



## Support Federal Mental Health Agencies

**Issue:** Federal health agencies like the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) support access to mental health care for our nation's underserved youth. Recent federal actions affecting these agencies threaten to undercut funding for children's mental health programs, jeopardize continuity of care, and destabilize our pediatric public health infrastructure.

### Background

- SAMHSA and HRSA play a critical role in supporting access to mental health care for underserved children and adolescents by funding pediatric mental health care delivery and training programs in communities across the country.
- Despite this essential role, both agencies have experienced increasing instability since early 2025, raising concerns about their long-term capacity to sustain critical services.
- Since early 2025, SAMHSA and HRSA have experienced significant workforce reductions amid broader efforts by the current administration to reduce the size of the federal workforce. According to data from the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM), SAMHSA now employs 534 people, compared to 916 in 2024, while HRSA now employs 1,711, compared to 2,689 in 2024.
- In May 2025, the administration released its FY 2026 Budget Request, which proposed reducing funding and eliminating certain programs within both SAMHSA and HRSA, while consolidating their remaining programs into a newly proposed Administration for a Healthy America (AHA). Congress ultimately rejected the administration's proposal to reduce funding for SAMHSA and HRSA and restructure both agencies through program eliminations and consolidation into AHA.
- In January 2026, SAMHSA issued termination notices to addiction and mental health programs across the nation, abruptly canceling roughly \$2 billion in federal grant funding. Less than 24 hours later, following swift and widespread backlash, the funding was restored.
- In April 2026, the administration released its FY 2027 Budget Request which, once again, proposes eliminating numerous SAMHSA and HRSA programs and consolidating remaining programs into the proposed Administration for a Healthy America.

### Requests

- Provide \$7.64 billion for SAMHSA and at least \$10.5 billion for HRSA in the FY 2027 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill.
- Ensure that funds appropriated to SAMHSA and HRSA are fully expended consistent with congressional intent.
- Oppose attempts by the administration to eliminate SAMHSA and HRSA programs.
- Oppose the firing of federal staff on whose work SAMHSA's and HRSA's programs depend.