
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 2247 (Elhawary) - Trauma Healing and Resilience Investment for Victimized and Exposed Youth Act

Version: May 18, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: HEALTH 10 - 0, JUD. 12 - 1

Mandate: No

Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: AB 2247 would establish the Trauma Healing and Resilience Investment for Victimized and Exposed Youth Act or the T.H.R.I.V.E. pilot grant program.

Fiscal Impact:

- The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) estimates a minimum General Fund appropriation cost of \$85,680,000 during the period of the pilot program, as follows:
 - Staffing costs of \$900,000 in 2027-28 and \$846,000 annually in 2028-29 through 2031-32 for administration.
 - Based on DHCS' administrative costs described above, DHCS assumes the need for a minimum appropriation of \$18 million in 2027-28 to implement the pilot program (without exceeding the administrative cap of 5 percent) and \$16,920,000 annually in 2028-29 through 2031-32. At this appropriation level, \$17.1 million in 2027-28 and \$16,074,000 annually in 2028-29 through 2031-32 would be available for grant funding.
- Unknown General Fund cost pressures to expand or continue the pilot program beyond the sunset date.

Background:

Health Insurance Coverage. Current law requires every health plan and disability insurance policy that provides hospital, medical, or surgical coverage to provide coverage for medically necessary treatment of mental health and substance use disorders, under the same terms and conditions applied to other medical conditions. Current law defines "medically necessary treatment of mental health or substance use disorder" to include that the service or product is in accordance with generally accepted standards of mental health or substance use disorder care, clinically appropriate in terms of type, frequency, extent, site, and duration.

Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services. The DHCS administers the Medi-Cal program which includes coverage of specialty mental health services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries through county mental health plans. Counties are required to provide or arrange for the provision of outpatient and inpatient mental health services to beneficiaries in their counties who meet medical necessity criteria, consistent with the

beneficiaries' mental health treatment needs and goals, as documented in their client plans. In accordance with federal Medicaid Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment provisions, the intervention criteria for beneficiaries under the age of 21 are less stringent than they are for adults.

Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI). The CYBHI is a statewide effort to support the behavioral health of young people in California and aims to facilitate access to behavioral health services. While various state departments are responsible for programs under the CYBHI, DHCS is responsible for programs that include:

- CYBHI Fee Schedule Program helps public schools, colleges, and school-linked sites get paid for offering mental health and substance use disorder services.
- Virtual Behavioral Health Platforms give California youth and families access to online mental health support.
- CalHOPE offers free, safe, and confidential mental health support to people of all ages in California.

Proposed Law: Specific provisions of the bill would:

- Establish the Trauma Healing and Resilience Investment for Victimized and Exposed Youth Act or the T.H.R.I.V.E. pilot grant program to be administered by the DHCS.
- Require DHCS to award to the Counties of Alameda, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Solano, a grant to establish and administer a program to pay for mental health and counseling services for youth survivors of gun violence who request those services and who reside in those counties.
- Require DHCS to award a first round of grants to each county within nine months of funds being appropriated for this purpose or within nine months of the enactment of this bill, whichever is later; and require DHCS to award grants each fiscal year thereafter for which funds are available, on a timeline determined by the department.
- Require each county to use funds awarded to establish and administer a program to pay for mental health and counseling services for youth survivors of gun violence within the county who request those services.
- Provide that from funds awarded, grantees may provide stipends to youth survivors of gun violence directly, or to their parents or guardians for survivors who are minors, to use to pay for their own mental health and counseling services, may pay providers or peer support specialists directly for mental health and counseling services on behalf of youth survivors, or may provide funds to one or more community-based organizations, to distribute in stipends to youth survivors of gun violence to pay for mental health and counseling services, or to pay providers directly to provide these services.
- Provide that a youth survivor of gun violence who has health insurance, Medi-Cal, or is eligible for another government or private program that may provide mental health

and counseling services or funds for such services remains eligible to receive funds from a grantee to pay for mental health and counseling services from a licensed mental health services provider or peer support specialist of their choosing who is out of network or not fully covered by another program, at a rate that is reasonable for the type of service, licensure, and geographic area in which the youth survivor of gun violence resides and in an amount not to exceed \$7,800 annually.

- Require DHCS to annually issue a public report, to be posted on its internet website, on the impact of the T.H.R.I.V.E. grant program, key conclusions, populations served, and the benefits conferred or realized, using quantitative and qualitative data.
- Create the Trauma Healing and Resilience Investment for Victimized and Exposed Youth Fund and specify that moneys deposited into the fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature, may be expended by the DHCS for purposes of this grant program; and prohibit DHCS from expending more than 5 percent of funds appropriated on its administrative costs.
- State the intent of the Legislature to appropriate funds annually that are sufficient to pay for every youth survivor of gun violence in the Counties of Alameda, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Solano to receive a minimum of one year of mental health and counseling services at an amount of \$7,800 per survivor, per year.
- Sunset the bill's provisions on January 1, 2032.

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