



**CITY OF BARTOW**  
**CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP**  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6 2025 AT 4:00 P.M. (EST)  
OR AS SOON THEREAFTER AS POSSIBLE  
BARTOW CIVIC CENTER  
2250 S. FLORAL AVE., BARTOW, FL 33830

**AGENDA**

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL
2. PRESENTATION
  - a. COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE – Joy Johnson, Polk County Health and Human Services Administrator
3. ADJOURNMENT

Please be advised that if you desire to appeal from any decisions made because of the above hearing or meeting, you will need a record of the proceedings and in some cases a verbatim record is required. You must make your own arrangements to produce this record. (Florida Statute 286.0105). The City Commission may continue the public hearing(s) to other dates and times as it deems necessary. Any interested party shall be advised that the date, time, and place of any continuation of these or continued public hearings may be announced during the hearing and that no further notice regarding this matter will be published. If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the City Clerk's Office at 450 N. Wilson Avenue, P.O. Box 1069, Bartow, Florida 33831-1069 or phone (863) 534-0100 within 2 working days of your receipt of this meeting notification; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8771. Posted at City Hall, Bartow Public Library, the City's website: [www.cityofbartow.net](http://www.cityofbartow.net) and Facebook page on October 1, 2025.



# Community Health Care

## Program Overview

**Joy Johnson**

Health and Human Services Administrator

Oct. 6, 2025

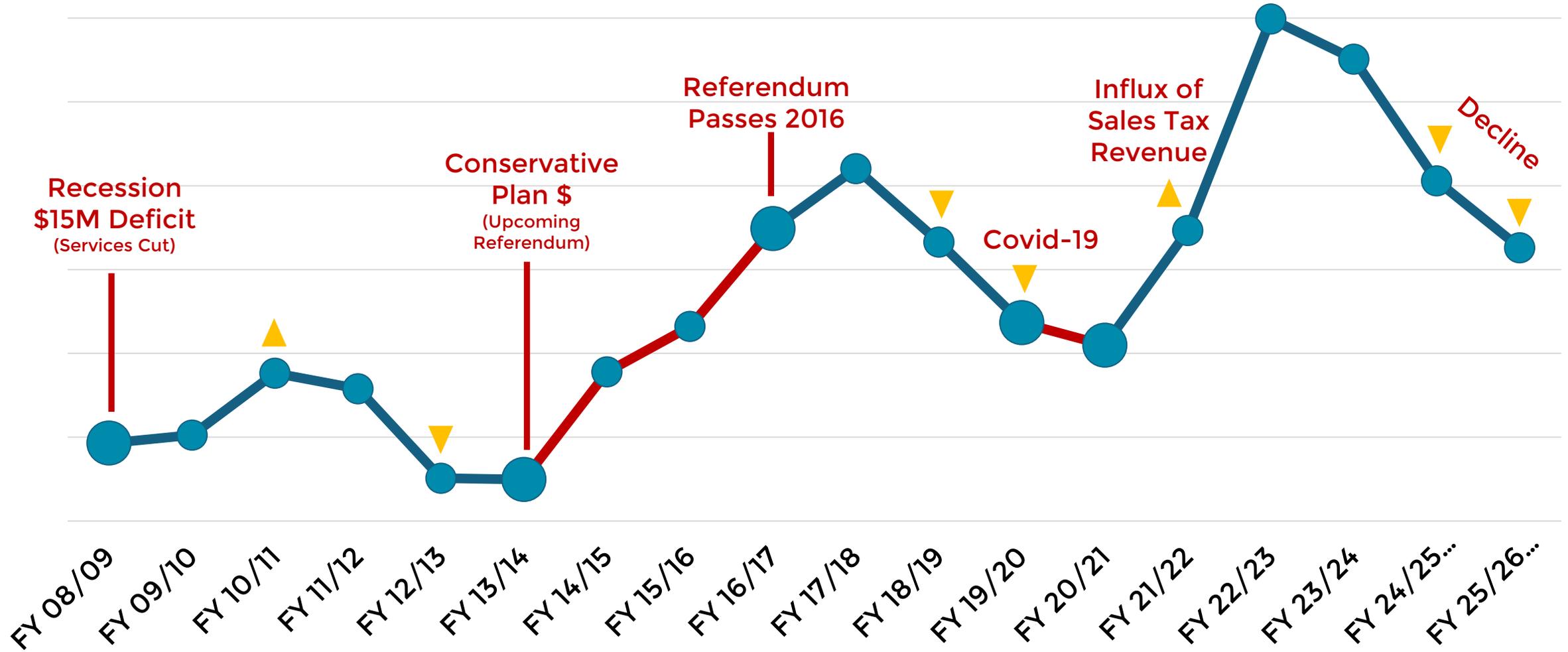
# Historical Overview

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- 1926** Polk General Hospital opens
  - 1995** Polk General Hospital closes
  - 1999** BoCC Approves Polk HealthCare Plan (General Fund)
  - 2004** Voters approve half-cent sales surtax for indigent healthcare for 15 years
  - 2016** Voters extend half-cent sales surtax for 25 years
  - 2025** **301** access points funded by Community Health Care throughout Polk County. The Polk HealthCare Plan serves **5,000** individuals each month.

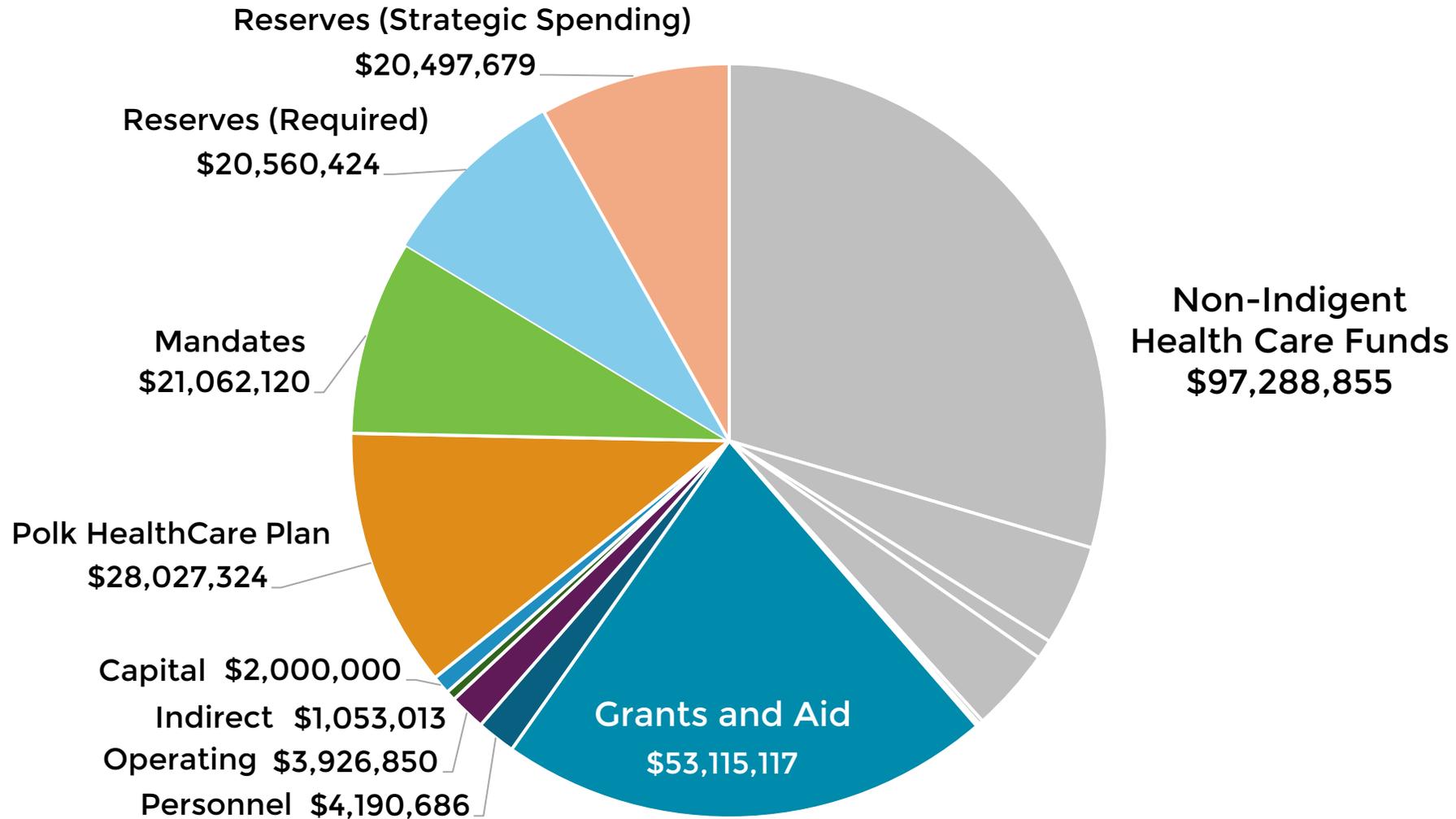


# Indigent Health Care Fund Reserves Histogram



# Community Health Care

## FY 2024-2025 Adopted Budget: \$251,722,068



# Oversight

## Citizens Healthcare Oversight Committee

- Established in 2004
- 13 members, each representing a unique interest group
  - 12 members appointed by the Board of County Commissioners
  - One member appointed by the school board/superintendent
- Ensures integrity of the expenditure of indigent health care sales surtax funds
- Provides forum for resident participation in health care planning



# Program Overview

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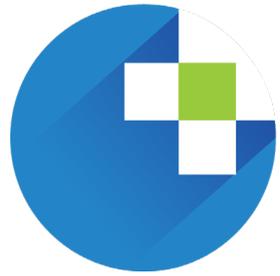


## Polk County's Mission

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We enhance the quality of life for people throughout Polk County.





# Polk HealthCare Plan

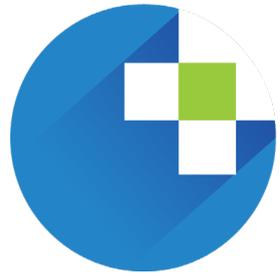
## What is the Polk HealthCare Plan?

- **Health coverage** for Polk residents with limited income and no health insurance
- A public/private partnership with licensed medical providers in the community to connect residents with the care they need

## **The Polk HealthCare Plan is not insurance.**

Members do not pay annual deductibles, monthly fees, enrollment fees or submit claim forms.





# Polk HealthCare Plan

## Eligibility Requirements

- Provide proof of income at or below 200% of FPL Income guidelines
- Be a full-time resident of Polk County
- Have no health insurance coverage or medical coverage
- Provide a Social Security number
- Provide Florida Real ID or Social Security card



# [www.PolkHealthCarePlan.net](http://www.PolkHealthCarePlan.net)

- Application portal
- Provider directory
- Healthy living blogs
- Member handbooks
- Resources
- Viewable in multiple languages

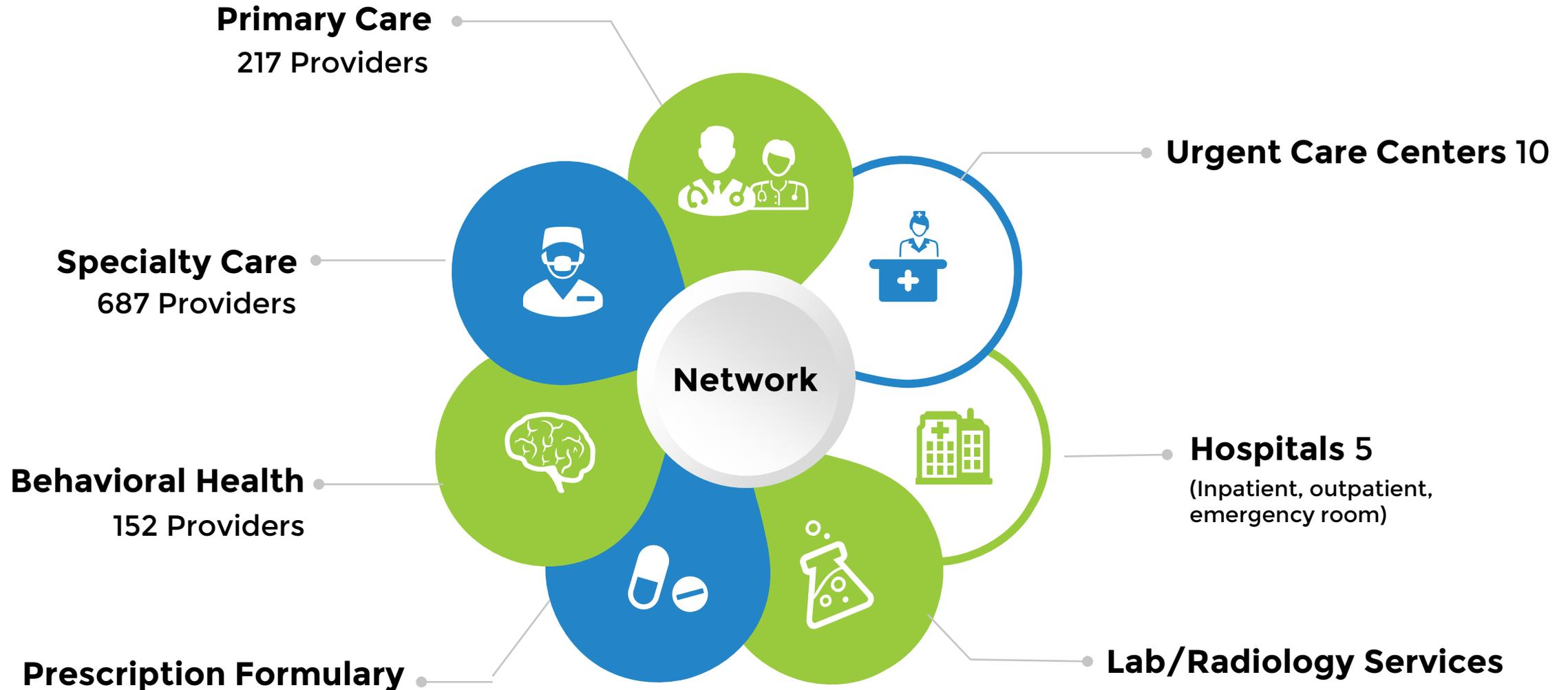


# Covered Benefits

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- Behavioral Health
- Durable Medical Equipment
- Fitness Membership
- Hospital (Inpatient, Outpatient and Emergency Room)
- Joint Replacement
- Labs and Imaging
- Neurosurgery Services
- Nuclear Medicine Studies
- Occupational Therapy
- Ophthalmology
- Optometry Services
- Pain Management
- Pharmacy Benefit Plan
- Physical Therapy
- Plastic Surgery (Non-Cosmetic)
- Preventive Screenings
- Primary Care
- Psychiatric Services
- Sleep Studies
- Specialty Care
- Speech Therapy
- Substance Abuse Services
- Urgent Care
- Wound Care
- And more...

# Polk HealthCare Plan Network Overview



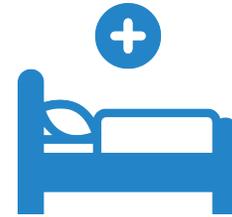
# Polk HealthCare Plan

By the Numbers: FY 2023-2024



**7,085**

unique individuals  
enrolled in PHP



**81,189**

medical visits  
provided through PHP



**388,502**

services provided to  
PHP members



# Grants and Aid

## Eligibility Requirements

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- Provide proof of income at or below 200% of FPL Income guidelines
- Be a full-time resident of Polk County
- Have no health insurance coverage or medical coverage
- Provide a Social Security number

## Network

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- Free Clinics
- Primary Care
- Specialty Care
- Dental
- Outreach and Prevention
- Behavioral Health
- Substance Abuse
- Transportation (health-related)

# Behavioral Health Program

- Community Paramedicine (Mobile Integrated Health)
- Opioid abatement
- SAMHSA grant
- Conversations in Behavioral Health Summit
- Prevention/Early Intervention



[www.PolkCountyBehavioralHealthResources.org](http://www.PolkCountyBehavioralHealthResources.org)  
[www.pcbhr.org](http://www.pcbhr.org)

- Local provider directory
- Resources
- Blogs by local providers
- Crisis hotlines
- Polk County data



# Community Paramedicine

- Partnership with Polk County Fire Rescue
  - Six certified paramedics funded by Community Health Care

## What do community paramedics do?

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Community paramedics provide:

- Wellness and prevention care
- Care for individuals who are chronically ill
- Post-discharge care
- Social support with identification of additional needs
- Medication support
- Post-incarceration transition support

**2,322** individual services provided across all community paramedicine programs in 2024



# Mandates



## **Behavioral Health Services**

F.S. Ch. 394.76

Crisis stabilization, mental health, substance abuse and recovery



## **Florida Dept. of Health Polk County**

F.S. Ch. 154

Promoting the health and safety of all residents and visitors



## **Health Care Responsibility Act**

F.S. Ch. 154.301-.331

Out-of-county emergency hospital care for low-income residents



## **Medicaid**

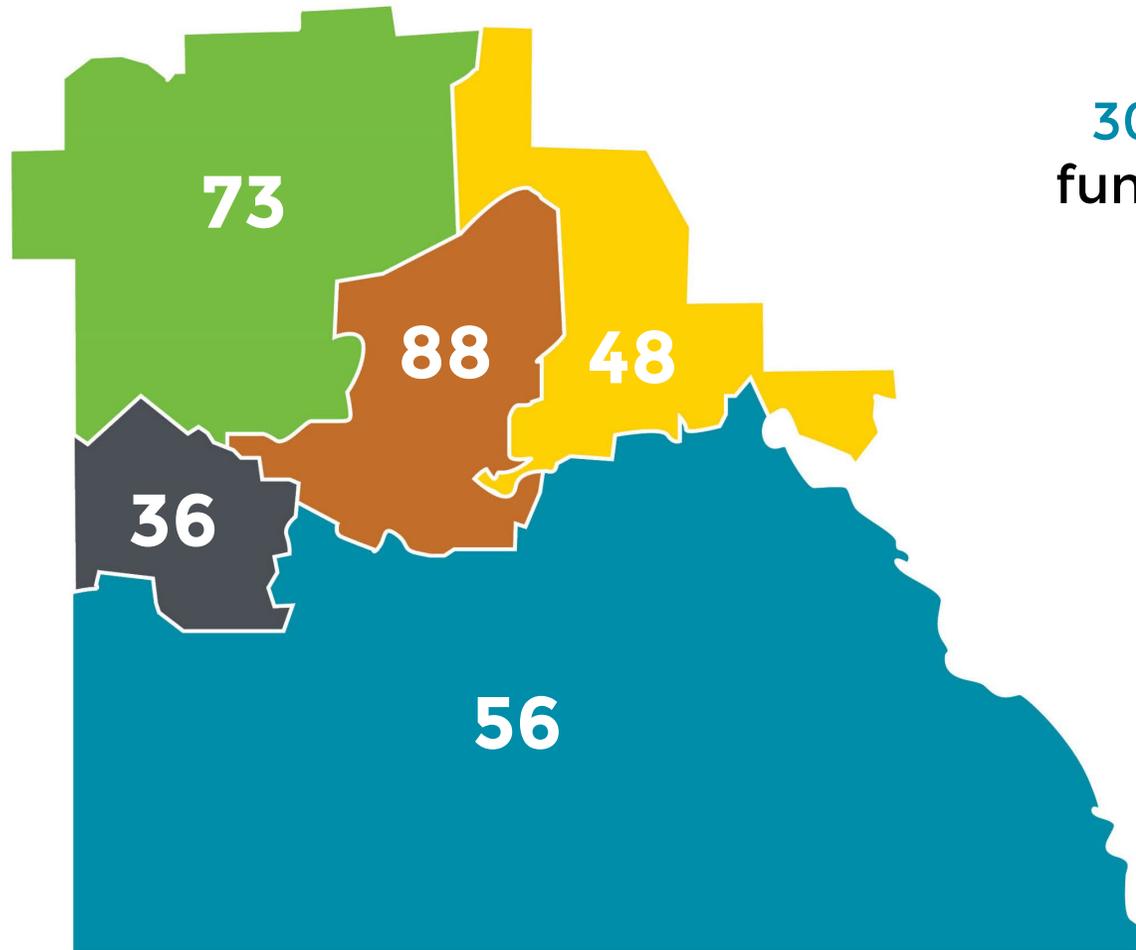
F.S. Ch. 409.915

Polk County's share of Medicaid cost for eligible residents

**Total FY 2024-2025 budget: \$21,062,120**

# Access Points in Polk County

301 healthcare access points are funded throughout Polk County by Community Health Care.



- District 1
- District 2
- District 3
- District 4
- District 5

Polk's Total  
Uninsured

**97,170**

Per 2023 Census



Potential Impact

**41,802**

0 – 199% FPL



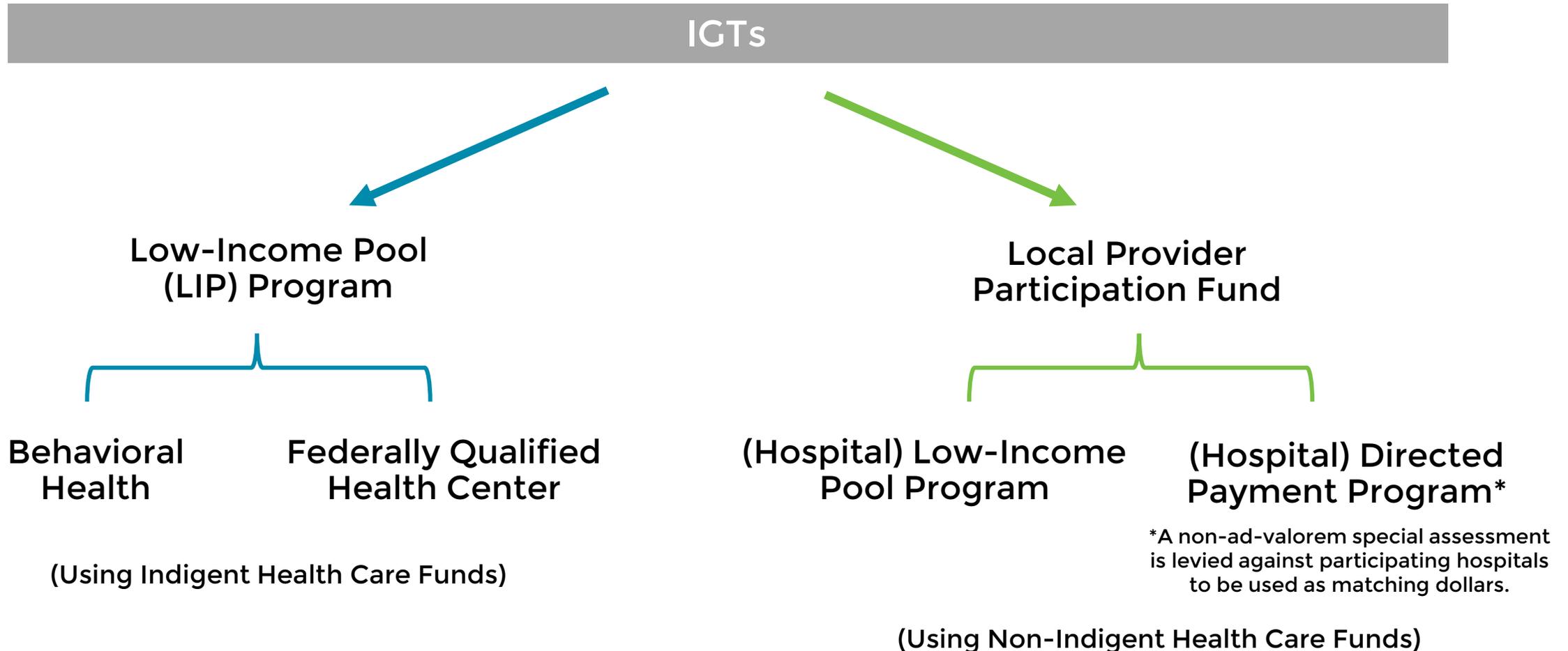
**21,748**

People served FY 2023-2024

Plus 21,000 served through pilot initiatives  
and 299,584 served through mandates

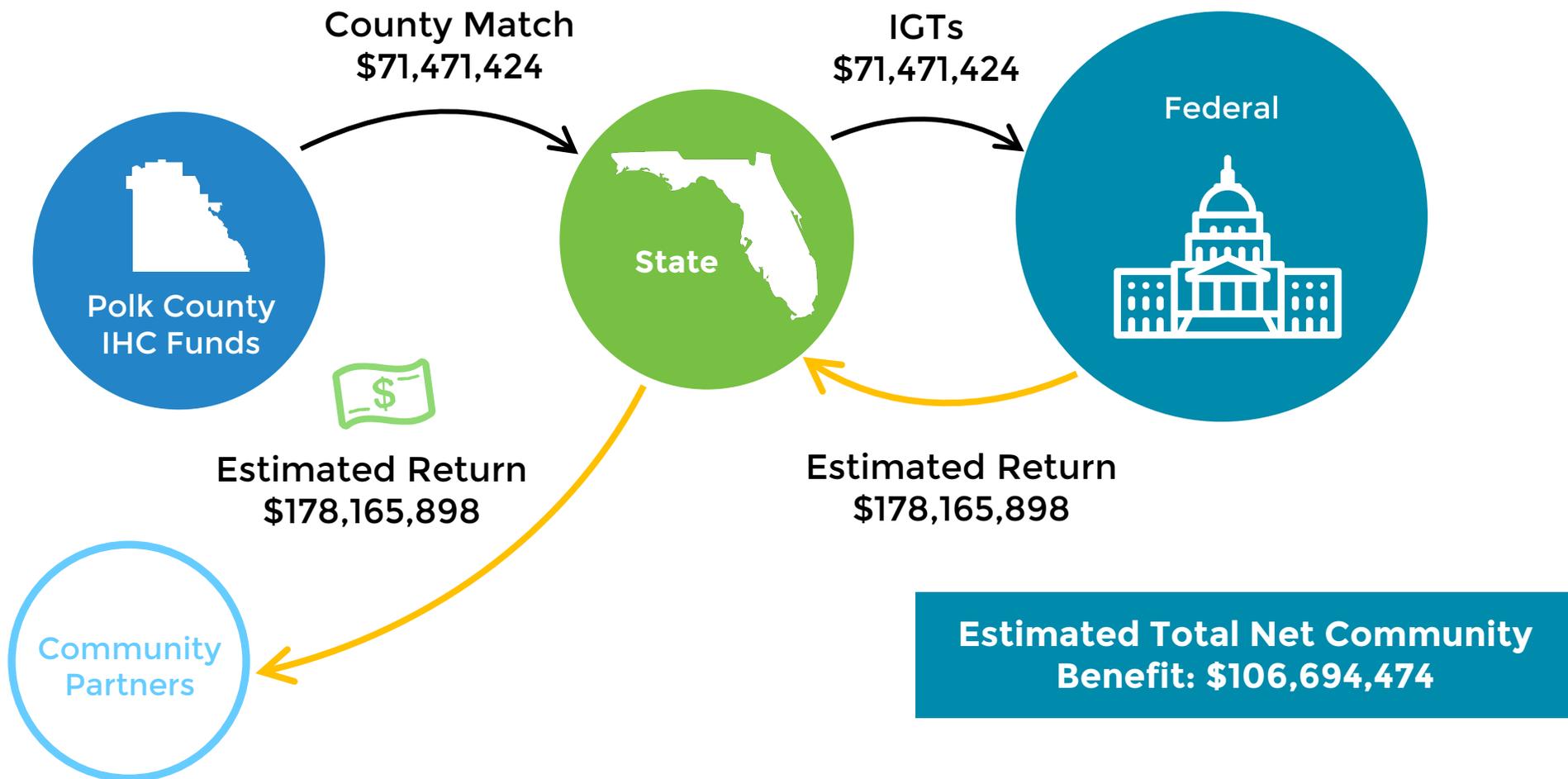


# Intergovernmental Transfers (IGTs)



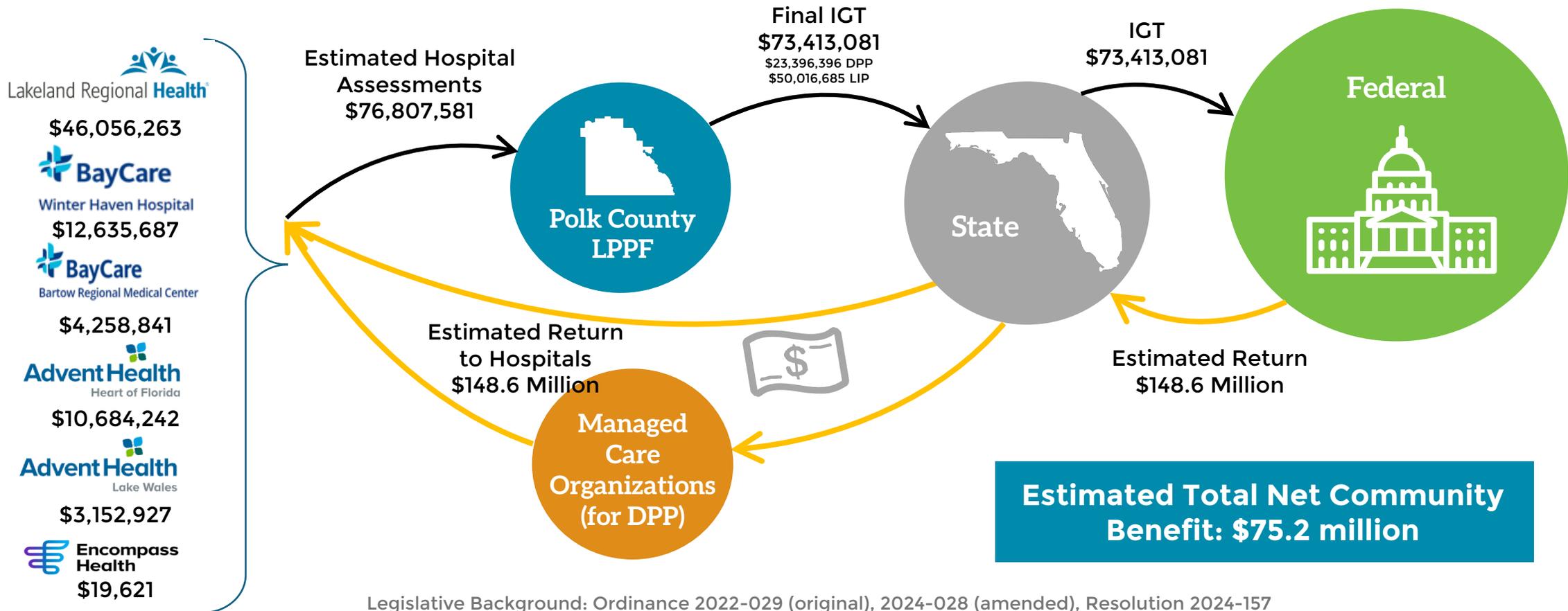
# Total LIP Program Funding

All Years (2008 to 2026)



# Local Provider Participation Fund

Hospital Directed Payment Program and Hospital Low Income Pool Program  
SFY 2024-2025



Legislative Background: Ordinance 2022-029 (original), 2024-028 (amended), Resolution 2024-157  
A non-ad-valorem special assessment is levied against participating hospitals to be used as matching dollars.

# Building Improvement Infrastructure Project

## Current structure offers:

- Public access for Polk HealthCare Plan enrollment and community healthcare programming
- Special Needs shelter in times of disaster activation

## Looking ahead:

- Maximize building footprint
- A revitalizing asset to both Polk County BoCC and the surrounding Bartow community

