



Dear Friends:

The Florida Department of Corrections recently informed 33 community-based providers that their 2018/2019 budget was not sufficiently funded and as a result they have decided to cut community-based reentry treatment. For additional information on the impact of these statewide cuts visit <http://www.bridgesofamerica.com/wp-content/uploads/FADAA- -Impact-of-DOC-Cuts.pdf>

As you are aware, these programs have a proven track record of success by changing lives and reducing recidivism. Additionally, the results of these proposed cuts will include the removal of substance abuse beds across the state which is particularly alarming based on our Nation's current opioid epidemic.

The impact of this decision will have far reaching effects to our stakeholders, from the client preparing to reenter society, to their families who are key partners in their loved one's rehabilitation, to the employer who provides a second chance to these individuals and believes in their recovery, and the communities who will receive them upon their release.

Therefore, we are placed in a position to publicize the Department of Correction's position to ensure that all citizens are aware of this misguided effort.

The GOOD NEWS is that it is not too late to reverse this action, but WE NEED YOUR HELP!

1. I urge you to immediately contact Julie Jones, Secretary of the Florida Department of Corrections at jones.julie@mail.dc.state.fl.us or at 501 S. Calhoun Street, Tallahassee Fl. 32399-2500.
2. Additionally, please contact Governor Rick Scott at <http://www.flgov.com/contact-govscott/email-the-governor/> or Executive Office of the Governor, 400 S. Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Fl. 32399-0001
3. Write your State Senator and Representative and ask them to contact their leadership and encourage them to fix this underfunding. Visit <http://www.bridgesofamerica.com/wp-content/uploads/Legislative-Contact-Information-May-2018.pdf> to locate your specific Senator and Representative.

Tell our elected officials that you value keeping substance abuse treatment beds in the community because it works and to sufficiently fund the Department of Corrections' budget. Advise them that the departments plan to remove treatment from these community is bad public policy and a major step backwards in correctional reform.

On behalf of the men and their families who desperately need community-based substance abuse treatment and reentry services, I urge you to join me in our efforts.

Lori Costantino-Brown | President & CEO

Bridges International, Inc.