

KY ABA Providers: Critical Services In Peril

For the past several years, as demand for services has skyrocketed, KY **Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)** providers have been working in the community as *Behavioral Health Service Organizations* and *Multi-Specialty Groups* (BHSOs; BHMSGs). These community-based services—that Kentucky is legally required to provide—are important wellbeing lifelines that help stabilize families and ease the strain on the school system. Now, these services are **at risk of closing** as revenues fail to cover operational costs. Insufficient **Medicaid** rates are at the center of the crisis.

1. ABA Services are High-Use, High-Impact, & High-Demand

Families seek this care because it works for them. ABA-providing organizations have steadily grown, with an ever-increasing wait list of children and families (**9 months** on average for ABA appointments).



9 month waitlists for ABA appointments



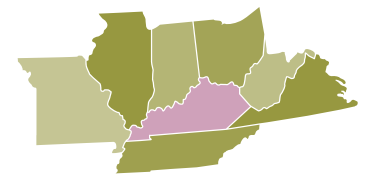
Youth benefit from ABA during an important period of development

2. Vulnerable Populations Access ABA Care Using Medicaid

ABA is a crucial treatment intervention for individuals with Autism (and other diagnoses), but especially for those very young children (ages as young as 3 or 4) with a new diagnosis. Intensive, effective ABA at that early age can alter the entire trajectory of the child's life through school age and into adulthood.

3. Stagnated BHSO/BHMSG ABA Medicaid Rates Are Leading to Lack of Access

Medicaid rates have stagnated in each of the past several years, and KY's rates lag other states. The result is a lack of access to ABA for youth, which has a devastating impact on their early development. Waiting 9 months for care for a 3 year old is a lifetime of waiting and is tragic for that child and their family. KY is legally required to provide access to medically necessary services for Medicaid recipients.



KY's BHSO Medicaid rate is lower than nearby states

4. Our Proposal to Keep Services Intact: Raise Kentucky BHSO Medicaid Rates to closer match those of Kentucky Medicare

Currently KY BHSO Medicaid rates pay between 43-75% of the state's Medicare rates (depending on provider type). We're requesting an investment from the State of Kentucky that would boost the Medicaid rates by ~25% to help close the gap, equating to **\$30.4 million** (plus federal match) in fiscal year 2025.

KY Medicare

100%

~43-75%

KY BHSO Medicaid

Rate Increase Request, equiv. to roughly \$30.4m in FY25

**ABA
ADVOCATES**

ABA Advocates is the state's only membership and policy association for organizations that provide ABA services. For more information please contact Bart Baldwin at bart@netbbc.com or (502) 320-1143