

## Legislative Priorities for the 2018 Session

### Increase Funding for Essential Community Mental Health & Substance Use Services

#### PRIORITY

**A**

#### Core Community Mental Health and Substance Use Services

Florida's federal block grant funding for community behavioral health services was reduced by \$20 Million in the FY17-18 GAA. For a system already struggling to meet the demand, these cuts have had an immediate impact and forced community providers to reduce or eliminate critical services.

Because of this drastic cut, Community Mental Health and Substance Use providers, the local safety-net, can no longer provide the same level of services to Floridians in crisis nor continue to support those in recovery.

**Funding Request: Adjust funding to meet demand for Community Mental Health and Substance Use base services, returning \$20M in funding to replace the loss of the federal block grant funds.**

#### PRIORITY

**B**

#### Central Receiving Systems

In 2016, Senate Bill 12 established a "no-wrong-door" model for the delivery of acute care services to persons who have mental health or substance use disorders, or both, which optimizes access to care, regardless of the entry point to the behavioral health care system. These Central Receiving Systems (CRS) serve 20 counties across the state, with local governments providing 50% of the cost.

This system has saved tens of thousands of hours in law enforcement time, millions of dollars in jail costs and has reduced unnecessary hospital emergency room admissions.

**The 2017-2018 GAA cut funding for CRS by 40%** for a total reduction of \$8.2 M and funded \$1.8 M with non-recurring general revenue.

**Funding Request: Fully Fund Central Receiving Systems. Add \$10 Million in appropriations to maintain the Central Receiving Systems established in SB 12.**

#### PRIORITY

**C**

#### Low Income Pool

The Florida Council for Community Mental Health is asking the Legislature to direct AHCA to amend the Low Income Pool Special Terms and Conditions to allow community behavioral health centers to identify sources of local matching funds to be used to draw down federal match for Medicaid allowable services to off-set funding gaps in the current system of care. Local match is already secured from allowable sources and the primary objectives of these behavioral health services align with LIP.

**Funding Request: Increase available funding sources for behavioral health services by allowing community behavioral health centers to identify sources of local matching funds to draw down federal match (or FFP) for Medicaid allowable services through the Low Income Pool.**