

Behavioral Health Response Framework

This framework identifies five pillars that establish a clear structure for behavioral health readiness and activation in St. Louis. Each pillar addresses a fundamental question. Together, they move behavioral health from an informal, relationship-based response to a defined, predictable system embedded within the existing emergency structure.



Authority and Alignment

Who does what when an emergency happens?

This pillar establishes:

- A jointly developed activation protocol between MHB and the Behavioral Health Bureau
- Activation triggers (declared emergency, EOC activation, or formal request)
- A designated MHB liaison during activation
- Formal participation in COAD, healthcare coalition, and other public health structures



Contracted Readiness

Who is prepared before activation occurs?

This pillar establishes:

- An Emergency Activation Addendum embedded within MHB funding agreements
- Defined scope of services during activation
- Tiered partner participation levels based on capacity
- Escalated funding pathways tied to activation
- A required Business Continuity Plan for participating partners
- Annual training and one structured readiness drill



Stabilization Network

Where does stabilization actually happen?

This pillar establishes:

- A defined network of Community Stabilization Partners (faith institutions, CDCs, salons, libraries, early childhood centers, and other trusted neighborhood anchors)
- Clear role boundaries — stabilizers, not responders
- Adapted training focused on recognition, referral, and communication
- Annual refresher expectations
- Modest stipends or incentives tied to participation

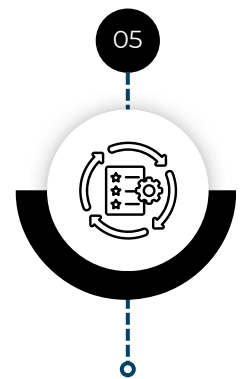


Tiered Activation and Escalation

How does response scale and contract over time?

This pillar establishes:

- A structured Tiered Activation Model (Immediate Stabilization, Expanded Support, Extended Recovery, Long-Term Monitoring)
- Distinct activation protocols for Funded Partners and Community Stabilization Partners
- Defined funding releases aligned with tier movement
- Clear communication procedures for activation and deactivation
- An Annual Recovery Impact Review to determine whether higher tiers remain warranted



Continuous Improvement

How do we know what worked and what didn't?

This pillar establishes:

- A structured post-activation debrief within 30 days
- A funded partner listening session following major activations
- A community listening session in impacted areas
- An annual Behavioral Health Readiness Report
- A formal revision cycle for agreements, training, and protocols