

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 1066**

Introduced by Stinner, 48.

Read first time January 18, 2022

Committee: Appropriations

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to appropriations; to appropriate federal
- 2 funds to the Department of Health and Human Services and the
- 3 University of Nebraska; and to declare an emergency.
- 4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. (1) The Nebraska Legislature hereby finds and declares  
2 that the following are needed to address behavioral health care service  
3 and behavioral health workforce shortages that have been exacerbated by  
4 the COVID-19 public health emergency:

5           (a) An immediate infusion of funds to provide additional access to  
6 acute care services in rural areas;

7           (b) An increase in existing programming conducted by the Behavioral  
8 Health Education Center;

9           (c) An expansion of educational and training opportunities in order  
10 to increase the number of behavioral health professionals available to  
11 improve access to behavioral health care services;

12           (d) Additional education and interprofessional, outreach, and  
13 training opportunities for postsecondary students, interns, residents,  
14 and fellows from public and private postsecondary institutions in  
15 Nebraska that offer certificates, baccalaureate degrees, or graduate  
16 degrees;

17           (e) Instruction for behavioral health providers and facilities on  
18 how to increase access to behavioral health care services by placing  
19 well-trained behavioral health providers into primary care practices,  
20 behavioral health care practices, and rural hospitals in order to  
21 integrate behavioral health care into primary care practice and licensed  
22 health care facilities;

23           (f) Implementing technology, training, and supervision to support  
24 the expansion of telebehavioral health services in rural areas of the  
25 state for the purpose of providing proximal patient care; and

26           (g) Support for education, training, and retention programs that  
27 expand existing behavioral health professional programs or create program  
28 opportunities in fields, including, but not limited to, psychiatry,  
29 psychology, physician assistants, nursing, social work, counseling,  
30 marriage and family therapy, and certification programs, that address  
31 acute behavioral health workforce shortages.

1       (2) There is hereby appropriated \$5,000,000 from Federal Funds for  
2 FY2022-23 to the Department of Health and Human Services for purposes of  
3 providing grants of up to two hundred fifty thousand dollars for capital  
4 costs of expanding access to behavioral health acute care beds in rural  
5 areas where beds are not currently available or a shortage exists. The  
6 Federal Funds appropriated in this section are from the funds allocated  
7 to the State of Nebraska from the federal Coronavirus State Fiscal  
8 Recovery Fund pursuant to the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021,  
9 Public Law 117-2, Subtitle M, Sec. 9901.

10       (3) There is hereby appropriated \$28,000,000 from Federal Funds for  
11 FY2022-23 to the University of Nebraska for the purposes described in  
12 subsection (4) of this section. The Federal Funds appropriated in this  
13 section are from the funds allocated to the State of Nebraska from the  
14 federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant to the federal  
15 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, Subtitle M, Sec.  
16 9901.

17       (4) It is the intent of the Legislature that the funds appropriated  
18 in subsection (3) of this section be distributed to the Behavioral Health  
19 Education Center by the University of Nebraska for the purposes described  
20 in section 71-830. It is the intent of the Legislature that the funds  
21 appropriated in subsection (3) of this section be spent by the Behavioral  
22 Health Education Center in the following manner:

23       (a) \$13,000,000 for graduate and postgraduate training opportunities  
24 such as internships, practicums, and fellowships;

25       (b) \$10,000,000 for the expansion of telebehavioral health services  
26 in rural areas;

27       (c) \$3,000,000 for education and training opportunities for students  
28 and behavioral health professionals related to behavioral health issues  
29 caused or exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

30       (d) \$2,000,000 for stipends for provisionally licensed behavioral  
31 health professionals employed in the field of behavioral health.

1           (5) The funds appropriated in this section shall be obligated and  
2 expended in compliance with the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.  
3           Sec. 2.   Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when  
4 passed and approved according to law.