

CBHC BOARD POSITION STATEMENT 15.0:

Investing Marijuana Tax Revenue in Behavioral Health Services

Position Statement

It is the CBHC position that state generated marijuana tax revenue should be allocated for targeted prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery services.

Background

In 2012, Colorado voters passed a ballot measure (Amendment 64) to amend the constitution of the state of Colorado to allow for personal use and the commercial sale of recreational marijuana. Consecutively, Proposition AA was approved approving sales and excise taxes on marijuana. Proposition AA outlines the uses for revenue collected from these taxes, and includes public school capital construction, regulation of the marijuana industry, and other uses as allowed by legislation. In 2014, the legislature passed [Senate Bill 215](#) created the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund, to codify allowable spending for this resource. This included health care, health education, substance abuse prevention and treatment programs, and law enforcement.

The Marijuana Tax Cash Fund (MTCF) is codified in [C.R.S. 39-28.8-501](#), and was updated in 2017 and currently includes the following allowable uses:

- (A) To educate people about marijuana to prevent its illegal use or legal abuse;
- (B) To provide services for adolescents and school-aged children in school settings or through community-based organizations;
- (C) To treat and provide related services to people with any type of substance use or mental health disorder, including those with co-occurring disorders, or to evaluate the effectiveness and sufficiency of behavioral health services;
- (D) For jail-based and other behavioral health services for persons involved in or diverted from the criminal justice system;
- (F) For law enforcement and law enforcement training, including any expenses for the police officers standards and training board training or certification;
- (N) For housing, rental assistance, and supportive services, including reentry services, pursuant to [section 24-32-721](#).

Policy Priorities

15.1 Appropriate Utilization of Funds

Moving forward, it is important that Colorado stays true to the intent of the taxation on marijuana products as voted on by Colorado citizens by limiting the utilization of the MCTF to appropriate fields.

- ❖ CBHC supports policies that direct MCTF funding across a full continuum of SUD services and towards behavioral health/criminal justice collaboration, and other population based health promotion activities such as:
 - Legislation to limit MTCF uses for healthcare and health promotion
 - Legislation that opens MTCF to other related health promotion activities and fields
 - Budgetary action and appropriations that utilize MCTF appropriately

- ❖ CBHC does not support policies that open MCTF funding for initiatives outside of the intent of the taxation on marijuana products as voted on by Colorado citizens.
 - Legislation that opens MTCF uses beyond the original intent as outlined in [SB14-215](#).
 - Budgetary actions and appropriations that utilize MCTF inappropriately.

Effective Period

The Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council (CBHC) Board of Directors approved this policy on 10/05/2017. It is reviewed as required by the Public Policy Advisory Committee.

Policy Updated

Updates to this policy position were approved by the CBHC Board of Directors on 02/17/2021.

Expiration: 02/17/2023