

How to Achieve the Greatest Benefits for All New Jerseyans with Limited Resources

NJAMHAA urges the state to adequately fund community-based mental health and substance use treatment and services for adults and children, which have shown a substantial return on investment.

- ***Save Lives and at least \$1 Billion per Year***

Significant tax savings are achieved when evidence-based services are funded to support recovery and avoid high-cost emergency services. Individuals, families and communities all benefit when people are able to avoid crisis and remain healthy, safe and productive.

- ***Further Reduce Costs to the State***

There is a great potential for savings if the state were to support mental health and substance use providers, proven to have specialized expertise with complex populations, in providing integrated care and supports to individuals with co-occurring physical and behavioral health issues.

- ***Ensure Access for Those in Need of Treatment***

With adequate rates for services and cash advances, providers will remain viable and able to engage a difficult to serve population.

- ***Strengthen the Workforce***

Providing a 3% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) will assist organizations in attracting and retaining qualified staff. To address the shortage of psychiatrists, advance practice psychiatric nurses and other mental health and substance use staff, a loan redemption program should be implemented to attract more individuals to behavioral health professions. This is critical given the increased demand on the system resulting from Medicaid Expansion, the Health Insurance Exchange, Drug Court expansion and the implementation of parity legislation.

