

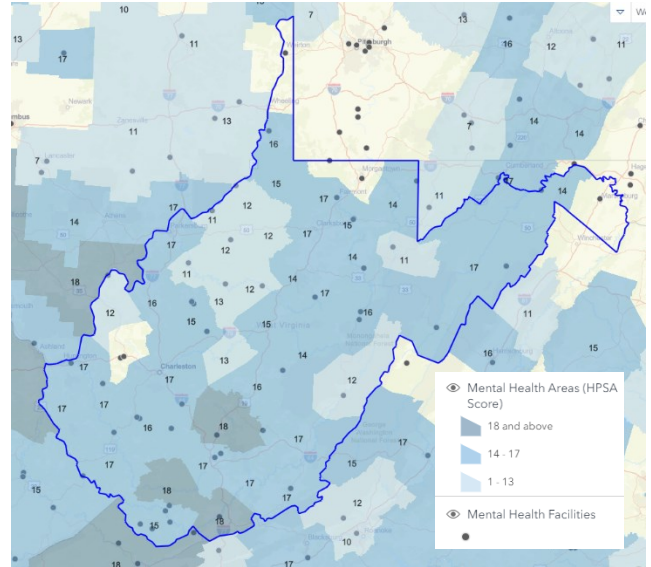
The West Virginia Behavioral Health Workforce Initiative

Critical and Growing Need

According to the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA), West Virginia has 94 Mental Health Professional Shortage Area designations.

Key Participants

With leadership and coordination provided through existing structures at the Higher Education Policy Commission, a diverse group of partners will implement a comprehensive approach to the recruitment, training, and retention of behavioral health providers in WV.



*Highest numbers indicate most extreme shortage



Key Components

The Behavioral Health Workforce Initiative will:

- Implement a strategic plan to grow and strengthen the behavioral health workforce in collaboration with statewide stakeholders in education and practice.
- Lead initiatives to build strong and sustainable educational and development pathways that span the career continuum
- Continuously measure and evaluate program outcomes

Building on Existing Work

The Behavioral Health Workforce Initiative will:

- Employ fiscally responsible programs successful in other states at increasing behavioral health workforce, including increasing interest in behavioral health professions, supporting pipeline programming, increasing the numbers of graduates who provide behavioral health services, and retention of graduates in WV.
- Expand promising work funded by the WVHEPC and piloted by WV education institutions to address pipeline, education, and transition to practice initiatives.
- Support emerging and existing workforce initiatives related to the care of those with substance use disorder.

