

Advocates: SAMHSA Redirected Or Withheld Critical Mental Health Funding

Sep 10, 2025, 8:31 PM EDT

Dorothy Mills-Gregg (dmillsgregg@iwpnews.com) | Inside Washington Publishers

(Inside Health Policy)

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration has either withheld or redirected \$950 million in critical behavioral health grants, the Mental Health Liaison Group said in a letter Wednesday (Sept. 10) to SAMHSA's acting leadership.

Specifically, the nearly 50 national behavioral health organizations say the Trump administration has not followed the traditional annual notice of funding opportunity process and they worry SAMHSA will not announce grants by the end of the fiscal year, on Sept. 30.

"Such a move would be unprecedented and introduce more uncertainty into an already fragile behavioral health care system," the letter says.

Without funding these eight behavioral health programs, which run the gamut from suicide prevention to integrating mental health in primary care, advocates say the country could lose the progress it has made. "These programs have been operating successfully on the ground, and there is every expectation that the appropriated monies will be spent down effectively and efficiently as Congress directed," the letter says.

Advocates remind the acting SAMHSA leader that the fiscal 2026 HHS spending bill pending in Congress fully funds each of the eight programs that advocates say are being held up by the administration.

The letter comes as SAMHSA continues to operate without an administrator and after the Trump administration announced its plans to consolidate the administration and others into a new HHS agency called the Administration for a Healthy America.