

Rural access study

Introduction

This fact sheet summarizes the proviso language in recently enacted ESSB 5693 Chapter 297, Laws of 2022, Section 215, Proviso 110. [5693-S.SL.pdf \(wa.gov\)](#)

This state appropriation of \$50,000 provided on a one-time basis for the Health Care Authority (HCA) to study and provide data regarding challenges to receiving behavioral health services in rural communities for fiscal year 2023.

Proviso 110 Overview

- Proviso 110 grants \$50,000 of the general fund-state appropriation for fiscal year 2023.
- The legislative dollars will be provided on a one-time basis to conduct a study and provide data regarding the challenges to receiving behavioral health services in rural communities.
- The completed rural access report must be sent to the Office of Financial Management and the appropriate committees of the Legislature with a summary of the data, findings, and recommendations.

What are we measuring?

We are measuring the timely access and availability of the following legislated areas:

1. Designated crisis responder response times
2. Behavioral health inpatient and outpatient services in rural areas
3. Wait times for hospital beds
4. Availability of adult and youth mobile
5. crisis teams

Legislation

(114) \$50,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2023 is provided on a one-time basis solely for the authority to conduct a study and provide data regarding challenges to receiving behavioral health services in rural communities.

The study by the authority must review timely access to behavioral health services in rural areas including: (a) Designated crisis responder response times; (b) the availability of behavioral health inpatient and outpatient services; (c) wait times for hospital beds; and (d) the availability of adult and youth mobile crisis teams. The study must include recommendations on strategies to improve access to behavioral health services in rural areas in the short-term as the state works to develop and implement the recommendations of the crisis response improvement strategy committee established in chapter 302, Laws of 2021. The authority must submit a report to the Office of Financial Management and the appropriate committees of the Legislature with a summary of the data, findings, and recommendations.

Data links

- Rural Data PDF: https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/DataFiles/53180/25602_WA.pdf?v=0
- Rural Health data map and other resources: <https://doh.wa.gov/public-health-healthcare-providers/rural-health/data-maps-and-other-resources>
- OFM Defined (preferred map for this study): <https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/Documents/Pubs//609003.pdf?uid=6282c788a182c>
- Medically Underserved Area Map 2022
Link: [mua_p.pdf \(wa.gov\)](#)

For more information

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