

**Subject** Community mental health program workforce relief payments

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## Summary

This bill appropriates \$62,000,000 in fiscal year 2023 from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) state fiscal recovery federal fund to the commissioner of human services for emergency onetime payments to community mental health programs that meet certain requirements. The payment recipients must agree to use the funds for sustaining direct service operations, hiring and retention bonuses, increasing employee benefits, and providing training and supervision.

The bill defines “community mental health program” for purposes of the emergency payments, and specifies how funds must be distributed and allocated. The bill also allows the commissioner to use up to \$100,000 for administrative costs related to the payments, requires payment recipients to document how funds are used, and specifies that recipients may be subject to a post-payment activity audit review.