



2016 Legislative Agenda Supplemental Budget

NAMI Washington supports the Governor's proposed budget and new revenues and asks that the Legislature fully fund the entire mental health system.

Washington has been ranked 48th in the Nation in access to mental healthcare by Mental Health America in its [2015 report](#).

Washington's mental health system is a fragmented, crisis-driven system which has been chronically underfunded and continually cut. Due to the lack of funding mental health policy in our State is being made by the courts due to lack of adequately funding the mental health system. In addition, mental health workforce growth and stability issues must be addressed.

Unless we invest in prevention and early intervention and other pre-crisis services, our mental health system will continue to be crisis-driven and thus, less effective and more costly. Studies show that earlier intervention can result in mental health crises of lesser severity and shorter duration from which more surely successful recovery is possible. That can translate to greater use of less costly services and less use of more costly services.

Medicaid Mental Health Reimbursement Rate Adjustment: Support the total \$185.4 million to integrate mental health and substance abuse services under managed care with a combined behavioral health rate, including an increased funding adjustment for integrated services.

Psychiatric Staff Recruitment and Retention: Support the total \$10,493,000 for recruitment, retention, and increased salaries for psychiatrists and psychiatric staff to address mental health workforce stability.

Western State Hospital Nursing Staff: Support the total \$9 million to hire 51 addition RNs at Western State Hospital and fund 11.2 new staff positions at Eastern and Western State hospitals to attain adequate 24/7 staffing levels.

State Hospital Regulatory Compliance: Support \$5 million to fund 38 new staff positions to ensure compliance for resident safety and accreditation of state mental health hospitals.

Peer Bridge Programs: Support the \$1.8 million to add 22 peer bridge team members to the state psychiatric hospital liaison teams in the regional support networks.

University of Washington Psychiatry Collaboration: Support \$500,000 to fund a contract with the University of Washington, in collaboration with Western State Hospital, for an analysis and plan to implement a high-quality forensic teaching unit.

Expansion of Crisis Triage Services: Support the total \$11.8 million to fund the operation of four new 16-bed crisis triage facilities for assessment, diagnosis, and treatment for those suffering from acute mental health crisis; and launch three new mobile crisis teams.

Housing Support Services: Support the \$2.8 million to develop four new housing and recovery services teams to provide supportive housing and short-term rental assistance for people leaving inpatient behavioral health treatment or are at risk of needing inpatient behavioral health services.

Diversion Task Force: Support \$250,000 to provide staff support for a diversion task force to recommend how to keep people with mental illness, and with issues related to competency to stand trial – from entering jails and prisons.

Suicide Prevention: Support \$280,000 to fund a statewide internet and radio campaign to connect people with support systems to help reduce suicides in our state.