

MAINTAIN FACT TEAMS

The Legislature should allocate an additional \$8 million Florida's 31 Assertive Community Treatment Teams (FACT) to cover their actual costs. FACT teams, on average, report substantial losses due to an increased cost of living that has impacted salaries and the costs of medication, transportation, and housing, making it increasingly difficult to retain quality staff and ensure continued FACT operations.

Background

Florida's Assertive Community Treatment is an evidence-based practice endorsed by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. FACT teams were first implemented in Florida in 1999 and currently 31 teams serve approximately 3,400 individuals annually. FACT teams are comprised of physicians, nurses, social workers and other clinical staff. FACT services provide care to individuals with the most severe mental illnesses with a history of state hospitalization, repeated CSU use, and/or criminal justice incarceration.

Facts

- Using a 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year team approach, FACT delivers comprehensive community treatment, rehabilitation and support to consumers in their homes, at work, and in other community settings.
- FACT teams help assure that individuals that are the most seriously mentally ill, stay in treatment, receive medications, and secure housing and support services needed to live safely and successfully in the community.
- FACT teams are cost-effective:
 - Each team serves 100 individuals at an annual cost of \$999,999 or \$27.40 per day/person
 - State hospital annual costs are \$119,000 or \$326.03 per day/person
 - Jail costs are \$114 per day/person (not including substance abuse or mental health care)
- Less than .5% of FACT teams recipients are ever re-hospitalized or incarcerated
- On average, 20% of FACT team recipients are in competitive employment, 12% are volunteering, 9% are pursuing educational goals, and 57% are living independently
- **There has been no rate increase for FACT teams since their implementation in 1999**
- The compound inflation rate since 1999 is 26.47% making the purchasing power of FACT appropriations of \$999,999 only worth \$734,995 in today's dollars
- The model is cost-efficient allowing DCF to claim federal Medicaid funds at a 50% matching rate for all enrolled Medicaid-eligible members
- Increased funding will restore FACT funding to actual costs decreasing staff turnover where maintaining client-staff relationships are so important to consumer success, cover increased costs of medications, and assure that consumers remain in the least restrictive/least costly setting
- \$8 million will return each FACT team to \$993,059 non-inflated funding level when initially established