

Behavioral Health Medicaid Contribution Adjustment

- \$4 million ongoing
- NOT expansion – funding existing mandated programs that the state agreed it would support
- If funds are not appropriated, programs and services provided by public behavioral healthcare system will be forced to be cut

80/20 State & County Partnership

The Federal Government pays a certain percentage to assist states with Medicaid. This is called the Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage, or FMAP. This percentage is different for each state and is adjusted yearly. Utah’s FMAP has been decreasing for years, which means Utah must pay more to cover Medicaid services.

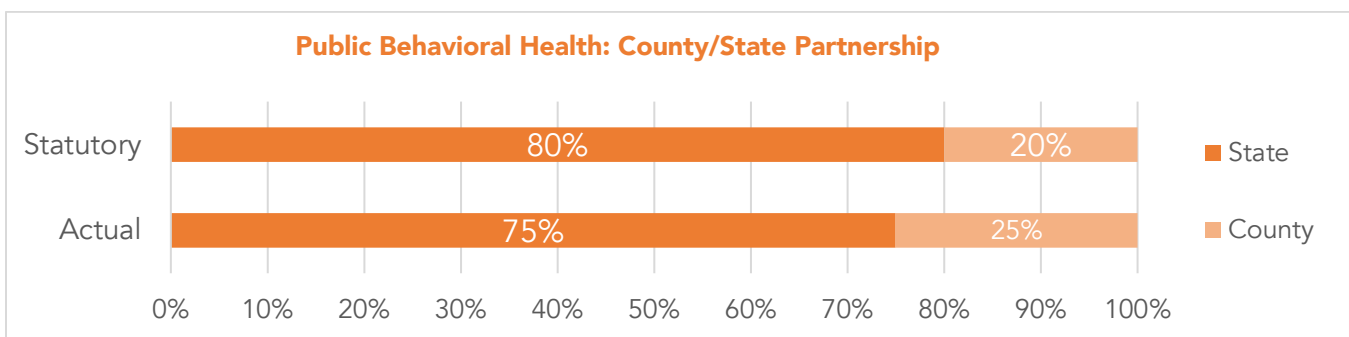
Since the 1980’s, Utah’s counties have been directed by statute to provide 20% of funding for the mental health and substance use disorder services that are mandated by the State and provided by the counties. The State of Utah agreed to share costs by providing the rest of the funding. This partnership has worked well throughout the years with state and local buy-in and support. However, because there have not been

any recent inflationary adjustments pertaining to FMAP, counties have been paying much more than the 20% for behavioral health services. Some areas are paying as much as 70% of the services for their counties instead of the 20% they are supposed to. Statewide, the current split is about 75/25.

To account for the increased number of patients and programs, the lack of inflationary increases, and the decrease in FMAP, the county Local Mental Health and Substance Use Authorities are requesting \$4,000,000 ongoing to make up for this shortfall. Representative Jim Dunnigan was able to secure a generous \$4,000,000 ongoing in the 2024 General Session, but an additional \$4,000,000 is needed to make the system whole.

If this ask is not funded, counties will be forced to close some of their programs and cut back on services. With the Governor’s Report estimating that over 200,000 individuals currently go without the mental healthcare that they need, Utah cannot afford to not support this request.

This request is a top priority for the Utah Association of Counties and the Utah Behavioral Health Committee.



About UBHC

The Utah Behavioral Healthcare Committee, or UBHC, is made up of all Local Mental Health and Substance Use Authorities (LMHAs) throughout Utah as well as state and local partners. LMHAs provide public mental health and substance use services for all regions of the state. If you have any questions about UBHC or public behavioral health, you can contact katherine@uacnet.org.

