



Governor Glenn Youngkin Announces Key Accomplishments and Continued Investments in Virginia's *Right Help, Right Now* Plan



Governor Youngkin's *Right Help, Right Now* plan continues to transform mental health care in Virginia. This three-year plan strengthens the care continuum, ensuring Virginians have someone to call, someone to respond, and a place to go. Built on six pillars addressing pre-crisis, crisis, and post-crisis care, the second year has achieved:

Pillar One: Ensure same-day care for behavioral health crises

- Launched a statewide campaign promoting the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and expanding outreach with targeted materials for diverse communities
- Exceeded the year two goal of 70 publicly funded mobile crisis teams; Virginia now has over 100 operating statewide 24/7/365 with an average response time of under 50 minutes
- Significantly built out crisis services, with 663 units across crisis receiving centers, stabilization units, and therapeutic homes, up from 216 prior to *Right Help, Right Now*

Pillar Two: Reduce law enforcement burden and behavioral health criminalization

- Launched a pilot program in southwest Virginia allowing hospital security staff to be credentialed as Special Conservators of the Peace (SCOPs) to manage custody during involuntary assessments, reducing law enforcement involvement and creating calmer, more supportive environments for patients in crisis
- Provided training for CSB staff on informed consent, violence risk assessment, and advanced directives

Pillar Three: Expand system capacity, emphasizing community-based services

- Expanded care integration through the launch of the Adult Psychiatric Access Line (APAL) in October for adults struggling with substance use disorder (SUD)
- Increased youth behavioral health support through expansion of the Virginia Mental Health Access Program (VMAP) across the Commonwealth, and early intervention and maternal health services
- Provided funding for all 3,440 Priority One Developmental Disability waiver slots, growing provider capacity, and access to quality care support

Pillar Four: Strengthen support for substance use disorders and overdose prevention

- Extended comprehensive SUD services to pregnant and parenting women in underserved areas by supporting two new Project LINK sites, bringing the statewide total to 14 sites
- Significantly increased the peer workforce for Certified and Registered Peer Recovery Specialists by 60% and 152%, respectively, vastly exceeding goals
- Expanded Kinship Navigator Program with wraparound for caregivers of children orphaned by overdoses
- Partnered with Public Safety on Operation FREE, leading to the seizure of over 600 pounds of illicit fentanyl and a total of over 36,000 pounds of narcotics

Pillar Five: Prioritize the behavioral health workforce, especially in underserved areas

- Created new career pathways: Behavioral Health Technician Assistant, Behavioral Health Technician, and Master's Psychology Practitioner. Simplified the Qualified Mental Health Professional (QMHP) pathway
- Launched BeTheChange.Virginia.gov, an online campaign showcasing behavioral health career pathways and resources to support those going into the behavioral health workforce

Pillar Six: Innovate services and close gaps in prevention, crisis care, and recovery

- Expanded mandated benefits to cover crisis services (mobile, residential stabilization, and receiving center), ensuring comprehensive insurance coverage, balance billing protection, and improved access
- Established the Reclaiming Childhood Task Force via Executive Order 43 to empower parents to increase positive youth mental health outcomes



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Since its creation in 2022, the Commonwealth has invested **\$1.4 billion** of new funding to support the initiatives outlined in the six pillars of *Right Help, Right Now*. To build on these historic investments, Governor Glenn Youngkin is committing an additional **\$70 million** to support the following critical areas:

- **\$35 million** to expand Special Conservators of the Peace (SCOPs) across the Commonwealth
- **\$3.5 million** to reimburse law enforcement for Temporary Detention Order transportation
- **\$4.3 million** to support the readiness and implementation of an 1115 Serious Mental Illness (SMI) Waiver
- **\$1.5 million** to expand the Adult Psychiatric Access Line (APAL), a program designed to provide psychiatric consultation and care navigation for primary care physicians treating adults with substance use disorders (SUDs) and co-occurring mental health issues
- **\$1 million** to enhance mental health literacy among youth aged 12–18 and address the impacts of substance use, social media, and excessive screen time
- **\$15 million** reallocated for school-based mental health services
- **\$4.3 million** to ensure compliance with state and federal developmental disability waiver requirements and fund administrative costs to monitor waiver slots
- **\$1.2 million** to fund crisis co-response programs
- **\$1.5 million** to increase access to long-acting injectables for Serious Mental Illness in a hospital setting
- **\$777,000** to establish a sustainable entry-level youth mental health workforce in Virginia by creating and training Youth Support Partners (YSPs)
- **\$560,000** to improve care coordination for at-risk youth transitioning from psychiatric residential treatment facilities (PRTFs) by maintaining their managed care enrollment
- **\$500,000** to offer an interactive program that educates teens on the impact of dangerous behaviors, such as drug and alcohol use
- **\$100,000** to support the completion of the Opioid Impact Reduction Registry



Courtesy of the Office of the Governor



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