

Data Trends

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From the Research and Training Center for Children's Mental Health, Tampa, Florida...

This News brief introduces a new product from the Center: Armstrong, M. I., Pires, S. A. McCarthy, J., Stroul, B. A., Wood, G. M., & Pizzigati, K. (2006). *A self-assessment and planning guide: Developing a comprehensive financing plan* (RTC study 3: Financing structures and strategies to support effective systems of care, FMHI pub. #235-01). Tampa, FL: University of South Florida, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute (FMHI), Research and Training Center for Children's Mental Health. Available at: <http://rtckids.fmhi.usf.edu/rtcpubs/hctrking/pubs/AssessPlanGuideWeb.pdf>

A new step-by-step approach to assess system of care financing structures and strategies is now available for experts in the field of children's mental health systems. A *Self-Assessment and Planning Guide: Developing a Comprehensive Financing Plan* will help planners, policy makers, advocates, family representatives, researchers, and others engaged in building systems of care for children and families prioritize next steps for building sustainable service systems in their states and communities.

First in a new series of technical assistance tools and resources produced as part of RTC study 3, "Financing Structures and Strategies to Support Effective Systems of Care," the guide builds on over a decade of inquiry on behavioral health financing, and includes new findings from the first year of the current study. RTC investigators convened a panel of financing experts, including family members, state and county administrators, representatives of tribal organizations, providers, and national financing consultants to develop a list of critical financing strategies and study questions to be used at case study sites. Main areas addressed in the guide are:

- (1) Identification of current spending and utilization patterns across agencies
- (2) Realignment of funding streams and structures
- (3) Financing of appropriate services and supports
- (4) Financing to support family and youth partnerships
- (5) Financing to improve cultural/linguistic competence and reduce disproportionality in care
- (6) Financing to improve the workforce and provider network for behavioral health services for children and families
- (7) Financing for accountability

For more information about Study 3: Financing Structures and Strategies to Support Effective Systems of Care, see <http://rtckids.fmhi.usf.edu/study03.cfm>

Data Trends are produced by the Research and Training Center for Children's Mental Health, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, University of South Florida, Tampa. Data Trends are funded by the Center for Mental Health Services, SAMHSA, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. There are two Data Trends products: 1) Summaries (ISSN# 1537-0399), which detail recent, published articles on systems of care for children with emotional and behavioral disabilities and their families, and; 2) News briefs (ISSN# 1537-0402), which highlight related items or events of interest to the field.