

Preserve access to behavioral health treatment

Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) is a mobile, team-based intervention to prevent hospitalizations among people with severe mental illness.

ACT currently requires a psychiatrist to serve on the team, and HB 605/ SB 524 would allow an advanced nurse prescriber to serve in place of a psychiatrist.

As amended, the bill extends the use of telehealth by prescribers on ACT teams, so Maryland can evaluate whether to make this change permanently.

HB 605 passed the House unanimously.

A University of Maryland study, *highlighted on MDH's Innovations website*, identified significant cost savings after ACT interventions.

Did you know?

- The psychiatric shortage threatens providers' ability to maintain ACT capacity. Allowing advanced nurse prescribers will preserve access to this vital services.
- ACT is a team intervention targeting high-host healthcare users.
- The State regulates this evidence-based program in Maryland.

Why ACT?

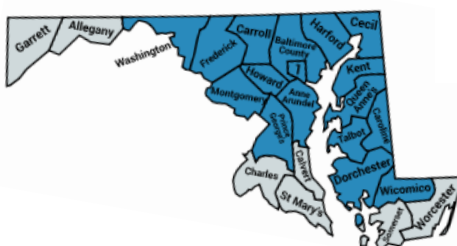
\$20,000 reduction in inpatient hospitalization costs

26.8% increase in diversion from hospital EDs

6.1 reduction in hospital admissions per participant

\$2,805 reduction in ED costs

\$224,250 total cost savings across study participants



Nearly a third of Maryland counties have no ACT teams, and the growing psychiatric shortage threatens existing ACT team capacity. **Preserve ACT capacity today by expanding it to nurse prescribers.**