



Creating a new credential for a

Prescribing Psychologist (RxP)

A smart & sensible approach to increasing access to comprehensive behavioral health services while protecting patient safety

What is a Prescribing Psychologist and WHY Washington Needs Them

A Prescribing Psychologist is a fully independent, licensed psychologist who has completed specific training and been credentialed to prescribe psychotropic medication.

Increases Access - More Options for Patients to Access Care

- ✔ **Decreases Costs** - Combining with talk therapy decreases out-of-pocket costs.
- ✔ **Decreases Suicide** - Research from the Center for Growth & Opportunity at Utah State University found a **5 to 7 percent decrease in suicide rates** in states that expanded prescribing authority to psychologists.
- ✔ **Improves the Crisis System** - Individuals with complex needs and comorbidities struggle to find providers in their community. Providing care in the community will decrease the need for hospitalizations.
- ✔ **Increases Diversity** - BIPOC communities want therapists who come from their communities, expanding pathways for training will improve diversity among the behavioral health workforce.
- ✔ **Addresses Rural Shortages** - Almost half of the counties in Washington State lack a single working psychiatrist.
- ✔ **Reduces Treatment in Expensive Settings** - Delays in care result in increased emergency care, homelessness, and incarceration.

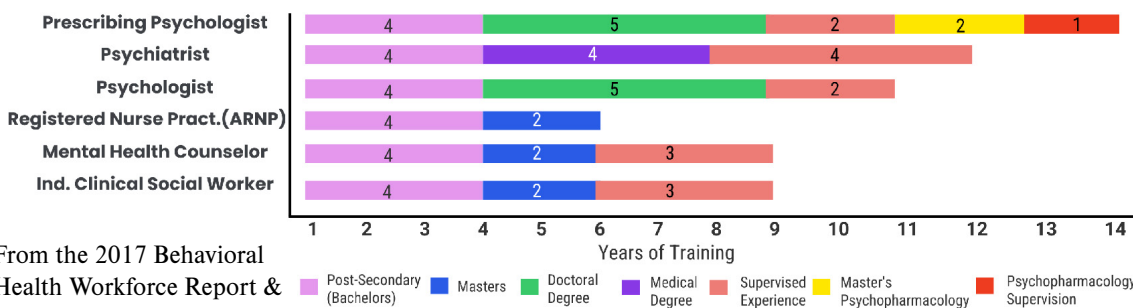
Lack of Patient Access to Care is Causing Real Harm

"The lack of access to medication, especially in the rural area where I live, has profoundly affected my life. I've self-harmed and had constant thoughts of suicide, fallen to severe depression, developed physical health issues, and there are years of my life that I hardly remember."

NAMI Member - Jocelynn, Walla Walla, WA

Proven 30+ Year Success in Other States by Requiring Extensive Education

Minimum Years of Typical Education and Supervised Experience Required Behavioral Health Occupations in WA



From the 2017 Behavioral Health Workforce Report & Training in HB1041

Seven states have credentialed RxPs: Colorado, New Mexico, Louisiana, Illinois, Utah, Iowa, & Idaho.

Three Federal Agencies use RxPs: Department of Defense, US Public Health Service Corp, & Indian Health Service.