



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, good mental health is a key component in a child's development and Children's Mental Health Week provides the opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of children and families affected by mental health concerns; and

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2025, the Alabama Department of Mental Health (ADMH) served 30,373 children with mental health treatment services in the state; and

WHEREAS, one in five children may experience a mental health challenge during their lifetime. Research has shown early identification and appropriate treatment of mental health disorders provide better opportunities to lead full and productive lives; and

WHEREAS, mental illness continues to be marked by stigma and discrimination based on preconceptions and misinformation. This stigma often discourages parents and affected children from seeking appropriate treatment and services; and

WHEREAS, children and youth with mental illnesses and their families deserve access to services and supports that are family driven, youth guided and culturally appropriate. To increase access to crisis care, the state's first pediatric crisis center opened in September 2024, with more than 400 children served to date; and

WHEREAS, ADMH and community mental health centers partner with school districts to provide school-based mental health care to over 12,600 students in the school setting in approximately 120 school districts. The Alabama State Department of Education partners with ADMH to provide certification, training and support to mental health service coordinators in all public-school districts; and

WHEREAS, together, we can help build a healthy state that celebrates children's strengths. Alabama's most important asset is its children and their health. Children's Mental Health Awareness Week is an opportunity to change hearts, minds and attitudes regarding mental health:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim May 3 through 9 2026, as

Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

in the state of Alabama.



*Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the
Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City
of Montgomery on the 14th day of May 2026.*

Kay Ivey
Kay Ivey, Governor