

Q: How will the funding allocation work for charter schools and how will we know the approximate amount of funding we should expect to receive?

A: Section 1011.62(16), Florida Statutes, provides the allocation formula for Mental Health Assistance Allocation (MHAA) funds. Eligible charter schools are entitled to a proportionate share of the funding upon submission of their approved plan to the District.

The charter school revenue estimate worksheet includes a line item for the MHAA funds (component 9 on the worksheet). Please note that this is an estimate only, and funding amounts may change based on actual FTE as reported in surveys II and III. You can find the charter school revenue estimate worksheet at <http://www.fldoe.org/finance/fl-edu-finance-program-fefp/charter-school-revenue-estimate-worksh.stml>.

The MHAA funds are included in the FEFP, and therefore will be distributed by the state to each district. Eligible charter schools will receive MHAA funding in their FEFP distributions from the district.

Q: Is it permissible for a charter school to allow the district to retain the charter school's proportionate allocation of MHAA funds and participate in the district's plan?

There is nothing in the law that prevents a charter school and district from agreeing to this type of arrangement. In some cases, especially for small charter schools, this may be the best option for ensuring that all students in the district have access to appropriate mental health services. If the charter school and district agree to this arrangement, the charter school should indicate that in their MHAA plan.

Q: May charter schools combine their MHAA funds to purchase shared services?

The MHAA section of law does not address this strategy. However, Section 1002.33(13), Florida Statutes, provides, "Charter schools may enter into cooperative agreements to form charter school cooperative organizations that may provide services to further educational, operational, and administrative initiatives in which the participating charter schools share common interests."

Q: Where are MHAA plans submitted?

A: Charter schools submit their governing board approved MHAA plans to their local school districts. The school district is then required to submit the approved charter school plans to the Department by August 1, 2018.

Q: May a charter school opt out of the MHAA program?

A: Section 1011.62(16)(a)2., Florida Statutes, provides, "A charter school must develop and submit a detailed plan outlining the local program and planned expenditures to the to its governing body for approval. After the plan is approved by the governing body, it must be provided to the charter school's sponsor."