



YOUTH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMUNITY CRISIS CENTERS

The Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections, in collaboration with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare are proud to announce the development of four Youth Behavioral Health Community Crisis Centers (YBHCCCs) in Idaho in 2023.



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE

Youth Behavioral Health Community Crisis Centers (YBHCCCs) – A Safe Place to Be

What Are They?

Youth Behavioral Health Community Crisis Centers (YBHCCCs) are a place for youth to go if they are experiencing a behavioral health crisis, (suicidal thoughts, actively self-harming, etc.), to get help. Youth can stay for up to twenty-three (23) hours and fifty-nine (59) minutes (most episodes of care are resolved in less time) and will receive a place to rest, food, and services from mental health professionals to deescalate the crisis, develop a plan of care and provide referrals to resources in the community.

“Children, youth, and young adults across the nation are experiencing a rising wave of emotional and behavioral health needs. All too often, these young people are subjected to unnecessary hospitalizations, long stays in inpatient facilities, justice system involvement, disproportionate school discipline, and out-of-home placements” (SAMHSA, 2022).

What Do They Do?

YBHCCCs, once established will provide the following services to stabilize the youth and de-escalate the crisis:

- Operating 24/7/365 in their communities to provide round-the-clock coverage
- Medical screening
- Rapid stabilization
- Assessment
- Crisis intervention services
- Community-based referrals

This model is based on the success of the adult crisis centers established throughout the state by the IDHW. Youth Behavioral Health Community Crisis Centers will fill a critical gap in the crisis continuum of care for Idaho’s youth.

The goal of YBHCCCs is to help youth experiencing a behavioral health crisis return home and transition them to outpatient supports in the community as quickly as possible, reduce strain on families and prevent longer-term out-of-home placements.

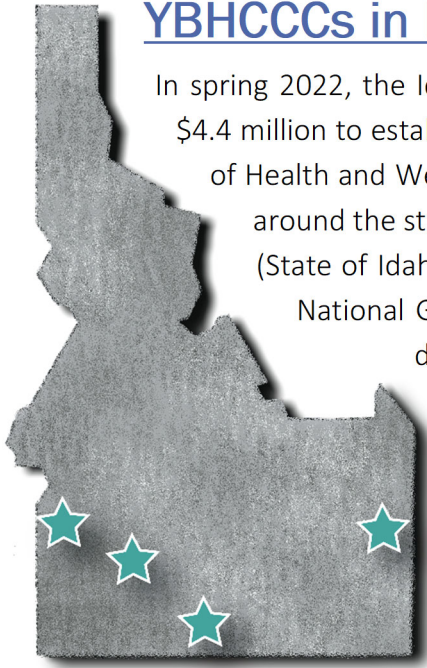
“We’ve had the adult crisis centers for some time and we recognize the impact they have on the community. We’ve needed this resource for youth and we’re incredibly excited to see this service available throughout the state...”

**– Ross Edmunds, IDHW – Division of Behavioral Health,
Administrator**

“Many young people who are experiencing a behavioral health crisis eventually end up hospitalized or incarcerated, and those are expensive and sometimes ineffective options. By making it easier and faster for youth to get help, these centers will create opportunities for better outcomes at far less cost to taxpayers.”

– Monty Prow, IDJC Director

YBHCCCs in Idaho



In spring 2022, the Idaho Legislature appropriated the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections \$4.4 million to establish Youth Crisis Centers in Idaho in collaboration with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW). In addition to visiting and interviewing local adult crisis centers around the state, traveling to a youth crisis center in Salt Lake City Utah and leveraging local (State of Idaho Behavioral Best-Practice Standards) and national best-practices (SAMHSA’s National Guidelines for Child and Youth Behavioral Health Crisis Care) IDJC and IDHW developed a competitive grant application for youth Crisis Centers in Idaho and on December 1, 2022, offered four grant awards in Districts 3, 4, 5, and 7.

These projects will officially transition to IDHW at the close of the project period (6.30.2023) as the State’s behavioral health authority.

How are Assessment Centers Different than Crisis Centers?

Assessment Centers provide screening, assessment and connections to community based-resources for youth in their community. Youth presenting to Assessment Centers may be dealing with family conflict, insufficient housing or food insecurity, behavioral health issues, and more. As such Assessment Centers utilize validated screening to determine immediate need and identify need for further assessment. Once the assessment is complete, centers partners with youth and family to connect to community-based resources to address the needs identified. Assessment Centers are not operational 24/7/365 though they often have expanded business hours to ensure sufficient service coverage for their community population.

Crisis Centers are a 24/7/365 placement option for youth who are actively experiencing a behavioral health crisis such as self-harming, suicidality, etc. Each episode of care is no more than 23 hours and fifty-nine minutes. Youth presenting to crisis centers will work with behavioral health professionals to de-escalate the current crisis, receive a medical screening, screening and assessment and linkages to community providers for ongoing treatment needs.