



**STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)
RFI NO. 2021HCA7**

NOTE: *If you download this RFI from the Health Care Authority website or WEBS, you are responsible for monitoring the posting for updates and new amendments.*

SCOPE TITLE: Forensic Housing and Recovery through Peer Services (FHARPS)

VIRTUAL PRESENTATION: The Health Care Authority (HCA) is inviting interested licensed behavioral health agencies across the King County region to receive information on implementing the FHARPS program. HCA and the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) will be conducting two (2) separate virtual presentations to provide more information to interested agencies. For more information, see section 1, *"Introduction and Background"* in this RFI.

VIRTUAL PRESENTATION RSVP: If you are interested in attending a virtual presentation, please RSVP by emailing the attached Exhibit A to the RFI Coordinator, Holly Jones at HCAProcurements@hca.wa.gov.

**Virtual Presentation Schedule
King County (Trueblood Settlement Agreement Phase 2)**

RSVP DUE by APRIL 30, 2021 by 2:00 PM

VIRTUAL SESSIONS	DATE	TIME
Virtual Session #1	May 18, 2021	2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Virtual Session #2	May 20, 2021	10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

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1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Health Care Authority (HCA) is seeking information that will help assist in selecting licensed community behavioral health agencies to potentially contract for implementation of the Forensic HARPS program in King County.
- 1.2 HCA will be hosting two (2) separate virtual presentations for interested licensed community behavioral health agencies across King County to receive more information on implementing the Forensic HARPS program.
- 1.3 The Trueblood Settlement Agreement brings a significant investment to the King County region for Forensic HARPS services and subsidies. There may be up to four (4) distinct Forensic HARPS teams contracted across the county, or there may be one (1) licensed behavioral health agency that is able to contract for the equivalent of four (4) teams to serve the entire King County region. This RFI process will help HCA determine how many Forensic HARPS contracts may be executed in King County.
- 1.4 Forensic HARPS teams will follow the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) evidence-based Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) model. PSH is decent, safe, and affordable community-based housing that provides tenants with the rights of tenancy under state and local landlord-tenant laws. It is linked to voluntary and flexible support and services designed to meet tenant’s needs and preferences. PSH provides wraparound supports to allow people with significant barriers to remain in the housing they have chosen. Dimensions of the evidence-based PSH model include the following: choice in housing and living arrangements; functional separation of housing and

services; decent, safe, and affordable housing; community integration and rights of tenancy; access to housing and privacy; flexible, voluntary, and recovery-focused services.

- 1.5 The funding for Forensic HARPS teams is determined by the legislature and allocated to Trueblood general fund state dollars. Each team consists of staffing dollars to support two (2) certified peer counselors and one (1) housing specialist. These funds are reimbursed monthly over the course of the contract for approved contract deliverables. Some of these deliverables may include, but are not limited to the hiring qualified staff, specific staff training, submitting monthly data workbooks on the individuals served and subsidies provided, and participation in monthly administrative Forensic HARPS team calls.
- 1.6 The Forensic HARPS team(s) in King County will also be allocated subsidy dollars. These funds are disbursed up front to the contracted team(s) on a quarterly basis. These are not cost reimbursement contracts and any unspent dollars will be returned to the State. Ten percent (10%) of the total subsidy dollars contracted may be used for administrative costs such as issuing checks to landlords.
- 1.7 While Forensic HARPS is modeled after the traditional HARPS program, there are some significant differences:
 - 1.7.1. Forensic HARPS teams serve people who are Trueblood Class Members, those who may become or have a history of being Trueblood Class Members.
 - 1.7.2. Forensic HARPS teams prioritize those referrals from Forensic Navigators who are ordered into Outpatient Competency Restoration Programs (OCRPs); are on the Forensic PATH referral list; or are exiting a crisis stabilization facility without housing, and have a behavioral health condition, and contact with the criminal system within the past 24 months.
 - 1.7.3. People served by Forensic HARPS teams are eligible for housing subsidies in the amount of up to \$1,200 per month for six (6) months. There is a wide range of housing related expenses that these funds can cover. Some examples are paying rent, rental arrears, storage costs, RV lot rental, application and background check fees, and security deposits. The subsidy funds are customized to each individual's needs.

1.8 Background

- 1.8.1. In 2018, The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) entered into a settlement agreement as part of the litigation known as A.B., by and through Trueblood, et al., vs. DSHS, et.al., No. 15-35462 ("Trueblood") more information at <https://www.disabilityrightswa.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Trueblood-Proposed-Settlement-Agreement-8.16.18.pdf>.
- 1.8.2. HCA is leading this element of the Trueblood contempt Settlement Agreement, in collaboration with the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and community stakeholders.

- 1.8.3. Homelessness is traumatic and cyclical, and can be a significant barrier to receiving services, including services for behavioral health conditions. Forensic HARPS connects individuals with housing through peer support and subsidies for costs such as application fees, security deposits, and up to a few months of rent vouchers while individuals are connected to longer-term supportive housing.
- 1.8.4. As part of the Trueblood settlement, HCA is setting up Forensic HARPS teams. These teams are staffed with people who have lived experience with behavioral health conditions. This staffing model helps foster engagement with people served by the Forensic HARPS team(s). Each Forensic HARPS team is comprised of one (1) housing specialist and two (2) certified peer counselors. The goal is to help participants overcome barriers, find housing, and maintain housing. Individuals served in Forensic HARPS may also be served by other Trueblood contempt Settlement Agreement programs such as OCRP and/or Forensic PATH.
- 1.8.5. Eligible individuals are those who are identified as unstably housed and are:
 - 1.8.5.1. Ordered into an outpatient competency restoration program, or
 - 1.8.5.2. Are eligible for Forensic PATH services, or
 - 1.8.5.3. Referred by a forensic navigator, or
 - 1.8.5.4. Exiting crisis triage/stabilization facilities and meet certain eligibility criteria:
 - 1.8.5.4.1 Have had at least one (1) prior contact with the forensic mental system in the past 24 months, or were brought to a crisis triage or stabilization facility via arrest diversion under RCW 10.31.11 as determined by the crisis triage and stabilization provider.
 - 1.8.5.4.2 Need assistance accessing independent living options and would benefit from short – term housing assistance beyond the 14-day vouchers.
 - 1.8.5.4.3 Are diagnosed with an acute behavioral health disorder and are assessed to need housing support beyond what is offered through the crisis triage and stabilization facilities or the short-term voucher.
 - 1.8.5.4.4 Are unstably housed.
 - 1.8.5.4.5 Are not currently in the community outpatient competency restoration program.
 - 1.8.5.4.6 Do not meet Involuntary Treatment Act (RCW 71.05) commitment criteria.

2. RFI GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 HCA may be awarding contracts directly to qualified licensed behavioral health agencies in King County for Forensic HARPS services by the end of 2021. The Forensic HARPS programs have been implemented in the Trueblood Settlement Agreement Phase 1 regions since March 1, 2020. The principles underlying its design includes the following:
 - 2.1.1 The FHARPS program is designed after the SAMHSA Permanent Supportive Housing model. The program provides supportive housing services and subsidies to eligible individuals.
 - 2.1.2 The subsidy is approximately six (6) months in length with \$1,200 per month per eligible individual. Each individual served in the program is eligible for up to \$7,200. These funds are flexible and can be used for a variety of housing related expenses.
 - 2.1.3 The program offers support including: help securing and maintaining housing, subsidies; transportation assistance; support for accessing health services; and training on independent living skills.
- 2.2 HCA aims to use this RFI as a means to learn which licensed behavioral health agencies are interested and qualified to implement the Forensic HARPS teams including the following:
 - 2.2.1 Recommendations for implementation countywide.
 - 2.2.2 Questions from providers on Forensic HARPS model.
 - 2.2.3 Perceived implementation challenges in the region.

3. SCOPE OF WORK FOR POTENTIAL CONTRACT

- 3.1 Forensic HARPS will be utilizing certified peer counselors to provide supportive housing services and subsidies to individuals enrolled.
- 3.2 Certified peer counselors on the Forensic HARPS team(s) will be required to complete the Intersection of Behavioral Health and the Law curriculum.
- 3.3 Forensic HARPS core team requirements include: 1.0 FTE Housing Specialists, 2.0 FTEs Certified Peer Counselors.
- 3.4 Landlord outreach and engagement is an expectation of the Forensic HARPS teams. Increasing the network of landlords willing to rent to program participants is a crucial component of this work.
- 3.5 Forensic HARPS teams follow a Housing First philosophy. The team(s) will be encouraged to follow SAMSHA's evidence-based practice Permanent Supportive Housing model. There is an expectation that Forensic HARPS team(s) coordinate with mainstream housing resources such as coordinated entry, Foundational Community Supports, and other

supportive housing resources. Forensic HARPS team(s) are encouraged to employ all strategies to house and shelter individuals including, but not limited to master leasing, hotel/motel vouchers, oxford housing, recovery residences, scattered site housing, etc.

- 3.6 Forensic HARPS will be providing services to individuals who are referred by Forensic Navigators, Outpatient Competency Restoration Program (OCRCP), Forensic Projects for Assistance in Transitions from Homelessness (FPATH) and other community partners on a case-by-case basis as caseloads permit.
- 3.7 Forensic HARPS teams will be providing services county-wide, including urban, suburban and rural communities.
- 3.8 Coordination with all Trueblood Settlement agreement elements across the King County region (Forensic Navigators, Outpatient Competency Restoration Programs (OCRCP), and Forensic PATH) will be contractually required.
- 3.9 Coordination of Forensic HARPS services will be required with Tribes and Urban Indian Organizations in the King region.
- 3.10 While the Trueblood Contempt Fine projects are separate, coordination and collaboration with these projects is encouraged.

4. GENERAL INFORMATION FOR VIRTUAL PRESENTATION

HCA will be conducting two (2) separate 60-minute virtual presentations for King County licensed behavioral health agencies interested in learning more information about the Forensic HARPS program (*see presentation schedule on cover page*).

4.1 REGISTRATION AND RSVP

See the attached Exhibit A for instructions.

4.2 RFI CLARIFICATION QUESTIONS

4.2.1 In the RFI Schedule, section 5., below, the intent of number II, “*RFI Clarification Questions*,” is for interested agencies to ask HCA questions pertaining to this RFI that may not be clear. These questions are due **April 19, 2021 by 2:00 PM**, and are to be emailed to the RFI Coordinator, Holly Jones at HCAProcurements@hca.wa.gov. Please insert in the email subject line: **RFI - 2021HCA7 - FHARPS - Holly Jones**.

4.2.2 HCA is discouraging any technical questions pertaining to the Forensic HARPS program at this time. Those questions will be addressed in the virtual presentations.

4.2.3 HCA will be bound only to the written answers to questions for the virtual presentations. Questions arising during the presentations or in subsequent communication with the RFI Coordinator will be documented, answered in written form, and will be published on the Washington’s Electronic Bid System (WEBS)

located at <https://fortress.wa.gov/ga/webs/>, and also be e-mailed to the appropriate listservs via an amendment to ensure that all interested participants receive the same information.

5. RFI ESTIMATED SCHEDULE

HCA reserves the right to change the RFI Schedule at any time.

RFI ACTIVITIES		DUE DATES	TIME
I.	HCA Releases RFI	April 13, 2021	
II.	RFI Clarification Questions	April 19, 2021	2:00 PM
III.	HCA responds to agencies clarification questions.	April 22, 2021	
IV.	Submit Exhibit A, RSVP form, for virtual presentations to RFI Coordinator.	April 30, 2021	2:00 PM
V.	RFI Coordinator emails virtual presentation info/links to participants.	Approximately a week before presentations.	
VI.	Session #1 Virtual Presentation	May 18, 2021	2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
VII.	Session #2 Virtual Presentation	May 20, 2021	10:00 AM – 11:00 PM
VIII.	HCA responds to participants questions resulting from virtual presentations via an amendment to WEBS/listservs.	May 28, 2021	
IX.	Participants submit Exhibit B, “Agency Response.”	June 15, 2021	2:00 PM

6. AGENCY RESPONSE FORMAT

- 6.1 Please do not cut and paste responses into this RFI, instead, provide a response to questions as a separate document using the corresponding item number listed in the attached **Exhibit B “Agency Response” form**.
- 6.2 Please use the information provided in Sections 1. through 3. of this RFI as a framework in your responses. This common framework will greatly facilitate interpretation of the RFI results.
- 6.3 Responses must be provided in an electronic format via email, such as pdf Adobe Acrobat or Microsoft Word. This will assist in HCA’s review process. Responses may be provided in more than one (1) file and submitted in more than one (1) email.

- 6.4 **Please note that HCA will not accept zipped or compressed files in connection with this RFI.** HCA will not open any such file. If individual files to a response are too large, please send multiple emails instead of compressing files.

7. COST OF RESPONSE

Agencies will not be reimbursed for any costs associated with preparing or presenting any response to this RFI.

8. PROPERTY OF HCA

All materials submitted in response to this RFI become the property of HCA. HCA has the right to use any of the ideas presented in any response to the RFI.

9. PUBLIC RECORDS AND PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

- 9.1 Any information contained in the response that is proprietary or confidential must be clearly designated as such. The page and the particular exception(s) from disclosure must be identified. Each page claimed to be exempt from disclosure must be clearly identified by the word “confidential” printed on the **lower right hand corner** of the page. Marking the entire response as confidential will be neither accepted nor honored and may result in disclosure of the entire response.
- 9.2 To the extent consistent with chapter 42.56 RCW, the Public Records Act, HCA will maintain confidentiality of your information marked confidential or proprietary. If a request is made to view your proprietary information, HCA will notify you of the request and of the date that the records will be released to the requester unless you obtain a court order enjoining that disclosure. If you fail to obtain the court order enjoining disclosure, HCA will release the requested information on the date specified in its notice to you.
- 9.3 HCA’s sole responsibility will be limited to maintaining the above data in a secure area and to notify you of any request(s) for disclosure for so long as HCA retains your information in HCA records. Failure to so label such materials, or failure to timely respond after notice of request for public records has been given, will be deemed a waiver by you of any claim that such materials are exempt from disclosure.

10. REVISIONS TO THE RFI

- 10.1 HCA reserves the right to amend this RFI at any time. In the event it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFI, an amendment will be provided on the Washington’s Electronic Bid System (WEBS) located at <https://fortress.wa.gov/ga/webs/>, and will be e-mailed to listservs.
- 10.2 HCA reserves the right to cancel or reissue this RFI at any time, without obligation or liability.

11. NO OBLIGATION TO BUY OR ISSUE A CONTRACT

HCA may use responses to this RFI for potential contracts for the subject of these services, issuing this RFI does not compel HCA to do so.

12. SECURITY AND PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS

- 12.1 Any solution HCA procures and implements will need to comply with applicable state, federal, and industry regulations, such as the following:
 - 12.1.1 HIPAA Privacy, Security and Breach Notifications
 - 12.1.2 WA State OCIO Security Standard, OCIO 141.10
 - 12.1.3 42 CFR Part 2
 - 12.1.4 RCW 70.02
 - 12.1.5 HCA Privacy and Security Policies, such as HCA 1-02 and HCA 6-16
 - 12.1.6 NIST 800-53 Rev 4
- 12.2 Further information about any of the above can be provided at Respondent's request.

EXHIBIT A – Participant RSVP Form

Due April 30, 2021 - 2:00 PM

1. Virtual Presentations:

The RFI Coordinator will email the links to the participants that have sent in Exhibit A for the virtual presentations approximately a week before both sessions.

2. RSVP Instructions:

Complete this Exhibit A form, insert in the email subject line: **RFI - 2021HCA7 - FHARPS - Holly Jones**; and submit to RFI Coordinator, Holly Jones at HCAProcurements@hca.wa.gov.

3. Participant Info:

Please complete the information provided below:

Name of your Agency	Participant Name(s)	Email Address
Please check the session you will be attending.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Session 1: May 18, 2021 – 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Session 2: May 20, 2021 – 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM		

EXHIBIT B – Agency Response

Due by June 15, 2021 by 2:00 PM

Name of your Agency	Contact Name	Email Address

HCA may be awarding contracts directly to qualified licensed behavioral health agencies in King County for Forensic HARPS services by the end of 2021.

If your agency is interested in providing Forensic HARPS services, please complete your response to HCA's questions below. HCA may use responses to this RFI for potential contracts for the subject of these services, issuing this RFI does not compel HCA to do so.

Complete this Exhibit B form, insert in the email subject line: **RFI - 2021HCA7 - FHARPS - Holly Jones**; and submit to HCAProcurements@hca.wa.gov.

1. What is your agency's experience in your community as it relates to housing support services for individuals experiencing housing instability, the criminal court system, and the delivery of behavioral health services?
2. Does your agency have experience with implementing SAMHSA's Permanent Supportive Housing model of service delivery? If so, please explain your agencies experience.
3. Agencies that HCA may select to contract with will be required to coordinate with all Trueblood (Forensic Navigators, OCRP, Forensic PATH). What is your agency's experience coordinating with health care partners inside and outside of your agency? Partners may include: Tribes and Urban Indian Organizations, Accountable Community of Health (ACH), Managed Care Organization (MCO), Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (BH-ASO), courts, and diversion programs, etc.
4. What is your agency's experience coordinating with programs inside as well as outside your agency?

5. Is your agency interested in contracting with HCA for more than one (1) Trueblood element project? If so which element project(s).

6. Has your agency had any workforce challenges in the past 24 months, specifically in community-based roles? If so, please list the positions that have been the most challenging to fill/retain?

7. Are you currently able to provide services countywide or do you serve individuals in a specific region of King County, if so what region?

8. Please provide the perceived challenges to the implementation of Forensic HARPS in your agency's region.

9. Please list the successes your agency has had in serving people in your community in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic?