

LEVERAGING FEDERAL MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FUNDING BY STATE AGENCIES

ISSUE BRIEF

FEBRUARY 2023



FLORIDA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

Background

Florida's Medicaid program is a vital safety net program funding critical health care services for more than 5 million Floridians, primarily children. Hospitals provide care to vulnerable children and adults through access to hospital services as well as primary care, behavioral health, long-term care, post-acute care, and specialty services.

Florida is eligible for significant federal funding that it is not currently using. By leveraging federal Medicaid reimbursement for services currently administered through and financed by other state agencies and programs, Florida could tap into hundreds of millions of Medicaid federal matching funds, freeing up state-only funds for other programs. The state can do this without any expansion of current Medicaid income eligibility levels or categories.

FHA supports leveraging available federal Medicaid funds wherever possible to maximize access to services and preserve state-only general revenue.

DCF Community Behavioral Health Response Teams Funding

In 2022, the state appropriated \$126 million in general revenue for the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to expand community-based behavioral services throughout the state. DCF has discretion to allocate funding through programs such as Children's Community Action Treatment (CAT) teams, Family Intensive Treatment (FIT) teams, Florida Assertive Community Teams (FACT), and mobile response teams.

There is a significant overlap between the individuals served by this program and individuals covered under Florida Medicaid. In addition, community-based treatment is eligible for Medicaid payment.

DOE Marjory Stoneman Douglas Funding

In 2018, after the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, the Legislature passed, and Governor DeSantis signed SB 7026. It provides funding for the creation of a statewide network of mobile response teams. The goal is meet the behavioral health needs of students and their families by improving access to behavioral services in their communities with 24/7 availability.

Currently, mobile response teams are not covered under Medicaid, instead they are reimbursed through the state's general revenue. These teams provide services to Medicaid-covered individuals, similar to Florida Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) teams, and the state has an opportunity to receive federal funding.

Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)

Department of Education (DOE) Student Mental Health Funding

Since 2019, the Department of Education has allocated funding to the Mental Health Assistance program to provide mental health services to low-income students in the Florida Education Financing program. In the 2022-23 school year, \$140 million, an increase of \$20 million from 2021-22 of general revenue, was appropriated for FEFP school mental health programs.

The Mental Health assistance program provides behavioral health services to Medicaid-covered recipients, which are eligible for reimbursement. Currently, DOE receives funding through state-only general revenue. Florida can potentially receive \$150 million in federal matching funds for the school-based program.

Resources

[2022 Budget- Section 364B](#)

[2018 Mobile Response Teams Framework](#)

[FLDOE](#)