

The Behavioral Health Teaching Clinic Designation and Enhancement Rate is an innovative solution to sustain and grow the behavioral health workforce pipeline.



Hospitals

Compensated training program for new resident physicians



FQHCs

Compensated training program for new healthcare providers



BHAs

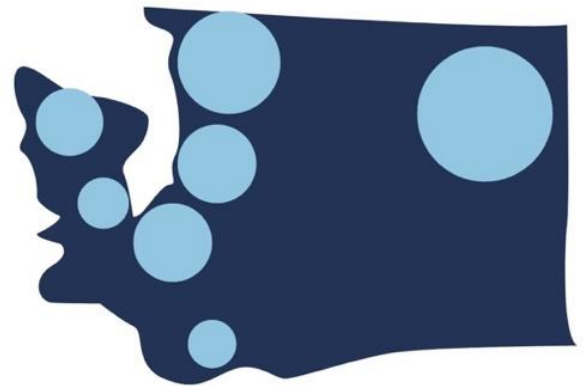
Uncompensated training program for new behavioral healthcare providers

While behavioral health workers are employed in a variety of healthcare settings, community behavioral health agencies (BHAs) are the primary training ground for this vital workforce. Despite legislative efforts to increase Medicaid rates and lower workforce barriers, BHAs remain uncompensated for this role.

From 2022 to 2024, the Washington Council for Behavioral Health conducted a multi-year, statewide teaching clinic demonstration project to determine the true cost associated with training this essential workforce and make recommendations for how the Legislature can create a structure to compensate for the actual cost of this work.

Training counselors, therapists, and SUD treatment providers is expensive, requiring numerous hours of supervision and oversight. BHAs spend their already strained revenues to train a workforce that ultimately leaves the BHAs in order to work in other settings offering higher compensation, lower caseloads, and a less complex patient population.

Areas Served by Teaching Clinic Demonstration Sites



Community behavioral health agencies are the essential safety net providers for those experiencing mental health and/or substance use disorders in Washington State.

The findings of the data collection were clear: The implementation and funding of this model will result in thousands of new therapists, counselors, and substance use disorder professionals joining the workforce in the coming years. The model includes robust incentives for clinicians to remain in community settings, serving our most vulnerable populations.

70 to 91% Services rendered to Medicaid-enrollees by Teaching Clinic participants	1,850–2,643 New master’s-level clinicians annually supported by enhancement rate	4+ Different master’s-level behavioral health credentials trained by BHAs
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