

ADULT PSYCHIATRIC ACCESS LINE (APAL)



Support DBHDS Funding Requests

Adult Psychiatric Access Line (APAL)

APAL, a program of **HealthHaven: Recovery** is a statewide consult and care navigation program designed for providers treating adults struggling with substance use disorders. APAL supports providers with access to specialized mental health services and prepares primary care and emergency clinicians for the behavioral health needs of their patients through trainings and education.



All 133 Virginia localities are federally-designated Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas. Virginia Health Care Foundation, 2024

The Problem: Too Few Providers

Despite sizable investments at the state and federal level, Virginia’s capacity is constrained across the Commonwealth’s continuum of behavioral health care. There are not enough specialized healthcare providers to meet patient demand for **behavioral and mental health services**. Virginia faces significant challenges in developing specialized solutions to reduce adverse health outcomes related to substance use disorders.

The Solution: APAL

With the support and resources provided by APAL, a program of HealthHaven, healthcare providers, particularly those in primary care and emergency settings, will have the tools and knowledge to help effectively diagnose, prescribe, and assist patients in navigating substance use recovery care. APAL’s care model is based on three components: **Provider education program** on screening, diagnosis, management, and treatment of SUDs; access to **telephonic consultations** via regional hubs comprised of addiction medicine specialists and psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and/or prescribing providers; and **care navigation assistance** to help identify additional regional mental health services and resources.

