

Housing and Recovery through Peer Service (HARPS)

Overview

Research shows homelessness is traumatic and cyclical. Lack of housing often interferes with access to resources and services and housing insecurity jeopardizes a person's chances for successful recovery.

The Housing and Recovery through Peer Services (HARPS) program provides supportive housing services and short-term housing options to at-risk individuals.

At-risk individuals can be those who are exiting or needing to enter inpatient behavioral health care settings.

HARPS uses the Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) from Substance Use and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Certified peer counselors (CPCs) deliver HARPS services following PSH principles:

- Choice in housing (including location and composition)
- Access to housing (Housing First)
- Integrated housing (scattered throughout home communities)
- Separation of housing and services
- Rights of tenancy
- Flexible and voluntary services (varying frequency and intensity)
- Safe, decent, and affordable housing

Through the HARPS program, at-risk individuals can acquire short-term, subsidized housing vouchers and assistance with housing costs such as application fees, deposits, and first/last month's rent.

Eligibility requirements

HARPS priority populations are individuals who are:

- Experiencing behavioral health disorders (either a mental health disorder, substance use disorder, or both) and who demonstrate a

medical necessity for inpatient behavioral health services.

- Discharged from, or at risk of entering:
 - Psychiatric inpatient settings; or
 - Substance abuse treatment inpatient settings
- Experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness (broad definition of homeless, couch surfing included)

Budget for state fiscal year (SFY) 2025

- MH Block Grant Funds: \$2,813,800
- SA Block Grant Funds: \$769,972
- State General Funds: \$4,956,000

Each of the ten regions is allocated funds for bridge subsidies. The bridge subsidy may be used for cost related to housing such as application fees, security deposits, utilities assistance, and rent. Housing bridge subsidies are estimated at \$2,500 per person over a three-month period.

Partners

Behavioral health administrative service organizations (BH-ASOs) and their respective local mental health and housing provider agencies as well as direct contracts with the following providers:

- Greater Lakes Mental Healthcare (Pierce region)
- Consumer Voices Are Born (Southwest region)
- Catholic Charities (North Central region)

SFY 2023-24 program outcomes

- Individuals served: 2,511
- 1,157 unique participants received HARPS housing subsidies and became housed in SFY 2024
- 883 individuals were served by GFS SUD funds
- 595 individuals were enrolled in HARPS by SUD peers

For more information

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