APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST & JUSTIFICATION – FY 2021

**The PAIMI program focuses on ensuring that people with mental illness have access to education, housing, employment and other necessary supports and services in the community so they can remain in their communities and be economically self-sufficient.**

# **Protection and Advocacy**

# **for Individuals with Mental Illness**

Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) primarily focus on individuals with significant mental illness or emotional impairment. P&As are authorized to:

* investigate abuse and neglect and rights violations in all public and private facilities and community settings, including:
  + schools,
  + hospitals,
  + nursing facilities,
  + group homes
* oversee the effectiveness of state agencies that license and regulate these programs

In FY 2004, PAIMI was funded at $35 million, and after years of struggle, cuts and small increases, funding has only increased slightly to $36 million in FY 2019. When inflation is taken into consideration, this cannot be called an increase. PAIMI program funding is administered by the U.S Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

**NDRN recommends a funding level of $40 million for Fiscal Year 2021**