

- 1 supports, and other considerations for treatment and disposition
2 planning.
- 3 (2) The following amounts to the Division of Mental Health, Developmental
4 Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services:
- 5 a. Twenty-one million dollars (\$21,000,000) for behavioral health
6 mobile crisis teams able to address the needs to children experiencing
7 a behavioral health crisis.
- 8 b. Eleven million dollars (\$11,000,000) to increase the number of youth
9 crisis stabilization beds available statewide and to create reserve crisis
10 stabilization bed capacity.
- 11 (3) The following amounts to the Division of Social Services:
- 12 a. Six million dollars (\$6,000,000) to provide Division-based supports
13 for families, including professional foster parenting programs.
- 14 b. Sixteen million dollars (\$16,000,000) to provide funding for intensive
15 supports in the community, such as (i) programs that specialize in
16 collaborating with parents who struggle with substance use and (ii)
17 teams that coordinate and provide wraparound family services,
18 including any of the following:
- 19 1. Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Team (START), a program
20 model that pairs child welfare workers trained in family
21 engagement with family mentors, who are peer support
22 employees in long-term recovery, using a system-of-care and
23 team decision-making approach with families, treatment
24 providers, and the court. The program model provides for
25 quick entry to START services to safely maintain child
26 placement in the home, when possible, and rapid access to
27 intensive addiction/mental health assessment and treatment.
- 28 2. Safe Babies Court, a pilot program that builds partnerships
29 among the courts, child welfare agencies, and local agencies to
30 provide services to children from birth through 3 years of age
31 who are in foster care due to abuse or neglect. The program
32 connects children and families with wraparound support and
33 services to promote healthy child development and expeditious
34 discharges from the foster care system.
- 35 c. Ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) to strengthen and expand the child
36 welfare workforce. Funds provided pursuant to this subdivision shall
37 be used to supplement, not supplant any county funding.

38 **SECTION 2.(b)** Allocation of Funds to Strengthen the North Carolina Behavioral
39 Health Crisis System. – The Department of Health and Human Services shall allocate a portion
40 of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this act to the Division of Mental Health, Developmental
41 Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services as follows:

- 42 (1) Twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) for the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.
- 43 (2) Twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) to be used as start-up funding for new
44 mobile crisis teams throughout the State.
- 45 (3) Sixty million dollars (\$60,000,000) to develop new behavioral health urgent
46 care and facility-based crisis combination facilities, peer drop-in facilities, and
47 additional North Carolina Systemic, Therapeutic, Assessment, Resources and
48 Treatment (NC START) respite locations.
- 49 (4) Eighty million dollars (\$80,000,000) for a pilot program transporting
50 individuals needing psychiatric hospitalization from hospital emergency

1 departments and behavioral health urgent care facilities to the inpatient facility
2 at which a bed has been located for each individual.

3 (5) Twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) to be used for housing supports for
4 individuals with serious mental illness and competitive integrated
5 employment training that enhances employment opportunities for individuals
6 with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

7 (6) Five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) to be used for grants made to an
8 owner, proprietor, local government, or person in control of a garage that has
9 a vertical height above three stories, or 30 feet, for funds to purchase signage
10 providing information on suicide prevention that is to be posted on each floor
11 of the garage above three stories, or 30 feet, in height, in each elevator lobby.
12 The Department shall develop and post on its website the mechanism by
13 which an applicant may apply for this grant funding and any design
14 suggestions or requirements for the signage being purchased with any funds
15 awarded.

16 **SECTION 2.(c)** Allocation of Funds for Community and School-Based Behavioral
17 Health. – The Department of Health and Human Services shall allocate a portion of the funds
18 appropriated in Section 1 of this act to the following Divisions within the Department as follows:

19 (1) The following amounts to the Division of Mental Health, Developmental
20 Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services:

21 a. Thirty-eight million dollars (\$38,000,000) to be used to expand the
22 number of certified community behavioral health clinics in this State.

23 b. Ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) to be used for an education
24 campaign to reduce stigma around mental health.

25 c. Thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) for the development of a
26 workforce training center that provides training to behavioral health
27 and intellectual and developmental disabilities providers at no charge
28 to the provider.

29 (2) Seven million dollars (\$7,000,000) to the Division of Health Benefits to
30 increase connections between primary care providers and psychiatry services
31 by funding the start-up costs associated with primary care practice adoption
32 of the collaborative care model and by continuing funding for the North
33 Carolina Psychiatric Access Line supporting primary care providers caring for
34 children with complex needs.

35 (3) Fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) to the Division of Central Management
36 and Support, Office of Rural Health, to expand the North Carolina Loan
37 Repayment Program to include all licensed providers of behavioral health
38 services practicing in rural and underserved areas of the State who are enrolled
39 Medicaid providers.

40 (4) Forty million dollars (\$40,000,000) for statewide expansion of school
41 behavioral health services. The Division of Child and Family Well-Being, in
42 collaboration with the Department of Public Instruction, may use these funds
43 to address the challenges and implement the strategies outlined in the NC
44 Unified School Behavioral Health Action Plan dated March 2023, such as
45 school-based tele-behavioral health pilot programs, Project AWARE
46 (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education), Project ACTIVATE
47 (Advancing Coordinated and Timely InterVentions, Awareness, Training, and
48 Education), a statewide school-based electronic health records system, locally
49 driven behavioral health initiatives, and training to connect schools to local
50 behavioral health providers. To meet the needs of young children in schools
51 and early child care and education settings, these allocated funds may be used

1 to expand access to professional development, technical assistance, screening
2 and evaluation, and services for teachers, providers, and families to enable
3 positive behavioral supports for children.

4 **SECTION 2.(d)** Allocation of Funds for Justice-Related Behavioral Health Matters.

5 – The Department of Health and Human Services shall allocate a portion of the funds
6 appropriated in Section 1 of this act to the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities,
7 and Substance Abuse Services as follows:

- 8 (1) One hundred eight million dollars (\$108,000,000) to operate
9 community-based pre-arrest diversion and reentry programs and to fund local
10 partnerships between law enforcement, counties, and behavioral health
11 providers.
- 12 (2) Forty million dollars (\$40,000,000) to operate both community-based and
13 detention center-based restoration programs.
- 14 (3) Two million dollars (\$2,000,000) to be used for judicial education programs
15 designed to increase understanding of mental health issues and behavioral
16 health treatment options.

17 **SECTION 2.(e)** Allocation of Funds to Improve the Capacity of the State Psychiatric

18 Facilities. – The Department of Health and Human Services shall allocate a portion of the funds
19 appropriated in Section 1 of this act to the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities,
20 and Substance Abuse Services as follows:

- 21 (1) Thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) to be used to support individualized
22 community-based treatment and support for adults with long lengths of stay
23 or repeated stays at State-operated psychiatric hospitals.
- 24 (2) Forty million dollars (\$40,000,000) to recruit and retain the healthcare
25 workforce at State-operated healthcare facilities.
- 26 (3) Twenty-seven million dollars (\$27,000,000) to implement electronic medical
27 records in all State-operated healthcare facilities.
- 28 (4) Three million dollars (\$3,000,000) for the purchase of automated medication
29 dispensing cabinets at State-operated healthcare facilities.

30 **SECTION 2.(f)** Allocation of Funds to Improve Behavioral Health Data and

31 Technology. – The Department of Health and Human Services shall allocate a portion of the
32 funds appropriated in Section 1 of this act to the following Divisions within the Department as
33 follows:

- 34 (1) Twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) to the Division of Central Management
35 and Support, Office of Rural Health, to increase access to telehealth services
36 in rural and underserved areas of the State. These funds shall be used to
37 purchase equipment and infrastructure for healthcare providers practicing in
38 rural and underserved areas of the State and for broadband expansion in these
39 areas. As used in this subdivision, "broadband expansion" means a program
40 designed to expand broadband infrastructure or broadband utilization.
- 41 (2) The following amounts to the Division of Mental Health, Developmental
42 Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services:
 - 43 a. Twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) to expand the centralized bed
44 registry, known as BHSCAN.
 - 45 b. Ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) to provide funding and
46 technological assistance to behavioral healthcare providers related to
47 the modernization of data and technology, including funds to assist
48 with connection to the Health Information Exchange (HIE), new staff,
49 and changes in billing practices.

50 **SECTION 2.(g)** Allocation of Funds to Invest in Medicaid Rates. – Of the funds

51 appropriated in Section 1 of this act, the Department of Health and Human Services shall allocate

1 the sum of two hundred twenty-five million dollars (\$225,000,000) to the Division of Health
2 Benefits to be used to increase rates paid to Medicaid behavioral healthcare providers for a period
3 of three years.

4 **SECTION 2.(h)** Allocation of Remaining Funds. – Of the funds appropriated in
5 Section 1 of this act, the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) shall be allocated to
6 the Department of Health and Human Services to be used for administrative purposes related to
7 one or more programs for which funds have been allocated under subsections (a) through (g) of
8 this section.

9 **SECTION 2.(i)** Authorization for Time-Limited Positions. – As part of the
10 implementation or administration of the programs for which funds have been allocated under
11 subsections (a) through (g) of this section, the Department of Health and Human Services is
12 authorized to create up to 48 time-limited positions.

13 **SECTION 3.** Timing of Funding. – The funds appropriated in Section 1 of this act
14 shall become available during the course of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium as the funds are
15 deposited into the ARPA Temporary Savings Fund, established under Section 1.3 of S.L. 2023-7.
16 The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) shall not provide allocations of the
17 funds appropriated in Section 1 of this act until the funds are available within the ARPA
18 Temporary Savings Fund, in whole or in part. When any portion of the funds appropriated in
19 Section 1 of this act becomes available, the Secretary of DHHS shall promptly allocate those
20 funds for the uses described in Section 2 of this act and, at the discretion of the Secretary, shall
21 prioritize the allocations, taking into account any time lines for the use of the funds, the best
22 interest of the citizens of the State, and the avoidance of any disruption in services to those
23 citizens.

24 **SECTION 4.** Report on Use of Funds. – In addition to any report required under this
25 act or any other law, the Department of Health and Human Services shall submit a quarterly
26 report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal
27 Research Division beginning on January 1, 2024, detailing the use of funds appropriated in this
28 act. Each report required under this section shall include the amount of funds received to date,
29 how the funds were used during the quarterly reporting period, and the amount of funds that
30 remained unspent at the end of the quarterly reporting period. The requirement under this section
31 to submit a quarterly report shall end upon submission of the final report, which shall be no later
32 than 90 days from the date the allocated funds have been fully expended.

33 **SECTION 5.(a)** Section 1 of this act is effective on the date the Current Operations
34 Appropriations Act for the 2023-2024 fiscal year becomes law or July 1, 2023, whichever is later.

35 **SECTION 5.(b)** If, by June 30, 2024, no Current Operations Appropriations Act for
36 the 2023-2024 fiscal year has become law, then this act shall expire on that date.

37 **SECTION 6.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
38 law.