

April 10, 2025

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C., 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

I am writing to express serious concern regarding the sudden termination of the Block Grants for Community Mental Health Services (CMHS BG) (93.958) American Rescue Plan Act Supplement administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). This abrupt decision to cut critical, already-allocated funding is alarming and poses a direct threat to the mental health and well-being of Nevadans. I request further information on how the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) plans to address the impacts of these cuts and continue supporting the vital programs these grants have made possible.

On March 24 and 25, 2025, the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services was notified that its supplemental mental health block grant (MHBG) funding under the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021* was terminated, effective immediately. This funding, approved by Congress, has been instrumental in strengthening Nevada's mental health infrastructure across our urban cities, rural communities, and tribal lands. The termination notice stated that the grants were no longer necessary due to the official end of the pandemic. However, the reach of this funding goes far beyond pandemic recovery. These dollars are helping bolster Nevada's community behavioral health workforce and expand access to mental health services across the state.

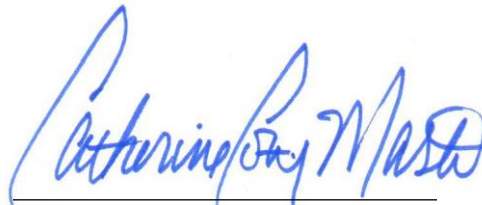
Nearly 474,000 Nevadans experience mental health conditions, yet the state continues to rank among the worst in the nation for access to care. Key barriers include workforce shortages, limited insurance coverage, and most critically, a lack of sustainable funding to develop and distribute mental health resources statewide. Federal mental health dollars serve as a lifeline, helping state and local agencies deliver essential services, particularly in rural and underserved areas. These services include crisis support hotlines, community-based initiatives, peer support services, and workforce training to support individuals in crisis and ensure continuity of care. Without federal support, these programs face severe disruption. State agencies and nonprofit partners will be left without the resources needed to maintain critical mental health programs, jeopardizing essential access to those who rely on them most. Communities across Nevada and the nation deserve reliable, accessible mental health care at every level of need. HHS' abrupt decision to end this federal mental health funding undermines that goal.

Given these concerns, I respectfully request that HHS respond to the following questions regarding the March 24, 2025 termination of Nevada's Block Grants for Community Mental Health Services (CMHS BG) (93.958) American Rescue Plan Act Supplement by April 18, 2025:

1. What was the rationale for terminating the mental health funding before its scheduled expiration in September 2025?
2. Did HHS conduct any analyses of the immediate and long-term effects of terminating this funding early? If so, please share the findings.
3. What steps will HHS take to help sustain programs in Nevada that were previously supported by subawards from the now-terminated funding?
4. How will HHS ensure that individuals receiving services through programs previously supported by the now-terminated funding do not face gaps or delays in care?
5. What alternative federal funding sources to support mental health services are available to states affected by this termination? Will HHS proactively notify states about these options?

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



Catherine Cortez-Masto
United States Senator