



FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF  
FREE AND CHARITABLE  
CLINICS

# A LIFE-SAVING INVESTMENT IN FLORIDA'S HEALTH

# 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 3.07 million Floridians — 15.5% of our population and one out of every 6.5 residents — lives below the poverty line. 67% of these Floridians are children.

These hardworking, low-income families struggle to make ends meet, especially with rising inflation and the overall 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, according to a recent Florida Chamber of Commerce poll.

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.

## **An increase in service demand is expected with an anticipating 900k+ Medicaid enrollees that are rolling off.**

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Florida, alongside every other state, has operated its Medicaid program under a provision within the CARES Act that increases federal funding and in exchange Medicaid recipients received “continuous coverage,” i.e., they were not cut off of Medicaid while the Public Health Emergency (PHE) was in effect. As the new year begins, so does the expected end of the PHE and the start of the “great unwinding”.

Even with the development of an extensive state outreach plan to ensure that the eligibility for every person on Medicaid can be correctly redetermined, and, nearly a million Floridian's are expected to lose coverage starting in April. 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. This year, 98 volunteer-driven, non-profit, faith-based, community-based clinics provided nearly 200,756 patients with more than 506,177 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. Last year, our clinics provided more than \$200 million in medical services with a \$9.5 million appropriation — an unparalleled return on investment.

We've cared for hundreds of thousands of Floridians with appropriations of \$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 underinsured Floridians.

## 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.

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. 98 clinics in 65 counties were selected for the 2022-23 grant.

## 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 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 overutilization. The vast majority of patients seen by clinics have chronic illnesses, such as diabetes, asthma, and hypertension, which is amongst 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.

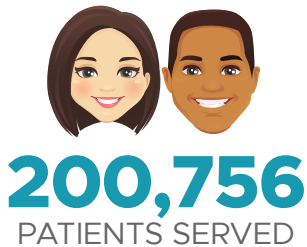




# FLORIDA'S CLINICS BY THE NUMBERS

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.

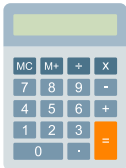
**\$203,710,242.93**  
Total Value of Care



**66%** OF CLINICS OPEN MORE THAN **20 HOURS** PER WEEK



**53%** SERVE CHILDREN UNDER 18



**47%** OF CLINICS OPERATE ON LESS THAN \$500,000 PER YEAR



**303,532**  
MEDICAL VISITS

**21,170**  
MENTAL HEALTH VISITS

**45,934**  
WELLNESS VISITS

**67,962**  
PHARMACY VISITS

**55,454**  
DENTAL VISITS

**12,125**  
VISION VISITS

**14,092**  
TOTAL VOLUNTEERS



**1,963** VOLUNTEER NURSES  
**6,367** NON-MEDICAL VOLUNTEERS  
**3,712** VOLUNTEER PHYSICIANS  
**522** VOLUNTEER DENTISTS



# WHERE ARE FLORIDA'S FREE & CHARITABLE CLINICS?

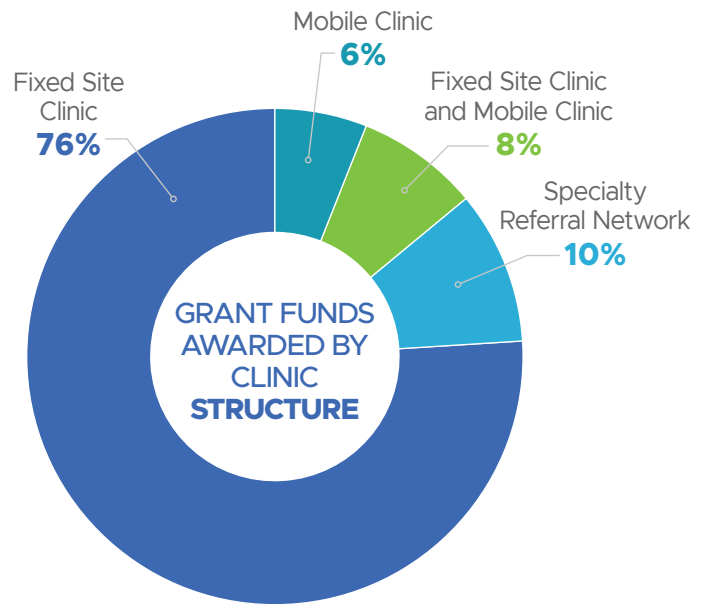
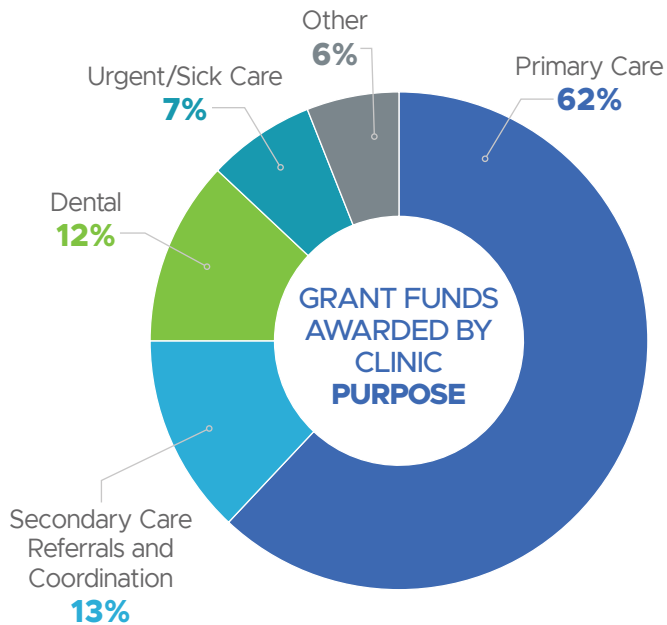
Florida's free and charitable clinics receiving appropriation grant funding are found in 65 counties across the state. See below to learn how your local clinic was funded.

<b>Hope Clinic at Advent Health University</b> \$76,724.00   Orange	<b>Florida International University Foundation</b> \$122,000.00   Miami-Dade	<b>Mission Clinic of Palm Springs</b> \$53,000.00   Palm Beach	<b>St. Petersburg Free Clinic</b> \$194,000.00   Pinellas
<b>American Muslim Community Clinics</b> \$92,000.00   Seminole	<b>Flagler County Free Clinic</b> \$48,000.00   Flagler	<b>Mission House</b> \$110,000.00   Duval	<b>Ascension St. Vincent</b> \$74,000.00   Duval
<b>Barnabas Center</b> \$208,000.00   Nassau	<b>Florida Keys Area Health Education Center</b> \$115,000.00   Monroe	<b>MT Mission Smiles</b> \$19,000.00   Hillsborough	<b>The Way Free Medical Clinic</b> \$93,000.00   Clay
<b>The Outreach Clinic</b> \$40,000.00   Hillsborough	<b>AdventHealth Waterman Community Clinic</b> \$68,000.00   Lake	<b>Muslim American Social Services</b> \$125,000.00   Duval	<b>Turning Points</b> \$170,000.00   Manatee
<b>Avicenna Free Clinic</b> \$20,000.00   Bay	<b>Florida Lions Eye Clinic</b> \$63,500.00   Lee	<b>UF Equal Access Clinic Network</b> \$17,734.00   Alachua	<b>UHI CommunityCare</b> \$85,000.00   Miami-Dade
<b>Calvary Community Clinic</b> \$31,000.00   Hillsborough	<b>Good Health Clinic</b> \$94,000.00   Monroe	<b>MyClinic</b> \$75,000.00   Palm Beach	<b>University of Florida Mobile Outreach</b> \$62,242.00   Alachua
<b>Caridad Center</b> \$253,000.00   Palm Beach	<b>Good News Care Center</b> \$212,000.00   Miami-Dade	<b>Osceola County Council on Aging</b> \$102,000.00   Osceola	<b>UM Miller School of Medicine</b> \$150,000.00   Miami-Dade
<b>Caring For Miami</b> \$75,000.00   Miami-Dade	<b>Center for Haitian Studies, Inc</b> \$52,000.00   Miami-Dade	<b>Open Door Health Center</b> \$125,000.00   Miami-Dade	<b>Virginia B Andes Volunteer Community Clinic</b> \$205,000.00   Charlotte
<b>Catholic Charities of Central Florida</b> \$135,000.00   Sumter	<b>St. George Clinic</b> \$10,000.00   Hillsborough	<b>United Way of Lee County</b> \$32,000.00   Lee	<b>Vision Is Priceless</b> \$93,000.00   Duval
<b>Catholic Charities Free and Charitable Clinics</b> \$39,000.00   Hillsborough	<b>Talbot House Ministries of Lakeland</b> \$160,000.00   Polk	<b>Palm Beach County Medical Society Services</b> \$91,000.00   Palm Beach	<b>Volusia Volunteers In Medicine</b> \$22,000.00   Volusia
<b>Gulf Coast Dental Outreach</b> \$25,000.00   Pinellas	<b>Wildflower Healthcare</b> \$104,000.00   St. Johns	<b>Putnam County Medical Mission</b> \$27,000.00   Putnam	<b>VIM Jax</b> \$202,000.00   Duval
<b>Christian Community Care Center</b> \$74,000.00   Martin	<b>Good Samaritan Health Clinic of Pasco</b> \$104,000.00   Pasco	<b>Free Clinic Tampa Bay</b> \$10,000.00   Hillsborough	<b>Willa Carson Health and Wellness Center</b> \$10,000.00   Pinellas
<b>Clearwater Free Clinic</b> \$269,000.00   Pinellas	<b>Grace Medical Home</b> \$263,000.00   Orange	<b>Samaritan Health and Wellness Center</b> \$155,000.00   Lee	<b>Volunteers in Medicine Clinic</b> \$135,000.00   Martin
<b>CARES Senior Health Clinic</b> \$18,000.00   Pasco	<b>Health and Hope Clinic</b> \$72,000.00   Escambia	<b>Samaritan Touch Care Center</b> \$55,000.00   Highlands	<b>We Care Jacksonville</b> \$152,000.00   Duval
<b>Community Dental Clinic</b> \$82,000.00   Pinellas	<b>Homeless Empowerment Program</b> \$103,000.00   Pinellas	<b>United Medical and Social Services</b> \$102,000.00   Seminole	<b>Capital Medical Society Foundation</b> \$94,000.00   Leon
<b>The Community Health Center of WPB</b> \$129,000.00   Palm Beach	<b>Hope Medical Clinic</b> \$108,800.00   Okaloosa	<b>Sertoma Speech &amp; Hearing Foundation</b> \$115,000.00   Pasco	<b>We Care Foundation of Indian River</b> \$61,000.00   Indian River
<b>Community Health Outreach</b> \$57,000.00   Duval	<b>The Jesus Clinic</b> \$28,000.00   Volusia	<b>Point Washington Medical Clinic</b> \$43,000.00   Walton	<b>We Care of Lake County</b> \$41,000.00   Lake
<b>Community Medical Care Center of Leesburg</b> \$54,000.00   Lake	<b>Judeo Christian Health Clinic</b> \$120,000.00   Hillsborough	<b>Shepherd's Hope</b> \$225,000.00   Orange	<b>We Care of Central Florida</b> \$156,000.00   Polk
<b>AdventHealth Community Medicine Clinic</b> \$130,000.00   Orange	<b>Lake Wales Care Center</b> \$30,000.00   Polk	<b>Bridge Healthcare Clinic</b> \$7,000.00   Hillsborough	<b>We Care Physician Referral Network</b> \$75,000.00   Alachua
<b>Dade County Dental Research Clinic</b> \$241,000.00   Miami-Dade	<b>Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine</b> \$280,000.00   Polk	<b>The Southwest Florida Free Pain Clinic</b> \$44,000.00   Lee	<b>Parkview Medical Clinic</b> \$26,000.00   Polk
<b>Delacruz Volunteer Clinic</b> \$28,000.00   Brevard	<b>Light of the World Charities</b> \$120,000.00   Martin	<b>We Care Manatee</b> \$38,000.00   Manatee	<b>United Hands, Inc.</b> \$136,000.00   Marion
<b>Deliverance Outreach Ministries of Ocala</b> \$36,000.00   Marion	<b>Light of the World Clinic Inc.</b> \$109,000.00   Broward	<b>St. Andrew Community Medical Center,</b> \$115,000.00   Bay	<b>Latino Leadership</b> \$70,000.00   Orange
<b>Dental Care Access Foundation</b> \$18,000.00   Orange	<b>Lotus House Women's Shelter</b> \$240,000.00   Miami-Dade	<b>St. John Bosco Clinic</b> \$89,000.00   Miami-Dade	<b>CESC</b> \$33,000.00   Leon
<b>Englewood Community Care Clinic</b> \$39,000.00   Charlotte	<b>North Miami Beach Medical Center</b> \$45,000.00   Miami-Dade	<b>St. Joseph's Hospital</b> \$123,000.00   Hillsborough	
<b>Epilepsy Association of Central Florida</b> \$106,000.00   Orange	<b>Miami Rescue Mission Clinic</b> \$141,000.00   Miami-Dade	<b>Hands of St Lucie County</b> \$175,000.00   St. Lucie	

# 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



## ST. LUCIE COUNTY HEALTH ACCESS NETWORK | Fort Pierce, FL

HANDS Clinic in St. Lucie County experienced another year of growth and positive impact made possible through the financial support of the State Funds Grant Program. HANDS, like many other grantees, focused this year on enhancing capacity. The clinic enhanced women's health services, increased their licensed volunteer base to over 60 licensed providers, formalized a referral system with their local hospitals, and added a mobile unit to take primary care to underserved areas.

However, HANDS is most proud of being a highly desirable clinical location for local universities, giving the next generation of providers exposure to Florida's historically underserved communities and teaching them to give back to the community after graduation.

With funding of approximately \$700,000 each year, the St. Lucie County Health Access Network provided over \$11 million in specialty services for a highly underserved population with nowhere else to turn.



## HOMELESS EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM | Clearwater, FL

Mark served in the United States Army for seven years before developing a severe post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). He eventually turned to alcohol to self-medicate and found himself without a job or a home. It was not until Mark arrived at the Homeless Empowerment Program (HEP) in April of 2022, through a referral from Veterans Affairs, that the heavy weight of the labels society placed on his shoulders finally began to lift.

During his time at HEP, Mark attended onsite individual counseling and group recovery sessions to maintain sobriety and find healthy coping mechanisms for his depression and PTSD. Mark also received a brand new smile with a full set of dentures from volunteer dentists in the HEP Dental Clinic, recovered his driver's license with our onsite Benefits Specialist and is now on track to find stable housing of his own.

***“HEP helped change the way I see myself. I don't see those negative labels anymore. I see a bright future, and it's because of every single person here who helped relight the flame.”***



# CLINIC HIGHLIGHTS

(CONTINUED)

## TURNING POINTS | Bradenton, FL

The negative impact of poor oral health goes beyond just having bad teeth. It also affects overall health, employment, medical costs, quality of life, relationships, and well-being.

Turning Points, a free & charitable dental clinic in Bradenton, provided 835 uninsured Floridians with dental care, including 126 Project Smile participants who received partial or full dentures. 98% of Project Smile patients reported improved quality of life. Many patients have shared that their new smile resulted in new jobs, promotions, increased confidence, improved relationships, and an enhanced outlook on life.

***“With my new dentures, I got a new job as the front office security guard for an assisted living complex. I get to greet everyone that comes in there and I am always greeting them with a smile. They are always telling me how beautiful my smile is! Which in return, I get to think, ‘Thank you Turning Points.’”***



## MYCLINIC | Jupiter, FL

MyClinic is an independent, nonprofit health and wellness hub that began operations under the traditional “Free Clinic” model ten years ago by offering primary and specialty medical care and referrals for urgent dental care.

In the absence of a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in the Jupiter, Florida service area, MyClinic filled a great need for underserved populations for several years, but there remained a lack of access to care for people with limited resources who were not eligible for “free clinic” services. With that in mind MyClinic, is now co-located with an FQHC which serves as a primary care Medical Home, further broadening the safety net as MyClinic has transitioned to a holistic approach of connecting people in need with resources and tools to improve health and quality of life, focusing on Social Determinants of Health (SDOH), nutrition and healthy lifestyle programs, and Mental Health.

All MyClinic SDOH clients are assessed for potential behavioral health issues, and likewise, behavioral health clients are referred to MyClinic’s Care Coordinators to address SDOH needs. MyClinic’s Behavioral Health Counseling Program offers the following services: Individual, Family and Couples Therapy; Trauma Informed Care; Parenting Coaching for academic and behavioral issues; Living with Chronic Disease; and Substance Use treatment and referrals. MyClinic’s Behavioral Health Program has strong ties with local school guidance counselors to support at-risk youth, which has become increasingly important during the pandemic. In addition to children and family counseling, MyClinic participates in several unique collaborative referral opportunities for children, most notably direct linkages to a community-based nutrition program that provides 16 weeks of specially curated organic produce and groceries free of charge to support food-insecure children who are dealing with behavioral issues; and a music therapy program geared towards high school students.

The resources and tools provided by MyClinic will empower individuals and families to improve health outcomes for generations to come.



# WHAT ARE PATIENTS SAYING?



“

*After Hurricane Ian, I was not only fearful given I had just lost most everything in my home, but also fearful of what I would do if Virginia B. Andes Volunteer Community Clinic were gone. My life depends on the treatment and medications I get from VBA. I was ecstatic when I learned the clinic was open so quickly after Hurricane Ian with such dedicated staff ready to serve those of us in need even when they were suffering with their own challenges. – Laura*

”

“

*I am a survivor of sex trafficking. My teeth were damaged by years of physical abuse and drug use. All I could do was cry when I was getting my dental work through Mission Smiles in Tampa Bay. It took nine months to recreate an empowered woman with a smile that is proud to face the world. I was able to graduate college and was invited to write and share the Graduation Invocation Prayer. I found self-worth and confidence. It all started with the smile Mission Smiles gave back to me. – Angela*

”

“

*After knocking on doors and doors to find who could help, I was referred to Florida Lions Eye Clinic who determined that a cataract operation was needed. After the evaluation, I was sent to the hospital to carry out this operation, which ended in complete success. I have deep gratitude to the donors, administrative staff, and all those who made this possible. I also do not want to forget to recognize the humane treatment I received from the Florida Lions who diagnosed me and coordinated my operation. – Luis*

”

“

*The St. Petersburg Free Clinic saved my life, literally! I didn't know where to go or what to do when I was initially diagnosed with type 2 diabetes. Thankfully, their staff helped me in every way possible. They are always great, no judgment because of my difficulties in life, and truly care about people. I don't know where I would be without their help. I sincerely appreciate the help and assistance I have received, and continue to receive, until I am able to get back on my feet again. – Nathan*

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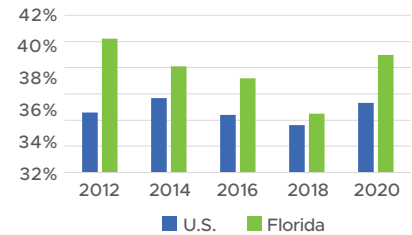
# WHAT ARE THE ISSUES THIS SESSION?



## Securing additional providers for mental health and dental services.

In 2022, FAFCC conducted a state tour and heard from our members a similar message: While many have been able to provide quality primary care services with a strong volunteer provider base and in-kind services, they often encounter barriers that are unique to both dental and mental health services. If clinics are unable to find dental volunteers, they often contract a dentist for approximately \$400 an hour and treat one to two patients per hour. With mental health, the lack of access to the appropriate providers and timeliness of a mental health assessment, this crisis is hurting a population already dealing with trauma from events such as food scarcity, homelessness, or addiction.

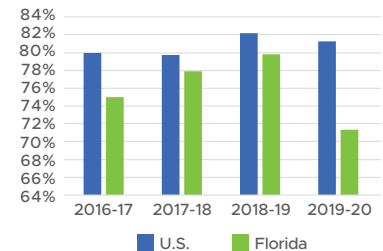
Adults age 18 and older without a dental visit in past year (%)



## Need for additional programmatic necessities for services beyond primary care.

In early January, FAFCC hosted focus groups with members on what the needs were to expand mental health and dental services. Second to the lack of providers, was the exorbitant costs of program necessities such as equipment and prescriptions. During a focus group, a clinic noted that dental materials are often 3-4x the cost compared to primary care materials, and dental equipment was nearly 10x more expensive than standard care equipment. Additionally, another clinic referenced the need of additional funding to afford psychotropic medications in order to help practice mental health maintenance.

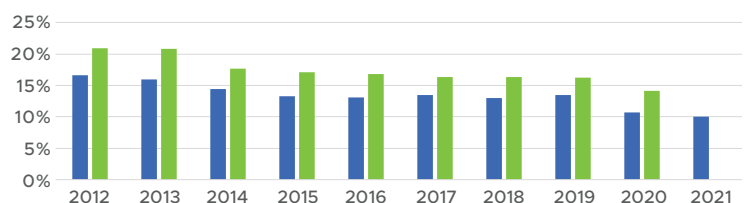
Children ages 3-17 who received treatment or counseling from a mental health professional when needed during the past 12 months (%)



## 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 due to economic hardships such as inflation, lower wages, lack of affordable housing and lack of transportation. Increasing the eligibility to 300% of FPL would modernize eligibility criteria to meet economic demands, and increase access to services for many eligible uninsured individuals, providing a smoother pathway towards a healthier wellbeing, lifestyle, and financial sustainability.

Adults age 18 and older who went without care because of cost in past year (%)



# WHAT CAN FLORIDA'S LAWMAKERS DO?



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

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 FY23-24 budget.**

With last year's \$9.5 million appropriation, FAFCC clinics provided more than \$200 million in medical services — a more than 20-to-1 return on investment that makes it one of Florida's best budget decisions. 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 supporting 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 both 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. Funding 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 in order 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. Funding to increase access to clinical therapists, care coordinators, and psychiatric drug programs will allow free & charitable clinics to play an increasing role in intervention and prevention, likely reducing the chances a patient will be in crises and require hospitalization.

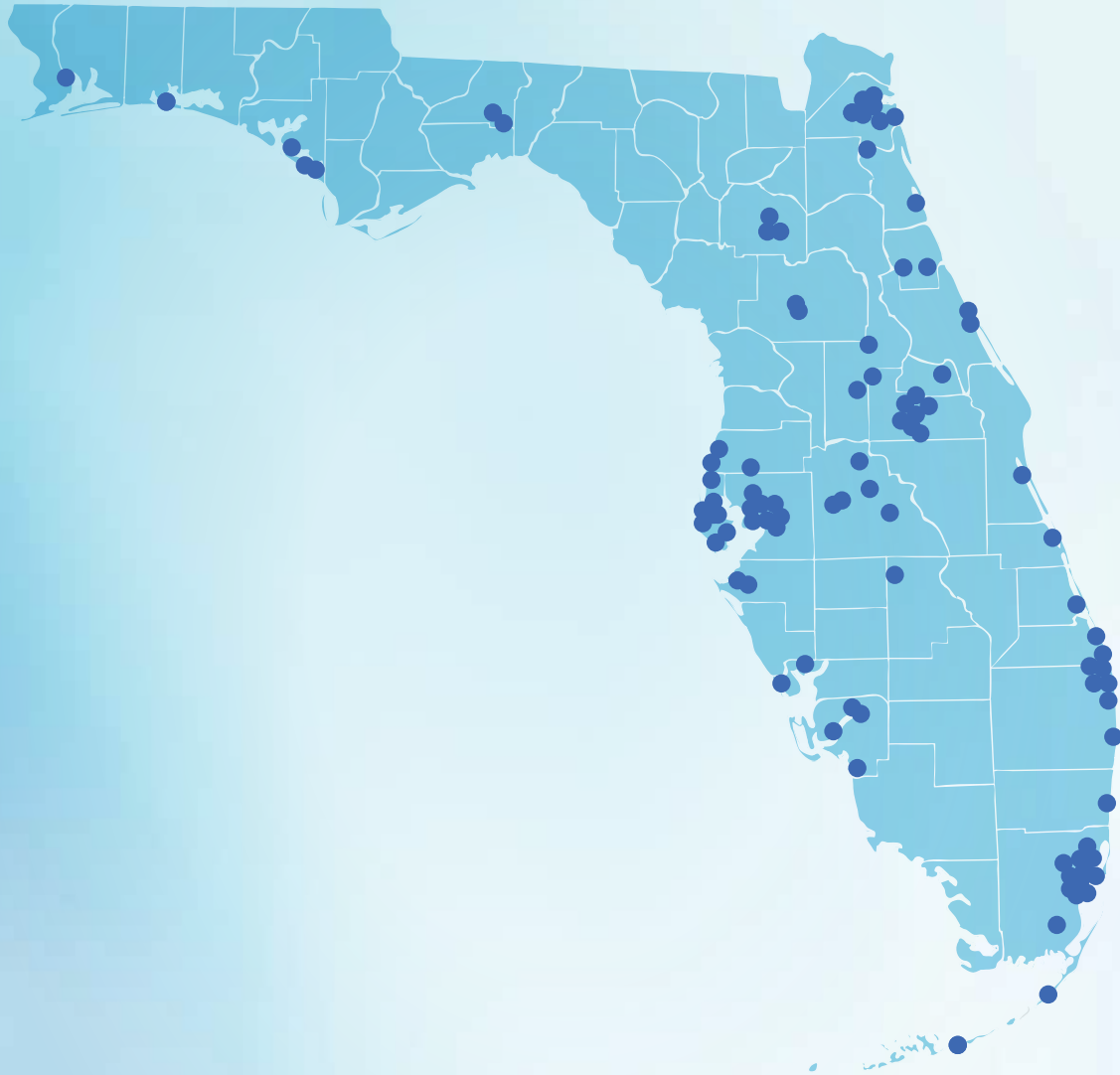


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### **QUESTIONS?**

Rebecca DeLorenzo, *Chief Executive Officer*  
904.337.9124 | [rebecca@fafcc.org](mailto:rebecca@fafcc.org)

Christina Swiridowsky, *Chief of Staff*  
904.337.4016 | [christina@fafcc.org](mailto:christina@fafcc.org)



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