

NAMI Connecticut is asking that the Legislature make a significant investment in the DMHAS budget for the 2022/23 biennium, as well as the budget line items of the Dept. of Housing (DOH) and Dept. of Social Services (DSS) that deal with mental health related services, supports, and programming; specifically:

- Invest \$6M to expand DMHAS-run mobile crisis intervention services to be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in all five regions and to respond to all 911 calls involving acute mental health emergencies. Mobile crisis intervention services shall be the default response to 911 mental health calls, dispatched directly through 911.
- Expand medical and mental health re-entry services to formerly incarcerated people (about 2,000 currently), a population that is disproportionately Black and Brown, as they re-enter our communities from prison or pre-trial detention.
- Restore and expand DMHAS addiction services to address Connecticut's mental health crisis and the growing waiting lists in request for services.
- Expand the continuum of housing supports available to all Connecticut residents, with targeted investments for adults and youth with substance abuse and mental health disorders, including expanding DMHAS YAS residential services.
- Invest \$6M annually to expand peer respite housing staffed by persons with lived experience in the mental health field and certified in Intentional Peer Support, as well as other short-term stabilization services available to individuals with substance abuse and other mental health conditions.
- Utilize all available units to restore capacity at DCF facilities to address the waiting lists at Solnit North and South. Expand DCF preventative care, coordinating with school systems and regions.
- Fully fund essential services in state healthcare agencies and hire over 1,200 state healthcare workers to address the critical staffing crises affecting our patients and services.
- Fully fund long term care services so that workers can be paid a living wage and have low-cost benefits, staffing levels can be correctly addressed and workers have access to affordable training programs.
- Oppose the reduction in the Governor's budget to Housing/Homeless Services by \$3 million in each fiscal year and increase funding in that line item to reflect the increased funding for providers.
- \$375,000 in new funding in the DMHAS' Housing Supports and Services line for enhanced outreach services that would enable us to better identify individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness. We support the Governor's proposal to

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provide an additional \$4 million in FY22 and \$7.2 million in FY23 in DMHAS for continued discharges from Connecticut Valley.

- \$352,500 in each year of the biennium for wrap-around services for 47 individuals anticipated to receive federal HUD Mainstream vouchers during FY22.
- An investment of \$2.25 million in the DMHAS' Housing Supports and Services line to provide supportive services to 300 households in scattered-site and development units.
- Support the proposed budget for the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services' Housing Supports and Services line at \$23.4 million in each year of the biennium.
- Support the new Money Follows the Person placements, and discharges from CVH and other state-operated inpatient psychiatric facilities.
- Eliminate the proposed asset test for the Medicare Savings Program, which will certainly have the unintended consequence of removing eligible people from its roles.

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