



**AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION**
SERVICES, INC.

May 31, 2023

RE: White House Call to Action on Mental Health Research

To Whom It May Concern,

The American Psychological Association Services, Inc. (APA Services) appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the White House's timely efforts to promote and advance research relating to mental health. APA Services is the companion organization of the American Psychological Association, which is the nation's largest scientific and professional nonprofit organization representing the discipline and profession of psychology, as well as over 146,000 members and affiliates who are clinicians, researchers, educators, consultants, and students in psychological science.

We appreciate that the Administration has highlighted the need for additional research on ways to augment and improve mental health care for all populations and to enhance and diversify the mental health workforce. We recommend additional focus and collaboration in the following areas in which APA is active:

National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)—Given that the 75th anniversary of NIMH begins in September, the next several months allow opportunities to educate policymakers and the public about the value mental health research provides and where opportunities for additional research are strongest. The Administration is encouraged to partner with the Friends of NIMH, a new organization that APA Services co-leads. APA Services plans to maintain a spotlight on NIMH research, and we are advocating for the allocation of new research funds to advance youth mental health and reduce mental health disparities. Science must lead the way out of the youth mental health crisis.

Technology—APA Services maintains a strong focus on advocacy to make social media safer for children, including this recent [report](#). In addition, we advocate for additional research on the role of Artificial Intelligence and its impacts on mental health and on ways it degrades or enhances equity, diversity, and inclusion,

Population Health—Strengthening resilience and mental health through evidence-informed community programs would reduce the numbers of people who now struggle to access treatment in an overburdened mental health system. More research is needed on how to preserve and strengthen mental health. APA is organizing a meeting this fall to draft a research agenda and plan to promote a population health approach to treatment, otherwise known as "Primary Mental Health Care."



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Pandemic and Disaster Preparedness—APA continues its [collaboration](#) with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on combatting misinformation in the health care arena. More research is needed to understand and avert the impact of misinformation on public and private decision-making during public health crises. Research is needed to consider and integrate mental and physical health inequities in emergency response measures.

Climate Change -- APASI is working in coalitions to increase research about, and aid policies to manage, adverse impacts of climate change on mental health.

APASI again thanks you for the opportunity to collaborate on White House priorities. If we can be of any further assistance, please contact Corbin Evans, Senior Director of Congressional and Federal Relations, at CEvans@APA.org.

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