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Report Cites \$150M Gap In Mental Health Funding

There's a \$150 million gap between the cost of health care and what's provided to Michigan's public mental health system, according to a recent analysis released by the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan (CMHAM).

The [analysis](#) lays out five recommendations CMHAM sees as addressing "the current crises in unmet mental health and substance use disorder needs."

Among the recommendations include restoring General Fund dollars to the system, setting Medicaid rates to match demands and costs, and removing the local match draw-down obligation from budget boilerplate. CMHAM sees these changes and others as ways to modernize the funding system.

"There are new demands, new crises and new conditions in every community throughout Michigan, which the original financing structure did not account for," said CMHAM CEO Robert **SHEEHAN**, in a statement. "These include the opioid crisis, incarceration of those with mental health needs, the recognition of the prevalence of autism, increased homelessness and more -- yet the system is still operating from a decades-old funding structure."

Only 4 percent of the funding provided to the CMH system is available to serve Michiganders without Medicaid who need mental health services, according to the CMHAM press release.

"Lawmakers and community members may argue the public system has been functioning well despite funding gaps, but CMHAM warns that the current underfunded system is not sustainable long-term," according to the release.

CMHAM believes its recommendations would pave the way to stemming homelessness, poverty, incarceration and the premature death of Michiganders with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental illness, and substance use disorders.