

Mental Health Resources in Wards 7 & 8

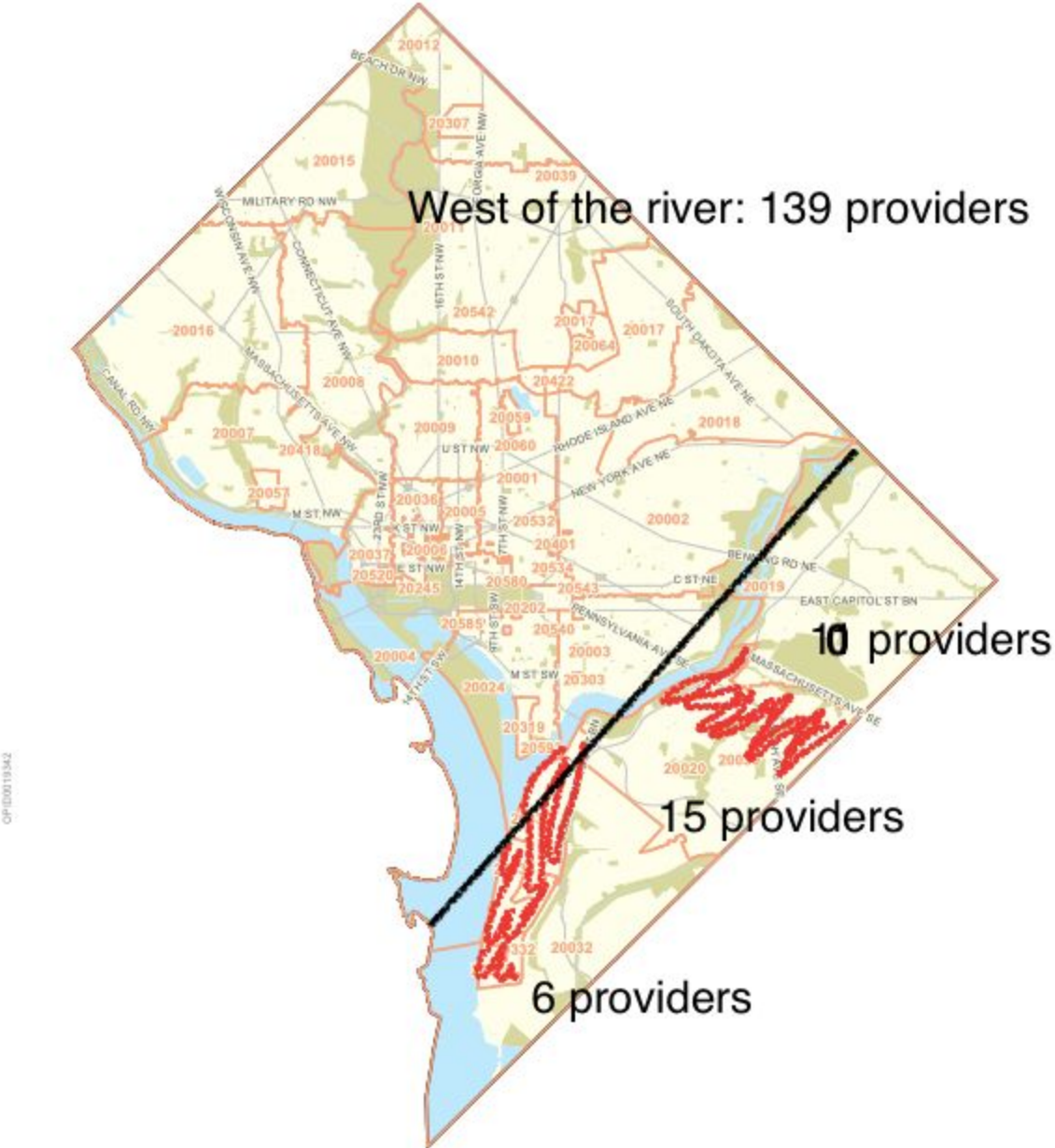
Chairman Mendelson's latest proposal includes nearly \$4M in cuts to behavioral health providers. This cut is more than **DOUBLED** (\$8.7 million) because it means DC loses out on federal Medicaid matching dollars. These cuts will inevitably hit providers and communities East of the River the hardest.



Providers

Mental health care providers are scarce in Wards 7 and 8:

As reported in this [directory](#), the DMV area has 170 Mental Health Care facilities/services -- let's look at their distribution across the city:



This [map](#) shows the zipcodes spread across DC. The zipcodes East of the river are: 20032, **20375, 20332, 20336**, 20020, **20030**, and 20019. **The red zipcodes (shaded red above) have no MH service locations at all.**

Of the 170 providers in the region, **only 31 are located east of the river** (across 20032, 20020, and 20019) with the majority placed in 20020 and 20019.

[Almost a quarter](#) of DC residents live in Wards 7 and 8, but yet only 18% of providers reside there. Of these 31 providers, **only 24 of them are taking new patients.** **Effectively, there are 24 locations (only 14% of all providers) supporting new mental health concerns for a quarter of DC in the midst of a global pandemic.**

Medicaid

School-Based Mental Health funds are matched by federal Medicaid dollars, so reduced funding to SBMH reduces Medicare dollars.

Cuts to Medicaid disproportionately affect Wards 7 and 8:

90% of providers East of the River accept Medicaid (or offer all-free services)

Only **60%** of providers West of the River accept Medicaid.

The facilities in Wards 7 and 8 are already being asked to do more with less by working to support a quarter of DC residents with only 14% of the services accessible to new patients. Cutting ANY funding to Medicaid will place additional strain on an already thin system.

Budget

For every dollar of reduced funding to SBMH, **DC loses more than 2 dollars of funding total when including all sources.** Cutting this funding has a ripple effect in under-resourced communities who are being asked to serve disproportionately large populations with disproportionately little.

Our communities cannot afford additional stress on a Mental Healthcare system running on fumes amidst a global pandemic, especially one serving predominantly Black and brown communities.

Funding SBMH also creates a ripple effect. Maintaining the increase allows [22,647 additional DC students](#) to receive access to Mental Health support from their school -- greatly reducing pressure on these providers while strengthening their funding to better serve their communities.

Fully funding School-Based Mental Health is urgent, critical, and essential.