

Behavioral Health Workforce Reinvestment Initiative

Senator Deidre Henderson

Higher Education Appropriations Committee

Request of \$4,828,271 for immediate and long-term solutions to the behavioral health workforce crisis within public system.

The PROBLEM

There is a critical shortage of behavioral health providers in Utah; currently, for every 3 professionals nationwide, Utah has only 2, creating a severe shortage with the public system. The entire state of Utah has been designated as an underserved area for behavioral health workforce. A practical example: In Salt Lake County alone, over 100 professionals are needed in the public behavioral health treatment system.

USA AV+ LONG-TERM SOLUTION

To address the issue, the USA AV+ Council proposes expanding the capacity of Utah State University and University of Utah's of Master's of Social Work. Our proposal of **\$928,990 ongoing funds** will allow **140** additional students to enroll into programs that will serve both urban and rural areas.

The USA AV+ Council also proposes to expand the University of Utah's College of Nursing Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program by 4 students per year, as well as expanding the telehealth consultation program and services at the South Main Street Clinic. **\$610,281 ongoing funds** and **\$109,000 one-time funds**.

Participating Partners:
University of Utah
Utah State University

USA AV+ IMMEDIATE SOLUTION

To incentivize current students and address the workforce crisis immediately, the USA AV+ Counsel proposes that all of Utah's graduating master's level degree or higher students who commit to work in Utah for three years at a public facility or program would receive a \$10,000 tuition loan repayment for qualifying loans. Degree/programs would include: APRN, MSW, MFT, CMHC, and Psychology - all requiring licensure by the State of Utah to practice. This would be available to over 300 graduating students in 2020. This proposal is estimated at **\$3,420,000**.

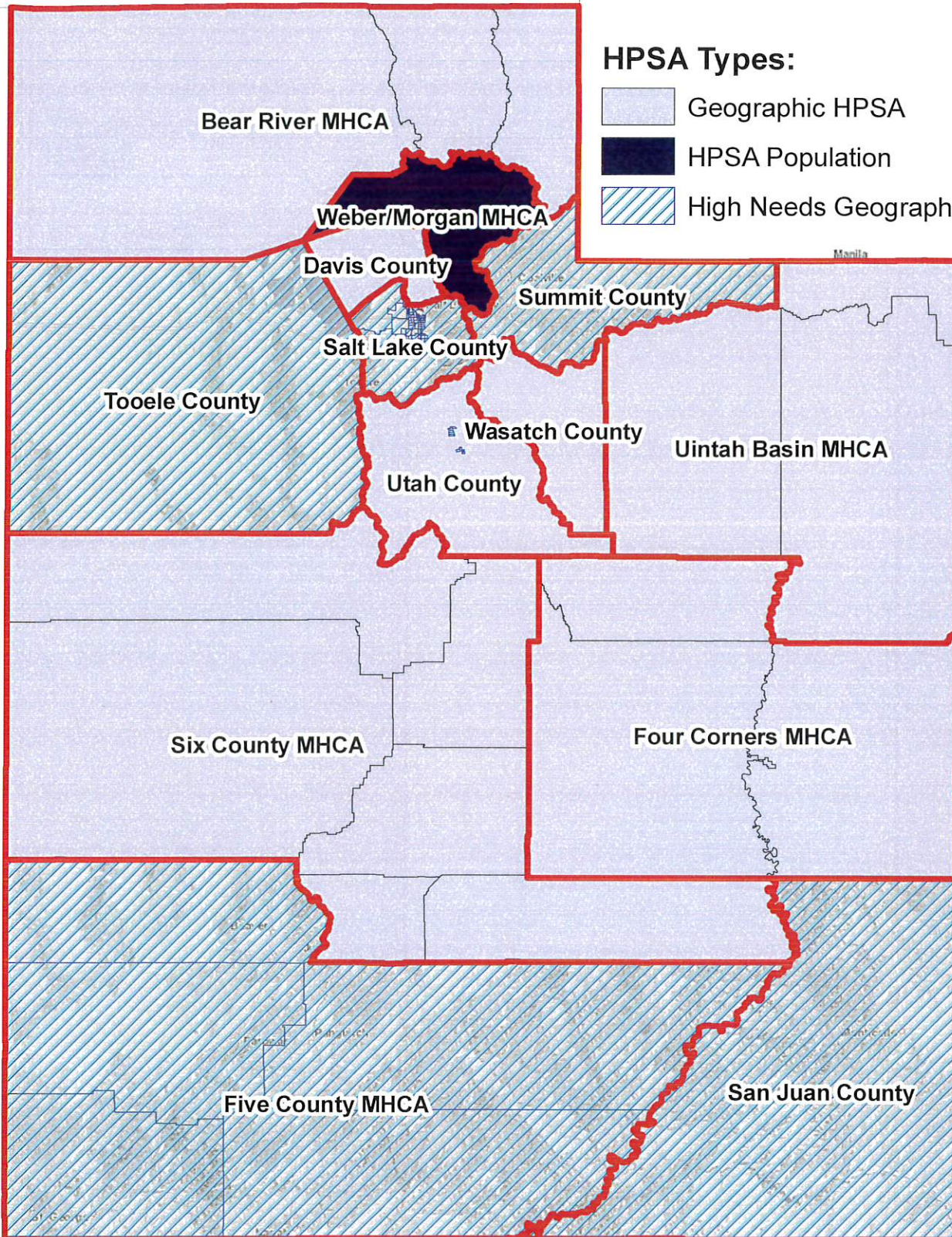
Participating Partners:
Any 2020 qualifying graduate from all Utah universities

What This Appropriation Will Accomplish

This appropriation will produce an additional 140 MSW students and 4 additional psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner students over the coming 2-3 years. The loan repayment program will help Utah retain over 300 students immediately to work within the public system.

Please Support this Appropriation Request for student development and loan repayment program.

Utah's Mental Health Health Professional Shortage Areas



For more information about Utah's HPSA Designations,
please call (801) 273-6621
Office of Primary Care and Rural Health

