



Southeast (HHS Region 4)

MHTTC

Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network

Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Medicaid and School Mental Health

A Guided Tour Through Available Resources

Presenter: Adam S. Wilk, Ph.D.

Moderator: Sarah Trello, MPH

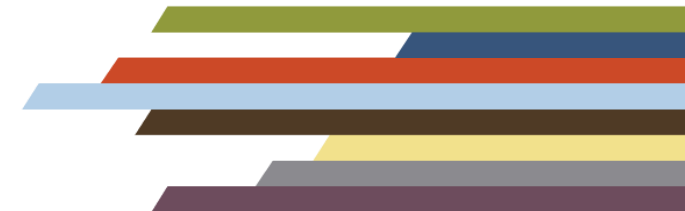
School Mental Health Initiative

Southeast Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC)

Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University

November 9, 2022

SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration



Disclosure/Disclaimer

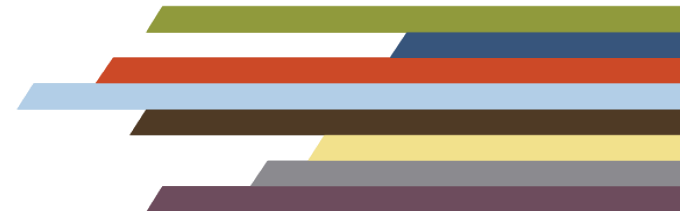
The Southeast Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC) Administrative Supplement is funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

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Southeast Mental Health Technology Transfer Center

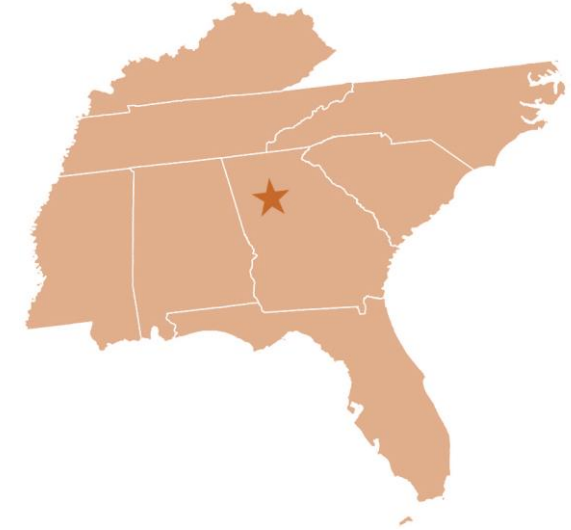
Alabama | Florida | Georgia | Kentucky | Mississippi | North Carolina | South Carolina | Tennessee



About the Southeast Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC)

The Southeast MHTTC is located at the Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University.

Serve states in HHS Region IV: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.



Our Mission: To promote the implementation and sustainability of evidence-based mental health services in the Southeastern United States.

Our Vision: Widespread access to evidence-based mental health services for those in need.



Southeast Mental Health Technology Transfer Center
Alabama | Florida | Georgia | Kentucky | Mississippi | North Carolina | South Carolina | Tennessee



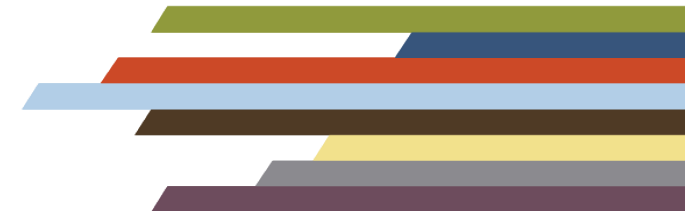
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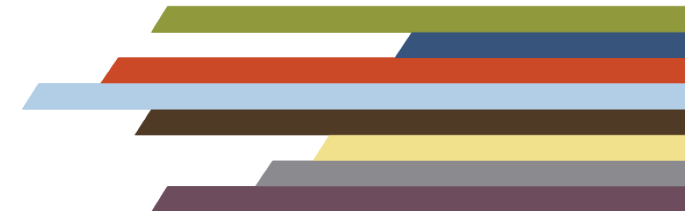
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At the conclusion of this webinar,
a link to an **evaluation** form will appear on your screen.

Please take a few minutes to provide us with your
thoughts as this is a very important part of our funding.

We appreciate your feedback!



Presenter



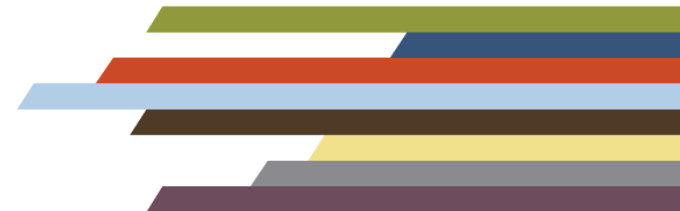
Dr. Adam Wilk

Policy Lead

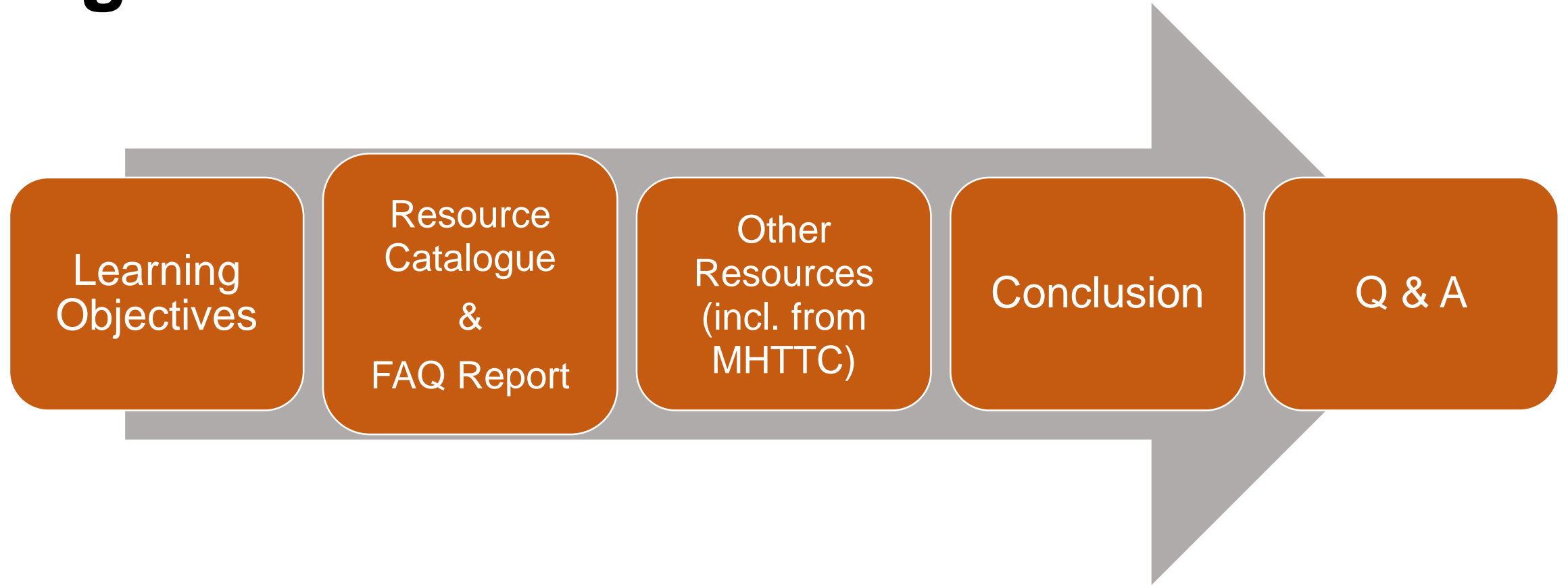
Southeast MHTTC School Mental Health Initiative

Assistant Professor

Department of Health Policy and Management,
Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University



Agenda



Learning Objectives

1

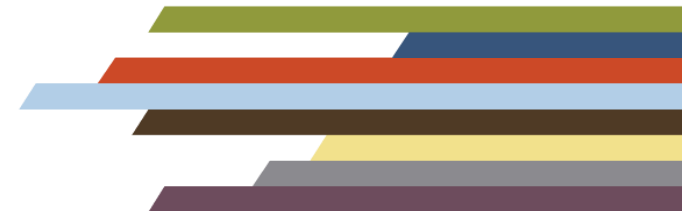
Contextualize Medicaid among leading sources of financing for school mental health services.

2

Access key resources that specify when Medicaid can support school mental health services and programs.

3

Identify additional resources that explore nuances of how Medicaid finances school mental health services and programs.





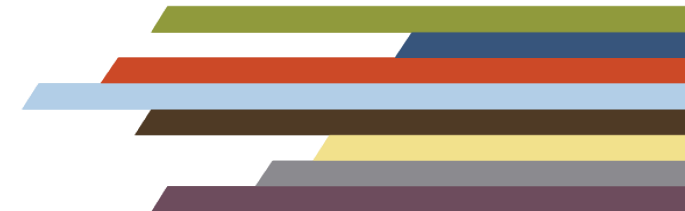
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POLL QUESTION #1





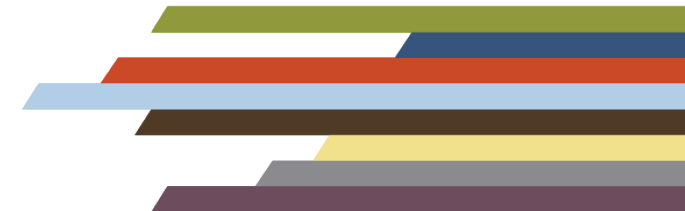
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POLL QUESTION #2





SOUTHEAST MHTTC SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCE CATALOGUE



THE SOUTHEAST MENTAL HEALTH TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CENTER

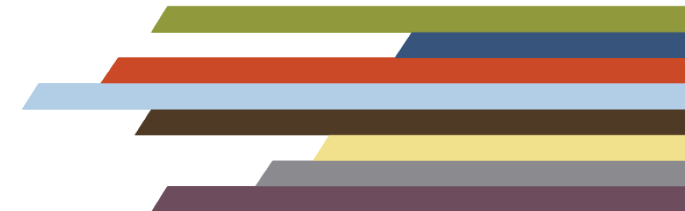
The Southeast Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC) is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The mission of our center is to disseminate evidence-based mental health programs and practices to the eight states in Health and Human Services Region IV (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee) through the provision of trainings and technical assistance as well as the development of resources. Our center is housed in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Emory University Rollins School of Public Health.

The Southeast MHTTC School Mental Health Initiative is led by Dr. Janet Cummings, a mental health services researcher and national expert on mental health care access and quality among children and adolescents. Our team includes faculty and staff with expertise in public health, mental health systems, health economics, policy, finance, equity, and implementation science. As the regional MHTTC center that specializes in school mental health policy, finance, and workforce, many of the trainings and resources that we have developed address topics related to funding and sustainability of comprehensive school mental health systems.



School Mental Health Resource Catalogue

You can find the links to all Southeast MHTTC's resources (including the resources we introduce in today's webinar) in this resource catalogue.



School Mental Health Resource Catalogue

Table of Contents

Comprehensive School Mental Health Systems: Foundations

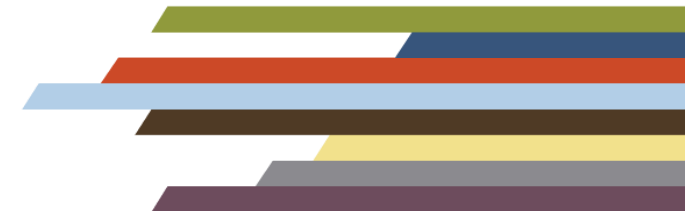
- School mental health basics and youth mental health
- Trauma-informed school mental health
- Diverse populations and equity

Mental Health Services and Supports in Schools

- Tier 1: Mental health promotion for all
- Tiers 2 & 3: Early intervention and treatment

Funding, Sustainability, and Impact

- School mental health policy ←
- School mental health financing
- School mental health workforce
- Data and measurement



School Mental Health Resource Catalogue

Example of Resources

- Funding, Sustainability, and Impact: School Mental Health Policy

Infographics

- Service-Related Policy Adoption
- Workforce-Related Policy Adoption
- State Policy and School Mental Health in the Southeast
- Expanding the School-Based Mental Health Workforce: State Policies in the Southeast, 2015-2020

Short Reports

- SMH Legislation in the Southeast: A Tiered Approach
- Region 4 Telemental Health Policy Landscape
- Region 4 Telemental Health Landscape in Response to COVID-19



MEDICAID AND SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: FAQs



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SOUTHEAST MENTAL HEALTH TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CENTER
ROLLINS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, EMORY UNIVERSITY,
ATLANTA, GEORGIA



MHTTC Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network
Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration



Medicaid and School Mental Health Services: FAQs

In this report, we discuss how schools can finance school mental health services through Medicaid by answering some frequently asked questions.

More resources and details on Medicaid financing for school mental health services can be found in this FAQs report.

Medicaid and School Mental Health: FAQs

Table of Contents

- Introduction
- What is Medicaid?
- When will Medicaid pay for school mental health services?
- What services does Medicaid cover?
- Who is eligible for Medicaid?
- What providers can bill Medicaid?
- Are schools a Medicaid-accepted setting for providing mental health services?

Medicaid and School Mental Health: FAQs

Table of Contents (Cont.)

- How does Medicaid pay for school mental health services?
- What is Medicaid managed care?
- What are the major types of Medicaid reforms?

Resource | Medicaid and School Mental Health 101: How Can Schools Finance School Mental Health Services through Medicaid? (Webinar)

This webinar provides an overview of Medicaid and an introduction to how Medicaid finances school mental health services.



Presentation Outline Moving Forward

Resources to help you determine...

1. Who may be eligible for Medicaid
2. What services can be paid for through Medicaid
3. What providers and staff are eligible to bill Medicaid for their services
4. If Medicaid will pay for services delivered in schools
5. How Medicaid pays for school mental health services
6. How to work with Medicaid Managed Care plans
7. How Medicaid can be reformed to better support financing of school mental health programs
8. How does Medicaid “fit in” among other sources of financing for school mental health programs

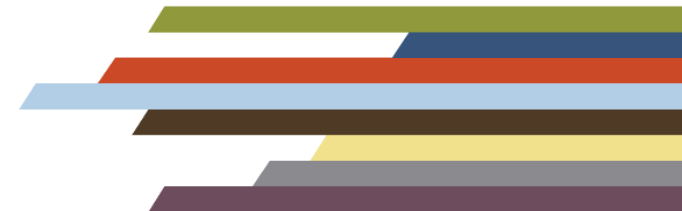
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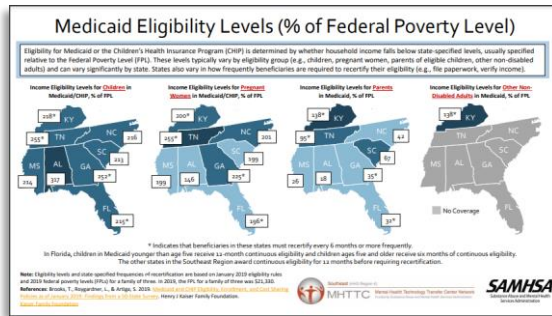
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Who may be eligible for Medicaid?

- Mandatory and optional eligibility groups
- Household income must be below the specified income limit associated with an eligibility group
- Must periodically recertify eligibility to maintain Medicaid coverage

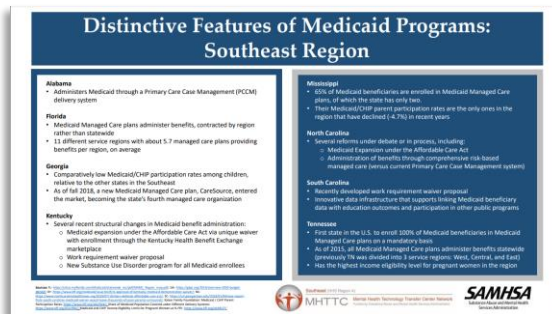


Who may be eligible for Medicaid?



Medicaid Eligibility and Enrollment: Southeast Region

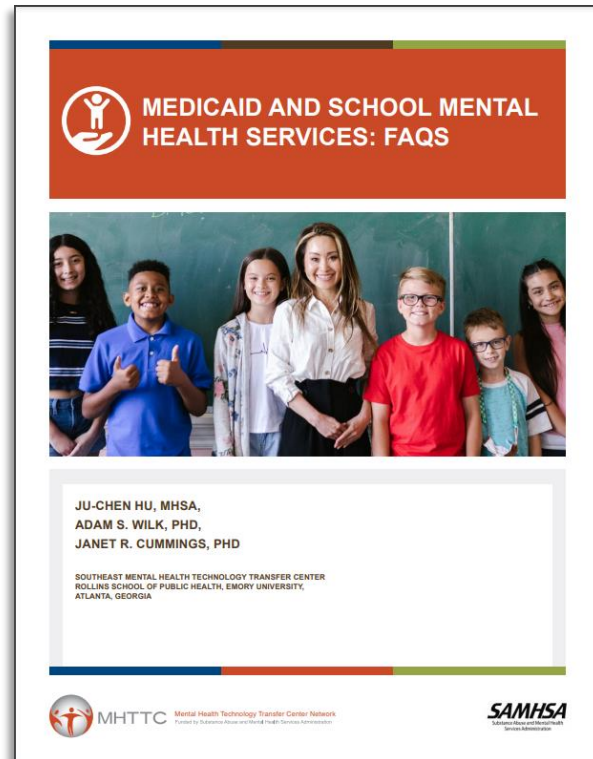
This infographic outlines the household income limits associated with different Medicaid eligibility groups in the Southeast region.



Distinctive Features of Medicaid Programs: Southeast Region

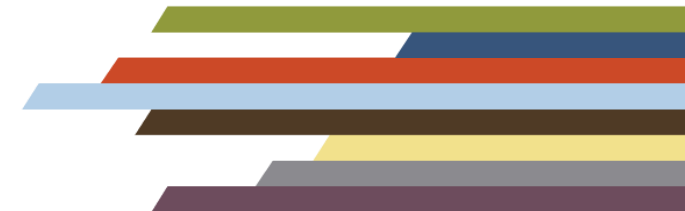
This infographic provides an overview of key constraints on Medicaid reimbursement for school mental health services.

Who may be eligible for Medicaid?



Medicaid and School Mental Health Services: FAQs

We discuss more details on Medicaid eligibility in the section “Who is eligible for Medicaid?”



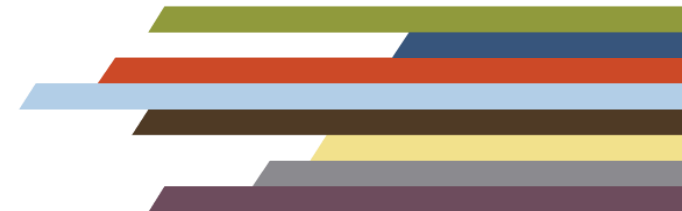
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What services can be paid for through Medicaid?

- School Mental Health Services that Medicaid Covers
- Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT)
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Telemental Health Services
- Administrative Costs



What services can be paid for through Medicaid?

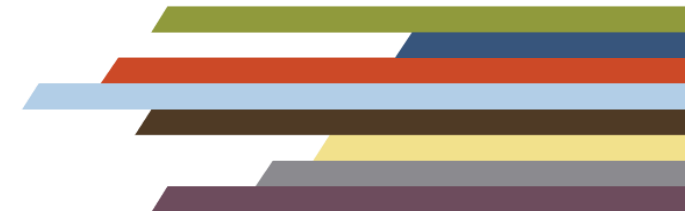
School Mental Health Services that Medicaid Covers

Mandatory benefits

- Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment Services (EPSDT)
- Physician Services
- ...and more!

Optional benefits

- Telehealth/telemedicine
- Inpatient psychiatric services for individuals under age 21
- Home and community-based services



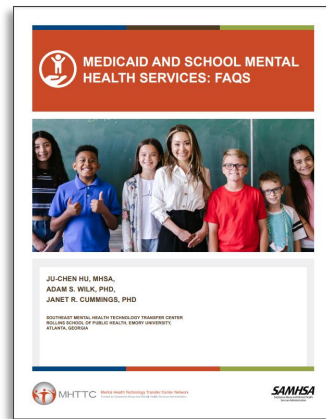
What services can be paid for through Medicaid?

School Mental Health Services that Medicaid Covers



What School Mental Health Services Does Medicaid Cover?

In this infographic, we provide examples of screening services, treatment services, and supportive services for which schools can often seek Medicaid reimbursement.



Medicaid and School Mental Health Services: FAQs

We discuss more details on Medicaid-covered services in the section “What services does Medicaid cover?”

What services can be paid for through Medicaid?

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT)

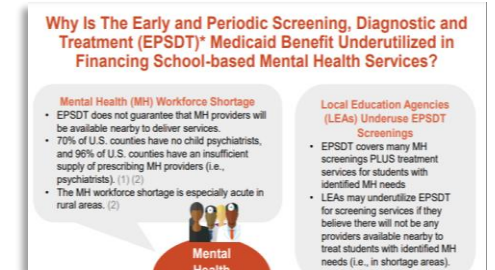
Financing School-Based Mental Health Services: The EPSDT Medicaid Benefit

This infographic describes the EPSDT benefit, a mandatory Medicaid benefit for youth (age < 21) and highlights key common misconceptions about EPSDT.



Why Is The EPSDT Medicaid Benefit Underutilized in Financing School-based Mental Health Services?

The infographic describes a pernicious cycle through which the mental health workforce shortage leads to underuse of the EPSDT benefit, and how, in turn, underuse of EPSDT feeds back to a worsening mental health workforce shortage.



What services can be paid for through Medicaid? Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

USING THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA) TO FUND SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES 



WHAT IS IDEA?

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a law that works to "ensure that all children with disabilities are able to access a free appropriate public education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living."⁽¹⁾

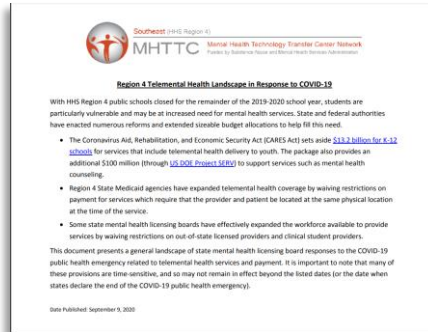
Using IDEA to Fund School-Based Mental Health Services

This document describes the funding of school-based mental health services under the IDEA.

It includes basic information about IDEA and individualized education programs (IEPs), and offers more specific guidance around IDEA for different communities.

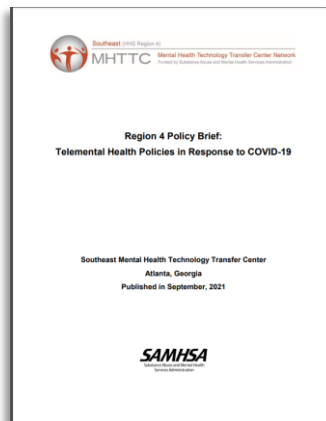
What services can be paid for through Medicaid?

Telemental Health



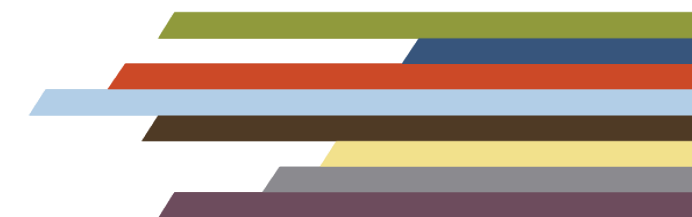
Region 4 Telemental Health Landscape

These documents present a general landscape of state mental health licensing board responses to the COVID-19 public health emergency related to telemental health services and payment.



Region 4 Telemental Health Landscape in Response to COVID-19

This document was revised in September 2021 to include updated telemental health policies in the Southeast.



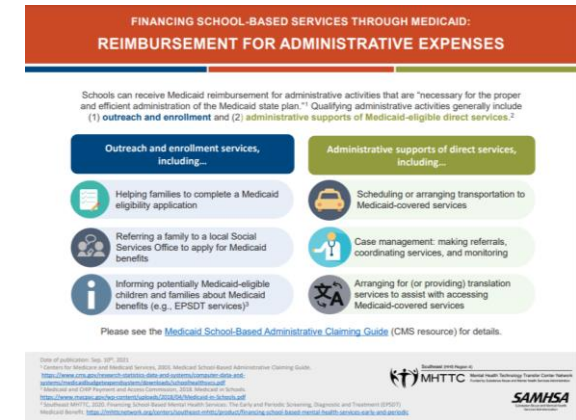
What services can be paid for through Medicaid?

Administrative costs

Financing School-Based Services through Medicaid: Reimbursement for Administrative Expenses

Schools can receive Medicaid reimbursement for certain qualifying administrative activities. This infographic highlights two broad classes of administrative activities that are often reimbursable under Medicaid:

- Outreach and enrollment
- Administrative supports of Medicaid-eligible direct services



Presentation Outline Moving Forward

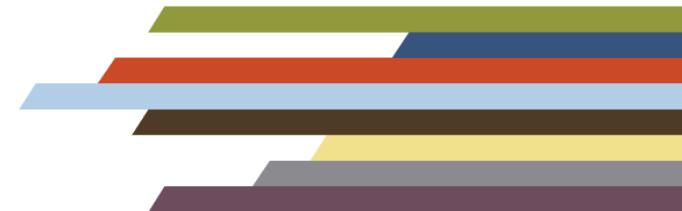
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What providers and staff are eligible to bill Medicaid for their services?

Medicaid-certified providers: meet the state's licensure or certification requirements and complete an application

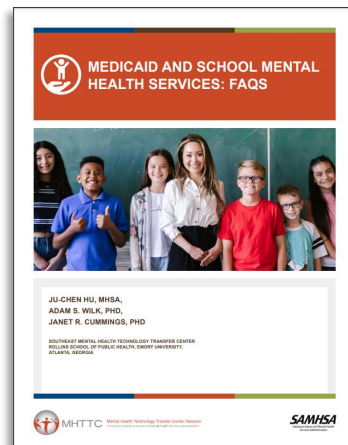
Providers should be in a Medicaid managed care plan's provider network (in states that administer Medicaid programs through managed care)



What providers and staff are eligible to bill Medicaid for their services?

A Key Consideration When Staffing School-Based Mental Health Programs: Hire or Partner?

This infographic outlines the advantages of two staffing approaches— (1) hiring and (2) partnering with community-based providers staffing— in regard to administrative burden, access to services, and revenue.



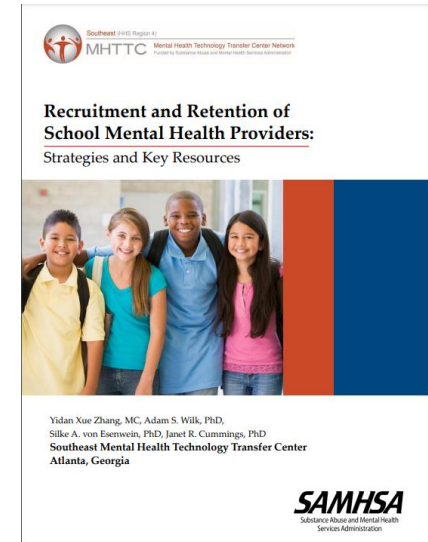
Medicaid and School Mental Health Services: FAQs

We discuss more details on Medicaid certified providers in the section “What providers can bill Medicaid?”

What providers and staff are eligible to bill Medicaid for their services?

Recruitment and Retention of School Mental Health Providers: Strategies and Key Resources

This report describes organizational and policy strategies to improve recruitment and retention of school mental health providers. Additionally, it identifies resources developed by reputable organizations to facilitate implementation of these strategies.



Presentation Outline Moving Forward

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Will Medicaid pay for services delivered in schools?

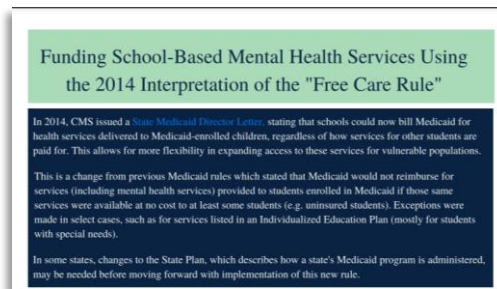
Historically, the “Free Care Rule” was a barrier for schools to seek Medicaid reimbursement for school mental health services.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued new guidance concerning the “Free Care Rule” in December 2014.

Resource | Updated CMS guidance on the “Free Care Rule” (Dec 2014)

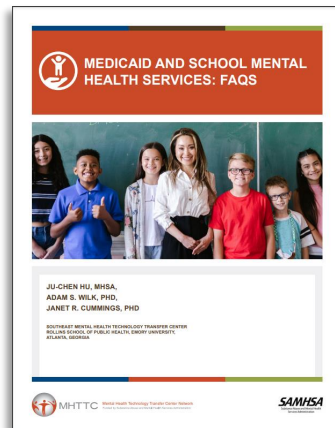
Click [here](#) to access the guidance letter.

Will Medicaid pay for services delivered in schools? Free Care Rule



Free Care Rule Medicaid Financing Tips

This report describes the “Free Care Rule” in Medicaid and discussed how the revised interpretation of this rule can enable schools to leverage Medicaid to finance health services.



Medicaid and School Mental Health Services: FAQs

We provide more detail on Medicaid-accepted settings for delivering mental health services and the Free Care Rule in the section “Are schools a Medicaid-accepted setting for providing mental health services?”



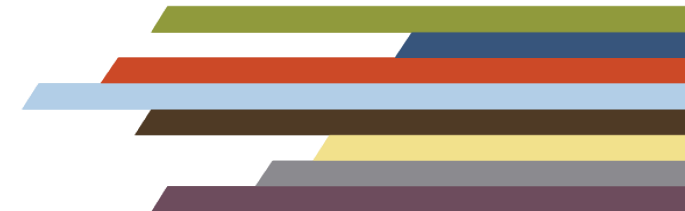
Southeast (HHS Region 4)

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POLL QUESTION #3



Presentation Outline Moving Forward

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How does Medicaid pay for school mental health services?

Medicaid reimburses most eligible school-based services through one of two systems:

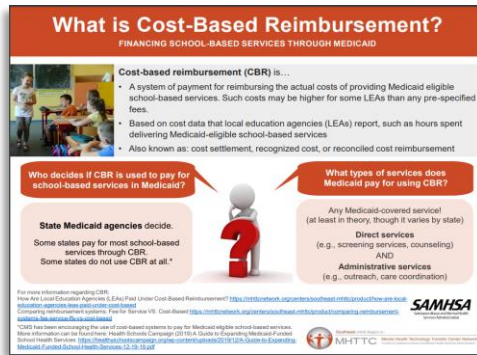
**Cost-Based
Reimbursement**

**Fee-For-Service
(FFS)**

Resource | National Alliance for Medicaid in Education, Random Moment in Time Studies (RMTS) and Cost-Based Rate Methodologies

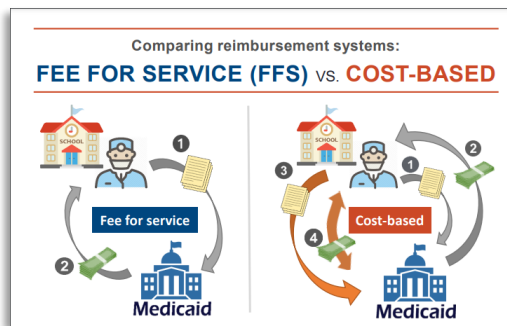
Click [here](#) to access the resource.

How does Medicaid pay for school mental health services?



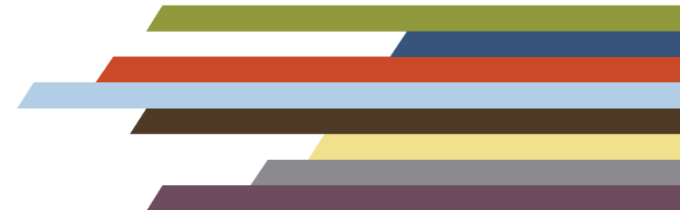
What is Cost-Based Reimbursement? Financing School Based Services Through Medicaid

This infographic provides an introduction to cost-based reimbursement systems.

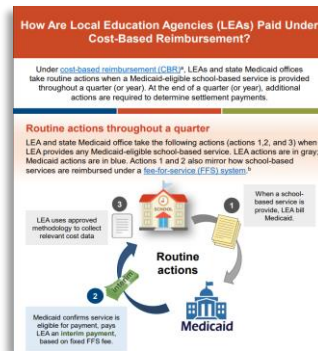


Comparing reimbursement systems: FFS VS. Cost-Based - Financing School Based Services Through Medicaid

This infographic compares the actions of schools and state Medicaid offices under cost-based reimbursement and under FFS reimbursement.

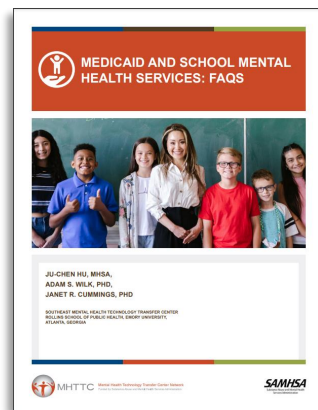


How does Medicaid pay for school mental health services?



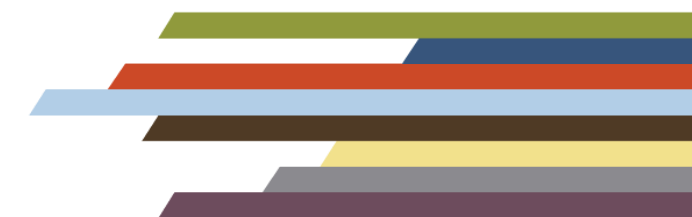
How Are Local Education Agencies (LEAs) Paid Under Cost-Based Reimbursement? Financing School Based Services Through Medicaid

This two-page infographic illustrates the LEA's and state Medicaid office's actions under a cost-based reimbursement system.



Medicaid and School Mental Health Services: FAQs

We discuss more details on cost-based reimbursement system and FFS system in the section “How does Medicaid pay for school mental health services?”



Presentation Outline Moving Forward

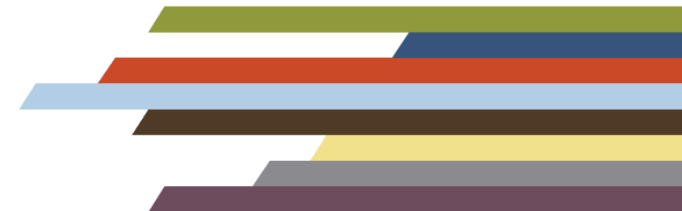
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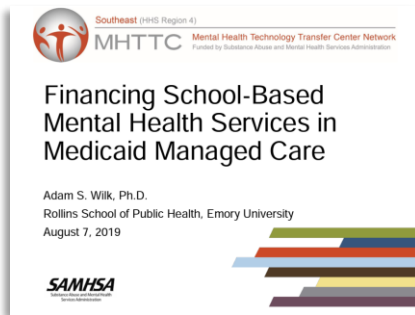
Working with Medicaid Managed Care plans to pay for school mental health services

Many states administer Medicaid benefits through private managed care plans, which may have their own:

- Provider networks
- Fee schedules
- Billing rules and processes (e.g., conditions when school setting is acceptable)
- Prior authorization requirements

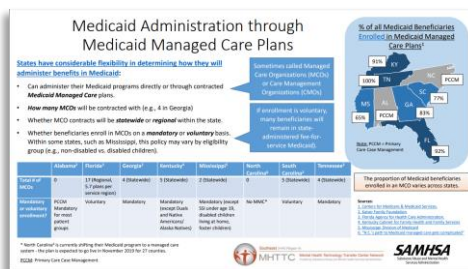


Working with Medicaid Managed Care plans to pay for school mental health services



Financing School Mental Health Services

This webinar aims to clarify how it can be determined whether a given school based mental health service will be reimbursable through Medicaid and by Medicaid Managed Care plans.



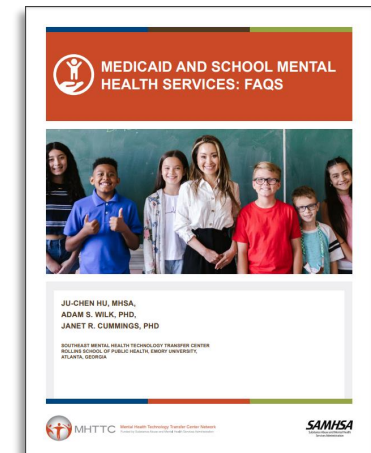
Medicaid Managed Care and Behavioral Health Benefit Administration: Southeast Region

This infographic provides information about Medicaid managed care and how behavioral health benefits are administered in Medicaid programs in the Southeast.

Working with Medicaid Managed Care plans to pay for school mental health services

Medicaid and School Mental Health Services: FAQs

We provide additional details on Medicaid managed care in the section “What is Medicaid managed care?”



Presentation Outline Moving Forward

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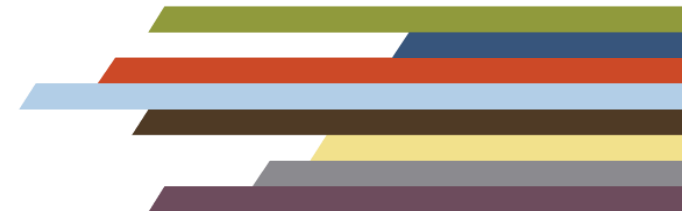
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3. What providers and staff are eligible to bill Medicaid for their services
4. If Medicaid will pay for services delivered in schools
5. How Medicaid pays for school mental health services
6. How to work with Medicaid Managed Care plans
- 7. How Medicaid can be reformed to better support financing of school mental health programs**
8. How does Medicaid “fit in” among other sources of financing for school mental health programs

How can Medicaid be reformed to better support financing of school mental health programs?

In general, state policymakers can reform their Medicaid program by:

- Passing legislation and making regulatory changes within the state
- Obtaining approval from the federal government for State Plan

In some cases, a combination of these strategies may be needed to implement a given reform

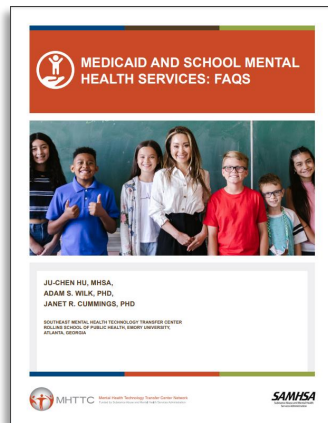


How can Medicaid be reformed to better support financing of school mental health programs?



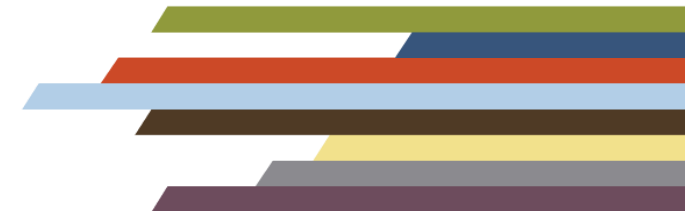
Leveraging State Plan Amendment (SPA) and Medicaid Waivers to Expand School Mental Health Services in Medicaid

This short report introduces SPAs and Medicaid waivers and gives examples of how states have leveraged SPAs and Medicaid waivers to expand coverage of SMH services in their Medicaid programs.



Medicaid and School Mental Health Services: FAQs

We provide additional details on the different approaches for reforming Medicaid programs in the section “What are the major types of Medicaid Reforms?”



Presentation Outline Moving Forward

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How does Medicaid “fit in” among other sources of financing for school mental health programs?

Types of mental health services:

- Tier 1: Universal, offered to all students, serve a preventative purpose
- Tier 2: Targeted, focus on early intervention and supports
- Tier 3: Intensive, focus on direct treatment to address the condition

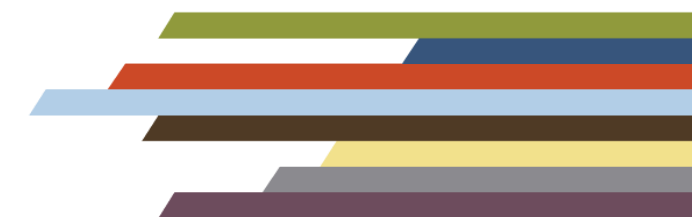
Medicaid can cover some tier 2 services (e.g., screening covered by the EPSDT benefit) and many tier 3 services (e.g., counseling).

How does Medicaid “fit in” among other sources of financing for school mental health programs?

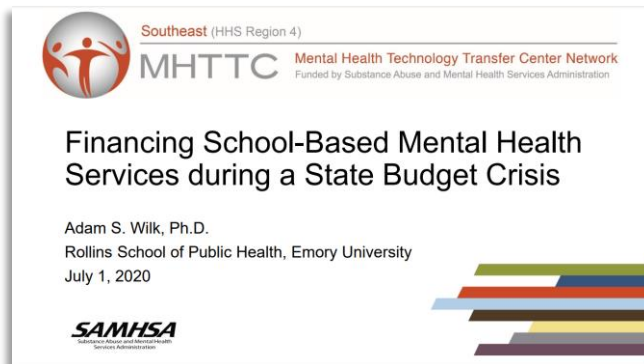
Common funding sources for school mental health services:

- Dept. of Education (mostly for tier 1 services)
 - The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Title I, Title IV Part A
 - The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund
- Grants
 - Project AWARE
 - School Climate Transformation Grant
- Other
 - Private insurance
 - Nonprofit organizations etc.

Resource | Georgia Department of Education, Whole Child Tenet: Engaged
Click [here](#) to access the resource.



How does Medicaid “fit in” among other sources of financing for school mental health programs?



Financing School Mental Health Services during a State Budget Crisis

The economic crisis of summer 2020, driven by the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing measures, presented significant challenges for state-budget-makers. This webinar discusses those challenges in the context of school leaders' efforts to finance school mental health programs.

How does Medicaid “fit in” among other sources of financing for school mental health programs?



School Mental Health Financing and Sustainability:

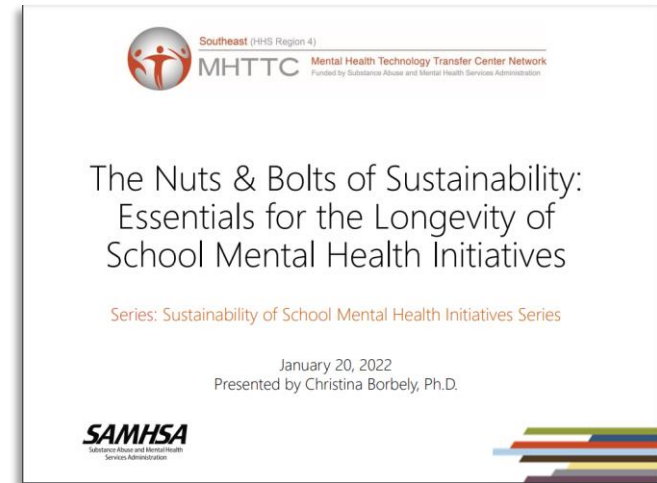
Using Stimulus Funds to Advance Comprehensive School Mental Health

In this webinar, leaders from two school districts in the Southeast joined a panel to describe how they and their partners have made innovative use of stimulus funds to finance their school mental health initiatives.

How does Medicaid “fit in” among other sources of financing for school mental health programs?

The Nuts & Bolts of Sustainability: Essentials for the Longevity of School Mental Health Initiatives

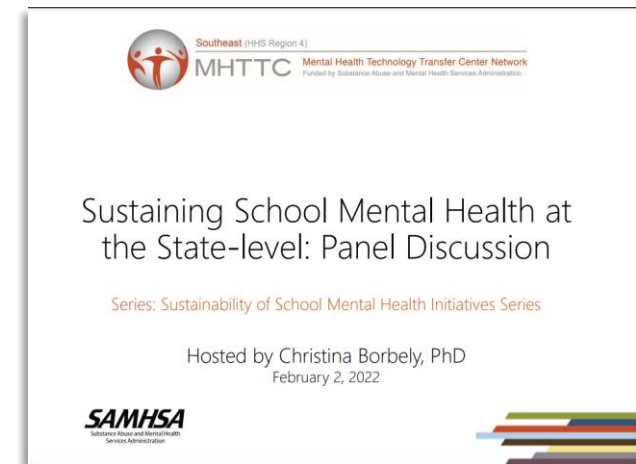
This topical learning forum was dedicated to building capacity of school and district teams invested in building long-lasting practices and policies that promote school and student mental health.



How does Medicaid “fit in” among other sources of financing for school mental health programs?

Sustaining School Mental Health at the State-level: Panel Discussion

This panel discussion focused on state-level examples of the planning, design, and implementation process that supports sustainable and scalable school mental health systems.



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Southeast (HHS Region 4)

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Q & A



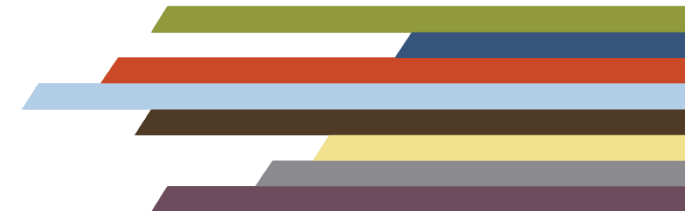
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We appreciate your feedback!

