



February 19, 2025

House Health & Government Operations Committee

**House Bill 743 - Public Health - Health Care Quality Fund for Community-Based Behavioral Health Programs – Establishment**

POSITION: FAVORABLE

We are writing to support House Bill 743 - Public Health - Health Care Quality Fund for Community-Based Behavioral Health Programs – Establishment. As managing partners of Elevate Recovery Centers, an outpatient behavioral health provider located in Maryland, we see firsthand the need for additional training and grant opportunities to improve the overall quality of care for community-based behavioral health programs.

HB743 establishes the Health Care Quality Fund for Community-Based Behavioral Health Programs, a dedicated funding source designed to improve the quality of behavioral health care through training, grant awards, and demonstration projects.

The fund will provide financial support for programs that directly impact individuals in recovery, including evidence-based treatment, peer support, and wraparound services that are vital for sustained success. There are currently few funding opportunities for community-based behavioral health programs. Having a fund available specifically for these programs will provide access to training and grants not currently available through other channels.

Additionally, by allocating funds to training initiatives, HB743 will empower providers with the latest best practices in behavioral health, ensuring high standards of care across all facilities. An example is the recent publication of the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of ASAM Criteria. The ASAM Criteria is the most widely used and comprehensive set of standards for placement, continued service, and transfer of patients with addiction and co-occurring conditions. Although it was published last year and it is critical to the field, there are few accessible and affordable training options for behavioral health care providers.

We recognize that investment in community-based behavioral health programs strengthens the entire continuum of care, allowing individuals in recovery to receive comprehensive and coordinated support.

Expanding and improving behavioral health services benefit not just those in recovery but also their families, employers, and local communities. A well-funded recovery infrastructure reduces homelessness, criminal justice involvement, and hospitalizations, leading to cost savings and improved public health outcomes for the state.



For these reasons, we strongly urge the General Assembly to pass HB743. The establishment of the Health Care Quality Fund for Community-Based Behavioral Health Programs is a significant step forward in ensuring that Maryland remains a leader in providing accessible, high quality recovery support services.

We thank you for your time and consideration and look forward to collaborating on initiatives that advance the health and well-being of individuals in recovery across the state.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nicholas Acosta".

Nicholas Acosta  
Managing Partner  
Elevate Recovery Centers

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Basile Ferro".

Basile Ferro  
Managing Partner  
Elevate Recovery Centers