*Template Press Release – Draft April 23*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: [date]**

**MEDIA INQUIRIES CONTACT:**

**[insert name, email and/or phone]**

**[organization] Urges Congressional Delegation to Allocate $38.5 Billion**

**for Behavioral Health Organizations Nationwide in Next COVID-19 Stimulus Package**

[**city, state**] – The [organization and brief description], today sent a letter to the state congressional delegation requesting an emergency appropriation allocation of $38.5 billion for behavioral health organizations nationwide in the next stimulus package.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, organizations that deliver mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services, particularly those serving low incomes individuals, are at risk of collapse, nationwide and in [state].

According to an [online survey](https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/press-releases/behavioral-health-crisis-in-america-getting-worse-as-covid-19-forces-community-behavioral-health-care-organizations-to-cut-back/) conducted by ndp | analytics and the National Council for Behavioral Health, nearly two-thirds of behavioral health organizations nationwide believe that they can only survive financially for three months or less under the current COVID-19 conditions, and nearly half of all behavioral health organizations across the country already have cut positions.

The situation in [state] is particularly/equally dire. [Insert state level statistics].

[insert quote from organizational CEO re: urgency of the situation, particular needs of the state], said [insert name, title]. “The $38.5 billion infusion will ensure that mental health and substance use disorder organizations in [state] are viable to respond – immediately and when the crisis has passed but the effects remain.”

# # #

Add organizational boilerplate language