

employment support, and housing navigation. This integrated approach will reduce public disturbances and reliance on emergency services, resulting in fewer emergency room visits, arrests, and psychiatric hospitalizations. By supporting law enforcement and healthcare systems through coordinated interventions, the Center will enhance public safety and community well-being.

The expected outcomes of the project include a measurable reduction in street homelessness and encampments in targeted areas, increased access to treatment and housing resources, and stronger collaboration across service providers and public safety agencies. These improvements

will promote long-term stability for vulnerable individuals, improve overall public health, and demonstrate a fiscally responsible investment in Broward County's future. Through these benefits, the Engagement Center will play a vital role in transforming homelessness intervention and fostering safer, healthier communities.

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Continued Funding for Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education (CHGME)

FUNDING REQUEST

Authorize and appropriate \$395 million for the CHGME program, consistent with the January 2026 House-passed funding level .

- **Total Project or Program Cost** - \$395 million
- **Requested Amount for Project or Program** - \$395 million

REQUESTED STATUTORY CHANGE

- -Not Applicable

ISSUE SUMMARY

The Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program provides essential federal support for the training of pediatric residents at freestanding children's hospitals like Nicklaus Children's Hospital. Despite training nearly half of the nation's pediatric subspecialists in over 1000 training programs, these 59 hospitals receive significantly less federal GME support compared to adult teaching hospitals. Continued CHGME funding is vital to ensuring access to a robust pediatric workforce nationwide.

FULL DETAILED BACKGROUND

Freestanding children's hospitals are critical to the pediatric healthcare infrastructure, offering highly specialized care for complex childhood illnesses—in densely Medicaid insured areas—while also serving as primary sites for pediatric physician training. Nicklaus Children's Hospital is the largest pediatric teaching hospital in the Southeast and a national leader in this space, training pediatric residents and subspecialists essential to meeting the healthcare needs of Florida's most vulnerable children. The millions of dollars Nicklaus Children's receives annually from CHGME go towards residents' stipends, faculty salaries, overhead and other costs of running training programs.

Unlike adult teaching hospitals that receive Medicare GME payments, children's hospitals rely on CHGME as their primary source of federal support for residency programs. Without continued CHGME investment,

children's hospitals like Nicklaus Children's will face significant challenges in maintaining training capacity, threatening future access to pediatric specialists, especially in underserved areas. Congressional support is critical to stabilize the pipeline of pediatricians and sustain high-quality training environments.

BENEFITS/EXPECTED OUTCOME

- Supports the training of future pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists
- Maintains access to specialized pediatric care for Florida's most vulnerable children
- Ensures workforce capacity to meet growing demand in underserved communities
- Reduces long-term costs through earlier intervention and specialized care access

ENSURE FULL FUNDING FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION (CHGME)

- The CHGME program supports freestanding children's hospitals—like Nicklaus Children's—that do not receive Medicare GME payments despite training nearly half of the nation's pediatric specialists and subspecialists.
- CHGME funding is essential to maintaining a robust pediatric workforce pipeline, particularly in high-need specialties such as pediatric psychiatry, oncology, and neonatology.
- Congress should provide stable, recurring appropriations for CHGME to protect access to specialized pediatric care nationwide and ensure that children's hospitals can continue to train the next generation of providers

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