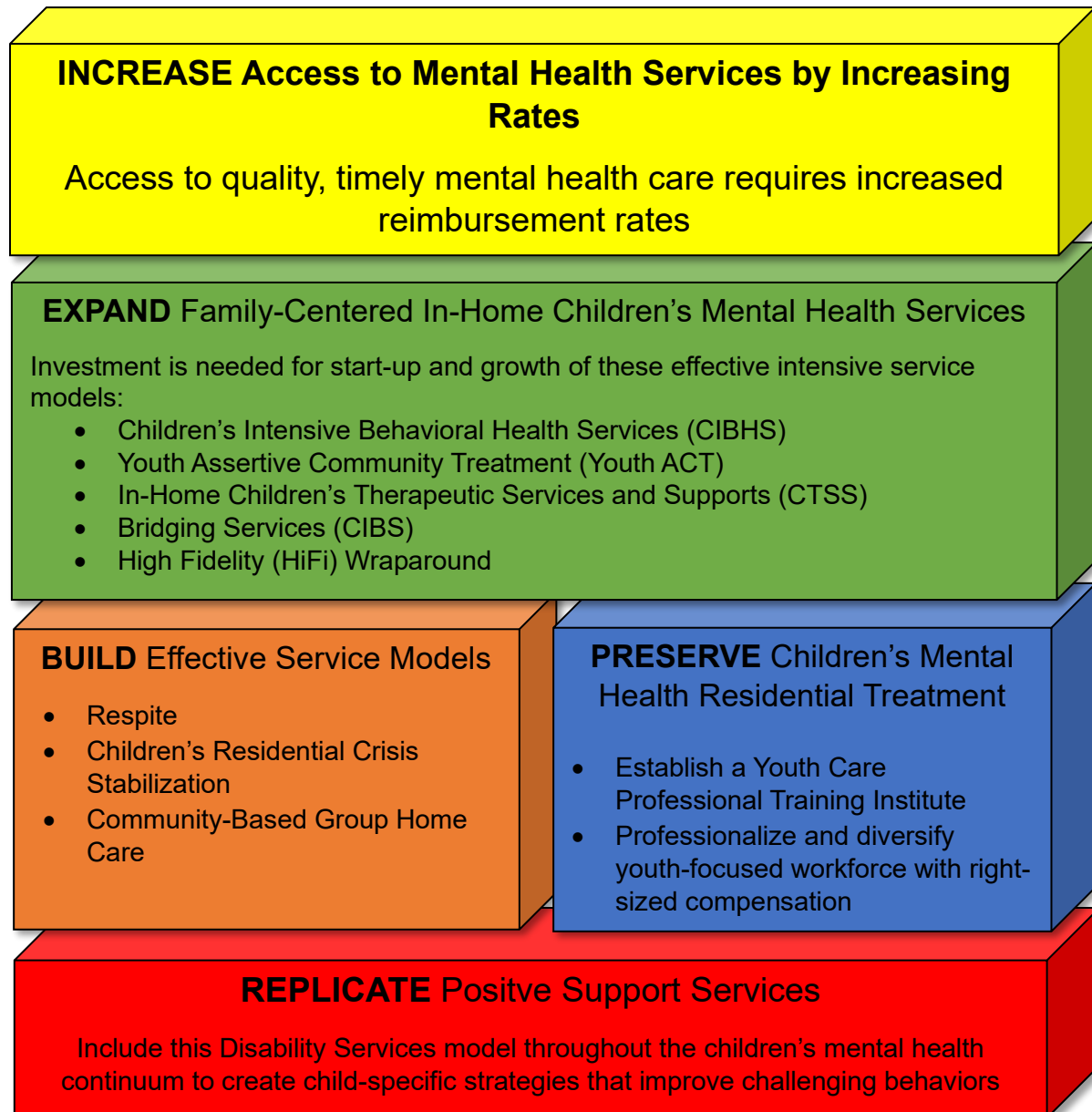


# Building Blocks for Children's Mental Health

Children's mental health needs<sup>1</sup> are going unmet, due to a lack of mental health services. Children are waiting for months to access needed treatment and families are too often forced to rely on hospital emergency departments as their front door to care. This crisis is not new and it's getting worse. It is harming children and families, debilitating our emergency systems and needs immediate attention.

The solution is to build the mental health system children and families need to live their best lives. The following Building Blocks outline the investments and infrastructure required to solve the current crisis and provide treatment to our children.



<sup>1</sup> In this document, "mental health" is inclusive of behavioral health needs for children who may have a variety of presenting diagnoses.

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## Proposal 2024

Strategy – Building Block	Policies Supporting	Estimated Costs
Increase access to mental health care by increasing rates	Update rates structure to reflect rate study projections and recommendations relating to Medicaid inpatient & outpatient mental health services.	SF5084 (Wiklund) Mental Health Rates proposal – fiscal note TBD
Expand Family-Centered In-Home Mental Health Services	Build teams statewide to implement intensive models that support families to care for children at home.  One-time infrastructure investments to hire, train and launch teams statewide.	\$10M in FY25
Build effective models	--Respite <i>Increase current respite grant with enhanced flexibility and Licensing/recruitment/enhanced funding</i>  --Community-Based Group Care  --MA Benefit for Children's Residential Crisis Stabilization	\$4M in FY25 increase with additional flexibilities for distributing to families to the existing grant distributed to counties \$1M in FY25 to recruit, license and compensate new respite family providers  \$2M in FY25  \$204,000 in FY25
Preserve Children's MH Residential Treatment	--Youth Care Professional Training Institute  Professionalize and diversity our youth-focused professionals	\$1.5M in FY25 \$950,000 in FY26  PLANNING for 2025 (not included in bill)
Replicate Positive Support Services	Using this disability services model, to integrate child-specific strategies to address challenging behaviors	PLANNING for 2025 (not included in bill)

### Sustain what works:

- Mobile Transition Grants \$2.5M in FY25
- School-Linked Behavioral Health \$2.5M in FY26 and \$2.5M in FY27

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