



# Mental Health

## Develop a state-funded grant to cover the cost of supervision hours needed for mental health professionals to obtain licensure.

### WHY

In Tennessee and across the country we are experiencing increasing rates of mental health challenges in our children and teens.

In 2021, 42 percent of Tennessee high schoolers reported feeling sad or hopeless almost every day the past two weeks.<sup>1</sup> More than one in four high school girls in Tennessee had seriously considered suicide within the last 12 months and more than one in six had attempted to take their own life in the last year.<sup>1</sup>

Early intervention and access to mental health treatment is critical to helping young people across the state. Supporting and building out a workforce to address this growing need is a difficult but necessary task.

According to the Public Behavioral Health Workforce Report report by TDMHSAS by 2030, Tennessee will be short 1,270 mental health counselors, 890 psychologists, 830 substance abuse counselors, 780 psychiatrists and 140 marriage and family therapists.<sup>2</sup>

**By reducing the cost associated with supervision, Tennessee can support the emerging workforce, recruit those who may be interested in joining and help them progress to licensure more quickly.**

**Across Tennessee there is one mental health provider for every 560 Tennesseans. Across counties, access ranges from 1:250 to 1:17,690.<sup>3</sup>**

**7 out of 10 Tennessee youth with major depressive episodes do not receive any treatment, representing 72,000 youth.<sup>4</sup>**

**Supervision hours necessary for advanced licensure:<sup>5</sup>**

**Clinical Social Worker: 100 hours**

**Professional Counselor: 100 hours**

**Professional Counselor/Mental Health Services Provider: 150 hours**

**Marital/Family Therapist: 200 hours**

**Clinical Pastoral Therapist: 270 Hours**

**Supervision sessions often range from \$80-\$100 per hour, meaning the cost of supervision can range from \$8,000 - \$27,000.<sup>6</sup>**

**In Tennessee, many mental health positions requiring masters level education but not licensure pay between \$36,000 - \$50,000 annually.<sup>7</sup>**