

SB 410-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2024 SESSION

24-3048

05/08

SENATE BILL

***410-FN***

AN ACT

establishing a mental health community and transitional housing fund.

SPONSORS:

Sen. Whitley, Dist 15; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Fenton, Dist 10; Sen. Soucy, Dist 18; Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21; Sen. Rosenwald, Dist 13; Sen. Prentiss, Dist 5; Sen. Altschiller, Dist 24; Sen. Chandley, Dist 11; Rep. Brennan, Merr. 9; Rep. M. Murray, Hills. 37

COMMITTEE:

Health and Human Services

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ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a mental health community and transitional housing fund to support community and transitional housing through grants to the community mental health programs. The bill also makes appropriations to the department of health and human services for deposit in the fund and to increase provider rates for community mental health center supported housing.

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Explanation:

Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.

Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~

Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

## STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Four*

AN ACT                    establishing a mental health community and transitional housing fund.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1            1 New Section; New Hampshire Mental Health Services System; Mental Health Community  
2 and Transitional Housing Fund. Amend RSA 135-C by inserting after section 11 the following new  
3 section:

4            135-C:11-a Mental Health Community and Transitional Housing Fund. There is established in  
5 the office of the treasury a mental health community and transitional housing fund, which shall be  
6 kept separate and distinct from all other funds. The nonlapsing fund shall be continually  
7 appropriated to the department to support the stabilization and growth of community and  
8 transitional housing through the state's community mental health programs. The commissioner  
9 may accept funds from any state or federal source, as well as gifts, grants, and donations, for deposit  
10 in the fund. The department shall use the fund to provide one-time housing grants to community  
11 mental health programs to retain or create new housing in the community. Grants may be  
12 disbursed for up to \$25,000 and distributed among the 10 community mental health programs. The  
13 commissioner shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A relative to grant application procedures, eligibility  
14 criteria, and fund disbursement. The department shall initiate rulemaking prior to January 1, 2025  
15 and grant disbursement by April 1, 2025.

16            2 Appropriation; Department of Health and Human Services; Mental Health Community and  
17 Transitional Housing Fund. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the sum of \$1,500,000 is  
18 appropriated to the department of health and human services for deposit in the mental health  
19 community and transitional housing fund established in RSA 135-C:11-a. Of this amount, the  
20 governor shall determine if any remaining discretionary funds appropriated in the American Rescue  
21 Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, or any other federal funds can be used for this purpose and any  
22 remainder shall be general funds. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of  
23 any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

24            3 Appropriation; Department of Health and Human Services; Community Mental Health Center  
25 Supported Housing Programs. There is hereby appropriated to the department of health and human  
26 services the sum of \$1,500,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, for the purpose of increasing  
27 provider rates for supported community housing. Of this amount, the governor shall determine if  
28 any remaining discretionary funds appropriated in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public  
29 Law 117-2, or any other federal funds can be used for this purpose and any remainder shall be  
30 general funds. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the  
31 treasury not otherwise appropriated.

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1        4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

**SB 410-FN- FISCAL NOTE**  
**AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT establishing a mental health community and transitional housing fund.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**    ☒ State                    ☐ County                    ☐ Local                    ☐ None

Estimated State Impact - Increase / (Decrease)				
	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
<b>Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	None			
<b>Expenditures</b>	\$0	\$3,000,000	\$96,000	\$99,000
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	Federal Funds, Other Funds (gifts, grants, donations), General Funds (if needed)			
<b>Appropriations</b>	\$0	\$3,000,000	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	Federal Funds, General Funds (if needed)			

- Does this bill provide sufficient funding to cover estimated expenditures? ☒ Yes
- Does this bill authorize new positions to implement this bill? ☒ No

**METHODOLOGY:**

This bill establishes a non-lapsing Mental Health Community and Transitional Housing Fund. The fund is to be continually appropriated to the Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of supporting the stabilization and growth of community and transitional housing through the state's community mental health programs. Funds may be accepted from any state or federal source, as well as gifts, grants, and donations. The Department shall use the fund to provide one-time housing grants to community mental health programs to retain or create new housing in the community. Grants may be disbursed for up to \$25,000 and distributed among the 10 community mental health programs. The bill appropriates \$1.5 million in FY25 for deposit into the new fund. Of this amount, the governor shall determine if any remaining discretionary funds appropriated in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, or any other federal funds, are able to be used for this purpose. Any remainder shall be state general funds.

The Department anticipates that a new Program Specialist IV position will be needed to provide coordination and management of the newly created fund, as well as to plan the development and modification of programs, policies and procedures, and manage and evaluating the work product of state and local programs providing services. There is no appropriation for this position, though it is assumed that the position cost would be funded by the fund established in the bill.

The cost of the position by fiscal year is \$93,000 in SFY25, \$96,000 in SFY26 and \$99,000 in SFY27.

In addition to the appropriation noted in paragraph one above, the bill appropriates \$1.5 million in FY25 for the purpose of increasing provider rates for supported community housing. As with the first appropriation, the governor shall determine if any remaining discretionary funds appropriated in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 or any other federal funds can be used for this purpose. Any remainder shall be state general funds.

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Department of Health and Human Services