

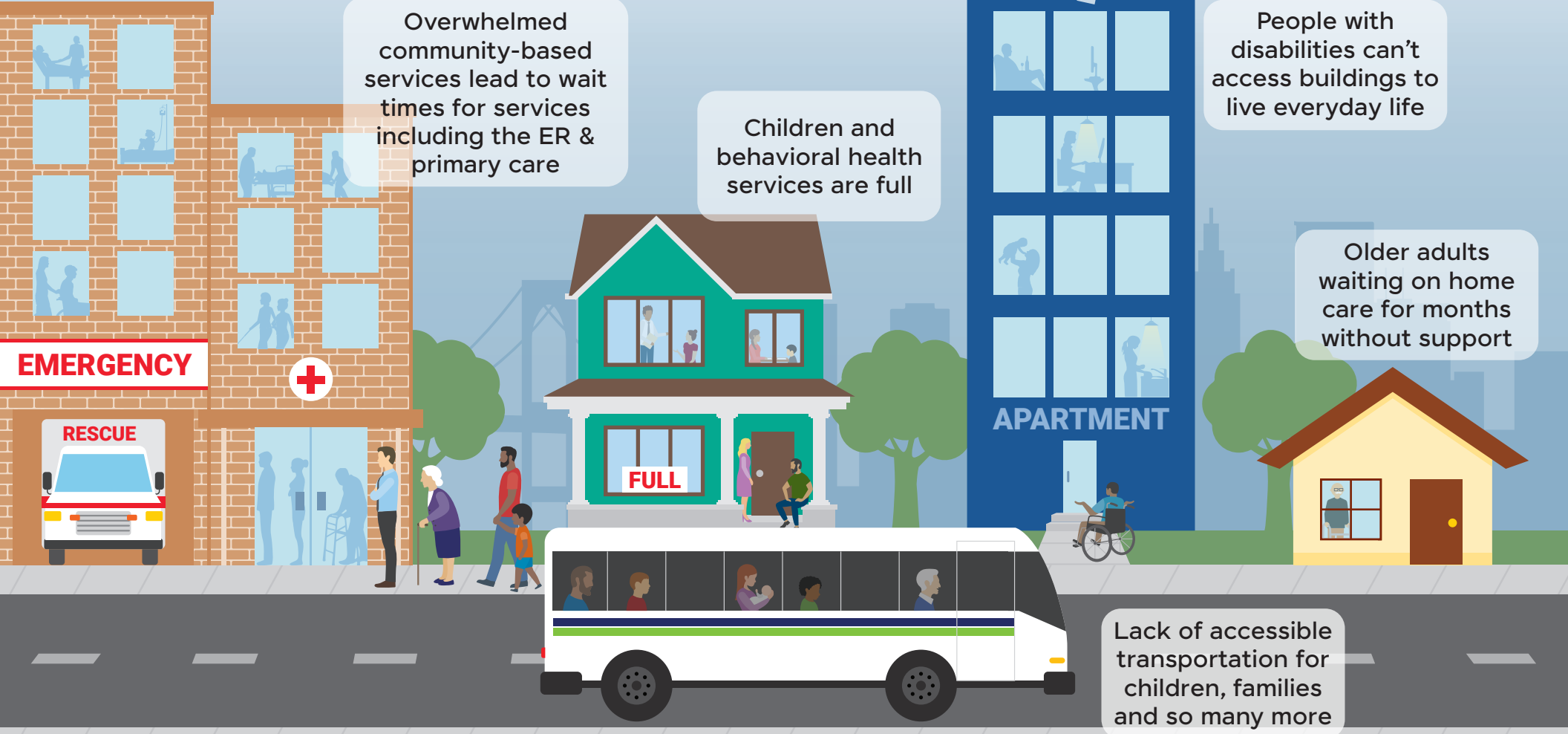
# ACCESS IS BROKEN

Overwhelmed community-based services lead to wait times for services including the ER & primary care

Children and behavioral health services are full

People with disabilities can't access buildings to live everyday life

Older adults waiting on home care for months without support



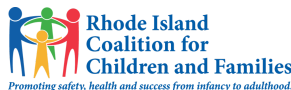
Lack of accessible transportation for children, families and so many more

Access to services, transportation and housing is struggling in our state. A lack of investment for decades has put our system in incredible strain. This means some of Rhode Island's most vulnerable populations are suffering. People with disabilities, older adults, children, families and those facing mental health and substance use disorders can not get access to basic support.

It's time we fix this and we are here to support long-term solutions. See the back for bills that will help Heal RI.



## IT'S TIME TO HEAL RI



The Substance Use and Mental Health Leadership Council of RI



# LEGISLATION THAT IMPROVES ACCESS



## FULLY FUND RATE REFORM

- HB 7591 & SB 2553
- Rep. Spears & Senator DiPalma

Strengthens the intent of rate legislation passed by the General Assembly in 2022. This bill requires that the Governor includes the full recommended rates in his annual budget submission.

## DISABILITY & SENIORS

- HB 7063 & SB 2186
- Rep. Spears & Senator Gu

Implements accessible design standards in future affordable housing developments. This goes beyond minimum accessibility requirements and makes our state more inclusive of people with disabilities, seniors and more.

- HB 7333 & SB 2399
  - Rep. Alzate and Senator Cano
- Expands eligibility for the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) to more low income older adults and people with disabilities enrolled in Medicare will get their Part B Premiums and copayments and deductibles paid for which will put more money in their pockets. Will impact as many as 17,000 people.

- HB 7597 & SB 2577
  - Rep. Tanzi & Senator DiPalma
- Makes appropriations to continue funding the Health Care Transition Initiatives program. HCTI is an innovative program to prevent Medicaid-financed extended stays in skilled nursing facilities.

- Budget Funding
- Increase state funding for local senior centers to reach \$10 per person age 65+ for each community.

## CHILDREN

- HB 7899 & SB 2360
- Rep. Valverde & Senator Giraldo

Increases the Medicaid rate payment for the first connections family home-visiting program and requires additional information to be added to the annual family home-visiting report.

- HB 7874 & SB 2607
  - Rep. Tanzi & Senator DiMario
- Requires coverage for acute mental health crisis mobile response and stabilization services to any individual enrolled as a plan beneficiary.

- HB 7924 & SB 2575
  - Rep. Tanzi & Senator Cano
- Establishes a child tax credit of \$1,000 per dependent.

- Budget Funding
- DCYF has the primary statutory responsibility for child wellbeing in our state. All DCYF services are currently being repurchased by the state. Sufficient funds must be available to maintain and enhance DCYF services to meet the increasingly complex needs of children, youth, and families in our state.

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- HB 7716 & SB 2180
- Rep. Tanzi & Senator Ujifusa

Increases rates for outpatient therapy and diagnostic services by a one-time inflationary adjustment of CPI-Urban plus 5 percent. This would help increase the number of in-network providers, thus reducing the over utilization of hospitals and EDs.

- HB 7035 & SB 2066
  - Rep. Shallcross-Smith & Senator Cando
- Funds the state's cost for the national 988 Suicide and Crisis LIFELINE. It offers 24/7 call, text and chat access to trained crisis counselors who can help people in crisis.

- Governor's Budget & HB 7225
- Allocated funding for the administration and financing of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics.