

# Mental Health Resources in Wards 7 & 8

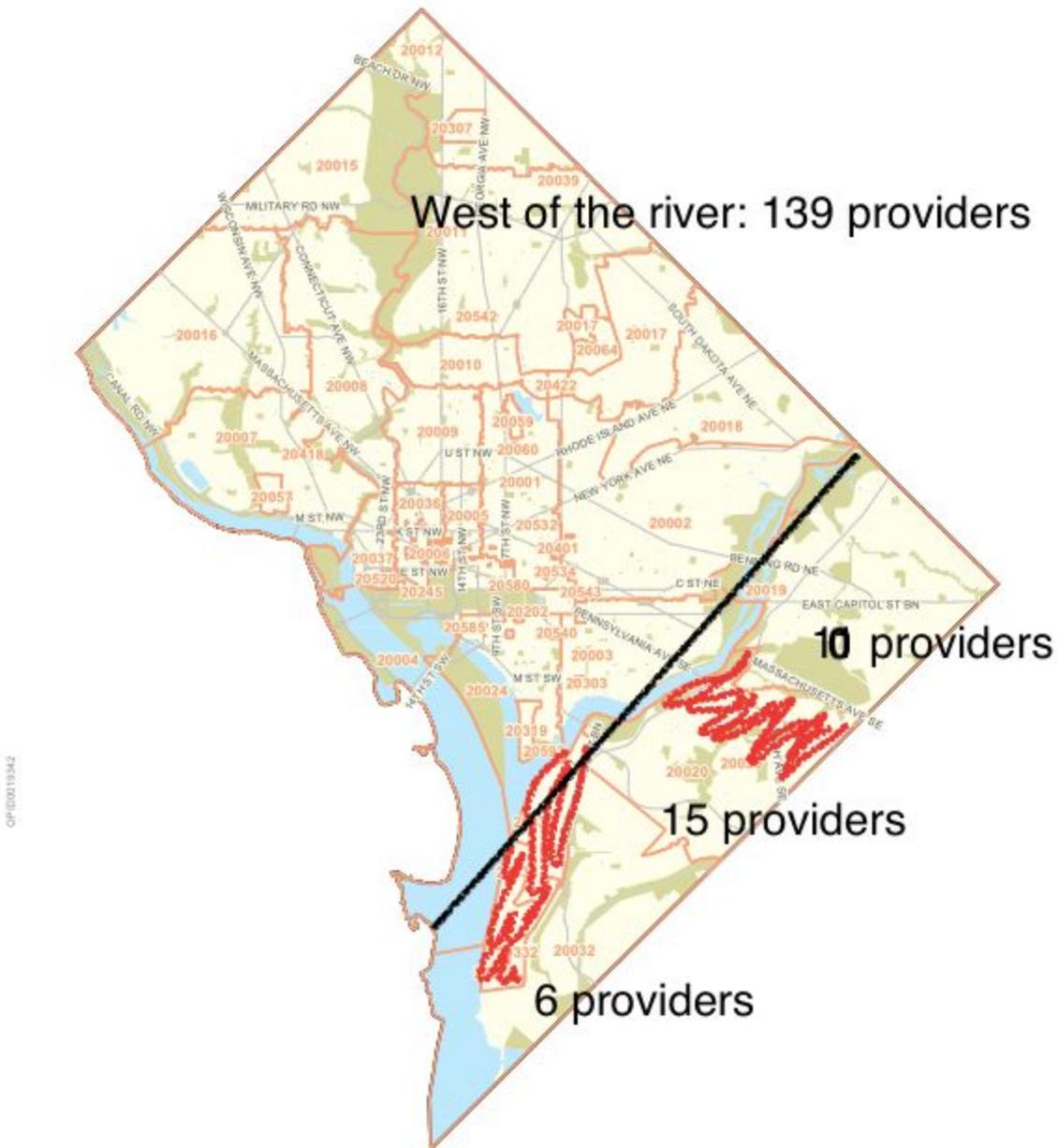
**Chairman Mendelson's latest proposal** includes nearly \$4M in cuts to behavioral health providers. This cut is more than **DOUBLED** (\$8.7 million) because it means DC loses out on federal Medicaid matching dollars. These cuts will inevitably hit providers and communities East of the River the hardest.



# 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.**