

The Alliance Review

OUR VIEW: Mental-health program gets financial boost

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Mental illness affects not only the people who have it, but also their families.

Imagine that challenge compounded by developmental disabilities and mental challenges, and it's easy to see how families can become overwhelmed.

That's why the Strong Families, Safe Communities project in Stark, Columbiana, Wayne, Holmes and Portage counties is so important. Residents in those areas are fortunate that a recent grant of \$497,000 from the Ohio Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act will make the new project a reality.

According to a story earlier this week, the financial infusion will allow for the same sorts of services as a crisis intervention center, but in a home environment for youth with mental illness and developmental disabilities who may be at risk of harming themselves.

Children will receive help, families will receive counseling and relief, and the community will see better efficiency for their tax dollars because the multi-county program will reduce waste and duplication of services.

The Mental Health Recovery Services Board of Stark County, in conjunction with the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities and officials in the other four counties, have done an exemplary job of pooling services to make our communities safer while improving the quality of life for people living with these sometimes debilitating conditions.