

# A LIFE-SAVING INVESTMENT IN FLORIDA'S HEALTH



FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF  
FREE & CHARITABLE  
CLINICS

## 2025 STATE FUNDS GRANT PROGRAM **IMPACT REPORT**





## FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF FREE AND CHARITABLE CLINICS

Florida's free and charitable clinics are the health safety net for people with nowhere else to turn. An estimated **315,000 adults** remain in the Medicaid coverage gap. They work hard yet still earn too little to afford insurance. But that figure captures only part of the need. After Medicaid re-determinations, the number of uninsured adults now exceeds **one million**.

In the 2024–25 grant cycle, FAFCC's **109 member clinics** cared for **220,294 patients** and delivered well over half a million medical, dental, behavioral health, vision, and pharmacy visits. This care is possible because of the State Funds Grant Program. In FY25, **\$12.5 million** in state funds supported more than **\$242 million** in services, a return of more than nineteen dollars for every dollar invested.

Florida's healthcare landscape continues to shift. The end of federal continuous coverage protections pushed many off Medicaid, creating new demand for clinic services. At the same time, federal policy changes are affecting how states plan for Medicaid and provider payments. These pressures make free and charitable clinics an essential part of keeping uninsured residents healthy and out of crisis.

Behind every statistic is a person whose life changed because care was available: someone who avoided the ER because their chronic condition was managed early, a parent who regained confidence with restored dental health, and a veteran who found stability through counseling. These moments happen every day because of your support.

As you read this Impact Report, I hope you see what your investment makes possible and the need that still lies ahead. With continued support, we can ensure every Floridian, regardless of income or insurance status, has access to care that protects their health and strengthens their community.

**Together, we're not just saving lives. We're changing them.**

Rebecca DeLorenzo  
Chief Executive Officer  
Florida Association of Free & Charitable Clinics

<sup>1</sup> Source: Kaiser Family Foundation, *State Health Facts: Medicaid Coverage Gap by State (May 2025)*; Florida Health Justice Project, *The Florida Coverage Gap and the Uninsured (January 2025)*.



# STATE FUNDS GRANT PROGRAM + EXPANDED PROGRAMS



## A Proven Investment in Florida's Health

Since 2014, the Legislature has invested in the State Funds Grant Program to strengthen Florida's safety net for uninsured residents. FAFCC administers the program in partnership with the Department of Health, and every dollar goes directly to clinics and specialty care networks. None is held back. It all supports patient care.

In FY24–25, the Legislature provided \$9.5 million in recurring funding and \$3 million in non-recurring dollars for dental and mental health services. These dollars are tightly monitored and tied to measurable outcomes. This support helped 96 clinics across 67 counties deliver comprehensive, community-based care.

State funding allows clinics to hire healthcare personnel, expand patient capacity, and invest in equipment, technology, pharmacy programs, and essential medications. It also supports outreach, case management, and care coordination so patients can connect with the right services at the right time.

The \$3 million in non-recurring dental and mental health funds made an immediate difference. Clinics purchased new dental equipment, added behavioral health staff, and launched integrated programs that addressed both oral health and mental health needs. Thousands of additional visits were delivered, helping patients avoid emergency rooms, stay employed, and improve their quality of life.

Looking ahead, sustaining this momentum will be difficult. Non-recurring funding for FY25–26 dropped by \$2.5 million to \$500,000. FAFCC and its partners will continue working to restore the full \$3 million in FY26–27 so clinics can keep pace with the rising demand for these essential services.





# WHO WE SERVE: THE COVERAGE GAP



## Florida's Coverage Gap

Florida is one of ten states that has not expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. As a result, about 315,000 adults remain in the coverage gap. They earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but not enough to afford private insurance. For parents, Medicaid eligibility is limited to those earning less than 28 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, or about \$7,230 a year, for a family of three. Even hardworking families can find themselves without any realistic path to affordable coverage.

## Who Falls Into the Gap

People who fall into the gap include:

- Working families in retail, service, construction, and agriculture
- Parents supporting children while managing multiple jobs
- Young adults entering the workforce without employer coverage



**315,000 adults in the coverage gap**

## Clinics as the Safety Net

This is where our free and charitable clinics step in. FAFCC's **109 clinics** served **220,294 patients** in 2024 and delivered more than half a million medical, dental, behavioral health, vision, and pharmacy visits. Clinics cannot reach every Floridian in the gap, but they remain a proven, cost-effective solution that keeps people healthy, employed, and out of costly emergency rooms.



**FAFCC reach in 2024:  
220,294 patients served statewide**

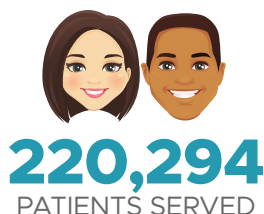


**FAFCC clinics:  
keeping Floridians healthy,  
working, and out of the ER.**

# BY THE NUMBERS: STATEWIDE IMPACT

After significant growth in 2024, **Florida's free and charitable clinics** continued to deliver strong results in 2025. Clinics provided \$242 million in services to 220,294 Floridians, maintaining one of the state's most cost-effective healthcare investments. The modest adjustment from 2024 reflects a natural stabilization following Medicaid re-determinations, as clinics focus on sustainable growth and continued access for the uninsured.

**\$242,015,488.29**  
Total Value of Care



**36,435**  
MENTAL HEALTH VISITS

**40,387**  
WELLNESS VISITS

**121,277**  
PHARMACY VISITS

**90,599**  
DENTAL VISITS

**18,711**  
VISION VISITS

**13,181**  
TOTAL VOLUNTEERS



**4,728** CLINICAL VOLUNTEERS  
**4,376** NON-MEDICAL VOLUNTEERS  
**3,321** VOLUNTEER PHYSICIANS  
**756** VOLUNTEER DENTISTS

Following the end of continuous Medicaid coverage, 2024 saw a surge in newly uninsured patients. The 2025 data show the network stabilizing at sustainable levels that remain well above pre-pandemic reach. This trend highlights the resilience and efficiency of Florida's free and charitable clinics, a cornerstone of the state's healthcare safety net.

**220,294** Patients Served Statewide | **\$242 Million** in Care Provided

**19:1** Return on Investment | **67** Counties Reached

**Thousands of Volunteers Powering Care**

# ER DIVISION SURVEY RESULTS



## KEEPING PATIENTS OUT OF THE ER SAVES FLORIDA MONEY.

### Three Quick Stats

- 41.7% of patients report **fewer ER visits** since becoming clinic patients.
- 36% report **fewer hospital stays**.
- Over half (52.4%) **had no regular access** to care before the clinic; 15.5% relied on the ER.

### Cost Savings (Conservative Estimate)

**\$10.96M** saved from net ER visits avoided among surveyed patients (1,647 avoided visits × \$6,652 avg self-pay ER charge).

**\$611M** projected savings if applied to all 220,294 FAFCC patients in 2024–25.

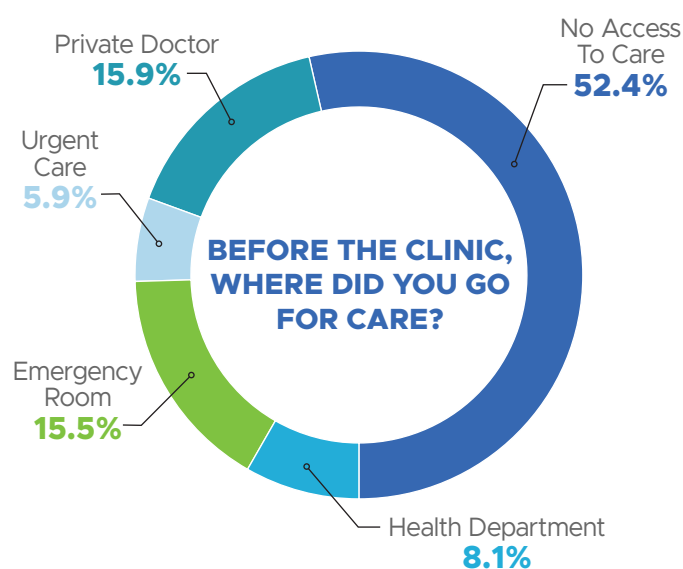
*Method: assumes one avoided ER visit in the past year for those reporting fewer ER visits; subtracts those reporting more.*

**Footnote:** Average ER charge from AHCA-reported self-pay rates across age groups.



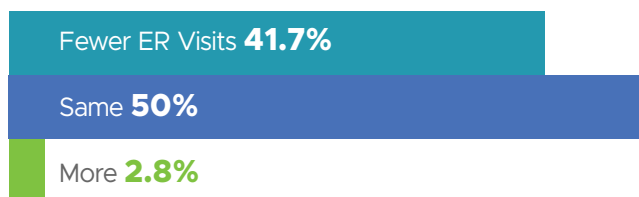
**Clinics reduce avoidable ER use and these avoided costs directly benefit Florida's hospitals, Medicaid system, and uninsured residents.**

### Patient Decision-Making



2 in 3 patients previously used **high-cost or no-care** options.

### CHANGE IN ER USE AFTER STARTING AT THE CLINIC



Longer-term patients (>1 year) are more likely to **report decreases in ER visits and hospitalizations**.

Source: FAFCC Emergency Room Diversion Survey, Oct 2024–July 2025; 4,239 respondents. Cost model uses AHCA self-pay ER average charges.



# CLINIC SPOTLIGHTS



## Lake Wales Free Clinic | Polk County

When a volunteer psychiatric nurse practitioner at Lake Wales Free Clinic met a patient who had never accepted mental health care before, he saw more than symptoms — he saw fear, stigma, and a lifetime of unspoken pain. Through patient conversation and trust, he helped the individual take the first step toward healing. That single connection opened the clinic's eyes to an unmet need within its community.

With support from FAFCC funding, Lake Wales Free Clinic began building greater focus towards behavioral health to provide integrated, whole-person care. Today, the clinic offers counseling, psychiatric support, and wellness services that address both emotional and physical health. Patients who once came for a blood pressure check are now finding a safe space to talk about anxiety, grief, and depression.

This transformation began with one compassionate volunteer and now continues through every patient whose life is changed by access to free, judgment-free mental health care.



## Health and Hope Clinic | Escambia County

For years, one patient at Health and Hope Clinic endured severe dental pain that affected his ability to eat, sleep, and interact with others. Homeless and struggling with trauma, he had learned to live in constant discomfort until compassionate volunteers stepped in to help.

Through trauma-informed care and a gentle, respectful approach, the clinic's dental team provided the treatment he needed to restore both his smile and his confidence. The transformation went far beyond physical relief. With his pain gone and his dignity restored, the patient began taking steps toward stability, housing, and employment.

Health and Hope Clinic's holistic model of care, supported by FAFCC funding, integrates medical, dental, and behavioral health services under one roof. Every day, the clinic proves that healing happens when people are treated as whole individuals, not just as patients. This story reflects how empathy and access to quality care can open the door to hope and a renewed sense of self-worth.



## St. Andrew Community Medical Center | Bay County

After experiencing a series of personal hardships, one patient arrived at St. Andrew Community Medical Center struggling with both trauma and depression. Years of emotional pain had taken a toll on her physical health, and she had lost confidence in herself and in the healthcare system.

Through consistent care and the support of compassionate volunteers, she began to rebuild her strength one visit at a time. The clinic's providers helped her manage her chronic conditions, improve her nutrition, and connect with counseling resources that addressed her emotional wellbeing. Slowly, she began to heal.

Today, she continues to visit St. Andrew for follow-up care and has regained her confidence and stability. Her story reflects the clinic's commitment to providing more than treatment — it offers understanding, encouragement, and hope. Supported by FAFCC funding, St. Andrew Community Medical Center continues to deliver patient-centered care that restores health and dignity to those who need it most.



## Catholic Charities, Diocese of St. Petersburg | Pinellas County

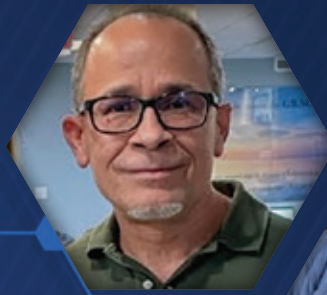
When a mother of three came to Catholic Charities seeking help managing her diabetes and high blood pressure, she was overwhelmed and unsure where to begin. Years without consistent care had left her health unstable, and frequent emergency room visits were becoming her only option.

The clinic's team created a care plan that focused on education, prevention, and trust. With regular check-ups, medication support, and lifestyle guidance, she learned how to manage her conditions and take control of her health. Over time, her blood sugar and blood pressure stabilized, and her energy and confidence returned.

Today, she continues to stay on track with her care plan and has avoided further emergency visits. Her story is one of hope and empowerment, showing how accessible care can change a family's future. Supported by FAFCC funding, Catholic Charities continues to help patients achieve long-term health stability and peace of mind through compassionate, community-based care.



# PATIENT VOICES



## REAL STORIES. REAL IMPACT.

COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTREACH • DUVAL COUNTY

*“My name is Jeff. I had been in need of dental work for many years. I constantly fought infections and pain. Due to an accident and money, I have been unable to afford to get this done. I came to this clinic and for the first time in years I am pain and infection free. This place is a gift and miracle to all who have been lucky to receive care.”*

MISSION SMILES • HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

*“Mission Smiles gave me more than just dental work – they gave me back my confidence, my joy, and the freedom to smile without holding back. I’m so grateful for everything they’ve done. They didn’t just fix my teeth – they helped me rediscover a part of myself I thought I had lost.”*

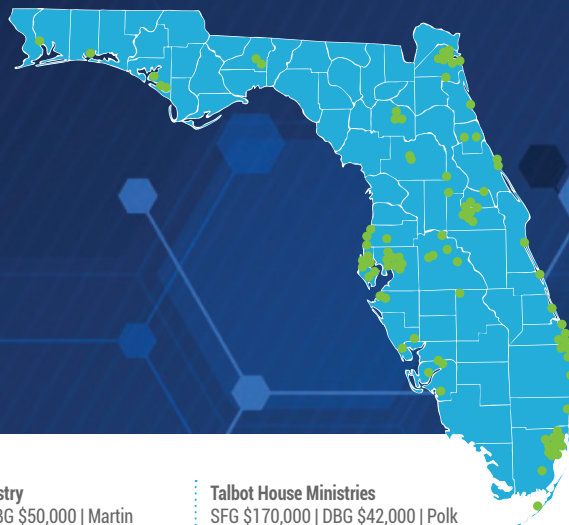
WE CARE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA • POLK COUNTY

*“We Care of Central Florida has literally been a game changer regarding my health. The transportation provided to and from doctor’s appointments and meetings has made such a positive impact on my physical, mental, and emotional health. Thank you for providing this absolutely irreplaceable service.”*

ADVENTHEALTH MEDICAL GROUP COMMUNITY CLINIC • ORANGE COUNTY

*“Being able to talk to someone without having to take extra time off or commute made all the difference. I didn’t realize how much easier it would be to stick with therapy when it worked with my schedule.”*

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



**AdventHealth Medical Group  
Community Clinic**  
SFG \$160,000 | DBG \$52,000 | Orange

**AdventHealth Waterman Community Clinic**  
SFG \$81,950 | Lake

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

**AMSS Clinic**  
SFG \$50,000 | DBG \$40,000 | Seminole

**Avicenna Free Clinic**  
SFG \$16,000 | Bay

**Barnabas Health Services**  
SFG \$245,000 | DBG \$90,000 | Nassau

**BayCares Incorporated**  
SFG \$15,000 | Bay

**Bridge Healthcare Clinic**  
SFG \$10,000 | Hillsborough

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

**Capital Medical Society Foundation, Inc.**  
SFG \$102,925 | Leon

**Caridad Center, Inc.**  
SFG \$160,000 | DBG \$25,000 | Palm Beach

**Caring For Miami**  
SFG \$80,000 | DBG \$90,000 | Miami-Dade

**Catholic Charities of Central Florida**  
SFG \$140,000 | DBG \$39,000 | Orange

**Catholic Charities, Diocese of St. Petersburg**  
SFG \$30,000 | DBG \$20,000 | Hillsborough

**Center for Haitian Studies, Inc.**  
SFG \$30,000 | Miami-Dade

**Children's Volunteer Health Network**  
DBG \$98,000 | Walton

**Christian Community Care Center**  
SFG \$50,000 | DBG \$44,000 | Martin

**Christian Medical Ministries, Inc.**  
SFG \$50,000 | DBG \$44,000 | Lee

**Clearwater Free Clinic, Inc.**  
SFG \$220,000 | DBG \$100,000 | Pinellas

**Community Aging & Retirement Services, Inc.**  
SFG \$17,500 | Pasco

**Community Coalition on Homelessness  
DBA Turning Points**  
SFG \$205,000 | DBG \$61,000 | Manatee

**Community Dental Clinic**  
SFG \$120,000 | DBG \$100,000 | Pinellas

**Community Health Center  
of West Palm Beach, Inc.**  
SFG \$160,000 | Palm Beach

**Community Health Outreach**  
SFG \$50,000 | DBG \$20,000 | Duval

**Community Medical Care Center**  
SFG \$41,950 | DBG \$10,000 | Lake

**Community Smiles**  
SFG \$150,000 | DBG \$45,000 | Miami-Dade

**Dade County Street Response**  
SFG \$35,000 | Miami-Dade

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

**Dental Care Access Foundation**  
SFG \$10,000 | DBG \$20,000 | Orange

**Englewood Community Care Clinic**  
SFG \$50,000 | Charlotte

**Epilepsy Association of Central Florida**  
SFG \$100,000 | Orange

**Flagler County Free Clinic**  
SFG \$60,000 | DBG \$49,000 | Flagler

**Florida International University  
Mobile Health Center**  
SFG \$140,000 | DBG \$42,000 | Miami-Dade

**Florida Lions Eye Clinic, Inc.**  
SFG \$90,000 | Lee

**Freedom Clinic USA**  
SFG \$130,000 | DBG \$90,000 | Marion

**Good Health Clinic**  
SFG \$90,000 | Monroe

**Good News Care Center**  
SFG \$231,500 | Miami-Dade

**Good Samaritan Health Clinic of Pasco**  
SFG \$100,000 | DBG \$20,000 | Pasco

**Good Samaritan Health/  
Wildflower Healthcare**  
SFG \$90,000 | St. Johns

**Grace Medical Home, Inc.**  
SFG \$250,000 | DBG \$50,000 | Orange

**Gulf Coast Dental Outreach**  
SFG \$30,000 | DBG \$15,000 | Hillsborough

**Health and Hope Clinic**  
SFG \$127,000 | DBG \$86,000 | Escambia

**Healthy Me**  
SFG \$20,000 | DBG \$42,000 | Palm Beach

**Homeless Empowerment Program  
Dental and Wellness Clinic**  
SFG \$110,000 | DBG \$92,250 | Pinellas

**Hope Medical Clinic**  
SFG \$47,000 | DBG \$47,000 | Okaloosa

**Judeo Christian Health Clinic**  
SFG \$150,000 | DBG \$51,000 | Hillsborough

**Keys AHEC Health Centers**  
SFG \$150,000 | DBG \$60,000 | Monroe

**Lake Wales Free Clinic**  
SFG \$30,000 | Polk

**Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine**  
SFG \$245,000 | DBG \$55,000 | Polk

**Light of the World Clinic Inc.**  
SFG \$130,000 | Broward

**Little Lights Dentistry**  
SFG \$160,000 | DBG \$50,000 | Martin

**Lotus Wellness Center**  
SFG \$230,000 | DBG \$90,000 | Miami-Dade

**Mental Health Association of Central Florida**  
SFG \$120,000 | DBG \$50,000 | Orange

**Miami Rescue Mission Clinic**  
SFG \$140,000 | DBG \$100,000 | Miami-Dade

**Mission House**  
SFG \$70,000 | Duval

**Mission Smiles**  
SFG \$20,000 | DBG \$30,000 | Hillsborough

**Muslim American Social Services**  
SFG \$140,000 | DBG \$50,000 | Duval

**North Miami Beach Medical Center  
and Mercy Mobile Clinic**  
SFG \$20,000 | Miami-Dade

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

**Orlando Health Teen Xpress**  
SFG \$80,000 | DBG \$78,000 | Orange

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

**Parkview Outreach Community Center**  
SFG \$20,000 | DBG \$45,000 | Polk

**Point Washington Medical Clinic**  
SFG \$77,000 | DBG \$74,500 | Walton

**Project Access**  
SFG \$80,000 | Palm Beach

**Putnam County Medical Mission**  
SFG \$20,000 | DBG \$20,000 | Putnam

**Samaritan Health and Wellness Center, Inc.**  
SFG \$180,000 | DBG \$50,000 | Lee

**Samaritan's Touch Care Center**  
SFG \$50,000 | DBG \$43,500 | Highlands

**Sertoma Speech & Hearing Foundation  
of Florida, Inc.**  
SFG \$150,000 | Pasco

**Shepherd's Hope, Inc.**  
SFG \$230,000 | Orange

**Space Coast Volunteers in Medicine**  
SFG \$10,000 | DBG \$6,250 | Brevard

**St. Andrew Community Medical Center**  
SFG \$98,000 | Bay

**St. John Bosco Clinic**  
SFG \$90,000 | Miami-Dade

**St. Joseph's Children's Mobile Medical Clinic**  
SFG \$145,000 | Hillsborough

**St. Lucie County Health  
Access Network**  
SFG \$131,575 | DBG \$100,000 | St. Lucie

**St. Petersburg Free Clinic**  
SFG \$220,000 | DBG \$52,000 | Pinellas

**Talbot House Ministries**  
SFG \$170,000 | DBG \$42,000 | Polk

**The Way Free Medical Clinic, Inc.**  
SFG \$110,000 | DBG \$49,000 | Clay

**UMC Free Clinic**  
SFG \$20,000 | DBG \$41,000 | Miami-Dade

**United Medical and Social Services**  
SFG \$90,000 | DBG \$56,000 | Seminole

**Universal Heritage Institute, Inc.**  
SFG \$62,500 | DBG \$15,000 | Miami-Dade

**University of Florida Equal Access  
Clinic Network**  
SFG \$20,000 | DBG \$20,000 | Alachua

**University of Florida Mobile Outreach Clinic**  
SFG \$90,000 | DBG \$71,000 | Alachua

**University of Miami Pediatric Mobile Clinic**  
SFG \$160,000 | DBG \$44,000 | Miami-Dade

**Virginia B. Andes Volunteer  
Community Clinic, Inc.**  
SFG \$245,000 | Charlotte

**Vision Is Priceless Council, Inc.**  
SFG \$90,000 | Duval

**Volunteers in Medicine Clinic**  
SFG \$140,000 | Martin

**Volunteers in Medicine Jacksonville**  
SFG \$245,000 | DBG \$25,000 | Duval

**Volusia Free Clinic**  
SFG \$10,000 | Volusia

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

**We Care Jacksonville**  
SFG \$210,000 | Duval

**We Care Manatee, Inc.**  
SFG \$40,000 | Manatee

**We Care of Central Florida, Inc.**  
SFG \$170,000 | DBG \$60,000 | Polk

**We Care of Lake County**  
SFG \$26,100 | Lake

**We Care of Lee County**  
SFG \$40,000 | DBG \$14,500 | Lee

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

**Willa Carson Health and Wellness Center**  
SFG \$20,000 | DBG \$32,000 | Pinellas

\*SFG - State Funds Grant

\*DBG - Dental & Behavioral Health Grant

# ADVOCACY & POLICY PRIORITIES

## WHAT CAN FLORIDA'S LAWMAKERS DO?

Florida's free and charitable clinics are filling critical gaps in access, especially as more Floridians lose coverage and struggle to afford basic care. Clinics continue to show strong stewardship of state funds, delivering high-quality services at a fraction of the cost of traditional care. With sustained legislative support, clinics can keep reducing avoidable ER use and consequential costs to hospitals, strengthening local workforces, and improving health outcomes for uninsured adults across the state.

### Reauthorize the \$3 Million Nonrecurring Appropriation for Dental and Mental Health Services

Demand for dental and mental health care is rising across every region of the state. Clinics rely on this targeted funding to hire essential staff, purchase equipment, add appointment capacity, and meet the needs of uninsured Floridians who would otherwise postpone or forgo treatment. Maintaining this appropriation allows clinics to:

- Expand access to preventive and restorative dental care, which directly affects employability, self-confidence, and the ability to safely undergo medical procedures requiring anesthesia.
- Increase timely assessments and treatment for patients managing maternal health chronic conditions, reducing the likelihood of crisis events and hospitalizations.

The additional \$3 million is a cost-effective investment that keeps Floridians healthier, reduces uncompensated care, and supports clinics' ability to meet growing demand.

### Strengthen Florida's Healthcare Workforce by Expanding Sovereign Immunity

FAFCC respectfully requests an update to Chapter 766.1115 to extend sovereign immunity protection to dentists and dental hygiene students who volunteer in free and charitable clinics. This simple statutory change would:

- Encourage more dental professionals and students to serve in high-need communities.
- Expand preventive care access for uninsured patients.
- Reduce dental-related emergency visits and improve outcomes for patients preparing for surgery.

Including dental and dental hygiene students will help build the pipeline of future providers and increase statewide capacity at a time when Florida faces significant shortages.

### A Responsible, High-Value Investment

The clinics of the Florida Association of Free and Charitable Clinics remain one of Florida's strongest returns on investment. With continued support for the State Funds Grant and the targeted \$3 million appropriation, Florida can strengthen its healthcare safety net, reduce avoidable public costs, and ensure uninsured residents have access to care that keeps them working, caring for their families, and contributing to their communities.



# A LIFE-SAVING INVESTMENT IN FLORIDA'S HEALTH



FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF  
FREE & CHARITABLE  
CLINICS

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

Kendall Meikenhous, *Director of Grants & Data Quality* | 904.337.4016 | [kendall@fafcc.org](mailto:kendall@fafcc.org)

Jessica Lovejoy, *Director of Events & Education Programs* | 904.337.9610 | [jessica@fafcc.org](mailto:jessica@fafcc.org)

**FAFCC.ORG**

