

Mental Health Drug Assistance Program (MHDAP)

Background on the Need

The East Metro Mental Health Roundtable established MHDAP in 2008 as one of its first initiatives. MHDAP assists patients who experience severe mental illness and cannot access their medications. Charitable contributions provide for the full cost or co-pays of medications, and patients can receive up to three months' worth of assistance. This helps them avoid mental health emergencies while they apply for long-term assistance.

Participating organizations work with a group of East Metro pharmacies that fill prescriptions, waiving the full price or co-pay as necessary. Pharmacies then bill the group for the waived costs. Social workers and care providers ensure that patients apply for ongoing assistance before receiving prescriptions.

Initial partners included Allina, M Health Fairview and HealthPartners; the crisis services of Ramsey, Dakota and Washington counties; and the East Metro Crisis Alliance, but the partnership has grown.

Use of the program

The following table charts the program's general use over the past five years.

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Prescriptions	528	619	670	1,586	1,852
Total assistance	\$50,945	\$52,483	\$41,119	\$90,057	\$84,276
Average cost per prescription	\$97	\$85	\$61	\$57	\$46


Last year, total prescriptions rose 17% over 2024 while the total cost of assistance decreased 6%. The following table shows MHDAP prescriptions by referring organization from 2019-2025.

Organization	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Ramsey County	285	256	101	74	207	386	508	1817
HealthPartners	250	182	169	122	119	154	114	1110
Fairview	62	38	20	20	31	401	527	1099
Assoc Clinic of Psychology	175	133	72	123	62	201	225	992
Allina	106	96	37	53	91	175	163	721
Nystrom & Associates	9	11	51	141	10	112	49	383
Hennepin County	0	8	0	4	39	2	8	61
MN Mental Health Clinics	21	4	5	0	7	12	10	59
Psych Recovery Inc.	4	7	13	0	6	6	15	51
Mental Health Resources	26	5	12	1	0	3	3	50
MHCS	1	0	7	0	22	1	19	50
Hennepin Healthcare	0	0	0	0	13	17	16	46
Ellie Mental Health	0	0	0	0	25	10	3	38
Sage Prairie	19	16	0	0	0	0	0	35
Shea Counseling	2	3	3	3	0	10	13	34
MN Community Care	3	0	0	7	12	6	0	28
Out of state	3	0	3	6	0	10	0	22
River Valley Behavioral Health	0	0	10	9	3	0	0	22
Natalis Counseling & Psychology	0	0	0	10	11	0	0	21
UnityPoint	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	20

The above organizations have used the program at least 20 times since 2019. The rise in prescriptions in 2025 was largely driven by significant increases in two organizations: M Health Fairview and Ramsey County.

The following table shows the medications that had the largest increases in prescriptions in 2025.

Brand Name	MedUse	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Change '24 to '25
BUPRENORPHINE-NALOXONE	Opioid Dependence	14	3	3	0	116	175	59
QUETIAPINE FUMARATE	Schizophrenia/Bipolar Disorder	45	36	37	34	54	87	33
LAMOTRIGINE	Epilepsy/Bipolar	45	28	30	26	40	71	31
SERTRALINE HCL	Depression	27	29	25	18	61	82	21
TRAZODONE HCL	Depression	47	30	30	31	83	103	20
VENLAFAXINE HCL ER	Depression	13	8	18	8	18	38	20
PAROXETINE HCL	Depression/Anxiety	4	1	4	5	9	23	14
NALTREXONE HCL	Opioid Dependence	3	5	3	4	11	25	14
OLANZAPINE	Antipsychotic/Schizophrenia	46	21	20	33	85	98	13
CLONIDINE HCL	ADHD/Anxiety	6	6	11	10	26	39	13



In 2024, M Health Fairview accounted for most buprenorphine-naloxone prescriptions (156). Ramsey County led quetiapine fumarate prescriptions (40), while lamotrigine prescriptions were distributed proportionally across various organizations.

MHDAP Processing

In January 2026, MHDAP back-end prescription processing was transitioned from HealthPartners Pharmacy to Fairview in collaboration with ClearScripts. This adjustment demonstrates a commitment to care continuity and improved coordination across systems, supporting ongoing program sustainability. The transition assures that MHDAP participants and partners will continue to receive dependable support.

MHDAP's funding

MHDAP had \$147,569 in funds remaining at the end of 2025. We continue to raise money to ensure the program can meet the growing need for medications assistance.

The three local health systems (Allina, HealthPartners, and M Health Fairview) have provided the most recent funding for MHDAP. Supporting the community's needs for drug assistance in outpatient settings is likely alleviating pressure in emergency care settings. Emergency rooms across the nation continue to experience high volumes and lengthy wait times.

MHDAP program managers will continue conversations with other providers whose use of the program is significant to learn more about how they are referring patients. Program managers will also encourage those providers to contribute financially to ensure that patients across the program have equitable access to it. If program use remains at the elevated level seen over the last two years, additional fundraising may be necessary over the long term.

We encourage all MHDAP partners to consider a contribution, given the benefit of the program to our community. For more information, contact Dan Ryan of Regions Hospital Foundation at 651-254-1349 or daniel.t.ryan@healthpartners.com.