

SUPPORT LOCAL EFFORTS TO REDUCE MENTAL ILLNESS IN JAILS BY FULLY FUNDING THE JUSTICE AND MENTAL HEALTH COLLABORATION PROGRAM IN ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS

ACTION NEEDED:

Urge your members of Congress to support local efforts to reduce the number of individuals with mental health, substance abuse or co-occurring disorders in county jails by providing full funding for the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHC) in the annual appropriations process. JMHC was reauthorized for fiscal years 2017-2021 through the 21st Century Cures Act (P.L. 114-255) at \$50 million per year and should be funded at this level annually to maximize the impact of local efforts to address the prevalence of mental illness in the criminal justice system. JMHC is currently funded at \$35 million under the *Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021*.

BACKGROUND:

Enacted by Congress in 2004, the JMHC is a grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). The grants, which are available to state, tribal and local governments, can be used to develop and implement programs designed to improve outcomes for individuals with mental health conditions who are involved in the criminal justice system. JMHC was formerly referred to as the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA).

Collectively, state and local governments use these grants for a broad range of activities, including jail diversion programs, mental health courts, creating or expanding community-based treatment programs and providing in-jail treatment and transitional services. In addition, grant funds may be used to enhance training for criminal justice and mental health system personnel on how to appropriately respond to crises involving individuals with mental health disorders.

Although Congress has authorized JMHC at \$50 million since its inception, appropriators have never fully funded the grant program. Currently, JMHC is funded at \$35 million under the *Consolidated Appropriations*

EACH YEAR, OVER 11 MILLION PEOPLE ARE BOOKED INTO JAILS ACROSS THE NATION.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 64 PERCENT OF PEOPLE BOOKED IN LOCAL JAILS DISPLAY A PATTERN OF SYMPTOMS THAT ARE INDICATIVE OF MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS.

JMHC HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED AT \$50 MILLION SINCE ITS CREATION BUT HAS TYPICALLY RECEIVED LESS THAN \$10 MILLION IN ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS.

JMHC WAS FORMERLY REFERRED TO AS THE MENTALLY ILL OFFENDER TREATMENT AND CRIME REDUCTION ACT (MIOTCRA).

SCAN THE QR CODE TO DOWNLOAD THE BRIEF



Act of 2021. This level of funding, although far less than the program’s authorized level, represents the highest level of funding for the program since FY 2010. JMHCP should be funded at the full authorization level to maximize the impact of the program in assisting local efforts to reduce mental illness and substance abuse in jails.

Under the 2016 reauthorization of JMHCP, the program’s scope was expanded to allow grant funds to be used for additional purposes related to addressing substance abuse, mental health or co-occurring disorders in the criminal justice system. Among these purposes is “sequential intercept mapping,” which aims to assess how individuals with mental illness flow through the criminal justice system and how they can be diverted from the system at different junctures.

KEY TALKING POINTS:

- The Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP) is a grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) that provides federal funding to assist state, local and tribal governments in their efforts to improve outcomes for individuals with mental health conditions who are involved in the criminal justice system.
- An estimated two million individuals with serious mental health conditions are booked into county jails each year, resulting in prevalence rates of serious mental conditions in jails that are three to six times higher than in the general population. An even greater number of individuals who are detained in jails each year have mental health problems that do not rise to the level of a serious mental health condition but may still require a resource-intensive response.
- Despite its \$50 million authorization level, typically JMHCP has not been fully funded in the annual appropriations process. Currently, the program is receiving \$35 million as appropriated by the *Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021*. JMHCP should be fully funded at \$50 million per year in upcoming appropriations bills.

COMMITTEES OF JURISDICTION

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Majority

Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.)

Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio)

Rep. David Price (D-N.C.)

Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-Ga.)

Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.)

Rep. Betty McCollum (D-Minn.)

Minority

Rep. Kay Granger (R-Texas)

Rep. Harold Rogers (R-Ky.)

Rep. Robert B. Aderholt (R-Ala.)

Rep. Michael K. Simpson (R-Idaho)

Rep. John R. Carter (R-Texas)

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Majority

Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.)

Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.)

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.)

Sen. Richard Durbin (D-Ill.)

Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.)

Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.)

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.)

Minority

Sen. Richard Shelby (R-Ala.)

Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.)

Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine)

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska)

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.)

Sen. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.)



Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Ohio)
Rep. C. Ruppertsberger (D-Md.)
Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.)
Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-Texas)
Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-Maine)
Rep. Mike Quigley (D-Ill.)
Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-Wash.)
Rep. Matt Cartwright (D-Pa.)
Rep. Grace Meng (D-N.Y.)
Rep. Mark Pocan (D-Wis.)
Rep. Katherine M. Clark (D-Mass.)
Rep. Pete Aguilar (D-Calif.)
Rep. Lois Frankel (D-Fla.)
Rep. Cheri Bustos (D-Ill.)
Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-N.J.)
Rep. Brenda Lawrence (D-Mich.)
Rep. Norma Torres (D-Calif.)
Rep. Charlie Crist (D-Fla.)
Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick (D-Ariz.)
Rep. Ed Case (D-Hawaii)
Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-N.Y.)
Rep. Josh Harder (D-Calif.)
Rep. Jennifer Wexton (D-Va.)
Rep. David Trone (D-Md.)
Rep. Lauren Underwood (D-Ill.)
Rep. Susie Lee (D-Nev.)

Rep. Ken Calvert (R-Calif.)
Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.)
Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-Fla.)
Rep. Steve Womack (R-Alaska)
Rep. Charles Fleischmann (R-Tenn.)
Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-Wash.)
Rep. David Joyce (R-Ohio)
Rep. Andy Harris (R-Md.)
Rep. Mark E. Amodei (R-Nev.)
Rep. Chris Stewart (R-Utah)
Rep. Steven Palazzo (R-Mo.)
Rep. David Valadao (R-Calif.)
Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.)
Rep. John R. Moolenaar (R-Mich.)
Rep. John Rutherford (R-Fla.)
Rep. Ben Cline (R-Va.)
Rep. Guy Reschenthaler (R-Pa.)
Rep. Mike Garcia (R-Calif.)
Rep. Ashley Hinson (R-Iowa)
Rep. Tony Gonzales (R-Texas)

Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.)
Sen. Chris Coons (D-Del.)
Sen. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii)
Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.)
Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.)
Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.)
Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.)
Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.)

Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.)
Sen. John Hoeven (R-N.D.)
Sen. John Boozman (R-Ark.)
Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.)
Sen. John Kennedy (R-La.)
Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.)
Sen. Mike Braun (R-Ind.)
Sen. Bill Hagerty (R-Tenn.)
Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.)

