

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1426

H.P. 935

House of Representatives, April 1, 2025

Resolve, to Expand Child Assertive Community Treatment

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT

Clerk

Presented by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach.
Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and
Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, GATTINE of Westbrook,
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, MOONEN of Portland, STOVER of Boothbay, Senators:
RENY of Lincoln, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin.

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** Maine is experiencing significant challenges in providing timely services
4 to children with behavioral health challenges; and

5 **Whereas,** services for children with severe behavioral health challenges are especially
6 scarce; and

7 **Whereas,** assertive community treatment is an evidence-based intervention effective
8 at keeping people with severe behavioral health challenges in the community setting and
9 out of institutional settings; and

10 **Whereas,** Maine currently has only one child assertive community treatment team in
11 the State; and

12 **Whereas,** this legislation needs to take effect as soon as possible in order to develop
13 the 2 pilot programs required by this legislation that address the scarcity of child assertive
14 community treatment teams and provide timely services to children with behavioral health
15 challenges; and

16 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
17 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
18 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
19 therefore, be it

20 **Sec. 1. Child assertive community treatment teams. Resolved:** That, by
21 December 31, 2025, the Department of Health and Human Services shall issue 2 requests
22 for proposals for pilot programs to develop child assertive community treatment teams to
23 serve the Lewiston and Bangor geographic areas. The requests for proposals must require
24 the awardees of the grants to use workforce incentives designed to attract, train and retain
25 child assertive community treatment team staff. The department shall engage in a
26 competitive process to determine the awardees. The awardee for each grant may be, but is
27 not required to be, the same entity. The term of the contracts may not exceed 2 years.

28 **Sec. 2. Report. Resolved:** That, within 90 days following the conclusion of the
29 pilot programs under section 1, the Department of Health and Human Services shall submit
30 a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health
31 and human services matters describing the outcomes and recommendations for
32 continuation of the pilot programs.

33 **Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following
34 appropriations and allocations are made.

35 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**
36 **Mental Health Services - Children Z206**

37 Initiative: Provides one-time funding to provide 2 grants of \$160,000 each for pilot
38 programs to develop child assertive community treatment teams to serve the Lewiston and
39 Bangor geographic areas.

40 GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
41 All Other	\$320,000	\$0

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GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$320,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>
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Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

This resolve requires that, by December 31, 2025, the Department of Health and Human Services issue 2 requests for proposals for pilot programs to develop child assertive community treatment teams to serve the Lewiston and Bangor geographic areas. The request for proposals must require the awardees of the grants to use workforce incentives designed to attract, train and retain child assertive community treatment team staff. The department is required to engage in a competitive process to determine the awardees. The awardees for each grant may be, but are not required to be, the same entity. The resolve also provides one-time funding to provide 2 grants of \$160,000 each for the 2 pilot programs. Within 90 days following the conclusion of the pilot programs, the department must submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters describing the outcomes and recommendations for continuation of the pilot programs.