

Children's long-term inpatient program

Overview

The Children's Long-term Inpatient Program (CLIP) is the only publicly funded, long-term inpatient program for youth in Washington State where youth ages 5-17 years old may be voluntarily committed and youth from 13-17 years old may be involuntarily committed. Four CLIP inpatient psychiatric facilities have a total of 109 funded beds. These facilities include:

- The state psychiatric hospital for children and youth, Child Study and Treatment Center (CSTC), in Lakewood. CSTC is under the authority of the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) within the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS).
- Contracted community-based facilities, are under the authority of the Health Care Authority (HCA) and include:
 - Two Rivers Landing, Yakima
 - Tamarack Center, Spokane
 - Pearl Youth Residence, Tacoma

CLIP Capacity Expansion

In FY23, the legislature provided a rate increase for contracted CLIP beds effective July 1, 2023. This rate increase will support workforce needs and enhance efforts to implement increased capacity via a phased in approach. Although capacity expansion efforts continue to be challenged by increased operational costs and workforce shortages, the current total of contracted CLIP bed capacity has reached 52 beds. Additional CLIP providers remain in the process of licensing and facility modifications to bring additional contracted CLIP beds on-line.

Eligibility requirements

Children and youth admitted to the CLIP facilities have been diagnosed with a serious psychiatric illness. Most have been served by various systems, have past hospitalizations, and have complex needs. Many have histories of suicidal/self-injurious behavior, intense aggression or sexualized behavior, medical needs, co-occurring substance use disorders, complex family and legal issues, and co-occurring developmental disabilities.

82-0460 (10/23)

Most children/youth admitted to CLIP qualify for Medicaid due to their categorical need. For voluntary admission to CLIP, applicants must be residents of Washington and under the age of 18.

Certification of need for CLIP requires that:

- Age-appropriate application and consent requirements are met.
- Resources in the community do not meet the treatment needs.
- Treatment of the youth's psychiatric condition requires inpatient services, under the direction of a physician.
- Services can reasonably be expected to improve the child/youth's level of functioning or prevent further regression.
- The child/youth has been diagnosed with a severe psychiatric disorder or was ordered to involuntary commitment for 180 days.
- The child/youth has been diagnosed with a severe psychiatric disorder which warrants extended care in the most intensive and restrictive treatment setting available.

Authority

CLIP is regulated by federal Medicaid law: 42 CFR 441 Subpart D- Inpatient Psychiatric Services for Individuals under Age 21 in Psychiatric Facilities or Programs and RCW 71.34.

Primary partners

CLIP is informed by system of care values that include being culturally and linguistically competent, family driven, youth guided, and community based. Providers work with families, Behavioral Health Administrative Service Organizations (BH-ASO) and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) staff, schools, juvenile courts, and system partners such as the Department of Child, Youth, and Families (DCYF) and DSHS Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) and providers around the state. A statewide CLIP quality improvement team identifies and collaborates to improve transitions for youth between CLIP and the community. The CLIP Parent Steering Committee also supports program quality.

It brings together individuals with lived experience navigating the CLIP system and various layers of system partners to influence CLIP policies and procedures and support parent advocates.

Oversight

HCA's Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery contracts out the administration of CLIP, including clinical reviews of admissions, discharges, and need for treatment. The CLIP Inspection of Care (IOC) team audits all programs annually. Accreditation is required by the Joint Commission for Accreditation of Hospitals Organizations.

With the exception of CSTC, contracted CLIP programs are licensed and certified by the state Department of Health. The statewide CLIP Directors serve as key stakeholders and leaders of quality for the system.

Number of youth served

- FY22: 181 youth
- FY23: 179 youth

FY2023 Contracted budget

- GF-S: \$5,551,335
- GF-F: \$6,921,207
- Total: \$12,472,542

More information

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