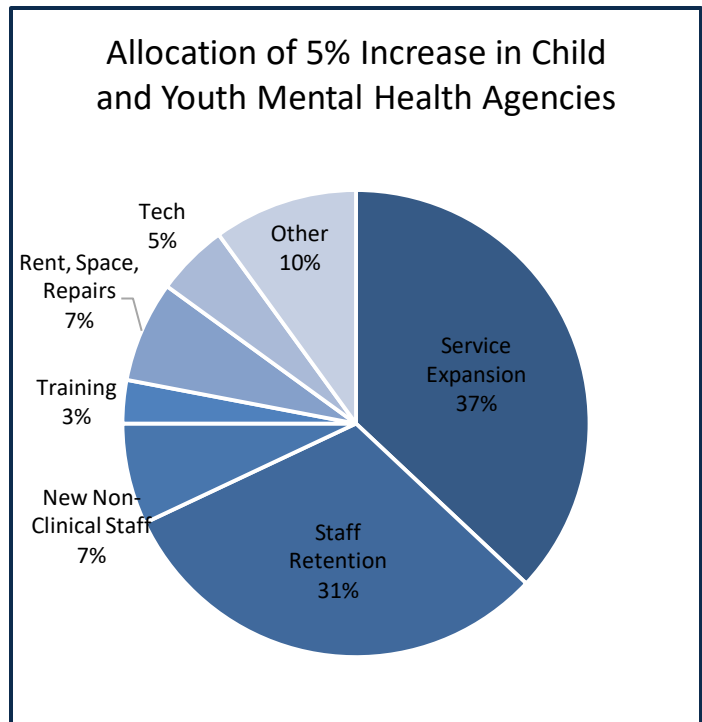


Child and Youth Mental Health Agencies Continue to Put Kids and Families First, Through Responsible Stewardship of Public Funds

CYMH Agencies Helping More Children, Youth, and Families

In the spring of 2018, Ontario's child and youth mental health (CYMH) agencies received a 5% budget increase for core service operations—the first increase in well over a decade. Based on a survey of Children's Mental Health Ontario's members, more than 35% of this funding has gone into the expansion of services. CMHO estimates that this will translate into helping an additional 2,500 children, youth, and families who are struggling with mental health issues.

In addition to expanding services, CYMH agencies also dedicated approximately 30% of the new funding into retaining expert and experienced staff, to ensure quality and continuity in care for clients. And the remaining funds were used in areas like staff and board training, tech-related investments, and addressing costs related to increasing rent, building repairs, etc.—all areas in which catch-up investments and improvements are significantly overdue.



Responsibility with Future Investments

The CYMH sector has shown remarkable fiscal responsibility with public dollars over the last quarter of a century in a way that few if any other sectors have—even amidst mounting pressures related to service levels, staff compensation, infrastructure, and other operational costs of doing business. And more than ever, the sector needs further resourcing to ensure we can meet the needs of children, youth, and families in our communities, as demands for mental health services continue to grow.

This base budget increase was an important first step toward stabilizing the sector, and CYMH agencies' focus on expanding services and staff retention demonstrates the sector's commitment to frontline service delivery. With the Ontario Government's commitment to invest \$3.8 billion over ten years to support Ontarians with mental health issues, we urge the Government to continue to look to CYMH agencies, who have a demonstrated record of fiscal responsibility and putting kids and families first. A new investment of \$120 million annually will ensure the remaining thousands of families who are waiting up to 18 months for service are quickly able to access the mental health treatment and supports they need, when and where they need it.