



FY24 BUDGET

\$2.5M FOR MIDDLESEX COUNTY RESTORATION CENTER

(EOHHS 4000-0300)

THE PROBLEM

Individuals in mental health or substance use crisis often end up in the criminal legal system or subject to unnecessary hospitalization, resulting in trauma for the individual and increased demand for limited resources, including medical and law enforcement services. Many of these individuals could be effectively served in the community, where they can maintain connections to their natural supports and pursue their responsibilities, such as work, school, and family. We must create alternative physical places and timely, therapeutic services for individuals experiencing behavioral health crisis.

WHAT THIS LINE ITEM ACHIEVES

- The Middlesex County Restoration Center will help support ongoing law enforcement diversionary efforts across New England's most populous county while also expanding the community capacity for mental health and substance use treatment.
- The Center will also serve as a model for future centers across the state. Restoration centers can expand the Commonwealth's urgent care capacity for people with behavioral health conditions, a goal of EOHHS's Roadmap for Behavioral Health Reform.
- The Middlesex County Restoration Center Commission is releasing a revised Request for Proposals to identify a community-based provider to operate the new center, most likely in Lowell or Framingham, in 2023.
- MAMH seeks \$2.5M for the work of the Commission and the operation of the new center. Both the FY23 budget and H1 funded the Restoration Center at \$1M.

WHY THIS MATTERS

These services would help support ongoing law enforcement diversionary efforts across New England's most populous county, diverting individuals with behavioral health conditions from arrest, emergency department boarding, or unnecessary hospitalization.

For more information: Please contact **Jennifer Honig**,

MAMH Co-Director of Public Policy & Government Relations

jenniferhonig@mamh.org | (339) 440-3573