



## 2013 Appropriations

*The Federal Government should make preventing mental, emotional and behavioral disorders and promoting mental health in young people a national priority. Mental health disorders take a tremendous toll on the well-being of young people and their families, costing the United States and estimated \$247 billion annually (IOM, 2009).*

**THE ISSUE:** Mental illness is the leading cause of disability in the United States, with half of all lifetime cases of mental illness beginning by age 14 and three quarters by age 24. Early identification and intervention improves outcomes for children, before these conditions become far more serious, more costly, and difficult to treat (NIMH, 2005). However, funding for essential and basic mental health services and research is dwindling. States have reduced funding for mental health care by nearly \$3.4 billion over the last three years. This funding supports services that play a critical role in helping youth with, or at risk of, a mental illness and/or substance use condition achieve recovery and live a productive life within their community. Service cuts devastate our children and families and threaten the health and well-being of our communities.

**THE SOLUTION:** Funding for mental health research and services helps save lives. Research helps to transform the understanding and treatment of mental illnesses by applying new tools, techniques, and knowledge, and is changing the way we address mental illnesses and substance use addiction in this country. We must provide adequate funding for research and services programs that are vital to identifying and treating mental illnesses in children and adolescents. Specific funding recommendations include:

### Mental Health Services

- *Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children and Their Families Program:* increase funding by \$8.5 million to a total of \$126.1 million.
- *Suicide Prevention Program for Children and Adolescents:* increase funding by \$3.5 million to a total of \$51.5 million.
- *Youth Violence Prevention Initiatives:* increase funding by \$1.6 million to a total of \$24.8 million.
- *Needs of Children and Adolescents with Post-Traumatic Stress:* increase funding by \$3.3 million to a total of \$49 million.
- *State Family Network Grants:* increase funding by \$300,000 to \$4 million.

### National Institutes

- *National Institute on Drug Abuse:* increase funding by \$48 million to a total of \$1.1 billion.
- *National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism:* increase funding by \$23 million to a total of \$480 million.

**National Institute on Mental Health:** increase funding by \$66.5 million to a total of \$1.54 billion.

### Juvenile Justice Programs

- *JJPA Title II State Formula Grants Program:* increase funding by \$40 million to a total of \$80 million.
- *JJPA Title V Delinquency Prevention Programs:* increase funding by \$45 million to a total of \$65 million.

### National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities

- Reject the Administration's efforts to consolidate programs supported through the *National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)* and request that the NCBDDD ADHD programs be funded at the same level as 2012 at \$1.7 million.

April 2012

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CHILD & ADOLESCENT  
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