

January 30, 2026

The Honorable Katie Hobbs
Office of the Governor
1700 West Washington Phoenix, Arizona 85007

The Honorable Warren Petersen
Arizona State Senate
1700 West Washington Phoenix, Arizona 85007

The Honorable Steve Montenegro
Arizona House of Representatives
1700 West Washington Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Governor Hobbs, President Petersen, and Speaker Montenegro:

House Bill 2691 was passed to help grow the pool of academically prepared, potential members of Arizona's behavioral health workforce. Toward this purpose, HB 2691 specified that two community college districts, Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) and Northland Pioneer Community College (NPCC), receive the funds needed to expand the number of behavioral health programs available to students interested in behavioral health careers in both counties as well as to provide scholarships to students who were committed to joining Arizona's behavioral health workforce after finishing their studies. The legislation also required AHCCCS to fiscally manage the program and to annually report on the status of efforts taken by the two college districts to expand behavioral health programming and to offer scholarships to committed students.

The development and implementation phase of HB 2691, where both colleges used the allocated funds to expand behavioral health programs and award scholarships to committed students, ended September 30, 2024. However, the legislation requires AHCCCS and the two community colleges to continue tracking student participation in the programs and specifically note the number of students who complete their studies and join Arizona's behavioral health workforce. This requirement extends to December 31, 2026, two years after the active phase of the project ended.

In this document AHCCCS will report on the following areas:

1. The behavioral health programs at NPCC and the MCCCD colleges, including the newly developed programs, where students are now able to pursue degrees and certificates in behavioral health.
2. The NPCC and MCCCD programs where the 731 financially supported students are or were pursuing degrees and certificates in behavioral health.

3. The status of financially supported students relative to fulfilling the requirement of attaining employment with an Arizona provider of behavioral health services and the number of students currently in each status.

The report is organized into four parts.

- Section I, Behavioral Health Programs in Operation at MCCC and NPCC
- Section II, The Behavioral Health Programs that 731 Financially Supported Students Were, or Still Are Participating.
- Section III, The Status of the 731 Financially Supported Students Relative to Becoming Employed by an Arizona Provider of Behavioral Health Services.
- Section IV, Summary of Student Status Relative to Fulfilling the major requirement of HB 2691, Finding Employment with an Arizona Provider of Behavioral Health Services

If you have any questions regarding this report, please feel free to contact Damien Carpenter, Chief Legislative Liaison, at (602) 396-0767.

Sincerely,



Virginia Rountree
Director

cc: The Honorable Carine Werner, Chairwoman, Senate Health and Human Services Committee
The Honorable Selina Bliss, Chairwoman, House Health and Human Services Committee
The Honorable Adrian Fontes, Arizona Secretary of State
Meaghan Kramer, Health Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor

Section I: Behavioral Health Programs

Funds provided by HB 2691 enabled both MCCC and NPCC to add a total of seven (7) new behavioral health programs. During the active program development phase of the project, four (4) of the five (5) colleges within the Maricopa County Community College District currently offer behavioral health programs. Of these five (5) colleges, two (2) colleges, Phoenix Community College and South Mountain Community College, implemented new programs in 2023. In the following year, 2024, Mesa Community College and Rio Salado Community College each developed and implemented behavioral health programs.

The table below shows the forty-three (43) behavioral health programs available to students interested in pursuing a career in behavioral health at Phoenix Community College (Phoenix CC), South Mountain Community College (South Mtn. CC), Mesa Community College (Mesa CC), Rio Salado Community College (Rio Salado CC) and Glendale Community College (Glendale CC). that are currently available in the MCCC. Of particular note, is the 4-year Bachelor of Science Degree program in Behavioral Health Science.

Table I-A. Behavioral Health Programs Available at Five MCCC Colleges

Legend

Program Not Offered	X Program Currently Offered	XX HB2691 Program Development
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Maricopa County Community College District Behavioral Health Programs	Participating Colleges				
	Glendale CC	Mesa CC	Phoenix CC	Rio Salado CC	South Mtn. CC
Behavioral Health Sciences (4 year BS degree)					XX
Counseling & Applied Psych. Science (AA)	X	X	X	X	X
Family Life Education (AA)	X	X	X	X	X
Psychology (AA)	X	X	X	X	X
Social Work (AA)	X	X	X	X	X
Addictions Substance Use Disorders (AAS)				X	
Behavioral Sciences (AAS)	X				X
Addictions Substance Use Disorders 1 (CCL)				X	
Addictions Substance Use Disorders 2 (CCL)				X	
Adolescent Studies (CCL)			X		
Advanced Behavioral Sciences (CCL)	X				X
Developmental Disabilities Specialist (CCL)	X				
Foundations of BH Science (CCL)	X		XX	XX	X
Professional Addictions Counseling (CCL)				X	
Substance Abuse Prevention & Intervention (CCL)				X	
Victimology (CCL)	X	X	X	X	X
Foundations in Addictions & Substance Use (CCL)				X	
Psychiatric Technician		XX			
Total Behavioral Health Programs by College	9	6	7	12	9

Table I-B. Behavioral Health Programs Available at NPCC

Since the project's inception in the fall of 2023, NPCC has developed and implemented three (3) new behavioral health programs that serve over 80 students.

Northland Pioneer College Behavioral Health Programs	HB 2691 Program Development
Behavioral Health Studies (Associate of Applied Science)	XX
Behavioral Health Technician (Certificate of Applied Science)	XX
Behavioral Health (Certificate of Proficiency)	XX
Total Behavioral Health Programs = 3	

Section II: The Behavioral Health Programs that 731 Financially Supported Students Were, or Still Are Participating

Section II reports both the number of students who were financially supported (awarded scholarships) and the behavioral health program in which they were enrolled.

By the end of the 2024 Fall Semester (December 2024), a total of five thousand two hundred and seventeen students (5,217) were enrolled in 43 different behavioral health programs offered by the five (5) colleges within the Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD). The Northern Pioneer Community College (NPCC) reported that eighty (80) students were enrolled in 3 behavioral health programs. A total of 5,297 students pursued behavioral health degrees and certificates in Maricopa and Navajo Counties.

Funding from HB 2691 enabled seven hundred and thirty-one (731) students or nearly 14% of the 5,297 students enrolled in both NPCC's and MCCCD's behavioral health programs to receive financial support. This support enabled students to attend one (1), to as many as, four (4) academic semesters without paying out of pocket or taking on additional tuition debt.

Given the population differences between Navajo and Maricopa Counties, there was a significant difference in the number of students enrolled in behavioral health programs as well as the number of behavioral health program choices that students had. Yet, despite the wide variance in program choices and student enrollment, the percentage of students requesting consideration to receive financial support in both the districts was nearly the same. MCCCD reported that 719 students, or nearly 14% of the total behavioral health program enrollment, requested and received financial support. At NPCC, 12 students, or 15%, requested and received financial support.

Table II-A. The number of students financially supported by eligible programs and community college within the MCCCD's 43 behavioral health programs as of December 2024.

Behavioral Health Programs	Glendale CC	Mesa CC	Phoenix CC	Rio Salado CC	South Mtn. CC
Behavioral Health Sciences (4 year BS)					249
Counseling & Applied Psych. Science (AA)	12	19	11	6	1
Family Life Education (AA)	2	1	0	0	0
Psychology (AA)	49	27	31	11	6
Social Work (AA)	17	17	27	9	1
Addictions Substance Use Disorders (AAS)				92	
Behavioral Sciences (AAS)	68				22
Addictions Substance Use Disorders 1 (CCL)				6	
Addictions Substance Use Disorders 2 (CCL)				0	
Adolescent Studies (CCL)			0		
Advanced Behavioral Sciences (CCL)	9				5
Developmental Disabilities Specialist (CCL)	2				
Foundations of BH Science (CCL)	5		6		5

Professional Addictions Counseling (CCL)				0	
Substance Abuse Prevention & Intervention (CCL)				3	
Victimology (CCL)	0	0	0	0	0
Foundations in Addictions & Substance Use (CCL)	0			0	
Psychiatric Technician					
Total Students Financially Supported by College and Program in 2024	164	64	75	127	289
Total Students Financially Supported by MCCCD	719				

Table II-B. The total number of students supported financially in each program at Northern Pioneer Community College as of December 2024.

Behavioral Health Programs	
Behavioral Health Studies (Associate of Applied Science)	12
Behavioral Health Technician (Certificate of Applied Science)	0
Behavioral Health (Certificate of Proficiency)	0
Total Students Financially Supported	12

Section III: The Status of the 731 Financially Supported Students Relative to Becoming Employed by an Arizona Provider of Behavioral Health Services

As reported earlier, by the end of the fall semester in December 2024, 731 students, from both NPCC and MCCC, had received financial support. As of December 2025, 249 students, 243 MCCC students and 6 NPCC students, are satisfying HB2691's work requirement by either working in a behavioral health setting or working in a behavioral health setting while also continuing their education.

Seventy-Seven (77) MCCC and 3 NPCC students have completed their studies and are employed by an Arizona provider of behavioral health services. 166 MCCC students and 3 NPCC students are both continuing their studies in behavioral health while simultaneously working for a behavioral health provider.

As of December 2025, no student from either MCCC or NPCC has completed the full 2-year requirement.

Two hundred and sixty (260) students, 257 MCCC students and 3 NPCC students, remain engaged in their academic studies and are not yet working for an Arizona behavioral health provider.

Regrettably, 78 students within the MCCC system were either not able to complete their studies or have chosen to not work in Arizona's health care system. Steps have been taken by MCCC to recover the financial assistance these students received. NPCC reports that as of this time all 12 students report they intend to work in behavioral health when the academic preparation is complete.

A concerning number of students, 42 in total, have not responded to workforce tracking surveys or other forms of contact from the colleges concerning their work or school status. Making contact with these students remains a priority for both college systems.

Table 3A. The Number and Status of Financially Supported Students at MCCC and NPCC Relative to Fulfilling the Requirement of Becoming Employed by an Arizona Behavioral Health Provider

Status of Financially Supported Student Satisfying Work Requirement	MCCCD	NPCC
Satisfied 2-year Work Requirement	0	0
Satisfying Work Commitment / Employed in Behavioral Health (BH)	77	3
Satisfying Work Commitment / Continuing BH Educational Program & Employed in BH	166	3
Completed Education Program / Not Yet Employed in Behavioral Health	102	0
Continuing in Behavioral Health Educational Program / Not Employed	257	3
Have not responded to Workforce Survey about Work Status	39	3
No longer planning to work in BH / Lost Scholarship	78	0
Sub Totals of Financially Supported Students y College District	719	12
Total Number of Financially Supported Students		731

Section IV: Summary of Student Status Relative to Fulfilling HB 2691's Requirement of Finding Employment with an Arizona Provider of Behavioral Health Services

- As of December 2025, no MCCC or NPCC student has completed the work requirement although 80 students have completed their education and are working.
- 70%, or 509 of the 731 students who received financial support are satisfying the terms of their award by:
 - Continuing their education – 260 students,
 - Continuing their education and working – 169 students
 - Completed their education and work in behavioral health – 80 students