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MTF Bulletin

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Behavioral Health Workforce Development

The Changing Landscape: Impacts of Federal Action on Massachusetts

In 2024, MTF expanded on its analysis of workforce programs in Massachusetts with a closer look at the state’s [behavioral health workforce](#). The report examined the rising need for behavioral health services, workforce trends, and the factors that limit the state’s ability to grow the workforce. The report provided an overview of notable state and federal workforce investments and highlighted examples of programs launched by organizations in the field and how other states address the sector’s labor needs. The report concluded with recommendations for policymakers that focused on improving the state’s ability to grow and retain the workforce by removing employment barriers, expanding the talent pipeline, and scaling successful existing programs.

Last year, MTF began a series of reports entitled “A Changing Landscape: The Impacts of Federal Action on Massachusetts”, which assess how changing federal actions affect critical policy areas in Massachusetts. This Chartbook, “The Changing Landscape: The Behavioral Health Workforce” examines how federal policies are affecting the behavioral health workforce issues MTF identified two years ago.

The Chartbook includes:

- Updated data on behavioral health workforce trends and the talent pipeline;
- Federal funding and policy changes included in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act and the Federal Fiscal Year 2026 budget that impact notable workforce programs; and
- New federal funding opportunities.

The chartbook concludes by revisiting the recommendations in the 2024 report and how Massachusetts policymakers could continue to support the workforce at a time when even more residents are seeking behavioral health services and the future of federal funding is uncertain.