



Our Mission

To promote the mental health and well-being of all Arizonans through education, advocacy, and the shaping of public policy.

Serving Arizona since 1954, Mental Health America of Arizona (MHA AZ), formerly the Mental Health Association, is the state's oldest organization dedicated to mental health and wellness.

We are a voice for the people of Arizona who are and could be impacted by mental illness.

Our statewide network connects us with those who can speak to the legislature about how mental illness has impacted their lives and what is needed for continued wellness.

ADVOCACY

We engage and align our large network to increase access to care, connect our community to resources and influence policy makers.

EDUCATION

We educate our community on many facets of mental health, while tailoring our training to the needs of a specific community. We recently launched Mental Health at Work, a training for businesses looking to meet the needs of their employees.

COLLABORATION

We are true collaborators. We pride ourselves in developing, empowering, informing and activating a network of people who want to have a positive impact on our health care systems.

MHA AZ IMPACT IN 2018

- Hosted statewide Seeds Conference: Awareness, Advocacy, Achievement attended by over 210 people.
- Screened over 11,000 individuals for mental illness through our free, confidential, online Screening Tool.
- Reached over 50,600 individuals who accessed information through our website, via phone or email.
- Provided training and education to over 1,350 individuals about mental health.
- Held 3 Association of Associations events to bring together the mental health community.

SUICIDE PREVENTION AND MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING IN SCHOOLS

Schools are a key setting for suicide prevention. Teachers, mental health providers, and all other school personnel who interact with students can play an important role in keeping them safe. MHA AZ is advocating for teachers, counselors and other school staff who work with children in grades 6-12 receive evidence-based training in suicide prevention, warning signs and intervention and referral techniques.

2-1-1 EXPANSION

2-1-1 information line transforms lives by linking individuals and families to vital community resources throughout Arizona, yet it currently receives zero dollars in state funding. We are asking for state appropriated funding for 2-1-1 which will provide a 24/7 safety net for Arizonans, reducing the need for high cost ER, housing and crisis services across the state.

RESTORATION OF THE STATE HOUSING TRUST FUND

The Arizona Housing Trust Fund was enacted in 1988, and created a funding source to assist in meeting the housing needs of low-income families. This dedicated source of funding included 35% of revenues received from the sale of unclaimed property, which increased to 55% in 1998 with additional resources dedicated to rural Arizona. Due to the 2009 recession, state budgetary cuts forced the State Housing Trust Fund, which should have received almost \$40 million, to be capped at \$2.5 million in 2010; with the balance then being appropriated to the state's general fund. We ask the legislature to lift the \$2.5 million cap on revenue from unclaimed property sales and restore those funds back to the State Housing Trust Fund to support unmet housing needs.

PROTECT KIDSCARE

AHCCCS offers health insurance through KidsCare for eligible children (under age 19) who are not eligible for other AHCCCS health insurance. MHA AZ advocates to protect the key provisions of the Affordable Care Act that effect access to mental health services, which includes measures that prevent an automatic freeze on KidsCare when federal funding dips below 100%. MHA AZ proposes that a supplemental funding source be allocated to prevent this automatic freeze of health insurance for thousands of Arizona's children.

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