



# Florida Behavioral Health Association

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## For Immediate Release

January 28, 2021

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### **The Florida Behavioral Health Association Applauds *Florida Leads Budget***

**Tallahassee, Fla.**—The Florida Behavioral Health Association (FBHA) applauds Governor Ron DeSantis for continuing to prioritize Florida’s community behavioral health system. With the release of his FY 2021-2022 recommended [Florida Leads Budget](#), the governor included more than \$31 million for adults and children who suffer from mental illness, more than \$178 million in state and federal funding to fight the opioid epidemic, and more than \$32 million to preserve funding for services through Florida’s child welfare system that support children and families.

“The Governor was spot on when he stated that COVID-19 has affected Floridians’ health and well-being in unimaginable ways,” said FBHA President and CEO Melanie Brown-Woofter. “Unfortunately, that impact has resulted in more people living with depression, anxiety, and communities experiencing increased overdose deaths and suicides over the past year. The demand for mental health and addiction services continues to rise. With this recommended budget, FBHA’s community behavioral health providers can continue to provide live-saving treatment services for Floridians. We are grateful to have a Governor who prioritizes the healthcare needs of all Floridians.”

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*The Florida Behavioral Health Association is a non-profit organization that provides statewide leadership on behavioral health policy and practice. FBHA supports member agencies offering services to those in need of mental health and substance use disorder assistance and support. Its members include a broad range of provider types, ranging from small specialty organizations to comprehensive treatment organizations with multiple locations within a geographic region. For more information, please visit [www.floridabha.org](http://www.floridabha.org).*