

# MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Partners in Mental Health Quarterly Impact Brief

April 2025



## Impact Brief Purpose

- Our legislative partners play a critical role in shaping the policies that support behavioral health services in our communities. At FSA, we are committed to being a collective voice - sharing insights, highlighting critical issues, and offering solutions to ensure mental health care is accessible, equitable, high-quality, client-centered, and holistic for ALL.
- We also recognize the vital role mental health professionals play in delivering these services, and we advocate for the support they need to continue their work effectively.

## About FSA

**We are a private, not-for-profit agency offering services to children, adolescents, and adults of all ages. The goal of Family Service Association is to strengthen individuals and families so that they can meet the challenges of modern life in positive and constructive ways. Founded in 1931, the organization has grown to a multi-service agency currently serving more than 2,000 clients annually.**

## FSA Impact/Call to Action

### ENGAGE & SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVES

- **May 13th @4:30 pm:** Attend our **ribbon cutting ceremony** -celebrate our latest initiative in expanding mental health access and meet the dedicated professionals making a difference.
- **Annual 5K for Mental Health Awareness!**
  - May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025
  - 400 N Grove Ave, Elgin, IL US 60120
  - 8am: Kids 100M Dash
  - 8:30am 5K Run/Walk
  - <https://runsignup.com/Race/IL/Elgin/FSA5k>

## Workforce Legislative Solutions

- [Living Wages, Thriving Communities Resolution \(HR151/SR123\)](#) calls on the state to prioritize the human service workforce in the FY26 State Budget.
- [Human Service Professional Loan Repayment Program \(HB1588/SB1306\)](#) provides frontline, low-income human service workers with up to \$25k in student loan repayment to support retention and recruitment in these roles. We received \$5.25 M in FY25, and we're asking for an increased investment of \$7.5 M in FY26 to support at least 750 workers in the state.
- [Human Service Equitable Pay Act \(HB2695\)](#) commissions a study to ensure the state is transparent about where pay inequities exist between workers at state agencies like IDHS and those at community-based human service organizations who do similar work for lower pay rates.

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## Client Testimonial

### From a parent to a Pathways to Success client

"I just wanted to take some time to reach out and say a few things about the program, client's progress and about his assigned care coordinator. First, I would like to say [he] has made a lot of progress physically and mentally because of the activities your program has been able to provide. Being a part of Energym has given [him] a huge self confidence boost that he was missing. Working on his physical strength along with his mental strength has had a great improvement on his overall life as these skills he is learning he applies to his everyday life. He looks forward to it every week and tells everyone how much he loves it. The treadmill he uses every day. Sometimes walking and reading or going for a jog. He loves time to himself and to see how fast he can run, safely of course. He is so happy not to be running in a parking lot or grass next to a highway. I too feel much more comfortable with the situation. He did his first intake at the HorsePower place, and I have not seen him filled with so much joy ever. It was a side of him I've never seen. His smiles and laughter were amazing. He was so intrigued with the sounds, smells, feeling and bonding of "his" horse."


## Client Needs

- Holistic care options
- Language access
- Flex funds for afterschool activities
- Transportation
- Expansion of evidence-based mental health programs
- School Code Mental Health Educational Requirement (HB2960) requires each school district that offers one or more courses in health education to pupils in middle school or high school to include in those courses instruction in mental health.

## Contact Information

For any queries or additional information, please contact

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