



THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS OF OHIO

The State's Voice on Mental Illness

2023 ADVOCACY PLATFORM

The Governor's Budget is historic for individuals with mental illness and their families. The commitment to key priorities reveals support never seen before and not being discussed at this level anywhere else in the Country. NAMI Ohio is ready to work with the General Assembly and key stakeholders to address the immediate needs of individuals with serious and persistent mental illness (SPMI) and their families. This will require system change and the will power to prioritize and adjust key services.

The Governor's Budget is another step to a more Person-Centered Mental Health system for those most in need.

GOVERNOR DEWINE'S BUDGET - NAMI OHIO FULLY SUPPORTS:

- Housing is the greatest need, and this budget provides funding for individuals with mental illness who receive residential state supplement for living in adult care facilities (\$48 million). This budget also provides quality improvement grants, landlord incentives, and help to reenter the community upon release from Ohio's prisons. (\$62 million)
- The need for inpatient beds at the state hospital and private psychiatric hospitals is critical, and this budget addresses that need (\$32 million).
- Access to Wellness funds for those most in need of services like housing, transportation, medication, and employment (\$18 million).
- Clubhouses and Peer Recovery Organizations that increase life-skills training and social connectedness (\$7.5 million).
- Funding to the local ADAMH Boards (\$20 million) for prevention, early intervention, and suicide prevention.
- 988 crisis hotline services operating funds to get an appropriate local response to crisis situations and to build out the infrastructure for gaps to meet crisis needs (\$86.5 million).
- Promote mental health awareness and interventions by focusing on the priorities laid out in the 2020 Ohio Suicide Prevention Plan. Also, increase early childhood interventions and supports aimed at children, parents, and caregivers for a healthy and successful start to life. (\$66.3 million).
- Workforce collaboratives, continued outreach to Ohio's Centers of Excellence and reimbursement strategies are addressed to help alleviate the shortage of workers in Ohio's mental health system (\$14.5 million)

CALL TO ACTION

- NAMI Ohio asks all stakeholders and legislators to sign on to the effort to prioritize support services for all individuals with severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI). The investments in housing, clubhouses and peer recovery centers and wellness funds are critical to person-centered mental health.
- We must ensure crisis infrastructure includes long term residential options once someone is discharged from a crisis stabilization unit, inpatient hospital, jail, and/or prison.
- It is time to prioritize the development of a defined and fully funded continuum of housing and support services for people with SPMI.
- A person-centered approach to mental health will need to address accountability within the system. Support services will need to be developed to reduce law enforcement intervention and revolving short-term stays in psychiatric hospitals. We must also increase options for navigation to support services for individuals discharged from a jail or hospital.
- Mental health services delivered to young people in the schools must be achieved through the Student Wellness and Success Fund (50% of the funding for mental health services). Likewise, OhioRISE needs to be fully implemented for multisystem youth that need intensive services, as well as enhancing peer support services.
- Help families gain better access to care and support initiatives to strengthen the behavioral health workforce continuum (including Certified Youth Peer Support). *The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry labels Ohio with a “severe shortage” of just 11 psychiatrists for every 100,000 Ohio children.*
- Collaboration among key stakeholders at every level is critical to ensure services are available and accessible to those most in need.
- Together, we can improve the lives of individuals and families living with mental illness and create a mental health system that is person-centered and focused on meeting the needs of each individual served.

Join NAMI Ohio and protect the mental health investments as presented in the Governor’s budget.