



# Minnesota Psychiatric Society

*Improving Minnesota's mental health care through education, advocacy and sound psychiatric practice*

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## **Permanent funding needed for Minnesota's Behavioral Health System Navigation Hub - FastTrackerMN.org**

The Minnesota Psychiatric Society, representing over 450 Minnesota psychiatric physicians, supports **permanent funding for FastTrackerMN.org, a statewide, open access, behavioral health system navigation hub to connect Minnesotans to real-time, mental health and substance use disorder openings, information, and resources.**

Since 2012, FastTrackerMN.org has served as the state's "Mental health and substance use disorder resource and referral information exchange service" providing an online central point of access and statewide behavioral health system navigation portal, serving the public and provider communities.

- Up-to-date, real-time reliable information is directly shared and updated, by clinics, providers and programs.
- FastTrackerMN relies on grants, contracts, and donations for funding so gaps threaten viability.

## **FastTrackerMN.org serves Minnesota as its open-source communication hub publishing real-time availability:**

- **FastTracker serves all Minnesotans:**
  - Open-access single point of entry
  - Self-referral tool (third path, for children's MH, 1115 waiver for SUD)
  - Personalized searches to find: Insurance accepted—Locations preferred—Availability / real-time opening access points—Community supports—General MH/SUD information—Contacts information
- **FastTracker serves Minnesota Providers:**
  - Password protected platform to share information – define, maintain, and update service information and availability to offer real-time, accurate, date-stamped, searchable, transparent information to searchers.
  - Treatment planning tools to support transition pathways.
  - Communications hub/networking hub to facilitate provider collaboration.

## **Reliable information:**

- Over 500 mental health clinics and nearly 350 substance use disorder treatment programs participate.
- Timely updates, timestamps, and service point of contact required.
- Data collection tools and archival reporting to inform and measure public access system information, openings, responsibility, parity enforcement, service gaps and system investment priorities.

Permanent funding in the amount of \$1 million per year is needed to fund basic staffing and infrastructure costs associated with ongoing operations and to build public awareness and usage.

**This life-saving service is too important to be vulnerable to gaps in funding and urgently needs the stability and opportunity for growth that a stable infrastructure affords.** Mental health and substance use disorder needs have never been higher, more devastating, and more urgently in need of immediate and sustained investment in Minnesota – for Minnesota.

**The community of providers has come together to address information gaps and calls on the state to join in this partnership with funding to sustain this much needed solution.**