Utah needs 11,000 more mental health providers by 2030

Funding is needed to enroll, train, and graduate additional MSWs to address Utah's workforce shortage

Problem

Every county in Utah is a designated Mental Health Provider Shortage Area, and Utah's mental health rates are higher than the national average.

There is a critical shortage of social workers in the state. Nationally there are between 140-200 licensed social workers (LCSW) per 100,000. However, in Utah there are only 98 LCSWs per 100,000. Further, approximately 18% of the Utah workforce is over 65, possibly increasing the shortage with looming retirement and hour reductions.

If we don't address the workforce shortage:

- Increased Wait Times - the average wait time in Utah for a new patient to see a mental health provider was 9 days. But in settings such as colleges and universities, public hospitals, and primary care facilities, patients typically wait 3-4 weeks. Wait times will continue to increase.
- Decreased access to services - in 2016 the public healthcare system was only able to meet a fraction of the need for mental health (28%) and substance abuse treatment (9.9%). Access will continue to decrease.
- Increased workload for existing social workers - Overworking existing social workers to try and meet the need in the public and private sector causes individuals burn out and leave the field.
- Increased Economic Burden for employers - untreated Mental health issues increase absenteeism and presenteeism is costing businesses an estimated 4-billion per year nationwide.
- Increased burden for the state and Utah families - mental health is a contributing factor to lost wages, school absenteeism, homelessness, suicide, substance abuse, intimate partner violence and more.

77,419 (72%) adults and youth in need of mental health treatment did not receive needed services in 2016.

Suicide is the leading cause of death for Utahns age 10-17
2nd for Utahns age 18-24
5th for Utahns age 45-64

456 Opioid overdose deaths in Utah in 2017

With support the College of Social Work can train an additional 100 MSW students by 2025

Needed Funding $1,516,500
University of Utah College of Social Work funding request

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed budget</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel (salaries and benefits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic director and administrative support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant professor (lecturer) (1.25 FTE)</td>
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<td>Field Education (1.5 FTE)</td>
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<td>Academic Advising (.75 FTE)</td>
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<td>Contract Instructors</td>
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<td>Total Recurring Personnel</td>
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<td>Non-Personnel</td>
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<td>Operational supplies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recruitment &amp; marketing</td>
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<td>Student tuition offset (100 x $10,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total ongoing funding request</td>
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Other source of state funds
The College of Social Work at the University of Utah receives state funding through the University of Utah budget appropriated by the state legislature.