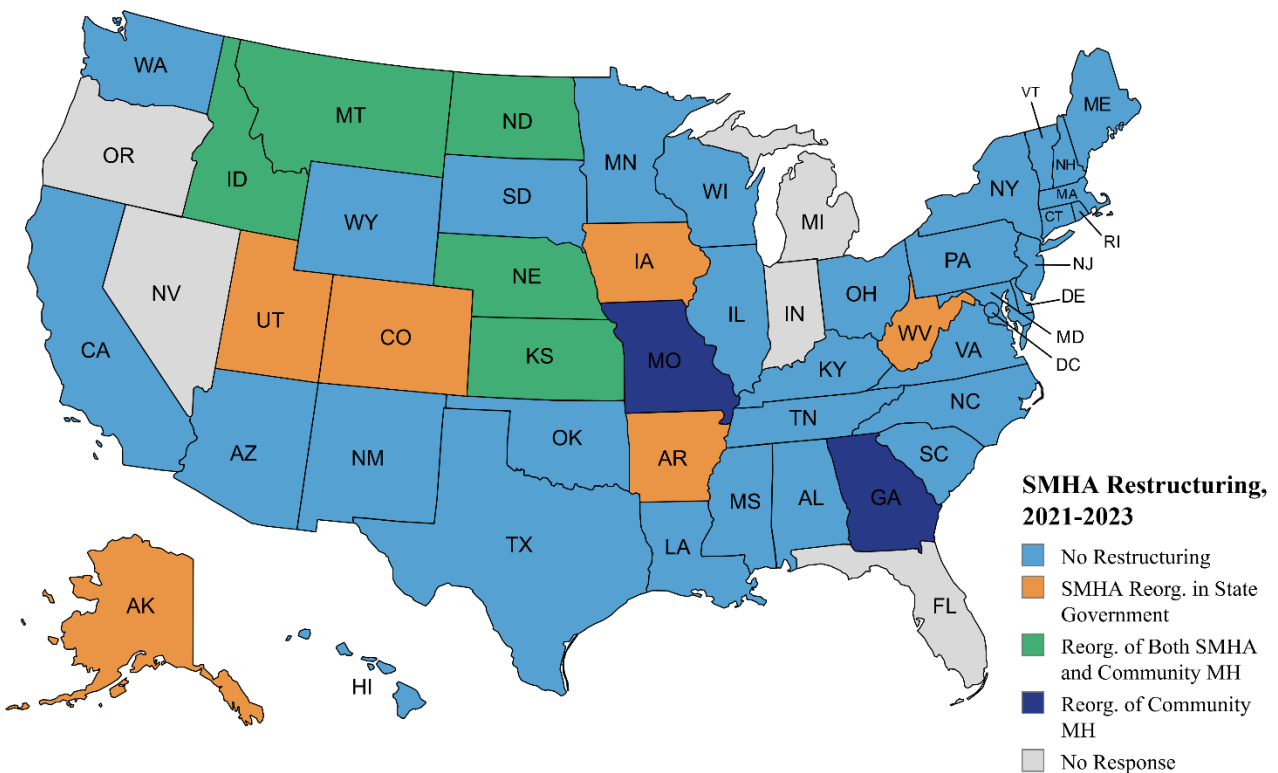
- In two states, all behavioral health providers funded by the SMHA provide both MH & SUD services, while in 36 states some of their funded providers deliver both MH & SUD services
- 30 states have a combined planning process for MH & SUD (8 report separate planning processes)
- 24 states use the same data/IT system for both MH & SUD (13 have separate systems)
- 24 states have a combined funding system for MH & SUD services (13 have separate funding systems)
- 23 states have a combined licensing system for MH & SUD services (14 have separate licensing systems)

In 10 states, the SMHA is responsible for providing intellectual disability/developmental disability services (ID/DD), and the ID/DD agency is located within the same umbrella agency as the SMHA in 24 states. In 10 states, all three disability services (MH, SUD, and ID/DD) are organized together within the SMHA (see Figure 1 and Table 2).

Reorganization of SMHAs:

Within the last two years, 30% of SMHAs have been reorganized. In 11 states, the reorganization involved moving the organizational location of the SMHA within state government (AR, AZ, CO, IA, ID, KS, MT, NE, ND, UT, and WV). In seven states the reorganization involved shifting how the SMHA works with community mental health providers, including shifting to using Certified Community Mental Health Centers (CCBHCs), or new models financing care (see Figure 2). While not restructuring their community provider system, twenty-three states reported on initiatives to reduce barriers to services and/or increase consumer choice in mental health services.

Figure 2: Restructuring of SMHAs, 2021 to 2023



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SMHA's Responsibilities for Specific Mental Health Special Services and Populations:

SMHAs vary widely in the specific services and population groups for which they are responsible for providing mental health services. In most states, services for children and adolescents are part of the SMHA's responsibility, but in four states (CT, DE, MT, and RI) child and adolescent mental health services are located in a separate agency from the adult SMHA. The SMHA shares responsibilities for children's services with another state agency in 17 states.

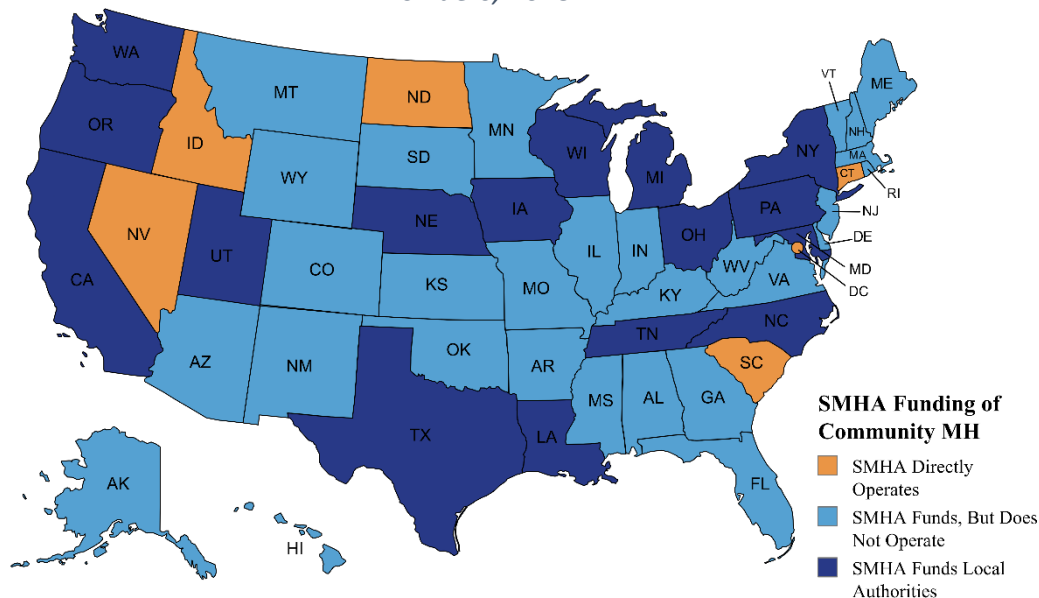
Providing services for persons with Alzheimer’s disease or organic brain syndromes is the primary responsibility of the SMHA in four states (AZ, CA, ID, and ME), and is a responsibility SMHAs share with another state agency in six states. Traumatic Brain Injury services are a primary responsibility of seven SMHAs (AZ, ID, ME, MN, NC, ND, and PA), a shared responsibility in 10 SMHAs, but not a responsibility of the SMHA in 27 states.

SMHA Responsibilities for State Psychiatric Hospitals: In 2023, states operated 182 state psychiatric hospitals that served 40,901 patients on the first day of their reporting year. In 13 states (AK, AZ, CA, CO, MD, ME, MT, NH, NJ, NM, TX, WA, and WV) the responsibility for the operation of state psychiatric hospitals is not under the authority of the SMHA. Rather, a different division of state government operates state psychiatric hospitals while the SMHA is responsible for community mental health services.

SMHA Responsibilities for Community Mental Health Services: In 2023, SMHAs expended over \$35.6 billion (70% of their expenditures) for mental health services provided in communities to over 7.9 million individuals. SMHAs vary by the methods they use to coordinate and distribute these community mental health resources. There are three major methods used by SMHAs to provide community mental health services:

- 42 SMHAs directly contract with local (usually not-for-profit) community-based mental health providers;
 - 30 SMHAs primarily fund local community-based providers.
- 22 SMHAs fund local government mental health authorities (city, county, or multi-county), which in turn, operate and contract for community mental health services;
 - 16 SMHAs primarily fund community mental health services through local government; and
- 13 SMHAs provide community mental health services via state operated community providers.
 - 6 SMHAs primarily directly operate community mental health services with state operated providers (see Figure 3 and Table 3).

Figure 3: Primary Method SMHAs Use to Fund Community MH Service Providers, 2023



**For more information about State Profiles,
contact Ted Lutterman at NRI at ted.lutterman@nri-inc.org**

Organization of State Mental Health Agencies 2023

Table 1: SMHA Location in State Government, 2023

State	SMHA Located in State Department	Levels between Commissioner & Governor	Mental Health Board/Council Has Direct Oversight of SMHA
Alaska	Health Department	2	No
Alabama	Independent	0	Yes
Arkansas	Human Services	3	No
Arizona	State Medicaid Agency.	1	No
California	Department of Health Care Services	2	No
Colorado	Human Services	2	No
Connecticut	Independent	0	No
District of Columbia	Independent	1	No
Delaware	Human Services	1	No
Florida	Human Services	0	No
Georgia	Independent (MH, SUD, IDD)	1	Yes
Hawaii	Health Department	1	No
Iowa	Human Services	1	No
Idaho	Independent	0	Yes
Illinois	Human Services	1	No
Indiana	Human Services	1	Yes
Kansas	Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS)	2	No
Kentucky	Cabinet for Health and Family Services	1	No
Louisiana	Health Department	2	No
Massachusetts	Health and Human Services	1	No
Maryland	Health Department	1	Yes
Maine	Human Services	1	No
Michigan	Health and Human Services	2	No
Minnesota	Human Services	0	No
Missouri	Independent	1	Yes
Mississippi	Independent	1	Yes
Montana	Human Services	1	No
North Carolina	Human Services	2	No
North Dakota	Human Services	0	No
Nebraska	Human Services	1	No
New Hampshire	Human Services	3	No
New Jersey	Human Services	2	No
New Mexico	Human Services	1	No
Nevada	Department of Health and Human Services	1	No
New York	Independent	2	No
Ohio	Independent	0	No
Oklahoma	Independent	1	Yes
Oregon	Oregon Health Authority (includes public health, Medicaid, state hospital and SUD)	1	No
Pennsylvania	Human Services	1	No
Rhode Island	Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals	1	No
South Carolina	Independent	1	Yes
South Dakota	Human Services	2	No
Tennessee	Independent	0	No
Texas	Human Services	2	No
Utah	Department of Health and Human Services	3	No
Virginia	Independent	1	Yes
Vermont	Independent	1	No
Washington	State Medicaid Authority	1	No
Wisconsin	Health Department	2	No
West Virginia	Health and Human Services	1	No
Wyoming	Health Department	1	No

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• No 2023 Response. Information is from prior Profiles report

Table 2: SMHA Relationship to Other State Agencies, 2023

State	SMHA Relationship with Other State Agencies
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Organization of State Mental Health Agencies 2023

	Substance Use	Intellectual Disabilities	Medicaid	Housing	Public Health
Alabama	Combined	Combined	Other Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency
Alaska	Combined	Other Agency	Same Umbrella	Other Agency	Same Umbrella
Arizona	Combined	Other Agency	Same Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency
Arkansas	Same Umbrella	Same Umbrella	Same Umbrella	Other Agency	Other Agency
California	Combined	Other Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency
Colorado	Combined	Same Umbrella	Other Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency
Connecticut	Combined	Other Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency
Delaware	Combined	Same Umbrella	Same Umbrella	Other Agency	Same Umbrella
District of Columbia	Combined	Other Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency
Florida	Combined	Other Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency
Georgia	Combined	Combined	Other Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency
Hawaii	Same Umbrella	Same Umbrella	Other Agency	Other Agency	No Response
Idaho	Combined	Combined	No Response	No Response	No Response
Illinois	Same Umbrella	Same Umbrella	Other Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency
Indiana	Combined	Same Umbrella	Same Umbrella	Other Agency	Other Agency
Iowa	Combined	Same Umbrella	Same Umbrella	Other Agency	Same Umbrella
Kansas	Combined	Same Umbrella	Other Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency
Kentucky	Combined	Same Umbrella	Same Umbrella	Other Agency	Same Umbrella
Louisiana	Combined	Same Umbrella	Same Umbrella	Other Agency	Same Umbrella
Maine	Same Umbrella	Same Umbrella	Same Umbrella	Other Agency	Same Umbrella
Maryland	Combined	Other Agency	Same Umbrella	Other Agency	Same Umbrella
Massachusetts	Same Umbrella	Same Umbrella	Same Umbrella	Other Agency	Same Umbrella
Michigan	Combined	Same Umbrella	Same Umbrella	Same Umbrella	Same Umbrella
Minnesota	Combined	No Response	Same Umbrella	Same Umbrella	Other Agency
Mississippi	Combined	Combined	Other Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency
Missouri	Combined	Combined	Other Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency
Montana	Same Umbrella	Same Umbrella	Same Umbrella	Same Umbrella	Same Umbrella
Nebraska	Combined	Same Umbrella	Same Umbrella	Other Agency	Same Umbrella
Nevada	Combined	Same Umbrella	Same Umbrella	Other Agency	Same Umbrella
New Hampshire	Same Umbrella	Same Umbrella	Same Umbrella	Same Umbrella	Same Umbrella
New Jersey	Combined	Same Umbrella	Same Umbrella	Other Agency	Other Agency
New Mexico	Combined	Other Agency	Same Umbrella	Other Agency	Other Agency
New York	Other Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency
North Carolina	Combined	Combined	Same Umbrella	No Response	Other Agency
North Dakota	Combined	Same Umbrella	Same Umbrella	Other Agency	Same Umbrella
Ohio	Combined	Other Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency
Oklahoma	Combined	Other Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency
Oregon	Combined	Other Agency	Same Umbrella	Other Agency	Same Umbrella
Pennsylvania	Other Agency	Same Umbrella	Same Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency
Rhode Island	Combined	Combined	Other Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency
South Carolina	Other Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency
South Dakota	Combined	Other Agency	Same Umbrella	Other Agency	Other Agency
Tennessee	Combined	Other Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency
Texas	Combined	Same Umbrella	Same Umbrella	Other Agency	Other Agency
Utah	Combined	Same Umbrella	Same Agency	Other Agency	Same Umbrella
Vermont	Other Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency
Virginia	Combined	Combined	Other Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency
Washington	Combined	Other Agency	Same Agency	Other Agency	Other Agency
West Virginia	Combined	Combined	Same Umbrella	Other Agency	Other Agency
Wisconsin	Combined	Combined	Same Umbrella	Other Agency	Same Umbrella
Wyoming	Combined	Same Umbrella	Same Umbrella	Other Agency	Same Umbrella

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Organization of State Mental Health Agencies 2023

Table 3: How SMHAs Fund and Operate Community MH Services, 2023

State	SMHA Relationship with Community Mental Health Providers				The primary mechanism used by the SMHA to administer its funds in support of community-based health services.
	Directly funds, but does not operate community agencies.	SMHA funds county (single or multi-county)		SMHA directly operates community-based programs.	
		County/City System is Statewide	County/City System in Parts of State		
Alabama	Yes				SMHA funds, but does not operate community providers
Alaska	Yes				SMHA funds, but does not operate community providers
Arizona	Yes				SMHA funds, but does not operate community providers
Arkansas	Yes		Yes		SMHA funds, but does not operate community providers
California	No	Yes	No		SMHA funds county or city authorities
Colorado	Yes				SMHA funds, but does not operate community providers
Connecticut	Yes			Yes	SMHA Directly Operates
Delaware	Yes			Yes	SMHA funds, but does not operate community providers
District of Columbia	Yes			Yes	SMHA Directly Operates
Florida	Yes				SMHA funds, but does not operate community providers
Georgia	Yes				SMHA funds, but does not operate community providers
Hawaii	Yes			Yes	SMHA funds, but does not operate community providers
Idaho	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	SMHA Directly Operates
Illinois	Yes				SMHA funds, but does not operate community providers
Indiana	Yes				SMHA funds, but does not operate community providers
Iowa	Yes	Yes			SMHA funds county or city authorities
Kansas	Yes		Yes		SMHA funds, but does not operate community providers
Kentucky	Yes				SMHA funds, but does not operate community providers
Louisiana		Yes			SMHA funds county or city authorities
Maine	Yes			Yes	SMHA funds, but does not operate community providers
Maryland	Yes	Yes			SMHA funds county or city authorities
Massachusetts	Yes		Yes	Yes	SMHA funds, but does not operate community providers
Michigan		Yes			SMHA funds county or city authorities
Minnesota	Yes	Yes		Yes	SMHA funds, but does not operate community providers
Missouri	Yes				SMHA funds, but does not operate community providers
Mississippi	Yes				SMHA funds, but does not operate community providers
Montana		Yes			SMHA funds, but does not operate community providers
Nebraska	Yes	Yes			SMHA funds county or city authorities
Nevada	Yes			Yes	SMHA Directly Operates
New Hampshire	Yes				SMHA funds, but does not operate community providers
New Jersey	Yes				SMHA funds, but does not operate community providers
New Mexico	Yes				SMHA funds, but does not operate community providers
New York	Yes	Yes		Yes	SMHA funds county or city authorities
North Carolina	Yes	Yes	Yes		SMHA funds county or city authorities
North Dakota				Yes	SMHA Directly Operates
Ohio	Yes	Yes			SMHA funds county or city authorities
Oklahoma	Yes			Yes	SMHA funds, but does not operate community providers
Oregon	Yes	Yes			SMHA funds county or city authorities
Pennsylvania	Yes				SMHA funds county or city authorities
Rhode Island	Yes				SMHA funds, but does not operate community providers
South Carolina				Yes	SMHA Directly Operates
South Dakota	Yes				SMHA funds, but does not operate community providers
Tennessee	Yes				SMHA funds, but does not operate community providers
Texas		Yes			SMHA funds county or city authorities
Utah	Yes	Yes			SMHA funds county or city authorities
Vermont			Yes		SMHA funds, but does not operate community providers
Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes		SMHA funds, but does not operate community providers
Washington	Yes				SMHA funds county or city authorities
West Virginia	Yes				SMHA funds, but does not operate community providers
Wisconsin	Yes	Yes			SMHA funds county or city authorities
Wyoming	Yes				SMHA funds, but does not operate community providers

* No 2023 Response. Information is from prior Profiles report.