

Behavioral Health Workforce Gap Payment Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Where can we send questions or request additional information?

Please send questions or concerns to the following Resource Account: RA-PWBHHCBSPayments@pa.gov.

2. How was eligibility for a payment determined?

Payments were calculated for providers of Family Based Mental Health (FBMH) services, Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (PRS), Mobile Crisis services, and Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS) who had encounters for services reported by the Behavioral Health HealthChoices Managed Care Organizations (BH-MCOs) (encounters are the reported claims the BH-MCOs paid for services provided). The below PROMISe Provider Type and Provider Specialty was used to determine the eligible providers:

- 11/115 was used to determine FBMH providers;
- 11/123 was used for PRS providers;
- 11/118 was used for Crisis providers; and
- 11/590, 11/591 and 11/592 were used for IBHS providers.

Additionally, Crisis providers must have been licensed to provide Mobile Crisis Individual Delivered, Mobile Crisis Team Delivered or Medical Mobile Crisis Team Delivered services. Depending on how a provider bills its claims, encounters could only be “hitting” one service location, thus the other service locations that are enrolled reflect no claims or encounters.

3. What was the methodology used to allocate the funds?

The \$83.5M was allocated among FBMH, Mobile Crisis, IBHS, and PRS providers. For providers enrolled in PROMISe with these specific provider type and specialties, the Department took the number of units of service as reported in the encounters that the Behavioral Health HealthChoices Managed Care Organizations submitted to PROMISe and calculated the percentage of each service types’ total units against the total units of service for the four provider types. The amounts provided for each service were then allocated by each provider’s units claimed against the total units of service for all providers within each service. A minimum of \$5,000 was provided.

4. I did not receive an attestation letter for a Behavioral Health Workforce Gap payment and I believe I should have been included. Who should I contact?

If a provider believes there is an error, the provider may contact OMHSAS at RA-PWBHHCBSPayments@pa.gov. Additional information on how eligibility for payment was determined can be found in Question #2 and Question #3.

5. My email address or mailing address are incorrect. How can those be updated?

All information was pulled from the PROMISe provider file. Information on how to update PROMISe information can be found at this link:

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/PROMISe-Enrollment.aspx>

6. What is the time frame for spending these funds?

Providers have until October 31, 2023 to spend the Behavioral Health Workforce Gap payment.

7. What are the reporting requirements for these funds?

DHS expects to share guidance on reporting in the Spring of 2022. Providers have until October 31, 2023 to spend the Behavioral Health Workforce Gap payment.

8. What happens if a provider did not return their attestation by February 1, 2022?

Providers can submit an attestation until July 1, 2022. The February 1st due date was the deadline to issue the payments in March 2022. The later the attestation is received, the later the payment will be issued via PROMISe to the provider.

If a provider has not submitted an attestation by July 1, 2022, the Department of Human Service (DHS) will issue one final communication and provide 30 days for the provider to return their attestation. If there is still no attestation submitted, DHS will make determinations about the Behavioral Health Workforce Gap funding not claimed by providers.

9. Is this considered a duplicate payment to funds that have been received directly from a BH-MCO for workforce support?

These funds are not considered duplicative of any funding that may have been provided by a BH-MCO. This is additional funding and should be treated as separate from any funding received from a BH-MCO.

10. Can these funds be declined?

If you wish to decline the funding, please return the attestation letter with a note stating that you are declining these funds.

11. May the funds received for this payment be used at a service location other than the one listed in the attestation form?

The funds are to be used for workforce retention and strengthening your behavioral health direct care workforce at the specified service location(s). If you provide FBMH, PRS, Mobile Crisis and/or IBHS services at additional service locations beyond the one identified in the attestation, a request may be sent to RA-PWBHHCBSPayments@pa.gov to consider the additional service locations in the funding. Please identify the additional service locations in your request with their PROMISe ID and service location.

12. Can the Behavioral Health Workforce Gap payment be used for supervisor, managers, Directors, Officers, Board, etc?

The funds must be used for strengthening the behavioral health direct care workforce. No portion of the payments can be used to increase executive compensation, which would include payments to Directors, Officers, and Board members.

13. Is the Behavioral Health Workforce Gap payment related to the House Bill 253 that was just passed?

House Bill 253, which was signed into law as Act 2 of 2022, is a separate round of funding from the Behavioral Health Workforce Gap payments. Act 2 applies to inpatient and residential behavioral health facilities. DHS is working on guidance related to Act 2 payments that will be shared with eligible providers. The Behavioral Health Workforce Gap payments are for home and community-based service providers providing FBMH services, Mobile Crisis services, PRS and IBHS.

14. Do these funds have to be returned if they are not fully spent?

Yes, any unspent portion of the funds will have to be returned to DHS no later than December 31, 2023.

15. Can a provider request a smaller amount than the amount identified on the attestation?

Yes, please make a notation on the attestation of the smaller amount that you would prefer to receive.