

Jewish Family and Children's Services of the Suncoast
School and Family Wellness Support Services

The mission of Jewish Family and Children's Services of the Suncoast (JFCS) is to empower individuals and families toward well-being and self-reliance by providing mental health and human services on a non-denominational basis, inspired by the Jewish tradition of helping all people. JFCS has identified that outcomes from treating mental health needs of youth and teens improve if the needs of parents, guardians and siblings are included.

The School and Family Wellness Support Services initiative proposed by JFCS will expand their support of the JFCS Youth/Teen program with a Family Support Team providing counseling and wrap-around programs. The total initiative budget is \$257,749. The Impact100 SRQ grant will fund \$75,000 for salary and benefits for a new Family Health Clinician for a year and \$31,250, half salary and benefits for 18 months, for a Case Manager to coordinate wrap-around services. The \$2,750 balance of the Impact100 SRQ grant will purchase laptops and cell phones for the new employees. The JFCS Development Team will implement a strategy to raise funds above the grant amount.

JFCS's 37-year history of mental health counseling consistently shows that treating only the child is insufficient. Existing JFCS youth teams including Adolescent Diversion Program, Camp Mariposa, Community Youth Well-Being Connections, and School Based Counseling have articulated a need to focus on families as well as youth. The Family Support Team will increase clients served across all youth programs.

The School and Family Wellness Support initiative will improve youth/teen client functioning by including the entire family's emotional, social, and physical well-being. Families may struggle with unstable housing, substandard employment history and poor financial practices, leading to issues with parenting abilities, divorce-related conflict, depression, anxiety, stress, and anger control. As families receive care and support, the stressors and tensions in the home will diminish and the outcomes for youth/teens will improve. Mental and emotional well-being will lead to improved coping, communication and problem-solving skills, stronger family relationships, more consistent and effective work and school performance, and improved physical health.

This initiative will allow JFCS to reach at least 25% more, an additional 15 – 22 youth/teens and their families in Sarasota and Manatee Counties. With the additional clinician, JFCS can provide 500 more clinical sessions annually; the case worker will provide 200 wraparound services. Client and team reporting and feedback will demonstrate improvements in the well-being of youth receiving treatment and their families. Every case will be audited quarterly by the county to ensure accountability to mental health performance measures.

The estimated cost to Sarasota County of untreated youth mental health issues is \$86M. This initiative will be an impactful step towards transforming the lives of youths and teens and their families.