

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) presented their Legislative Budget Request to the Governor's staff on November 10, 2016. Included in their request are several programs that include permanent supportive housing as its part of its goals. Two DCF's budget proposals requests funding to improve the managing entities ability to implement housing activities including improve use of current housing options, developing new housing options, and improving care coordination. DCF has requested \$1,684,746 for the housing initiative and \$1,651,675 for care coordination.

Three programs are being requested as part of the Governor's Executive Order issued in three counties last year to review the coordination and effectiveness of the delivery of behavioral health care system. One of the issues to be addressed by all 3 counties addresses the need for safe and affordable housing.

Pinellas County: The DCF is requesting \$1,500,000 for Pinellas County to provide 2 pilots. One pilot will provide a National Wraparound model to youth with behavioral health disorders served by both child welfare and juvenile justice. The second pilot targets at least 50 adults with behavioral health conditions that are reentering the community from the prison system. The pilot will use system navigators to provide care coordination to engage these individuals immediately upon release. Permanent supportive housing was identified by FMHI in its data analysis as one of the major weaknesses in Pinellas County.

Alachua County: The DCF is requesting \$750,000 to provide housing and support services for persons with behavioral health disorders. The request states "research indicates that lack/loss of housing is the best predictor of psychiatric decomposition". The funds will be used to serve an estimated 67 individuals who are high resource user across multiple systems with a history limited or poor outcomes. The pilot includes housing rental assistance at a Fair Market Rate with wrap around services at a cost of \$719 per individual.

Broward County: The DCF is requesting \$500,000 to provide housing, job readiness, employment supports and other needed services for 75 individuals with behavioral health disorders. Although the focus are individuals involved in the criminal justice system being released from prison to project to a lesser degree serve individuals in Broward County jail and those returning from the state hospital. The project includes \$40.00/day/90days temporary housing costs.

The Governor will review DCF's proposal and issue his own budget proposal early next year which will hopefully include DCF's requests.