



FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF
FREE AND CHARITABLE
CLINICS

A LIFE-SAVING INVESTMENT IN FLORIDA'S HEALTH



2023 STATE FUNDS GRANT PROGRAM **IMPACT REPORT**

OUR CLINICS AREN'T JUST SAVING LIVES THEY'RE CHANGING THEM.



Florida's beautiful environment, strong economy, and low taxes make it a great place to call home. But more than 2.75 million Floridians live below the poverty line. 14% of these Floridians are families with children under 18.

These hardworking, low-income families struggle to make ends meet, especially with the high cost of living. They're concerned about food, housing, transportation, jobs, and their health. That's no surprise – healthcare is the top concern of Floridians,

Those who can least afford healthcare have the most reason for concern. As healthcare costs continue rising, and the effects of the pandemic on the already disenfranchised, the state needs cost-effective solutions that provide access to care for our most vulnerable.

There was an increase in service demand as Medicaid enrollees rolled out of the program in 2023 with the end of the Public Health Emergency provision under the federal CARES Act.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Florida, alongside every other state, operated its Medicaid program under a provision within the CARES Act that increases federal funding and in exchange Medicaid recipients received “continuous coverage,” so they were not cut off of Medicaid while the Public Health Emergency (PHE) was in effect. May 2023 marked the end of the PHE and the start of the redetermination process.

Even with the development of an extensive state outreach plan to ensure that the eligibility for every person on Medicaid could be correctly be redetermined, more than a million Floridians would ultimately lose their coverage over the year. As a result, the free & charitable sector anticipates seeing a significant increase in demand with this new uninsured population.

That's what makes Florida's free and charitable clinics a smart investment.

The clinics of the Florida Association of Free and Charitable Clinics (FAFCC) provide free healthcare for uninsured, low-income communities. In 2023, 99 volunteer-driven, non-profit, faith-based, community-based clinics served 211,599 patients with more than 544,594 medical, dental, vision, specialty care, behavioral health, and pharmacy visits.

Our success is made possible by the strong support of the Governor and the Florida Legislature. This year the valuation of services has exceeded \$230 million – an unparalleled return on investment.

We've cared for hundreds of thousands of Floridians with appropriations of \$12.5 million in 2023, \$9.5 million in 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018 and 2017, \$10 million in 2016, and \$4.5 million in 2014. It's an investment that's keeping Floridians healthy and working.

Read on to learn how FAFCC's clinics provide cost-effective care that isn't just saving Floridians' lives, but changing them.

What is the State Funds Grant Program?

To serve the healthcare needs of Florida's low-income, uninsured population, FAFCC contracted with the Florida Department of Health to implement a DOH-approved competitive grant-funding program, with the Legislature's \$9.5 million appropriation.

This program awards and monitors grants to FAFCC member clinics and specialty care networks. These grant-funded projects help clinics build their patient capacity; improve organization, efficiency, and effectiveness; and expand medical services for under-insured Floridians.

New funding, new programs

In 2023, FAFCC implemented two additional grant programs with the additional \$3 million appropriation approved by the legislature and Governor. The Dental and Behavioral Health grant and the Dental Facility Expansion grant are both DOH-approved competitive grant programs.

The Dental and Behavioral Health grant is a \$2,000,000 state grant-funding program to support the expansion of Behavioral and Dental Health services of FAFCC members.

The Dental Facility Expansion grant is a \$1,000,000 state grant-funding program to support the purchase of dental equipment, labs, and supplies to expand the capacity and services of FAFCC members.

At the time of publishing, no data has been collected on the new program. Data will be collected throughout 2024 and presented in the 2024 report.

How are clinics selected?

FAFCC member clinics submitted funding proposals through a Notice of Funding Availability. To ensure fairness, a committee of experienced, volunteer reviewers from across Florida with diverse nonprofit and philanthropic backgrounds assisted in scoring applications.

For the State Funds grant, clinics submitted an application applying for funding in three categories: Personnel, Programmatic, and Operational. The projects applied for in each category align with the DOH designations of technology and equipment, healthcare provider personnel costs, training and professional development, and outside CPA examination of finances.

For the Dental and Behavioral grant, clinics submitted an application applying for funding both staffing and programming expenses. Permissible categories included: Equipment and Supplies, Other Direct Programming Needs, Personnel Costs for Healthcare Providers, Social Workers and Clinical Staff, Staff Training and Certification, and Technology and Software.

For the Dental Facility Expansion grant, clinics submitted an application applying for funding equipment and supplies for dental programs

How much of the funding goes to clinics?

100% of the state appropriation passes through FAFCC directly to clinics.

How are grant recipients held accountable for results?

Clinics submit quarterly progress reports with a robust volume of data. Clinics report key information including the number of unduplicated patients seen; any fees charged; how many hours per week patients are seen; how many visits by service type (i.e. medical, dental, etc.); how many volunteers assisted; and how many prescriptions were dispensed.

Most critically, clinics must report outcome data, measuring the effectiveness and quality of services provided, and percentage of recipients successfully completing treatment. Clinics also report organizational successes, difficulties, delays, or barriers.

What is our role in reducing avoidable ER visits?

FAFCC Member clinics play a vital role in emergency room (ER) diversion, a proactive strategy that emphasizes preventive care in order to decrease over-utilization. The vast majority of patients seen by clinics have chronic illnesses, such as diabetes, asthma, and hypertension, which is among the most common reasons for an ER visit.

In 2021, nearly 300 free & charitable clinic patients participated in a state-wide survey on the status of their health. Over half reported that they would otherwise go to the ER or not seek care if they did not have access to their local free & charitable clinic.

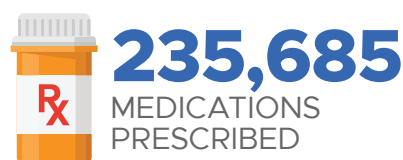
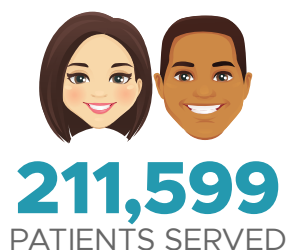
In 2023, FAFCC created a survey for member clinics to explore patient ER diversions and hospitalizations. The survey expands on the importance of the free clinic sector and keeping patients out of the emergency room and hospitals by providing consistent, whole person care.



FLORIDA'S CLINICS BY THE NUMBERS

The Florida Legislature's \$9.5 million appropriation has helped our free and charitable clinics provide quality healthcare and peace of mind. See the results for yourself.

\$234,174,442.14
Total Value of Care



334,620
MEDICAL VISITS

22,688
MENTAL HEALTH VISITS

43,163
WELLNESS VISITS

57,846
PHARMACY VISITS

70,674
DENTAL VISITS

15,603
VISION VISITS

14,369
TOTAL VOLUNTEERS



901 VOLUNTEER NURSES
5,689 NON-MEDICAL VOLUNTEERS
4,445 VOLUNTEER PHYSICIANS
780 VOLUNTEER DENTISTS



AdventHealth Community Medicine Clinic at Orlando
\$150,000 | Orange

AdventHealth Waterman Community Clinic
\$65,000 | Lake

AMSS Clinic
\$79,000 | Seminole

Ascension St. Vincent's Mobile Health Outreach Ministry
\$85,000 | Duval

Avicenna Free Clinic
\$16,000 | Bay

Barnabas Center, Inc.
\$225,000 | Nassau

BayCare Health System
\$145,000 | Hillsborough

BayCares Incorporated
\$25,000 | Bay

Brevard Hispanic Center, Inc. DBA Delacruz Volunteer Clinic
\$20,000 | Brevard

BRIDGE Healthcare Clinic
\$12,000 | Hillsborough

Calvary Community Clinic
\$24,000 | Hillsborough

Capital Medical Society Foundation, Inc.
\$98,000 | Leon

CARES - Community Aging & Retirement Services, Inc.
\$14,000 | Pasco

Caridad Center, Inc.
\$200,000 | Palm Beach

Caring For Miami
\$82,000 | Miami-Dade

Catholic Charities Free and Charitable Clinics
\$42,000 | Hillsborough

Catholic Charities of Central Florida
\$145,000 | Sumter

Center for Haitian Studies Inc.
\$41,000 | Miami-Dade

Christian Community Care Center
\$60,000 | St. Lucie

Clearwater Free Clinic, Inc.
\$212,000 | Pinellas

Clínica Mi Salud
\$77,000 | Orange

Community Coalition on Homelessness DBA Turning Points
\$198,000 | Manatee

Community Dental Clinic
\$100,000 | Pinellas

Community Health Outreach of Jacksonville
\$55,000 | Duval

Community Medical Care Center of Leesburg, Inc.
\$42,000 | Lake

Dade County Dental Research Clinic
\$192,000 | Miami-Dade

Dental Care Access Foundation, Inc.
\$14,000 | Orange

Englewood Community Care Clinic, Inc.
\$45,000 | Charlotte

Epilepsy Association
\$100,000 | Orange

Flagler County Free Clinic
\$50,000 | Flagler

Florida International University Foundation, Inc.
\$127,000 | Miami-Dade

Florida Lions Eye Clinic, Inc.
\$75,000 | Lee

Good Health Clinic
\$90,000 | Monroe

Good News Care Center - a DBA of Miami Baptist Association, Inc.
\$200,000 | Miami-Dade

Good Samaritan Health Clinic of Pasco
\$100,000 | Pasco

Grace Medical Home
\$225,000 | Orange

Health and Hope Clinic
\$108,000 | Escambia

Homeless Empowerment Program
\$100,000 | Pinellas

Hope Clinic at AdventHealth University
\$85,000 | Orange

Hope Medical Clinic
\$108,000 | Okaloosa

Judeo Christian Health Clinic
\$120,000 | Hillsborough

Keys AHEC Health Centers
\$125,000 | Monroe

Lake Wales Care Center
\$24,000 | Polk

Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine, Inc.
\$245,000 | Polk

Light of the World Charities
\$120,000 | Martin

Light of the World Clinic Inc. formerly (Luz Del Mundo Light of the World Clinic)
\$109,000 | Broward

Miami Rescue Mission Clinic
\$141,000 | Miami-Dade

Mission Clinic of Palm Springs, Inc.
\$42,000 | Palm Beach

Mission House, Inc.
\$84,000 | Duval

MT-Mission Smiles
 \$19,000 | Hillsborough
Muslim American Social Services
 \$125,000 | Duval
MyClinic, Inc.
 \$37,500 | Palm Beach
North Miami Beach Medical Center
 \$40,000 | Bay
Open Door Health Center, Inc.
 \$150,000 | Miami-Dade
Orlando Health-Teen Xpress
 \$75,000 | Orange
Osceola Council on Aging
 \$98,000 | Osceola
**Palm Beach County Medical Society Services-
 Project Access**
 \$72,000 | Palm Beach
Parkview Medical Clinic
 \$20,000 | Polk
Peace On Earth Foundation Inc.
DBA Free Clinic Tampa Bay
 \$8,000 | Hillsborough
Point Washington Medical Clinic
 \$43,000 | Walton
Putnam County Medical Mission
 \$21,000 | Putnam
Samaritan Health and Wellness Center, Inc.
 \$175,000 | Lee
Samaritan's Touch Care Center
 \$55,000 | Highlands
**Sertoma Speech & Hearing Foundation of
 Florida, Inc.**
 \$142,000 | Pasco
Shepherd's Hope, Inc.
 \$225,000 | Orange
St. Andrew Community Medical Center, Inc.
 \$110,000 | Bay
St. George Clinic, Inc.
 \$8,000 | Hillsborough
St. John Bosco Clinic
 \$92,000 | Miami-Dade
St. Lucie County Health Access Network, Inc.
 \$119,000 | St. Lucie
St. Petersburg Free Clinic
 \$200,000 | Pinellas
**Sundari Foundation, Inc. - Lotus House
 Women's Shelter**
 \$240,000 | Miami-Dade
Talbot House Ministries of Lakeland, Inc.
 \$175,000 | Polk
**The Community Health Center of
 West Palm Beach**
 \$150,000 | Palm Beach
The Jesus Clinic, Inc.
 \$22,000 | Volusia

The Mental Health Association of Central Florida
\$75,000 | Orange

The Outreach Clinic
\$32,000 | Hillsborough

The Southwest Florida Free Pain Clinic
\$44,000 | Lee

The Way Free Medical Clinic, Inc.
\$95,000 | Clay

UF Equal Access Clinic Network
\$17,000 | Alachua

UHI Community Care Clinic
\$82,000 | Miami-Dade

UMC Free Clinic
\$25,000 | Miami-Dade

United Hands, Inc.
\$135,000 | Marion

United Medical and Social Services
\$120,000 | Seminole

United Way of Lee, Hendry and Glades
\$42,000 | Lee

University of Florida Mobile Outreach
\$72,000 | Alachua

University of Miami Miller School of Medicine
\$165,000 | Miami-Dade

Virginia B. Andes Volunteer Community Clinic, Inc.
\$205,000 | Charlotte

Vision Is Priceless Council, Inc.
\$93,000 | Duval

Volunteers in Medicine Clinic, Inc.
\$150,000 | Martin

Volunteers in Medicine Jacksonville, Inc.
\$215,000 | Duval

Volusia Volunteers In Medicine
\$72,500 | Volusia

We Care Foundation of Indian River
\$45,000 | Indian River

We Care Jacksonville, Inc.
\$182,000 | Duval

We Care Manatee, Inc.
\$42,000 | Manatee

We Care of Central Florida, Inc.
\$156,000 | Polk

We Care of Lake County, Inc.
\$38,000 | Lake

We Care Physician Referral Network
\$72,000 | Alachua

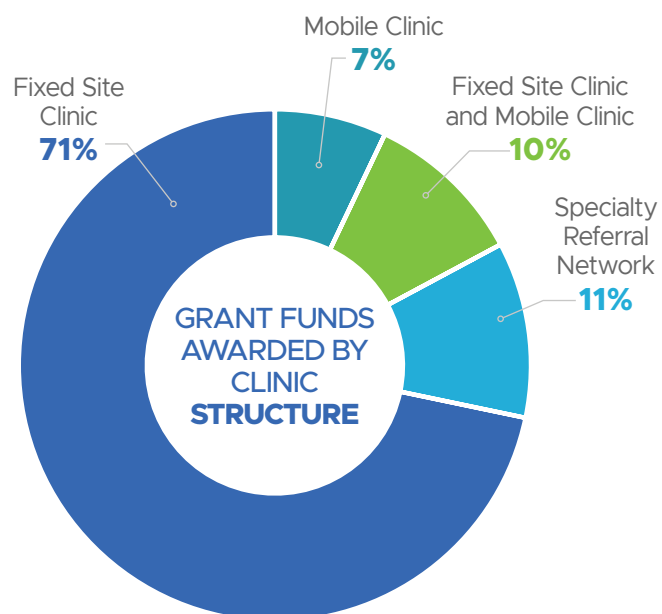
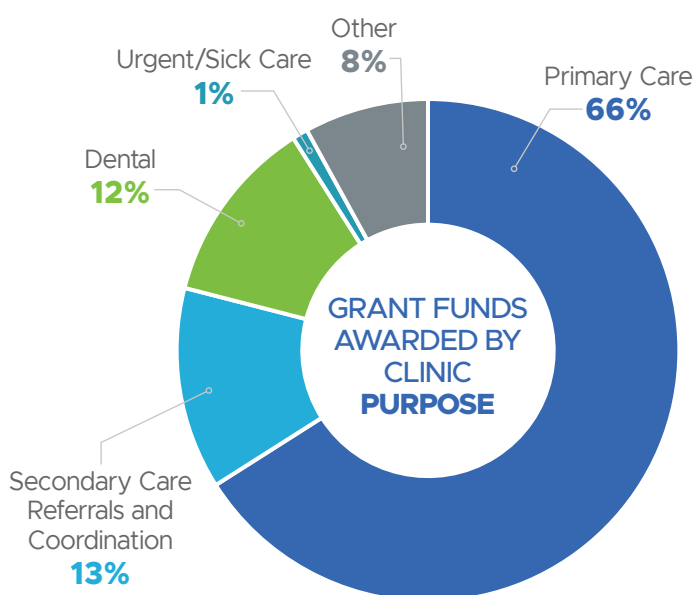
Wildflower Healthcare
\$108,000 | St. Johns

Willia Carson Health and Wellness Center
\$15,000 | Pinellas

WHAT DO FLORIDA'S CLINICS LOOK LIKE?



Most of FAFCC's appropriation grant recipients are traditional, fixed-site clinics that provide primary and preventive care. But FAFCC clinics are also versatile, flexible, and include mobile clinics, specialty care networks, and urgent care locations.



CLINIC HIGHLIGHTS

VOLUNTEERS IN MEDICINE

Jacksonville, FL

VIM is a free clinic providing primary and specialty care to those who work but are unable to afford health care. Integrating primary care and behavioral health has developed as an innovative and best practices model of care delivery which improves access and treatment of mental health conditions in general health settings. At VIM, services are available six days a week – for both primary care and mental health support. Mental health counselors are available both in person at the clinic, and through a successful telehealth model.

The total number of mental health visits has increased dramatically during the years. The demand for services can be illustrated by tracking the number of sessions in each fiscal year (Oct. 1-Sept. 30):

2018-2019: 160 sessions (new program with UNF graduate student counselors);

2019-2020: 253 sessions;

2020-2021: 455 sessions (addition of professional counselors)

2021-2022: 830 sessions

2022-2023: 942 sessions

Mrs. R started counseling at VIM in February of 2023. She was experiencing depression and anxiety related to a job change. Mrs. R stated that she was “on a journey of self-discovery” and felt like counseling would be a helpful part of that journey. The client’s primary treatment goals were to reduce depressive symptoms through the implementation of coping skills and to increase her self-confidence. Over the course of nine months, Mrs. R was consistent in attending counseling and highly engaged in the sessions. Mrs. R shared past trauma that included past

sexual assault and exposure to domestic violence as a child that had led to a negative, inflexible perception of herself. R worked so hard to confront that part of herself and that past trauma. Mrs. R created a new narrative and found new meaning in her experiences, leading to increased self-compassion and openness. Mrs. R successfully completed counseling in September 2023. Her depression is in remission and her sense of identity and confidence blossomed. She started a side business and reports happiness and peace within herself.

CARIDAD CENTER | Boynton Beach, FL

Caridad Center is the largest free healthcare clinic in Florida and one the largest in the entire nation. Their clinic offers comprehensive medical, vision, & dental care for the uninsured and under-served children & families of Palm Beach County.

Working two jobs, Maria’s mother struggled to feed their family and keep a roof over their heads. The family didn’t have medical or dental insurance, and Maria had never been to see a dentist.

By age 14, Maria never smiled. She had become embarrassed by the dark spots on her teeth and that she didn’t look like the other girls at school. That’s when Maria’s mother learned of Caridad Center and made an appointment for her daughter to see the dentist.

The State Funds Grant made it possible for Maria, and others like her, to receive full digital X-rays that showed that she had a cavity in nearly every tooth. Caridad’s volunteer pediatric dentists began trying to save as many teeth as possible. Unfortunately, the dentists had to remove Maria’s two front teeth because they had decayed so badly.

Caridad’s dental team didn’t have the heart to let Maria go home in such poor condition. The State Funds Grant funded the equipment so that Caridad’s team could create a partial denture for Maria, and it fit perfectly! When the dentist handed her the mirror, Maria beamed from ear to ear. The State Funds Grant has made it possible for Caridad Center’s dental clinic to help not only girls, like Maria, but also adults who can receive comprehensive dental care and become empowered with good oral hygiene skills that they can use for life.

CLINIC HIGHLIGHTS

(CONTINUED)

LAKELAND VOLUNTEERS IN MEDICINE Lakeland, FL

Brian works part-time at a local library, loves to read, play board and card games, is an amateur writer, and leads the Dungeons and Dragons teen program at the library. Brian did not have access to health care coverage and when he decided it was time to see a primary care physician, he found LVIM by way of a referral from Polk Healthcare Plan. In early 2015, Brian was seen at LVIM and had his initial blood work done. When he came in for a follow up visit with Emma McMicken, APRN he was immediately diagnosed with hypothyroidism and placed on levothyroxine.

He was later experiencing a severe back muscle strain and was struck with the news that he had a significant and concerning spike in his sugar levels and that his blood pressure and cholesterol were too high. His provider presented a treatment plan to which Brian agreed. They would treat the muscle strain with a short term steroid, and he would also have to go on lovastatin to control his cholesterol, and a combination of metformin for lisinopril to help control his blood pressure.

It was then Brian decided he needed to take the lead in his health journey and made a commitment to himself to start eating healthier and walking, on a regular basis. Since Brian's original diagnosis, he has lowered his A1C from 6.9 to 5.5, his triglycerides from 200 to 105, and has lost over 40 pounds. He is now on low, stable doses of all his medications.

Brian contributes his efforts and winning outcomes to having accessibility to regular, primary care visits, an easy process to refill his medications and the positive environment and encouraging atmosphere the volunteers and staff at LVIM create. Brian is a true example of how regular medical check-ups, a little self-care and determination can help you live a healthier and happier life.



HANDS | Ft. Pierce, FL

Dental intraoral X-ray sensors are a crucial component in modern dentistry used to capture detailed and high-quality X-ray images of a patient's teeth and oral structures. These sensors are a part of digital radiography systems, replacing traditional film-based X-rays. They make treatment possible.

The HANDS Clinic has one of these sensors by raising \$10,000 to make this purchase. In partnership with NOVA University, our clinic provides 32 dental appointments daily, four days per week. It is very busy.

Recently, a student was taking images of a patient's bite wings, wrapped the cord around her wrist accidentally, and broke it.

If it weren't for the state funding that recently became available for dental expansion, we would have had to shut down the only free dental clinic in St. Lucie County.



WHAT ARE PATIENTS SAYING?



“

It felt so good to give back to the place that means so much to me. I am married and have two children, but I feel like my ‘family’ includes everyone at Grace. There are no words to express the gratitude I feel. Everyone was so supportive – emotionally, spiritually and physically. There is nothing else like Grace Medical in Orlando. I feel sorry for the people who can’t qualify because of the support and compassion you receive there! I cried when I graduated and said goodbye to all the angels at Grace.

– Georgette

”

“

Not only did Barnabas Center give me medical attention, but also the mental help I needed to heal my mind. I would have been dead and lost without Barnabas Center. And, best of all, now I am able to smile every day with my new dentures! Every time I smile, I remind myself how thankful I am to every single donor who gives to Barnabas Center.

– Jon

”

“

What I like about being able to come here is that no one makes me feel like I’m not important or not valuable. I’m getting top-rate health care, but the attitude of everyone at Clearwater Free Clinic and how they treat and care about you is all very genuine.

– Ron

”

“

Hope Clinic has helped me to function better in life with everyday tasks, such as getting dressed, especially with long-sleeved shirts and jackets. My therapists at Hope Clinic had a positive outlook, which has given me the encouragement to do my best in therapy and in life.

– J.L.

”

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES THIS SESSION?



Maintain additional \$3 million in funding to expand mental health and dental services.

Over the last two years, FAFCC has conducted focus groups and completed state tours to hear what our clinics need most. Overwhelmingly, free clinics struggle with the cost of mental health and dental services, as well as with securing providers in those respective fields. In 2023, the legislature approved \$3 million in additional funding to help clinics with staffing and programmatic expenses. Clinics have already expressed how the additional equipment, supplies, and providers have expanded their capacity for providing care to those who need it most.

Easing Sovereign Immunity eligibility by modernizing federal poverty requirements.

Under current statute 766.1115, sovereign immunity is applicable when an individual or family is uninsured and makes at, or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). However, clinics like Virginia B. Andes in Port Charlotte and Volunteer in Medicine Clinic in Stuart have experienced an increase of uninsured individuals seeking services that do not meet the FPL standard but are facing economic hardships such as inflation, lower wages, lack of affordable housing and lack of transportation. In what should be considered significant progress in improving access to the care Floridians need, SB7016 would increase the eligibility from 200% to 300% of FPL and modernize eligibility criteria to meet economic demand. It would increase access to services for many eligible uninsured individuals, providing a smoother pathway towards a healthier wellbeing, lifestyle, and financial sustainability.



WHAT CAN FLORIDA'S LAWMAKERS DO?



Florida's free and charitable clinics aren't just front-line medical care providers. We're responsible stewards of taxpayer funding, several years running.

With last year's \$9.5 million appropriation, FAFCC clinics provided more than \$230 million in medical services — a more than 20-to-1 return on investment that makes it one of Florida's best budget decisions.

As healthcare costs continue rising, and gaps in dental and mental health services continue since the global pandemic, Florida's free and charitable clinics are lowering those costs for the state by decreasing indigent care at emergency rooms, and reducing avoidable hospitalizations and readmissions.

We're providing jobs for our communities, and dignity for our patients. We're helping keep vulnerable, uninsured Floridians healthy and working.

Florida's lawmakers can help continue this life-saving work by reauthorizing FAFCC's appropriation in the FY 24-25 budget.

The clinics of the Florida Association of Free and Charitable Clinics are grateful for the Governor and the Legislature's past support. We hope we will earn their support again. Our clinics — and our patients — are counting on it.

Florida's lawmakers can increase FAFCC's impact and cost-saving by continuing to support an additional \$3 million investment in Dental and Mental Health expansion of services for the uninsured.

Key state investments in expanding services for the uninsured in dental and mental services, which are seeing some of the largest service gaps, will increase the free and charitable clinic sector's role in reducing avoidable hospital rates within their communities. Continuing to fund additional dental services for the uninsured impacts two key components to an individual's health. First, to improve self-worth and confidence in finding employment. Second, to provide more complicated medical care, such as surgery, where a dental visit must be done in advance to safely undergo anesthesia.

Access to appropriate and timely mental health assessment and intervention is key when treating uninsured patients, and is largely considered a best practice when managing care and treatment for people with chronic conditions. Maintaining funding to increase access to clinical therapists, care coordinators, and psychiatric drug programs allows free & charitable clinics to play an increasing role in intervention and prevention, likely reducing the chances a patient will be in crisis and require hospitalization.

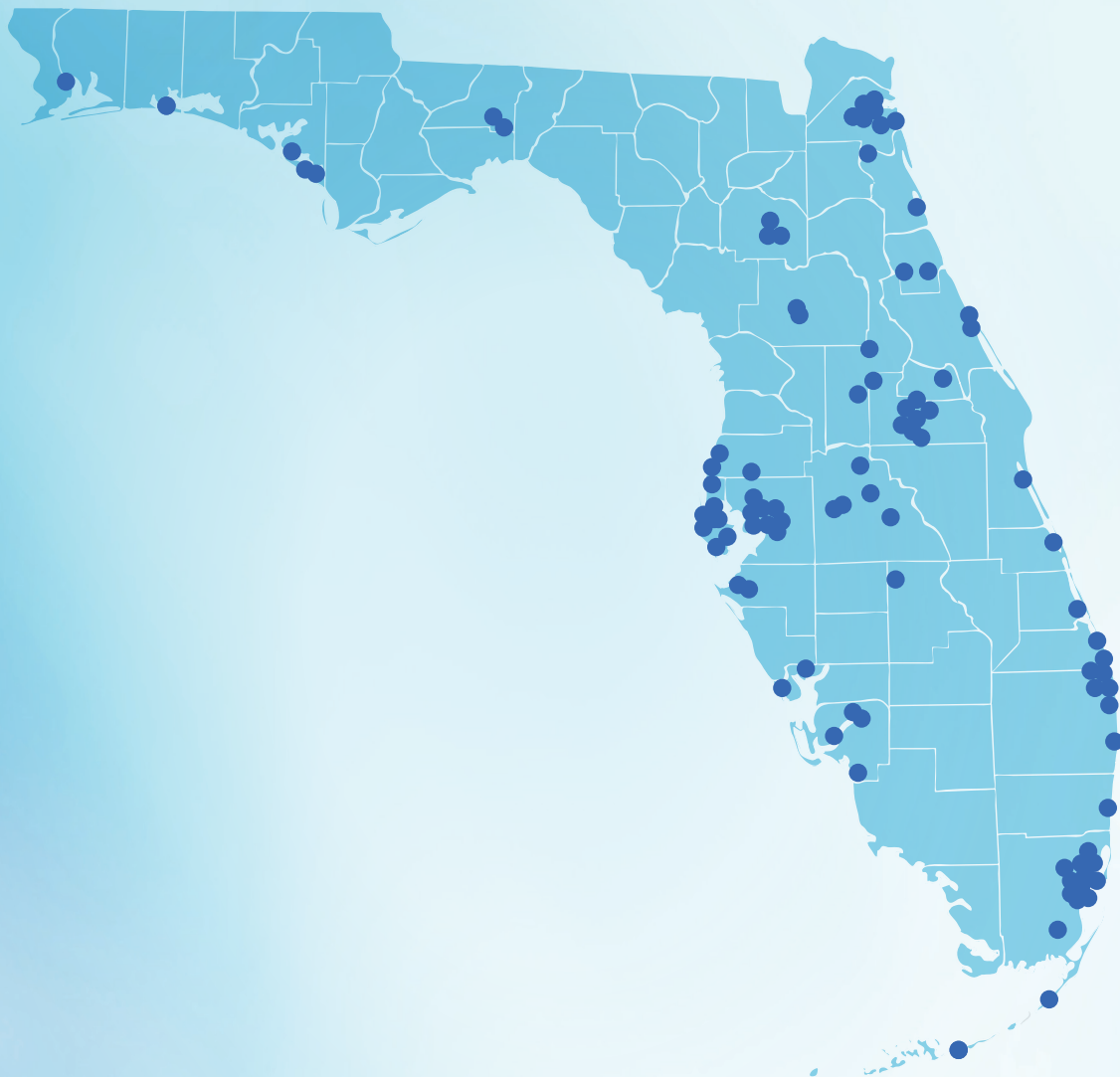


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QUESTIONS?

Rebecca DeLorenzo, *Chief Executive Officer*
904.337.9124 | rebecca@fafcc.org

Christina Swiridowsky, *Chief of Staff*
904.337.4016 | christina@fafcc.org



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