

SECTION II:

Priorities





Setting of Priorities

The ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County has a policy for the prioritization of services and resources that the CEO, staff and Board of Directors follow. This policy is implemented during the planning and funding process and may utilize various resources, such as needs assessments, surveys, polling, focus groups, stakeholders and the practices of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS). Typically, the priorities for the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County are set in the following ways:

- Use of data gathered in various Needs Assessments.
- Input from the community, clients, providers, partner systems, volunteer Board of Directors, CEO and the staff of the ADAMHS Board received through the strategic planning process and funding priority meetings.
- The Executive staff compile and rank the input based on the importance to the system and available funding.
- The CEO presents a recommendation of the priorities to the Board of Directors through the appropriate committee, usually Planning & Oversight and/or Finance & Operations for further discussion.
- The Planning & Oversight and/or Finance & Operations Committees recommend adoption of the priorities to the General Meeting for full Board approval. Vetting of the priorities has been completed prior to being presented at the General Meeting.

Current Trends: The CEO and Board Staff also analyze current community and system trends when setting priorities. These current trends considered for CY24 are:

- **Crisis services:** In 2023, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) conducted a Crisis Systems Landscape Analysis to further propel its priority to expand crisis options across the state. The ADAMHS Board is investing in developing a crisis continuum that reflects proven options and services for residents. In addition to its ongoing 988 call center, Mobile Crisis Team, Crisis Stabilization Unit, Behavioral Health Urgent Care, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training for law enforcement, and other crisis support, the Board is exploring crisis center and care response models.
- **Increased need and increased symptom severity:** Mental health and addiction concerns were exacerbated by the pandemic and stressors of recent years. The World Health Organization (WHO) found that the COVID-19 pandemic triggered a 25% increase in prevalence of anxiety and depression worldwide. Nearly 8 in 10 psychologists (79%) said that they had seen an increase in the number of patients with anxiety disorders since the beginning of the pandemic, and 66% saw an increase in demand for treatment for depression. Nearly half (47%) said they had seen an increase in demand for substance use treatment (up from 43% last year) and 64% saw an increase in demand for trauma treatment, (compared with 62% in 2021). Additionally, two-thirds of psychologists reported seeing an increase in the severity of symptoms among patients in 2022 (American Psychological Association's 2022 COVID-19 Practitioner Impact Survey). Locally, the Board's crisis hotline receives more than 50,000 calls per year. Lifeline centers across Ohio saw a 109% increase in the number of calls from 2021 to 2022.
- **Workforce:** Studies predict that the behavioral health workforce will continue to get smaller, while the need for mental health, addiction and recovery services will continue to rise. The mental health, addiction and recovery workforce is a major priority on the local and state level. The ADAMHS Board is working with OhioMHAS on four priority areas: Increasing Career Awareness, Supporting Recruitment, Incentivizing Retention, and Supporting Contemporary Practice.

Calendar Year 2024 Budget Priorities

The ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County sets and approves priorities for funding of behavioral health treatment, prevention and recovery services to ensure that available dollars fund the best and most necessary services to support recovery.

As part of the priority setting process and a means of reflecting community input, Board staff reviewed the Board's Needs Assessment that was completed in May 2020, RecoveryOhio priorities, the OhioMHAS 21-24 Strategic Plan, the Board's 21-25 Strategic Plan and information gathered through the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan development process.

The Board's Management Team met to identify and streamline priorities for 2023 to reflect the responsibilities of the ADAMHS Board and ensure that funded providers utilize Evidenced Based Best Practices for prevention and treatment services and Best Practices for recovery support services.

Priorities are set with the overarching objective for the ADAMHS Board to contract for quality, collaborative, culturally competent, culturally appropriate, evidence-based, best practice, trauma informed, and diverse behavioral health treatment, recovery and prevention services that prioritize equity and inclusion to meet the needs of the residents of Cuyahoga County across the lifespan for children, transitional youth, adolescents, adults, older adults and special populations.

The ADAMHS Board set the following eight funding priorities for 2023. These priorities were officially adopted by the Board on June 22, 2022, with the passage of Resolution No. 22-06-09. As a result of no RFP being issued for 2024 funding, the priorities will remain the same.

1. 24-hour Crisis services. including Crisis Hotline, Crisis Text, 988, OhioRISE, Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS), Crisis Residential Services, Co-responder and Care Responder Teams.
2. Prevention and early intervention programs and campaigns for mental health and addiction using both traditional and innovative approaches, including communication efforts to reach diverse populations about the availability of services.
3. High Quality Housing including Adult Care Facilities (ACFs) for adults with mental illness, Sober and Recovery Housing for adults that are certified with National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) standards, and Residential Care Facilities (RCFs) that meet State and National Residential Care and Assisted Living Regulations and Policies.
4. Harm reduction efforts and innovative strategies to reduce deaths by overdose and suicide, allowing individuals the chance to seek treatment.
5. Peer Support for mental health and addiction.
6. Removing barriers to treatment, including transportation, stigma and development of a diverse workforce.
7. 24-Hours a Day/Seven Days a Week access for mental health and addiction treatment and recovery services, with in-person services delivered wherever possible
8. Employment Programs for people living in recovery from substance use disorders and mental illness.

CY2024 FUNDING BY PRIORITY

ADAMHS Board Priority	2024 Funding
Crisis Services	\$ 20,901,387.00
Prevention and Early Intervention	\$ 6,537,081.00
Housing	\$ 13,585,518.00
Harm Reduction	\$ 304,606.00
Peer Support	\$ 4,528,879.00
Removing Barriers	\$ 2,785,266.00
24/7 Access	\$ 1,959,658.00
Employment Programs	\$ 964,289.00

