

HEALTH MEDICAL AND DENTAL

TOTAL HEALTH PROGRAM INVESTMENTS: \$237,000

TARGET OUTCOME: IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES

[Caridad Center \(www.caridad.org\)](http://www.caridad.org)

Caridad Health Clinic: \$140,000

Caridad Health Clinic, the largest free clinic in Florida, provides medical and dental care to about **12,000** uninsured children and adults who do not qualify for other programs or subsidies, and who cannot access care anywhere else. CHC's focus is to treat diseases in the early stages, avoiding costly hospitalization or use of emergency rooms for non-emergency care. The Clinic's Prevention, Education and Treatment (P.E.T.) initiative provides community-based health screenings to identify children and adults at risk for, or with, chronic disease and provide classes and workshops for chronic disease prevention and to promote healthy lifestyle strategies. **Zip Codes served: Multiple**

Why is this program necessary?

Uninsured Florida residents far exceed the national average, with Palm Beach County having the highest in Florida at 20.2%. The uninsured receive less preventative care, are diagnosed at more advanced disease stages, and tend to receive less therapeutic care and have higher mortality rates than insured individuals. Many families fall into a "coverage gap" of having incomes above Medicaid eligibility limits but below the lower limit for marketplace premium tax credits.

[Clinics Can Help \(clinicscanhelp.org\)](http://clinicscanhelp.org)

The Lending Closet: \$25,000

The Lending Closet collects and provides surplus Durable Medical Equipment (DME) and supplies primarily to **1,925** patients in need in Palm Beach County. The Lending Closet also provides DME and supplies to clinics, programs and schools in Palm Beach County. DME provides medical equipment that is necessary for the safe recovery of individuals with acute conditions or the convalescence of people with long term chronic health conditions.

Zip Codes served: Multiple

Why is this program necessary?

In Palm Beach County there are over 390,000 people with little or no health insurance who are not able to access appropriate medical care/medical equipment. The possession and utilization of durable medical equipment is a critical part of quality medical care. By ensuring that all people in need of medical equipment can and will receive it, a community ensures quicker recovery times, increased mobility, and decreased chances of injury and greater socialization, all of which benefit the clients who receive it.

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Families First (www.familiesfirstpbc.org)

Targeted Outreach for Pregnant Women (TOPWA): \$17,000

Families First TOPWA program provides outreach services to **572** high risk women who are pregnant and in need of prenatal care and educational information in order to ensure a healthy birth. This is an HIV and substance abuse prevention program. **Zip Codes served: Multiple**

Why is this program necessary?

Palm Beach County is ranked 5th in Florida for newly reported HIV cases and 4th for newly reported AIDS cases. The TOPWA program has proven to be a vital resource in identifying and screening pregnant women at risk residing in Palm Beach County.

The Glades Initiative (www.gladesinitiative.org)

Connecting the Glades: \$20,000

The Glades Initiative's Connecting the Glades Program reduces disparities facing about **3,000** Glades residents by educating them about existing services and assisting them by accessing Medicaid, Healthcare District, Food Stamps, healthcare and other vital services they might not otherwise know are available to them. **Zip Code served: 33430**

Why is this program necessary?

According to the U.S Census Bureau, about 40% of families in the Glades with children under the age of 18 live below the poverty guidelines. Over 90% of school-age children in the Glades qualify for free or reduced lunches. Unemployment in the Glades is 2-3 times higher than the rest of the county. There are many residents who are not aware of the existing services or how to access them. Other barriers such as language, illiteracy, complex eligibility processes and limited access to the internet also complicates families' ability to receive assistance.

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Planned Parenthood (www.plannedparenthood.org)

Teen Time Medical: \$35,000

Teen Time Medical provides free and low cost medical services to about **1,500** youth ages 12-17 in Palm Beach County. During a teen time medical visit, teens will receive gender-appropriate exams and testing for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), HIV, and pregnancy, free contraception for one year, and accurate medical information from our clinical staff in a confidential, non-judgmental manner. **Zip Codes served: 33409, 33414, 33434**

Why is this program necessary?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it is estimated that although teens and young adults ages 15-24 represent only 25% of the sexually active population, they account for nearly half of the nation's new sexually transmitted infections. Teen pregnancy is a high risk behavior that has lasting effects on school achievement- parenthood is the leading cause of school drop-outs among teen girls who become pregnant; closely linking to other critical social issues such as poverty and income, overall child well-being, health issues, and other risky behaviors. It is proven that education, counseling, and contraceptive services are direct strategies to improved contraceptive use and a reduction in teen pregnancy for participants.
