

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a mental illness?

A mental illness is a disease causing mild to severe disturbances in thought and/or behavior resulting in an inability to cope with life's demands and routines.

What is a serious mental illness?

A serious mental illness includes both diagnosable mental health disorders and functional impairments significantly interfering with daily living.

What is a serious emotional disturbance?

A serious emotional disturbance is diagnosed in individuals under 18 who are experiencing mental health disorders and functional impairments significantly interfering with functioning in the community, school and family.

What is an assessment?

An assessment includes an interview with a trained clinician to review a person's mental health and its impact on daily life.

How are services determined?

A trained clinician recommends treatment services based on an assessment with the individual.

How are services funded?

A variety of funding options are available for an individual who is assessed as needing treatment services. Funding options include the following:

- Insurance
- Private pay
- Other 3rd party payers
- Combination of state and federal funding
- Medicaid

Is there a program to help pay for medications?

The Indigent Medication Program provides temporary funding for medications to treat behavioral health disorders for individuals whose income is at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level. For additional questions regarding the Indigent Medication Program, email dssbhindmed@state.sd.us or call 605.773.3123.

Are telehealth services available?

Yes, outpatient services are able to be delivered via telehealth.

Contact Us

For questions or more information, please contact the Division of Behavioral Health online at dss.sd.gov/behavioralhealth/, by phone at 1.855.878.6057 or by email at DSSBH@state.sd.us.

To locate treatment services in your area, scan below



The Department of Social Services does not exclude, deny benefits to, or otherwise discriminate against any person on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs, activities, or services. For more information about this policy or to file a Discrimination Complaint you may contact: Discrimination Coordinator, Director of DSS Division of Legal Services, 700 Governor's Drive, Pierre, SD 57501, 605.773.3305.

Español (Spanish) - ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1.800.305.9673 (TTY: 711).

Deutsch (German) - ACHTUNG: Wenn Sie Deutsch sprechen, stehen Ihnen kostenlos sprachliche Hilfsdienstleistungen zur Verfügung. Rufnummer: 1.800.305.9673 (TTY: 711).

Printed on recycled paper | October 2022
Alphagraphics | 3,000 copies | \$0.13 per copy
BH02

Mental Health Treatment Services in South Dakota



How do I find help?

1 Contact a local mental health provider

2 A trained clinician completes an assessment

3 The individual is referred to recommended services

Resources for Local Treatment Providers

SAMHSA Treatment Locator - findtreatment.samhsa.gov

DSS - dss.sd.gov/behavioralhealth/agencycounty.aspx

Mental Health Services

Community mental health centers in South Dakota provide quality services to both adults and youth. Services provided may include screenings and assessments, case management, individual therapy, group therapy, crisis intervention, psychiatric evaluation, and medication management. Financial assistance for services is available.

Outpatient Services

Outpatient mental health counseling services are provided to individuals of all ages.

Children, Youth and Family (CYF) Services

CYF services are specialized outpatient services provided to youth with serious emotional disturbance

(SED). Family counseling may include a strength-based model for building skills to improve family relationships, reduce behavioral issues, and improve school performance.

Comprehensive Assistance with Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Services

CARE services are specialized outpatient services provided to adults with serious mental illness (SMI).

Individualized and Mobile Program of Assertive Community Treatment (IMPACT)

IMPACT provides intensive services to adults whose serious mental illness (SMI) significantly impacts their lives.

