

# A LIFE-SAVING INVESTMENT IN FLORIDA'S HEALTH



2024 STATE FUNDS  
GRANT PROGRAM  
**IMPACT REPORT**



FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF  
**FREE & CHARITABLE  
CLINICS**



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

Florida's beautiful environment, thriving economy, and low taxes make it a desirable place to live. Yet more than **2.75 million Floridians** currently live below the poverty line, including **14% of families with children under 18**. These hardworking, low-income families are facing increasing challenges to make ends meet, especially with Florida's rising cost of living. Every day, they struggle to balance essentials like food, housing, transportation, employment, and their health.

It's no surprise that healthcare is the top concern of Floridians, especially for those who can least afford it. As healthcare costs continue to rise, the state is urgently seeking cost-effective solutions that provide accessible, quality care for our most vulnerable residents.

## A Rising Need Amid Medicaid Rollbacks

Demand for free clinic services surged in 2023 as the Federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) provision under the CARES Act ended, resulting in Medicaid "rollbacks." Since the onset of the pandemic, Florida – like other states – was able to operate its Medicaid program with additional federal funding under the CARES Act, providing continuous coverage for Medicaid recipients. When the PHE officially ended in May 2023, the state undertook a massive redetermination process to review eligibility for all Medicaid enrollees. Despite Florida's extensive outreach efforts to maintain coverage for eligible residents, more than a million Floridians ultimately lost their Medicaid coverage, increasing the uninsured population and, in turn, the demand for services provided by free and charitable clinics.

## Florida's Free and Charitable Clinics: A Smart Investment

Florida's free and charitable clinics are more critical than ever. The clinics affiliated with the Florida Association of Free and Charitable Clinics (FAFCC) provide free or low cost, comprehensive healthcare to low-income, uninsured communities statewide. In 2024, 97 volunteer-driven, non-profit, faith-based, and community-based clinics served 242,573 patients and provided more than 574,518 visits for medical, dental, vision, specialty care, behavioral health, and pharmacy services.

## A High Return on Investment

Thanks to the unwavering support of the Governor and the Florida Legislature, FAFCC's clinics delivered an impressive valuation of services totaling over \$265 million in 2024 – a remarkable return on investment. This year's appropriations of \$12.5 million follow several years of strong state support: \$9.5 million in 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, and 2017; \$10 million in 2016; and \$4.5 million in 2014. These appropriations have allowed FAFCC clinics to meet growing needs, helping keep Floridians healthy, productive and resilient.

Read on to learn more about how FAFCC's clinics provide compassionate, cost-effective care that isn't just saving lives but transforming them for a healthier Florida.

## What is the State Funds Grant Program?

To serve Florida's low-income, uninsured population, FAFCC, in partnership with the Florida Department of Health, administers the State Funds Grant Program, supported by a \$9.5 million appropriation from the Florida Legislature. This program awards competitive grants to FAFCC member clinics and specialty care networks, enabling them to expand patient capacity, enhance efficiency, and extend services to underinsured Floridians. By supporting these clinics, the program brings life-changing healthcare within reach for those most in need.

## Expanded Funding for Dental and Mental Health Programs

In 2024, FAFCC combined its Dental and Behavioral Health Grant with the Dental Facility Expansion Grant, creating a new, unified program that provides funding for both dental and mental health services. This consolidated grant supports clinics in building capacity, acquiring essential equipment, and developing programs that address the urgent dental and mental health needs of underserved communities. With a total appropriation of \$3 million, this streamlined grant program ensures that clinics have the resources they need to deliver comprehensive, whole-person care.

## How Are Clinics Selected?

FAFCC's competitive selection process ensures equitable distribution of funds. Clinics submit grant proposals annually through a Notice of Funding Availability, and an experienced volunteer review committee from across Florida scores applications. Each grant's funding is based on specific categories:

- **State Funds Grant:** Clinics apply for funding in categories such as Personnel, Programmatic, and Operational. Projects align with DOH guidelines, covering costs for technology, equipment, healthcare personnel, and training.
- **Dental and Mental Health Program Grant:** Clinics apply for funds to cover equipment, supplies, direct program needs, personnel for healthcare and mental health providers, social workers, staff training, and technology.

## How Much of the Funding Goes to Clinics?

100% of the state appropriation passes directly through FAFCC to the clinics, with no administrative costs retained by FAFCC.

## How Are Grant Recipients Held Accountable?

Clinics report quarterly on a range of metrics, ensuring transparency and accountability. Data collected includes unduplicated patients served, whether fees are charged, weekly patient hours, types of services (medical, dental, etc.), volunteer contributions, prescriptions dispensed, and outcome measures for patient treatment success. Clinics also report on organizational achievements, challenges, and any barriers encountered, providing a complete picture of each clinic's impact.

## Reducing Avoidable ER Visits

FAFCC clinics are essential in reducing avoidable emergency room (ER) visits by providing preventive care and managing chronic conditions. Many patients served by FAFCC clinics, dealing with chronic health issues like diabetes, asthma, and hypertension, rely on these community-based services to stay healthy and avoid costly, unnecessary ER visits.

Preliminary results from our ER Diversion Survey, collected between October 1 and December 31, 2024, show the impact of clinic care on patient decision-making. Early data indicates that, without access to their local clinic, a significant portion of patients would turn to ER services or forego treatment altogether. This survey builds on insights from our 2021 survey and underscores the critical role clinics play in providing accessible, whole-person care that keeps patients healthier and helps alleviate the burden on emergency rooms.

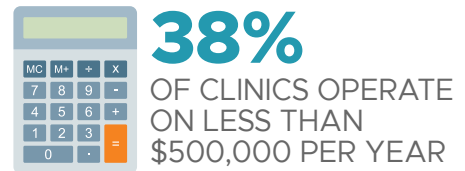
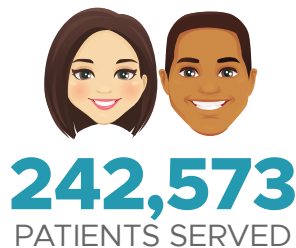


# FLORIDA'S CLINICS BY THE NUMBERS



Key statistics, including reach and impact across funding programs.

**\$266,135,979.08**  
Total Value of Care



**318,131**  
MEDICAL VISITS

**31,836**  
MENTAL HEALTH VISITS

**30,108**  
WELLNESS VISITS

**76,847**  
PHARMACY VISITS

**77,504**  
DENTAL VISITS

**16,722**  
VISION VISITS

**12,516**  
TOTAL VOLUNTEERS



**1,253** VOLUNTEER NURSES  
**4,960** NON-MEDICAL VOLUNTEERS  
**3,865** VOLUNTEER PHYSICIANS  
**620** VOLUNTEER DENTISTS





# GEOGRAPHIC REACH: WHERE ARE FLORIDA'S FREE & CHARITABLE CLINICS?

**AdventHealth Foundation Central Florida**  
SFG \$150,000 | DBG \$30,000 | Orange

**AdventHealth Waterman Foundation**  
SFG \$75,000 | DBG \$9,000 | Lake

**AHU Hope Clinic**  
SFG \$80,000 | Orange

**American Muslim Community Clinic (AMCC)**  
SFG \$70,000 | DBG \$50,000 | Seminole

**Avicenna Free Clinic**  
SFG \$12,000 | Bay

**Barnabas Center Health Services**  
SFG \$235,000 | DBG \$30,000 | Nassau

**BayCares Incorporated**  
SFG \$25,000 | Bay

**BRIDGE Healthcare Clinic**  
SFG \$15,000 | Hillsborough

**Calvary Community Clinic**  
SFG \$20,000 | Hillsborough

**Capital Medical Society Foundation  
We Care Network**  
SFG \$98,000 | Leon

**CARES**  
SFG \$18,000 | Pasco

**Caridad Center, Inc.**  
SFG \$190,000 | DBG \$20,000 | Palm Beach

**Caring For Miami**  
SFG \$82,000 | DBG \$35,000 | Miami-Dade

**Caring Place Clinic**  
SFG \$136,000 | DBG \$60,000 | Miami-Dade

**Catholic Charities of Central Florida**  
SFG \$145,000 | Orange

**Catholic Charities, Diocese of St. Petersburg**  
SFG \$40,000 | DBG \$25,000 | Hillsborough

**Center for Haitian Studies Inc.**  
SFG \$35,000 | Miami-Dade

**Christian Community Care Center**  
SFG \$60,000 | DBG \$25,000 | Martin

**Christian Medical Ministries, Inc**  
SFG \$50,000 | DBG \$16,000 | Lee

**Clearwater Free Clinic, Inc.**  
SFG \$207,000 | Pinellas

**Community Dental Clinic**  
SFG \$115,000 | DBG \$45,000 | Pinellas

**Community Health Center of West Palm Beach**  
SFG \$150,000 | Palm Beach

**Community Health Outreach**  
SFG \$55,000 | DBG \$28,000 | Duval

**Community Medical Care Center**  
SFG \$38,000 | Lake

**Community Smiles**  
SFG \$187,000 | DBG \$50,000 | Miami-Dade

**Delacruz Volunteer Clinic**  
SFG \$20,000 | DBG \$15,000 | Brevard

**Dental Care Access Foundation**  
SFG \$10,000 | Orange

**Englewood Community Care Clinic**  
SFG \$45,000 | Charlotte

**Epilepsy Association**  
SFG \$100,000 | Orange

**Flagler County Free Clinic**  
SFG \$55,000 | DBG \$45,000 | Flagler

**Florida International University  
Mobile Health Center**  
SFG \$127,000 | Miami-Dade

**Florida Lions Eye Clinic, Inc.**  
SFG \$80,000 | Lee

**FreeDOM Clinic USA**  
SFG \$130,000 | DBG \$20,000 | Marion

**Good Health Clinic**  
SFG \$100,000 | Monroe

**Good News Care Center**  
SFG \$220,000 | Miami-Dade

**Good Samaritan Health Clinic of Pasco**  
SFG \$95,000 | Pasco

**Good Samaritan Health/  
Wildflower Healthcare**  
SFG \$92,000 | St. Johns

**Grace Medical Home, Inc.**  
SFG \$225,000 | DBG \$50,000 | Orange

**Gulf Coast Dental Outreach**  
SFG \$35,000 | DBG \$5,000 | Pinellas

**HANDS Clinic**  
SFG \$119,000 | DBG \$85,000 | St. Lucie

**Health and Hope Clinic**  
SFG \$110,000 | DBG \$45,000 | Escambia

**HealthyMe**  
SFG \$27,000 | Palm Beach

**Homeless Empowerment Program  
Dental and Wellness Clinic**  
SFG \$110,000 | DBG \$80,000 | Pinellas

**Hope Medical Clinic**  
SFG \$106,000 | DBG \$75,000 | Okaloosa

**Judeo Christian Health Clinic**  
SFG \$135,000 | DBG \$45,000 | Hillsborough

**Keys AHEC Health Centers**  
SFG \$135,000 | DBG \$50,000 | Monroe

**Lake Wales Free Clinic**  
SFG \$32,000 | Polk

**Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine**  
SFG \$245,000 | DBG \$50,000 | Polk

**Light of the World Clinic Inc.**  
SFG \$117,000 | Orange

**Little Lights Dentistry**  
SFG \$140,000 | DBG \$70,000 | Martin

**Lotus Wellness Center**  
SFG \$225,000 | DBG \$35,000 | Miami-Dade

**Mental Health Association of Central Florida**  
SFG \$125,000 | DBG \$58,000 | Orange

**Mission Clinic of Palm Springs, Inc.**  
SFG \$39,000 | DBG \$23,018 | Palm Beach

**Mission House**  
SFG \$62,000 | Duval

**MT-Mission Smiles**  
SFG \$20,000 | DBG \$10,000 | Hillsborough

**Muslim American Social Services**  
SFG \$135,000 | DBG \$20,000 | Duval

**North Miami Beach Medical Center  
and Mercy Mobile Clinic**  
SFG \$40,000 | Miami-Dade

**Open Door Health Center**  
SFG \$150,000 | Miami-Dade

**Osceola Council on Aging**  
SFG \$80,000 | DBG \$20,000 | Osceola

**Outreach Free Clinic and Resource Center**  
SFG \$26,000 | Hillsborough

**Palm Beach County Medical Society  
Services, Inc.**  
SFG \$75,000 | Palm Beach

**Parkview Medical Clinic**  
SFG \$25,000 | DBG \$35,000 | Polk

**Peace On Earth Foundation, Inc.**  
SFG \$8,000 | Hillsborough

**Point Washington Medical Clinic, Inc.**  
SFG \$65,000 | DBG \$110,000 | Walton

**Putnam County Medical Mission**  
SFG \$19,000 | DBG \$24,000 | Putnam

**Samaritan Health and Wellness Center, Inc.**  
SFG \$175,000 | DBG \$30,000 | Lee

**Samaritan's Touch Care Center**  
SFG \$55,000 | DBG \$17,000 | Highlands

**Sertoma Speech & Hearing Foundation**  
SFG \$142,000 | Pasco

**Shepherd's Hope, Inc.**  
SFG \$225,000 | Orange

**Space Coast Volunteers in Medicine**  
SFG \$10,000 | Brevard

**St. Andrew Community Medical Center**  
SFG \$105,000 | Bay

**St. John Bosco Clinic**  
SFG \$95,000 | Miami-Dade

**St. Joseph's Children's Hospital**  
SFG \$145,000 | Hillsborough

**St. Petersburg Free Clinic**  
SFG \$200,000 | DBG \$60,000 | Pinellas

**Talbot House Ministries**  
SFG \$175,000 | Polk

**Teen Xpress**  
SFG \$80,000 | DBG \$50,000 | Orange

**The Way Free Medical Clinic, Inc.**  
SFG \$105,000 | DBG \$65,000 | Clay

**Turning Points**  
SFG \$202,000 | DBG \$86,982.43 | Manatee

**UF Equal Access Clinic Network**  
SFG \$22,000 | Alachua

**UHI CommunityCare Clinic**  
SFG \$70,000 | Miami-Dade

**UMC Free Clinic**  
SFG \$22,000 | Miami-Dade

**United Medical and Social Services**  
SFG \$120,000 | DBG \$75,000 | Seminole

**University of Florida Mobile Outreach Clinic**  
SFG \$82,000 | DBG \$50,000 | Alachua

**University of Miami Pediatric Mobile Clinic**  
SFG \$165,000 | DBG \$50,000 | Miami-Dade

**Virginia B. Andes Volunteer  
Community Clinic, Inc.**  
SFG \$220,000 | Charlotte

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

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

**Volunteers in Medicine Jacksonville**  
SFG \$225,000 | DBG \$10,000 | Duval

**Volusia Volunteers In Medicine**  
SFG \$10,000 | Volusia

**We Care Foundation of Indian River**  
SFG \$50,000 | Indian River

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

**We Care of Central Florida, Inc.**  
SFG \$156,000 | DBG \$35,000 | Polk

**We Care of Lake County**  
SFG \$38,000 | Lake

**We Care of Lee County**  
SFG \$55,000 | DBG \$15,000 | Lee

**We Care Physician Referral Network**  
SFG \$59,000 | DBG \$50,000 | Alachua

**WeCareJax**  
SFG \$195,000 | Duval

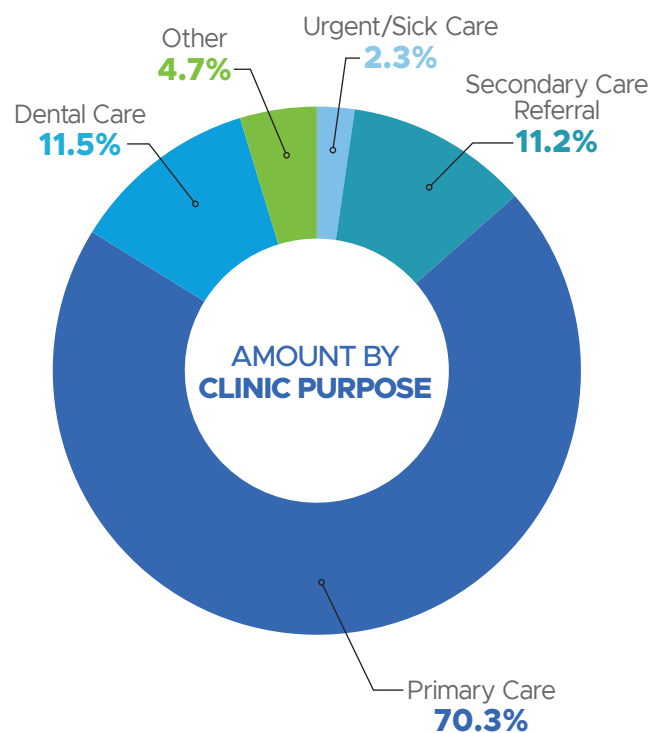
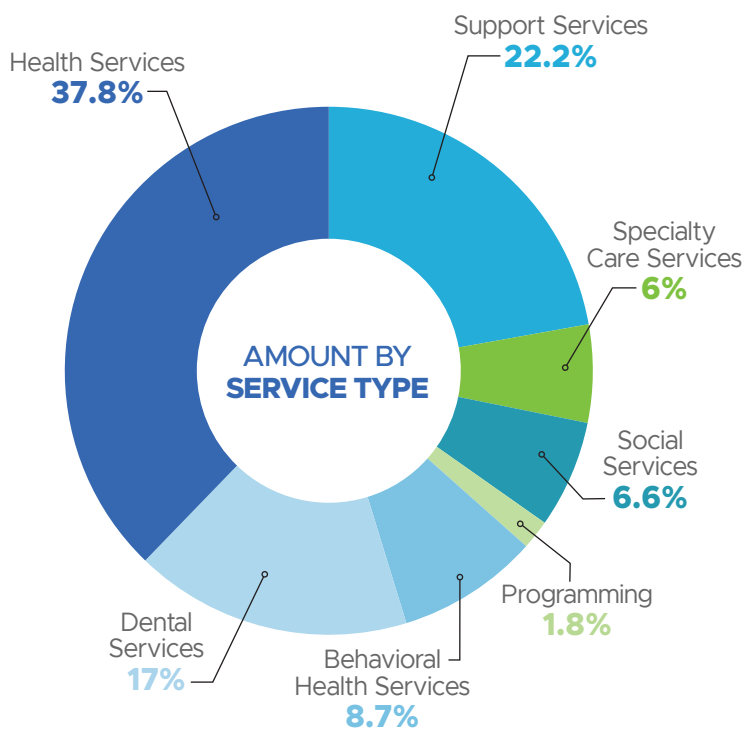
**Willa Carson Health and Wellness Center**  
SFG \$20,000 | DBG \$13,000 | Pinellas

\*SFG - State Funds Grant  
\*DBG - Dental & Behavioral Health Grant

# CLINIC PROFILES: TYPES & SERVICES



Overview of clinic models and services funded across the programs.







## WeCareJax: Transforming Lives Through Comprehensive Cancer Care

WeCareJax continued its vital support for patients in the Cancer Care Cohort during the reporting period, exemplified by Mr. Jaritz's inspiring journey. Diagnosed with Chronic Myeloid Leukemia, Mr. Jaritz initially used his life savings to fund treatment. When his savings ran out, continuing care seemed impossible. Fortunately, a partner primary care clinic referred him to WeCareJax, where his RN Case Manager secured treatment for him at Mayo Clinic Cancer Center and Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside.

Recognizing the need for ongoing care, WeCareJax provided more than just access to initial treatment. The team coordinated follow-up consultations, ensuring continuity of care. When chemotherapy caused severe cardiac complications requiring emergency surgery and a pacemaker, WeCareJax arranged critical cardiology support.

Mr. Jaritz's condition demands lifelong care and WeCareJax remains committed to managing his complex medical needs. The team is currently awaiting the results of his June hematology and oncology consultation to ensure his leukemia remains stabilized.

Beyond medical case management, WeCareJax alleviates financial burdens by covering costs for diagnostics, provider care, and surgeries. Patients also receive bi-weekly nutrition care packages, including Blue Zones-inspired recipes, which Mr. Jaritz and his caregiver cherish.

Thanks to FAFCC and State of Florida support, WeCareJax empowers patients like Mr. Jaritz to not only survive but thrive, showcasing the transformative power of compassionate, comprehensive care.



## Lotus Wellness Center: Empowering Recovery and Independence

Guest E. arrived at Lotus House following a referral from Jefferson Reaves House, carrying a history of substance abuse and trauma, including involvement in prostitution to support her addiction. Upon entering Lotus House, she began a transformative journey of recovery and self-reliance, supported by our Recovery Director, a position made possible through FAFCC funding.

Throughout her stay, Guest E. participated in comprehensive programming, including NA/AA meetings, recovery groups, and other support sessions led by FAFCC-funded staff. With assistance from our Education and Employment team, she crafted a resume, received professional clothing for interviews, and successfully completed operations manager training and an internship with Lotus House. She also secured vital documents like her birth certificate and food assistance, removing barriers to her independence.

Collaboration between the Recovery Director and other departments ensured that Guest E. maintained her employment while in recovery. Her determination and the support she received culminated in a successful transition to independent living. Today, she continues to attend support groups at Lotus House, inspiring others as a role model. Notably, she was promoted to manager at her workplace – a testament to her hard work and resilience.

The unwavering support from FAFCC-funded positions was instrumental in Guest E.'s healing and success, showcasing how this funding transforms lives and empowers individuals to thrive.





## Florida Lions Eye Clinic: Restoring Vision and Changing Lives

Carlos Navarro, a young boy with Down syndrome, faced significant challenges due to uncontrollable eye movement, making daily activities and schoolwork nearly impossible. His condition also prevented him from enjoying sports, deeply affecting his quality of life. Seeking a solution, Carlos's family turned to the Florida Lions Eye Clinic (FLLEC), where they were introduced to Dr. Baker, a skilled pediatric ophthalmologist.

Dr. Baker diagnosed Carlos with nystagmus, a condition causing involuntary eye movement. With this diagnosis, Carlos was fitted with specialized glasses to improve his vision and focus. The results were immediate and life-changing. His performance in school improved dramatically, and he found new-found joy in activities like baseball and other sports – opportunities that were previously out of reach.

The exceptional care provided by Dr. Baker and the dedicated volunteers at FLLEC has transformed Carlos' life. This story is a testament to the clinic's mission of improving the lives of individuals in need, offering specialized care to those who would otherwise go without.

Thanks to FLLEC's unwavering commitment and the support it receives, Carlos can now embrace life with clearer vision and greater confidence. Stories like Carlos's inspire the clinic to continue its mission, one patient at a time, proving that compassionate care can change lives.

## Samaritan Health & Wellness Center: Compassionate Care and Paying It Forward

A hardworking, uninsured woman visited Samaritan Health and Wellness Center for her annual exam, unaware her life was about to change. During her visit, a free mammogram was ordered, which revealed a concerning mass in one breast. Thanks to our collaboration with Partners for Breast Cancer Care, she was swiftly referred for a biopsy, which confirmed the mass was cancerous. Further examination by a breast surgeon uncovered cancer in the other breast as well.

Acting quickly, she underwent a bilateral mastectomy and has since made an incredible recovery, returning to work with renewed strength and resilience. Her journey of healing inspired her to give back to others facing similar challenges. Following her surgery, she lovingly prepared gift bags that included handmade blankets, delivering them to Samaritan Health and Wellness Center to share with other women battling breast cancer.

This story highlights the transformative impact of the care provided at Samaritan, made possible through vital partnerships and the unwavering dedication to serving those in need. Her act of kindness not only brought comfort to other patients but also exemplified the power of compassion and community.

At Samaritan Health and Wellness Center, stories like hers are a reminder that through timely care and heartfelt support, a profound difference can be made in the lives of those we serve.



# PATIENT TESTIMONIALS



## MUSLIM AMERICAN SOCIAL SERVICES

*“My provider was the first to truly listen and give me answers I had never received before. She explained my conditions, gave clear instructions on improving my health, and validated my feelings. I finally feel heard, and I’m getting the care I need. Everyone, from oncology to counseling, has been amazing. I feel very blessed to have found you.”*

## LOTUS WELLNESS CENTER

*“I don’t know where I would be without Lotus. You helped me put my life back together through therapy and support. I am forever grateful.”*

## MISSION HOUSE

*“Mission House saved my life by providing free prescriptions, injections, and treatments to keep my cancer away. They didn’t just save me — they saved my family too.”*

## COMMUNITY DENTAL CLINIC

*“They removed my pain, rebuilt my broken teeth, and performed two root canals. It was like a major overhaul. I feel so much better, and they educated me on how to maintain a healthy mouth for the future.”*

## TALBOT HOUSE MINISTRIES

*“After seeing the clinic today, I know they are the real deal. They’ve given me shelter, meals, and the tools to get back on my feet. Talbot is helping me rebuild my life and reunite my family.”*

## OPEN DOOR HEALTH CENTER

*“The Doctors at Open Door have not only relieved our physical ailments, but they have also brought great peace of mind to our lives knowing that there [are] dedicated and compassionate professionals willing to help without expecting anything from you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your tireless work and for providing this essential service to our community. Its impact goes beyond what words can express.”*



# CLINIC SPOTLIGHT: OPEN DOOR HEALTH CENTER SERVING THE SOUTHERNMOST COMMUNITY IN MIAMI-DADE



Located near the Florida Keys, Open Door Health Center serves a unique and hardworking community of agricultural and nursery workers who often lack access to affordable healthcare. Recent changes in state policy and funding have enabled us to meet their growing needs in transformative ways.

## Expanding Access to Care

With Florida's extension of State Sovereign Immunity thresholds to include care for individuals earning up to 300% of the Federal Poverty Level, we attribute our increase in patients served to this change in the statute. Before this adjustment, applicants above the 200% threshold were ineligible for services, even though they could not afford insurance. After implementing board-approved rule changes, we reached out to those previously turned away, and many successfully reapplied.

## Addressing Economic Shifts

As Miami's housing costs soar, more families have relocated to our area. With referrals from faith groups, neighbors, and social service agencies, these new residents have quickly turned to us for care, further increasing patient numbers.

## Care with Dignity and Respect

Our staff and volunteers treat every patient with dignity and respect, creating a compassionate environment that resonates deeply with our community. This commitment is reflected in the growing trust and reliance on our services.

Thanks to increased state funding and the dedication of our staff and board, we continue to make a tangible difference in the lives of Miami-Dade's uninsured poor community.





# WHAT ARE THE ISSUES THIS SESSION?



## **Sustain the Additional \$3 Million for Expanding Mental Health and Dental Services**

Over the past two years, FAFCC has conducted extensive outreach through focus groups and state tours to understand the evolving needs of our clinics. The message from our clinics is clear: the demand for affordable mental health and dental services continues to rise, and securing providers in these fields remains challenging. In 2023, the Legislature's approval of an additional \$3 million helped clinics expand their capacity through essential staffing and programmatic support. Clinics across the state are already seeing the transformative effects of this funding, with enhanced access to specialized equipment, supplies and skilled providers. These resources are directly impacting patient care by allowing clinics to reach more of Florida's uninsured population who otherwise would go without these critical services.

## **Expanding Sovereign Immunity to Boost Dental Care Access for Florida's Uninsured**

We respectfully urge the Legislature to expand Chapter 766.1115, the "Access to Health Care Act," to include sovereign immunity for dentists and dental hygiene students providing volunteer services to underserved populations. Extending this protection would empower more dental professionals and students to serve in free and charitable clinics, helping address Florida's critical need for affordable dental care. By reducing liability risks, this expansion would improve access to preventive dental services for uninsured Floridians, reducing emergency visits and promoting better health outcomes statewide.

## **What Can Florida's Lawmakers Do?**

Florida's free and charitable clinics are more than just healthcare providers – they are trusted, responsible stewards of state funding, with a strong track record of delivering exceptional value.

In 2024, FAFCC clinics received a \$12.5 million state appropriation, generating over \$265 million in medical services – a 21-to-1 return on investment. This impressive ROI underscores the importance of FAFCC's services as one of Florida's best budget decisions.

As healthcare costs and gaps in mental health and dental services persist, particularly in the wake of the pandemic, FAFCC clinics are playing a critical role in lowering state healthcare costs by decreasing emergency room use and reducing avoidable hospital admissions. By helping uninsured Floridians stay healthy and in the workforce, we're not only meeting immediate health needs but also strengthening our communities.

Florida's lawmakers can support this life-saving work by reauthorizing FAFCC's \$9.5 million appropriation for the FY 25-24 budget.

## **Increasing Impact with Additional \$3 Million for Dental and Mental Health Services**

Florida's free and charitable clinics are grateful to the Governor and the Legislature for their past support, and we hope to earn it again. Our clinics – and our patients – are counting on continued support to close service gaps in dental and mental healthcare. By continuing the additional \$3 million investment, lawmakers can help us meet the growing demand for these vital services.

Key investments in dental and mental health services will allow free and charitable clinics to further reduce preventable hospitalizations and ER visits in their communities. Supporting additional dental services for the uninsured addresses two crucial health factors:

1. It improves self-worth and confidence, which directly impacts employability and stability.
2. It ensures patients receive necessary pre-surgical dental clearances, improving safety and outcomes for medical procedures requiring anesthesia.

Timely access to mental health assessments and interventions is equally critical, especially for uninsured patients managing chronic conditions. Maintaining funding for clinical therapists, care coordinators, and psychiatric medication programs allows FAFCC clinics to expand their prevention and intervention efforts, reducing the likelihood of crisis situations and hospitalizations.

With continued state support, FAFCC clinics can keep building healthier communities, supporting vulnerable Floridians, and delivering a cost-effective solution for Florida's healthcare challenges.



FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF  
**FREE & CHARITABLE  
CLINICS**

**FAFCC.ORG**

### **QUESTIONS?**

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