



CATHEDRAL HOME  
EST. 1910

# 2022 advocacy guide

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# so that every child and family has the resources to *thrive*

health | access | equity | compassion

Fighting for kids' well-being is more necessary now than ever. During a nationwide state of emergency in youth mental health, Wyoming families face difficulties due to proximity of care, financial constraints, and long waiting periods from providers whose caseloads are well-past capacity.

**This crisis needs urgent attention, awareness, and advocacy.**

As we consider the needs of youth & families in our region, Cathedral Home remains committed to policies that address immediate crises, and long-term, systemic solutions for the future.

An integral piece to expansion of services advocacy and policy change -- it's up to all of us to act and ensure that kids and families have what they need to thrive.



# YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

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At the end of 2021, the American Academy of Pediatrics declared a nationwide state of emergency for youth mental health. Of the youth in Wyoming who have diagnosable mental health conditions, only 33% of those receive professional care.

Neither proximity nor financial resources should stand between children and the care they need.

Join us in ensuring that hurdles are eliminated through programs like telehealth, expanded community-based care, increased availability of Medicaid supports, provider rates commensurate with the services they provide, and attracting talented individuals to join the caregiving + healthcare field.

Neither proximity nor financial resources should stand between children and the *care* they need.

# IT'S TIME TO PRIORITIZE WYOMING YOUTH

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We join providers and advocates nationwide in sounding the alarm for kids.

We urge immediate action to address funding solutions that address the crisis in youth mental health.

Funds will ensure the expansion of the care continuum and accelerate a broader range of available mental health services to youth and families in Wyoming. From community prevention to crisis services, residential care, and outpatient therapies, we'll strengthen and transform our health system by partnering with youth & families through compassionate, accessible care.



# FUNDING PRIORITIES

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## 01 – health and human services workforce

Increased provider rates through the Wyoming Department of Family Services and Wyoming Department of Health will strengthen the workforce that supports youth and families statewide. Through wage increases, training, loan forgiveness, and an expansion of the care opportunities available, we'll support the basic needs of Wyoming kids and families.



## 02 – youth programs and services

Wyoming has the opportunity to significantly impact mental health through use of ARPA funds. Children and youth make up 30% of Wyoming's population and 1/3 of available funds should be utilized to build a system of care that prioritizes their wellness.



## 03 – telehealth and outpatient care

Let's invest in expanding the availability of telehealth (counseling, coaching, mentoring, clinical therapy, and more) to strengthen our Wyoming network of providers, ensure provider rates are in place, and improve provision of care to youth living in rural areas.

We call on lawmakers to  
*invest* in youth & families.

# LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS



We are dedicated to enriching the lives of children and adolescents through advocacy + action.

We promote health in all forms and work tirelessly to ensure that youth & families have everything they need to thrive.

ISSUE	OPPORTUNITY + OUTCOME
<b>Medicaid Expansion</b>	25,000 additional Wyoming kids and families eligible to receive healthcare services like primary and specialty medical care, counseling, and crisis services
<b>Care Provider Increases</b>	Support an increased appropriation to the DFS budget for service providers that ensures access to care, emergency shelter, and treatment for 5,000 youth statewide
<b>Human Services ARPA allocation</b>	Wyoming will receive \$1.68 billion dollars from the American Rescue Plan. Let's call on lawmakers to infuse that money into services that help the people of our state.

# ADVOCACY + ACTION

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## SHARE THIS GUIDE

**we're stronger together**

request print or digital copies from our Development team to spread the word



## CALL YOUR LEGISLATORS

**speak up for youth**

contact decision-makers and urge them to prioritize kids and families



## JOIN OUR ADVOCATES GROUP

**help with action items**

scan the code below with your smartphone for updates

