

New Grant to Miami Nonprofit to Bolster Mental Health Crisis Response and Holistic Support Services for Dade-County Residents

The [Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation](#) (BMS Foundation), an independent charitable organization, has awarded a new grant to support [Dade County Street Response](#)'s (DCSR) Freedom House Mobile Clinic to provide specialized behavioral health and wrap-around services to community members who have limited access to mental health care.

This grant is among the first in the BMS Foundation's new strategic program area designed to support the diversion of people with serious mental illnesses away from the criminal justice system and toward treatment in the community. The goal of this initiative in Miami-Dade County - an area with a [high rate](#) of Serious Mental Illness - is to build and sustain a new model of community-based care for low-income and unhoused people who often have nowhere to turn during and in the aftermath of acute mental health incidents.

With the support of the BMS Foundation, DCSR will expand the reach of its crisis response program for community members experiencing mental health emergencies while scaling a range of holistic wrap-around services to provide long-term support and prevent future behavioral health crises. **The two organizations anticipate that DCSR will be able to reach hundreds more patients each year.**

Among the services this grant will support include:

- **The launch of a mental health crisis line**, available 10 hours a day, 7 days a week during peak call times, staffed by trained intervention specialists, along with the expanded deployment of DCSR's mobile crisis unit – made possible through the hiring of several new clinicians and support staff.
- Specialized support to **assess and prevent suicide risk**.
- Assistance and referrals for individuals struggling with **substance abuse**.
- **Workforce development training and service referrals** to link community members to housing, insurance, legal aid, and primary care physicians.
- **Transportation services** to help patients reach clinics, shelters, and other care facilities.

“The Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation is proud to support these critical efforts to expand access to specialized mental health care in Dade County,” said Catharine Grimes, president of the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation. **“Since 2017, Dade County Street Response has been a lifeline for community members in need, demonstrating the transformational value of compassionate, community-based responses to mental health emergencies. Our goal is to help create and sustain new pathways to care for those in need, and we believe supporting innovative, community-led care models can help deliver better health outcomes for the people of Dade County.”**

“With the support of the BMS Foundation, DCSR will expand our efforts to address urgent mental health care needs in our community,” said Dr. Armen Henderson, founder and executive director of DCSR. **“By intervening in psychiatric crises early and compassionately, our trained medical and behavioral health professionals work to de-escalate mental health emergencies with care, dignity and clinical expertise, and reduce involuntary hospitalizations. Ultimately, DCSR seeks to transform crisis response in Miami, and the BMS Foundation’s grant will help us do just that.”**

About the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation

A healthier world is attainable and achievable, but access to healthcare remains unequal. The Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation (BMS Foundation), an independent charitable organization, is dedicated to improving global health, striving to bridge divides by empowering local communities and health systems to create lasting impact. With a vision to help create a world where everyone has the opportunity to achieve their optimal health, the BMS Foundation works to increase access to healthcare and develop grantee relationships in geographies where they are focused, including in Brazil, India, ten countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, and across the United States. For more information, visit bms.com/foundation.