



Mental Health Reform

# INVEST IN HOPE

MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET 2027

We call on the Government to Invest in Hope

# 7% TOTAL HEALTH BUDGET

- Allows for a phased and credible increase in mental-health spending to put Ireland on track to meet the Sláintecare target of 10% by 2030.
- Equates to approximately €320 million in additional total health spending, including €250 million in current expenditure, based on last year's budget (not accounting for health budget overruns, inflation or future health budget increases).

## Why Investment is needed?

**51,000/year**

People in mental health crisis present to ED.

**SUICIDE**

The leading cause of death of young Traveller men.

**>40%**

Experience mental health difficulties.

**44%**

Report difficulties accessing treatment for mental health. (25% EU average)

**24/43**

OECD rank for adolescent mental health.

# Put Mental Health First

# 7% TOTAL HEALTH BUDGET

## Support within Reach

- Ensure everyone can access the right support in the right place at the right time.

## Strengthen the System

- Invest in the structural enablers needed to build a sustainable mental health system.

## Deliver on Reform

- Invest in the implementation of the Mental Health Act 2026 and national mental health policies.

## Key Recommendations

- 1 Allocate at least **7%** of the health budget to **mental health** putting mental health funding on a credible pathway to **10%** of the health budget by **2030**, as committed to in **Sláintecare**.
- 2 Introduce **multi-annual budgeting** for mental health, including **ringfenced**, multi-annual funding for VCS mental health services, supporting **long-term planning**, **workforce stability** and **service sustainability**.
- 3 Address **social determinants** of mental health through **cross-government** action, investing in housing, poverty reduction, education, employment, disability, justice and social inclusion policies.
- 4 Remove **barriers to mental health services** through targeted investment, improving **geographic equity**, ensuring **accessible** and **culturally responsive** services for priority groups, and implementing a '**no-wrong-door**' approach to integrated care.
- 5 Invest in **early intervention** and **community-based** psychosocial and **recovery supports**, including publicly funded talk therapies, peer support and peer-led services, Recovery Colleges and multidisciplinary CMHTs.
- 6 Prioritise **child and youth mental health services**, implement recommendations of the **CYP's Mental Health Project Roadmap** and fully resource the **HSE Child and Youth Mental Health Office and Action Plan 2024–27**.
- 7 Strengthen **crisis care pathways** by upgrading all EDs to meet minimum standards for mental health presentations, develop and expand 24/7 **community-based crisis alternatives** and **crisis resolution services**.
- 8 Implement a **national workforce recruitment and retention strategy** across statutory and voluntary and community mental health services requiring each Health Region to assess their workforce and clinical gaps to inform recruitment, investment and service planning, including **reducing reliance on agency staffing** and **strengthening multidisciplinary team capacity**.
- 9 Resource the implementation of the **Mental Health Act 2026** and **national mental health policies**, ensuring involvement of **people with lived and living experience** in governance, implementation, and evaluation.
- 10 Ensure regionalisation is supported by **ringfenced** mental health budgets, **transparent reporting** and a robust **national data system** guaranteeing **equity across regions** and enable consistent, disaggregated and **outcomes-focused** planning and accountability.
- 11 Advance the statutory right to **independent advocacy**, provide dedicated **funding to expand independent advocacy services** and establish an **independent complaints mechanism** for mental health services.
- 12 Publish and implement the **10-year Capital Plan for Mental Health** and prioritise investment to address longstanding deficits in mental health **premises** and **infrastructure**, ensuring services are delivered in **safe, modern** and **appropriate** environments.

#INVESTINHOPE

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