



# Provide People With Serious Mental Illness The Help They Need

Missouri's mental health system must be improved to make mental health care more accessible to individuals, families and communities, perhaps reducing the risk that people with mental illness will be involved in horrific tragedies. In his January 28 State of the State Address, Governor Jay Nixon proposed a major investment in Missouri's mental health system. "Many people with serious mental illness get treatment only when they reach a crisis point." Recommendations include\*:

- **"Provide More Services in Community Mental Health Centers"**  
Place Community Mental Health Liaisons in Community Mental Health Centers across the state to work with courts, law enforcement, schools, treatment professionals, and families to facilitate access to care and improve coordination of services for people with mental illness or substance use disorders. **\$ 3,626,573**
  - **"Increase Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training"**  
Expand Mental Health First Aid training to targeted groups that are likely to encounter people in mental health crises – e.g., teachers, law enforcement, clergy, and employers, "so they can recognize the early warning signs of mental illness." **\$ 296,000**
  - **"Train Law Enforcement in Mental Health Crisis Intervention"**  
Expand Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) for law enforcement officers so that more are trained to intervene in mental health crises, help families, and prevent unnecessary incarceration of people with serious mental illness. **\$ 150,000**
  - **"Teach Families How to Care for Loved Ones Who Suffer From Severe Mental Illness"**  
Expand the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) *Family-to-Family* and *NAMI Basics* programs with a special focus on families with youth and young adult children. When a child develops mental illness, parents need help from other experienced families in learning how to cope and finding resources. **\$ 65,000**
  - **Provide People with "Timely and Effective Treatment in Their Own Communities"**  
Fund emergency room enhancement projects in seven parts of the state in order to develop models of effective intervention for people in mental health crises. Inpatient psychiatric care has become extremely difficult to access, particularly in rural parts of the state. **\$ 5,999,132**
- TOTAL: \$ 10,136,705**

#### Related issue:

**Fulton State Hospital** – "Bond proceeds will allow the building of a new and improved Fulton State Mental Hospital. The state has a moral responsibility to these patients and their caregivers to provide the best possible environment: one that is safe, secure and conducive to healing."

*\*Quotations are directly from the Governor's speech.*