

# Children's Residential Mental Health – Deficiency Funding (HF679/SF1131)

Updated Feb 11, 2019

As leaders in the field of children's services and children's mental health, AspireMN members and supporters have unique insight into the importance of the issue of funding children's residential mental health services. At this early stage in the session, AspireMN members are well positioned to create awareness and urgency for all legislators to encourage expedient action on this issue.

Below are talking points to equip you and your supporters to engage legislators – via phone, email or in-person.

To find the contact information for your State Senator and Representative please go to [www.leg.mn](http://www.leg.mn) and insert your address in the "Who Represents Me" tool at the bottom of the page.

## Talking Points

- Minnesota has an urgent need – to assure funding for Children's Residential Mental Health services for May and June of 2019.
- There has been agreement within the legislature that the Children's Residential Mental Health funding gap for May-June 2019 is a priority for funding.
- Unfortunately, the final two months of this biennium were left unfunded with the Special Session budget agreement of 2017, and, though the omnibus budget of 2018 included this priority, that bill was vetoed, leaving May-June, 2019 unfunded.
- The issue is timing. Children and youth needing this level of care, their families, counties responsible to place them for treatment, and service providers all need reassurance that the state will keep its commitment and provide the needed state funding to assure services can be delivered yet this spring.
- Passing the needed \$470,000 in funding early in the session sends a signal that serving kids in need of intensive mental health treatment is a priority.
- Please share these urgent hopes and concerns with your legislative caucus leaders and ask them to pass this funding for kids, as soon as possible.

DRAFT EMAIL (feel free to cut and paste the below into the body of your email)

*Dear Legislator,*

*Thank you for your support for meeting children's mental health needs.*

*I write today as your constituent and a professional in this field to ask that you help draw attention to the urgent need to fund the deficiency in this biennium for Children's Residential Mental Health services by passing HF679/SF1131. The current deficiency is \$470,000 for the months of May-June, 2019.*

*Funding for this priority was passed in 2018 and did not become law due to the final veto of the omnibus budget bill. There is agreement within the legislature that the Children's Residential Mental Health funding gap for May-June 2019 is a priority for funding.*

*The issue is timing. Children and youth needing this level of care, their families, counties responsible to place them for treatment, and service providers all need reassurance that the state will keep its commitment and provide the needed funds to assure services can be delivered this spring.*

*Passing this vital \$470,000 in funding early in the session sends a signal that serving kids in need of intensive mental health treatment is a priority.*

*Please share these urgent hopes and concerns with your legislative caucus leaders and ask them to pass this funding for kids, as soon as possible.*

*Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.*

*Sincerely,*