

April 6, 2026

DMHAS Legislative Newsletter

Greetings to DMHAS Staff and Partners!

Happy April! We hope you all had a wonderful weekend. Please see below what has taken place at the CT General Assembly.

Appropriations Committee Releases Midterm Budget

Last week, the Appropriations Committee released their much-anticipated [midterm budget for FY 27](#). This is the legislature's version of the budget, which makes several changes to the Governor's proposed budget that was released in February. The Committee proposed funding towards Medicaid reimbursement rates, education, transportation, financial aid, and more.

The DMHAS committee budget (starting on page 109) remains largely consistent with the Governor's proposal. The three changes are described below:

- Provides funding of \$350,000 in FY 27 to the Connecticut Alliance of Recovery Residences (CTARR) to support operations including recovery residences, inspections and certification, training for operators and data collection.
- Provide funding of \$775,000 in FY 27 for Regional Behavioral Health Action Organizations (\$155,000 per RBHAO) to expand suicide prevention and postvention services via the Regional Suicide Advisory Boards (RSABs).
- Reverses Governor's proposed reduction to legislative grants by maintaining \$150,000 in the budget.



Appropriations Committee Releases Midterm Budget Cont.

Other highlights from the committee budget that may be of interest:

- Maintains Community First Choice (CFC), an optional service under the Connecticut Medicaid state plan. CFC provides home and community-based attendant services and supports to individuals who would otherwise require institutional care. The Governor's proposal sunset CFC as a state plan option and transitioned eligible participants to waivers.
- Provides \$30 million to increase Medicaid provider rates, requiring DSS to report to the Appropriations and Human Services Committees with recommendations by this September.
- Directs funds from the Federal Cuts Response Fund to support a bridge program to provide state-funded medical assistance, nutrition assistance, supportive housing and employment assistance programs to vulnerable persons. The amount is unspecified.
- Adds \$2 million in funding and 20 positions to the Department of Correction for additional medical and mental health staff (10 APRNs, 10 LCSWs), and removes funding for a Deputy Commissioner to oversee inmate medical services as proposed in Governor's budget.

Now that the budget has been voted out of committee, legislative leadership, OPM, and the Governor's office will work together to come up with the final version of the budget that can be voted on in the House and Senate.

Appropriations Committee Joint Favorable (JF) Meeting

In addition to the release of the budget, the Appropriations Committee also [voted out several bills](#) as their JF Deadline is this week.

The Appropriations Committee typically has the farthest JF deadline compared to other committees whose JF deadlines have already passed. This signals that the committee process has been completed this legislative session as we move into the final stretch where bills will be debated on the House and Senate floor.



Did You Know?

If you follow the legislative process, you may have seen the term **'*spending cap***' when it comes to the budget. What does this mean and how does that apply to how the budget gets determined?

Created in 1991, the spending cap is a limit on how much the state budget is allowed to grow each year. The intent behind implementing spending cap was to restrain spending legislature from authorizing an increase in general budget expenditures for any fiscal year that exceeds the greater of the growth in personal income or increase in inflation. The legislature has the ability to override the spending cap. To do that, it would need a *three-fifths majority* in both chambers and a declaration of emergency by the governor, a threshold met just eight times since 1991.

What's Happening Next?

The House and Senate will be in Session the Following Days:

Wednesday, April 8th: House & Senate

Thursday, April 9th: House

Go Huskies!

In partnership, Chandra & Kelly