



**AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION**
SERVICES, INC.

American Psychological Association Services, Inc.

Public Witness Written Testimony

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United States House of Representatives

Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education

Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriations

To support research funding, the psychology workforce, access to mental and behavioral health services across the lifespan, and address social determinants of health, the American Psychological Association Services (APA Services) requests the following funding levels for fiscal year 2025 within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Department of Education, and Department of Labor.

APA Services is the companion organization of the American Psychological Association, which is the nation's largest scientific and professional nonprofit organization representing the discipline and profession of psychology, as well as more than 157,000 members and affiliates who are clinicians, researchers, educators, consultants, and students in psychological science.

Boosting Critical Research Funding:

APA Services supports at least \$51.303 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in FY25. We support the President's request of a \$275 million increase for the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to combat the youth mental health crisis, including \$10 million to support behavioral health prevention implementation science, focusing on evidence-based prevention and early intervention for mental and behavioral disorders. APA Services also supports language directing NIMH to collaborate with the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities on research in the youth populations most vulnerable to mental health disorders. APA Services recommends at least \$900 million for the Institute of Education Sciences.

Finally, for gun violence prevention research, APA Services recommends \$25 million at the NIH and \$35 million at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in FY25.

Supporting the Psychology Workforce:

The nation's mental and behavioral health workforce must be expanded to meet the growing demand for services, particularly in underserved communities. To address this need, APA Services urges the Committee to provide \$30 million for the Graduate Psychology Education Program and \$253.6 million for the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Programs within HHS' Health Resources and Services Administration.

Within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), we request \$25 million for the Minority Fellowship Program to support its mission to increase diversity and cultural competency of the mental and behavioral health workforce and improve access to mental health and substance use disorder services in underserved communities.

Improving Access to Mental and Behavioral Health Care Across the Lifespan:

APA Services requests \$1.25 billion for SAMHSA's Community Mental Health Block Grant including a 10% set-aside to support state implementation of a 988 and crisis response continuum system and a new 10% set-aside for prevention and early intervention; \$2.008 billion for the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Services Block Grant; and \$1.595 billion for the State Opioid Response Grants in FY25. APA Services also supports the request for \$506.1 million for Opioid Overdose Prevention and Surveillance at CDC, which would support the integration of state and local prevention and intervention efforts, enhance partnerships with public safety and first responders, and improve linkages to medications for opioid use disorder. APA Services supports funding for creation and adoption of behavioral health programs utilizing the Project ECHO model, which has served as a critical resource for rural and underserved

communities by enabling clinicians to share best practices while leveraging scarce resources.

APA Services supports \$602 million for 988 and Behavioral Health Crisis Services grants, \$100 million for the Mobile Mental Health Crisis Response program, \$29.9 million for the National Strategy on Suicide Prevention, and \$102.9 million for the Promoting Integration of Primary and Behavioral Health Care grant program.

To ensure that K-12 students receive a well-rounded education and access to school-based mental health services, APA Services requests \$1.6 billion for Title IV-A, the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant, and \$190 million for Project AWARE. To increase the number of mental health providers in schools, APA Services requests \$250 million within Safe Schools National Activities for the School Based Mental Health Services Professional Demonstration Grant and the School-Based Mental Health Services Grant.

APA Services urges the Committee to include \$16.26 billion for Part B (Grants to States) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide equitable education for students with disabilities. In addition, to expand access to early childhood education, the Committee should provide \$13.1 billion for the Head Start Program, \$9 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant, and \$360 million for Preschool Development Grants.

For mental health services on college campuses, we ask the Committee to include \$12 million for the Garrett Lee Smith Campus Suicide Prevention Grant Program and support language directing SAMHSA to continuing waiving the program's institutional matching requirement for minority-serving institutions and community colleges.

APA Services urges the committee to provide \$1 billion for the Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant and the highest possible funding levels for additional essential public health programs, including Healthy Start at CDC, Safe Motherhood and Infant Health

at CDC, and research supporting healthy pregnancy at NIH.

Finally, within the DOL's Employee Benefits Security Administration, APA Services requests \$10 million for Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act enforcement, with 10% allocated to the Office of the Solicitor for parity litigation. To support parity act enforcement within HHS, we request \$10 million for CMS's Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight.

Addressing Social Determinants of Health & Social Safety Net:

APA Services is dedicated to a population-health approach to address mental health concerns in every community; thus, we support the \$8 million request for CDC's Social Determinants of Health. To expand the reach of federal school-based health education, increase access to health services, and foster supportive learning environments, we request \$100 million for the CDC Division of Adolescent and School Health.

APA Services supports \$9.2 million for the SAMHSA Minority AIDS Initiative to improve HIV prevention and intervention efforts. Within HHS' Administration for Children and Families, we support \$1.7 billion for the Social Services Block Grant and \$105 million for CAPTA Title I to support state child abuse prevention and treatment services. To improve enforcement of child labor laws, APA Services supports \$341 million for the Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division.

Finally, APA Services supports \$10 million for CDC's Office of Rural Health to address unique rural health care needs, coordinate efforts across CDC's portfolios, tailor scientific and communications resources, and improve public health functions and service delivery. Again, APA Services thanks the Subcommittee for the opportunity to share our FY25 funding requests and we urge your full consideration.