



**Senate Budget & Tax Committee
March 4, 2026**

**Senate Bill 284
Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2026
Support with Amendments**

NCADD-Maryland strongly opposes the provision in the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2026 that reduces the annual appropriation to the Coordinated Community Supports Partnership fund to \$80 million (Education §7-447.1, page 9).

The Maryland Consortium for Coordinated Community Supports (CCCS), a key component of the Blueprint legislation, was created and funded to expand access to preventive, early- and acute-intervention behavioral health and wraparound services to students and their families. Services are provided in schools and through community providers. The services address and work to remediate barriers to learning.

Earlier this year, the CCCS released a report reviewing the progress on their goals since grants were first awarded in FY 2024. The report reflected the following:

Goal 1: Expanded access to high-quality behavioral health and related services for students and families. Outcomes:

- \$200 million was granted in behavioral health programs
- 136,945 students were served in year one; 86% of Maryland schools were served;
- 167,000 students were served in year two
- 705 behavioral health workforce members were hired

Goal 2: Improve student wellbeing and readiness to learn. Outcomes:

- 80% of students who received prevention services demonstrated a desired behavioral outcome
- 64% of students who received targeted or intensive services demonstrated improvement

Goal 3: Foster positive classroom environments. Outcomes:

- 5,946 school staff trained in behavioral health practices to improve student outcomes
- 1,620 behavioral health providers trained in evidence-based programs

(over)

Goal 4: Promote sustainability through revenues from Medicaid, commercial insurance, hospital community benefit, and other funding sources. Outcomes:

- Medicaid consultant is assisting grantees with billing practices and advice on maximizing Medicaid benefits
- 22 grantees have leveraged other funding sources for an additional \$5 million to support their work

Maryland must continue its efforts to support young people in accessing behavioral health services. This budget cut proposed in the BRFA is short-sighted. When young people access these kinds of services, they do better in school, they do better within their families and communities, and we all benefit. NCADD-Maryland strongly urges the General Assembly to reject this permanent reduction in funding to behavioral health services for our youth.