



**STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)
RFI NO. 2021HCA8**

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 Projects for Assistance in Transitions from Homelessness (Forensic PATH).

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 Forensic PATH 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	3:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Virtual Session #2	May 20, 2021	11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

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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 Forensic Projects for Assistance in Transitions from Homelessness (Forensic PATH) 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 PATH program.
- 1.3 The Trueblood Settlement Agreement brings a significant investment to the King County region for Forensic PATH services. There may be up to four (4) distinct Forensic PATH 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 us determine how many Forensic PATH contracts may be executed in King County.
- 1.4 The funding for Forensic PATH teams is determined by the legislature and allocated to Trueblood general fund state dollars. The funding consists of staffing dollars to support a multidisciplinary team that includes funding for at least one (1) certified peer counselor, as well as flexible participant funds towards outreach and needs of the enrolled individual. These funds are reimbursed monthly over the course of the contract for approved deliverables. Some of these deliverables may be, but are not limited to the hiring qualified staff, attending specific staff training, submitting monthly data reports on the individuals

served, and participation in regularly scheduled meetings and trainings.

- 1.5 While Forensic PATH is modeled after a traditional PATH program, there are some significant differences.
 - 1.5.1 Forensic PATH performs targeted outreach and engagement to individuals on a referral list, versus a Traditional PATH team which provides outreach and engagement services to individuals experiencing homelessness.
 - 1.5.2 Individuals on the referral list are persons who have been referred to two (2) or more competency evaluations in the past 24 months and are on the HCA Forensic PATH referral list. These individuals are considered eligible for F- PATH services.
 - 1.5.3 Eligible persons are individuals who have significant barriers to accessing behavioral health and mainstream community support, which may or may not include homelessness. The Trueblood Settlement Agreement refers to these individuals as “High Utilizers”.
 - 1.5.4 Each month, teams are provided an updated list of individuals who have had two (2) or more competency evaluations in the last 24 months. F-PATH team(s) are encouraged to conduct outreach and engagement to individuals who live in the region who have four (4) or more forensic competency evaluation orders in the last 24 months regardless of housing status, and/or persons experiencing homelessness.
 - 1.5.5 Forensic PATH teams work in tandem with Forensic HARPS programs for housing services and offer support to the individual during the six (6) months in which they are enrolled in Forensic PATH services.
 - 1.5.6 When appropriate, it is expected that the Forensic PATH teams coordinate with the other Trueblood elements (Outpatient Competency Restoration Program (OCRP) and Forensic Navigators).

1.6 Background

- 1.6.1 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>.
- 1.6.2 HCA is leading this element from the Trueblood Contempt Settlement Agreement, in collaboration with the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and community stakeholders.
- 1.6.3 As part of the Trueblood settlement, the State of Washington is funding outreach and engagement programs to connect identified individuals who are at risk of

referral in the next six (6) months for competency restoration (which the settlement agreement calls “high utilizers”) with services. HCA currently contracts with licensed community behavioral health agencies in the Trueblood Settlement Agreement Phase 1 regions to provide these services.

- 1.6.4 Forensic PATH (Forensic Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness) is modeled after traditional PATH programs, a long standing and nationally recognized outreach and engagement program. The Trueblood settlement refers to this program as “intensive case management.”
- 1.6.5 Existing F-PATH teams are housed within a licensed community behavioral health agency are multidisciplinary team(s) and include at least one (1) certified peer counselor who have lived experience in behavioral health recovery, as well as outreach workers, housing specialists, and/or mental health professionals. Funding for these teams are based on a staffing model for up to 7.0 FTE. These teams are building relationships with individuals in the community and help connect them with supports to include housing, transportation, and health care services.

2. RFI GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 HCA may be awarding up to four (4) contracts directly to qualified licensed behavioral health agencies in King County for Forensic PATH services by the end of 2021. The Forensic PATH 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 Forensic - PATH teams are housed within a licensed community behavioral health agency are multidisciplinary and include at least one (1) certified peer counselors who have lived experience in behavioral health recovery, as well as outreach workers, housing specialists, and/or mental health professionals. All certified peer counselors working in Trueblood programs will be required to complete the Intersections of Behavioral Health and the Law curriculum.
 - 2.1.2 The Forensic PATH program provides targeted outreach, engagement, and case management services for identified on the referral list of individuals who have been referred to two (2) or competency evaluations in the past 24 months and who have significant barriers to accessing behavioral health and mainstream community support.
 - 2.1.3 When appropriate, the Forensic PATH teams will offer housing support including: help securing and maintaining housing; subsidies; transportation assistance; support for accessing health services; and training on independent living skills.
 - 2.1.4 The initial participation period is six (6) months for individuals enrolled in the Forensic PATH program.

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 PATH teams including the following:

- 2.2.1 Recommendations for implementation countywide.
- 2.2.2 Recommendations from providers on Forensic PATH staffing model.
- 2.2.3 Suggestion from providers on Forensic PATH model.
- 2.2.4 Perceived implementation challenges in the region.

3. SCOPE OF WORK FOR POTENTIAL CONTRACT

- 3.1 Each Forensic PATH team will be providing outreach, engagement and case management services to specific individuals identified on the referral list of individuals who have been referred to two (2) competency evaluations in the past 24 months and are as likely to be referred for an additional competency evaluation within six (6) months.
- 3.2 Forensic PATH will be providing services to individuals who are not only experiencing homelessness or housing instability, but also to those experiencing significant barriers to accessing services because of their connection with criminal court system regardless of housing status. Part of the intent is to divert individuals away from future competency evaluations.
- 3.3 Forensic PATH teams will be providing services countywide, including urban, suburban and rural communities.
- 3.4 Forensic PATH teams are provided a substantial amount client services funds to assist with cost associated with outreach supplies and client needs.
- 3.5 Forensic PATH teams will be contractually required to coordinate with all Trueblood Settlement Agreement elements across the King County region (Forensic HARPS, Outpatient Competency Restoration Program (OCRP), and Forensic Navigators).
- 3.6 Coordination for Forensic PATH services will be required with Tribes and Urban Indian Organizations in the King region.
- 3.7 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 PATH 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-2021HCA8 - FPATH - Holly Jones**.
- 4.2.2 HCA is discouraging any technical questions pertaining to the Forensic PATH program at this time. Those questions will be addressed in the virtual presentations.
- 4.2.3 HCA will be bound only to the HCA 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 to RSVP 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	3:00 PM – 4:00 PM
VII.	Session #2 Virtual Presentation	May 20, 2021	11:00 AM – 12:00 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
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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 file and submitted in more than one 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 PROPIERTARY 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:
- 12.2 HIPAA Privacy, Security and Breach Notifications
 - 12.3 WA State OCIO Security Standard, OCIO 141.10
 - 12.4 42 CFR Part 2
 - 12.5 RCW 70.02
 - 12.6 HCA Privacy and Security Policies, such as HCA 1-02 and HCA 6-16
 - 12.7 NIST 800-53 Rev 4
- 12.8 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 - 2021HCA8 - FPATH - 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 – 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Session 2: May 20, 2021 – 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM		

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 PATH services by the end of 2021.

If your agency is interested in providing Forensic PATH 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 - 2021HCA8 – FPATH - Holly Jones**; and submit to HCAProcurements@hca.wa.gov.

1. What is your agency's experience in your community as it relates to outreach and engagement services for individuals experiencing homelessness in the criminal court system and the delivery of behavioral health services?
2. Agencies that HCA may select to contract with will be required to coordinate with all Trueblood elements (Forensic Navigators, OCRP, Forensic HARPS). 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.
3. Is your agency interested in contracting with HCA for more than one Trueblood element project? If so which element project(s).

4. 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?

5. What is your agency's experience in providing outreach and engagement services to a targeted list of people?

6. Are you currently able to provide services countywide, including actively serving rural unincorporated King County clients, or do you serve individuals in a specific region of King County, if so what region?

7. Please provide the perceived challenges to the implementation of Forensic PATH in your agency region.

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