

## Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration FY 2016 Funding

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### REQUEST

- > Fund the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMSHA) centers at the following levels:
    - > Center for Mental Health Services at \$1.078 billion,
    - > Center for Substance Abuse Treatment at \$2.141 billion,
    - > Center for Substance Abuse Prevention at \$211 million, and
    - > SAMHSA Health Surveillance & Program Support, Agency-wide Initiatives at \$78 million.
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### ISSUE

- > The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is the principal federal agency charged with increasing access to mental health (MH)/substance use disorders (SUD) services.
- > SAMHSA provides leadership nationwide on behavioral health issues – administering competitive, state formula and block grant programs and data collection activities, promoting practice improvements, and providing information about behavioral health and available services to the public and to behavioral health providers and practitioners.
- > Maintaining SAMHSA funding will ensure adequate service capacity for states, tribes, local governments, and communities while helping improve practices and lower costs.
- > Budget reductions resulting in the elimination of inpatient beds, crisis services, and community supports are shortsighted fiscal policies that inevitably total more in overall spending as costs are shifted to services such as juvenile justice systems and corrections systems, homeless shelters, and unemployment services.

### RATIONALE

- > Approximately 1 in 5 adults in the US - 43.7 million, or 18.6 percent - experiences mental illness in a given year.<sup>1</sup> Approximately 1 in 5 youth aged 13–18 (21.4 percent) experiences a severe mental disorder in a given year and for children aged 8–15, the estimate is 13 percent.<sup>2</sup>
- > Approximately 1 in 20 adults in the US - 13.6 million, or 4.1 percent - experiences a serious mental illness in a given year that substantially interferes with or limits one or more major life activities.<sup>3</sup>
- > Only 62.9 percent of US adults<sup>4</sup> and just over half (50.6 percent) of children aged 8-15 received mental health services in the previous year.<sup>5</sup>
- > According to a September 2011 federal surveillance report, nearly half of the US population will develop at least one mental illness during their lifetime.<sup>6</sup> Adults in the US living with serious mental illness die on average 25 years earlier than others, largely due to treatable medical conditions.<sup>7</sup>
- > A cautious estimate places the direct and indirect financial costs associated with mental illness in the US at well over \$300 billion annually, and it ranks as the third most costly

medical condition in terms of overall health care expenditure, behind only heart conditions and traumatic injury.<sup>8</sup>

- The burden of illness for mental disorders is projected to sharply increase, not decrease, over the next 20 years.<sup>8</sup>
- The unintended consequences of cutbacks are taking a devastating toll especially on our most vulnerable patient populations, including America's service men and women and their families. More service members than ever before are returning home with the invisible wounds of war, ranging from post-traumatic stress disorder to SUD and suicide. Each day an estimated 18-22 veterans die by suicide.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Any Mental Illness (AMI) Among Adults. <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/prevalence/any-mental-illness-ami-among-adults.shtml>.

<sup>2</sup> Any Disorder Among Children. <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/prevalence/any-disorder-among-children.shtml>.

<sup>3</sup> Serious mental Illness (SMI) Among Adults. <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/prevalence/serious-mental-illness-smi-among-us-adults.shtml>.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of Health Results from the 2012 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Mental Health Findings. [http://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/2k12MH\\_Findings/2k12MH\\_Findings/NSDUHmhr2012.htm](http://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/2k12MH_Findings/2k12MH_Findings/NSDUHmhr2012.htm)

<sup>5</sup> Use of Mental Health Services and Treatment Among Children. <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/prevalence/use-of-mental-health-services-and-treatment-among-children.shtml>

<sup>6</sup> Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/su6003a1.htm>

<sup>7</sup> National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors Council. (2006). Morbidity and Mortality in People with Serious Mental Illness. Alexandria, VA: Parks, J., et al. <http://www.nasmhpd.org/docs/publications/MDCdocs/Mortality%20and%20Morbidity%20Final%20Report%208.18.08.pdf>.

<sup>8</sup> Assessing the State of America's Mental Health System: Hearing before Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, US Senate, 113<sup>th</sup> Congress (2013) (testimony of Thomas Insel, MD) <http://www.help.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Insel.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs Mental Health Services Suicide Prevention Program. (2012). Suicide Data Report, 2012. Kemp, J. & Bossarte, R. <http://www.va.gov/opa/docs/Suicide-Data-Report-2012-final.pdf>.