

Mirci provides behavioral healthcare, outreach services, and affordable housing options for people who are vulnerable to the adverse consequences of mental illness. Left unchecked and unsupported, mental illness can impact a person's ability to secure essentials like food, clothing and safe housing.

Since the start of the pandemic in 2020, there has been a 25% increase in the number of individuals experiencing mental illness in our community and globally.

Mirci responded to these growing behavioral healthcare needs by adding homeless outreach workers, a second drop-in center, and a new five-day behavioral healthcare clinic that provides both office and mobile healthcare to screen and treat youth and adults with mental illness. Last year, over 200 homeless individuals used the center and received treatment monthly.

In the last two years, Mirci has served more youth and adults through outreach, drop-in centers and behavioral healthcare clinics than any prior year. In 2021, 685 youth and adults were engaged; and in 2022, we saw a 48% increase, engaging 1016 individuals. These expanded services were developed with ESG-CV grant funds from the SC Office of Economic Opportunity.

Mirci received proviso funding of \$250,000 through the SC Department of Mental Health in the 2021-2022 legislative budget, and \$500,000 in the 2022-2023 budget to continue providing community based care to youth and adults living with mental illness and housing insecurity or even chronic homelessness. The ESG-CV funds have been expended, and there is no end in sight to the increased need for behavioral healthcare and stable housing.

Support from the State of \$500,000 will allow Mirci to continue to intervene in crises, provide access to mental health treatment, linkage to housing and shelter, and to reduce the use of our hospitals and emergency rooms.

Without State support for services and treatment for youth and adults experiencing homelessness and mental illness, these life-saving services will cease.

**Program Effectiveness: One Year Impact on Service Consumption Post Mirci Enrollment (SC RFA Health & Demographics 2021 Analysis)**

- General inpatient hospitalizations related to behavioral health decreased by 69%
- Inpatient psychiatric specialty hospitalizations dropped by 73%
- Emergency department visits for behavioral health dropped by 52%
- Total charges for services in the year following Mirci enrollment were almost \$6 million less than charges for services in the year prior to Mirci enrollment