

90 or 180-day long term civil commitment (LTCC) bed capacity

Background

In 2018, a plan to reshape how and where individuals with mental illness are treated launched in Washington. The plan invests in increasing community capacity to divert individuals from the two state hospitals to treat people in their home communities. The Health Care Authority (HCA) continues to develop community-based capacity by contracting with community hospitals and freestanding evaluation and treatment (E&T) facilities for long-term involuntary inpatient psychiatric treatment. The HCA continues to partner with the Department of Commerce who support funding for capital costs to build additional capacity.

More about this program

Individuals admitted to the HCA contracted beds are those that historically would have been transferred to a state hospital but are now diverted to community treatment settings. This model provides a higher degree of continuity of care and allows individuals to participate in treatment in a community setting, closer to their natural support system and discharge resources.

Several contracted providers reported that the decision to participate in this program was due in part to multiple requests by individuals on a short-term hold to continue their treatment in the same setting. Continuity of care offers more consistency in treatment and reduces the disruption associated with transition of treatment settings.

Current numbers

For FY 2024, [ESSB 5187](#) has appropriated \$57.5M of general fund-state and \$109M of general fund federal for the HCA to contract with community hospitals or free-standing E&Ts to provide inpatient beds for individuals on a long term civil commitment (LTCC) court order. This budget is based on current and projected bed numbers.

Currently* 275 LTCC beds are contracted and online, with an anticipated 109 additional beds projected to come online with varying open dates (identified in Table 2 below). This will bring the total number of beds to 379. These beds are anticipated to come online once facilities either repurpose an existing building or build a new facility.

The new Center for Behavioral Health and Learning located on the University of Washington (UW) Medical Center Northwest Campus is the first of its--kind in Washington, providing a fully integrated welcoming and healing environment for individuals struggling with serious physical and behavioral health problems. The number of beds at this facility dedicated to individuals on a 90- to 180-day civil commitment order will be 75 and had a soft opening mid July 2024. UW expects the 75 beds to be fully accessible by the summer of 2025.

As of October 1, 2024, HCA contracts with the following facilities for Long Term Civil Commitments. “Designated” beds are to be held specifically for individuals on a LTCC order while “flex” beds are open to individuals on shorter term involuntary treatment or LTCC orders. “Civil conversion” beds are also identified and are in place for individuals discharging from the state hospital(s) but still needing further involuntary inpatient psychiatric care. These are individuals who enter due to dismissal charges or finding that they are not competent and/or restorable to participate in criminal legal proceedings.

Facility	Location	Number of 90- to 180-day civil beds
Astria Hospital	Toppenish	10 designated LTCC beds and 4 short/ long-term flex beds
MultiCare Auburn Medical Center	Auburn	4 short/long term flex beds
Cascade Mental Health Care	Centralia	2 designated LTCC beds and 4 short/ long term flex beds
Comprehensive Healthcare	Yakima	2 designated LTCC beds and 4 short/ long term flex beds
Frontier Behavioral Health	Spokane	4 designated LTCC beds and 6 short/ long term flex beds
Kitsap Mental Health Services	Bremerton	4 designated LTCC beds and 2 short/ long term flex beds
Lifeline Connections	Vancouver	4 short/long term flex beds
Telecare Next Steps	Olympia	11 designated LTCC beds of which 4 can be used for civil conversion
Telecare Next Steps	Shelton	16 designated LTCC beds
Telecare E&T	Shelton	4 short/LTCC flex beds and 4 LTCC/ civil conversion flex beds
Telecare North Sound	Sedro Woolley	1 designated LTCC bed and 4 short/ long term flex beds that can also be used for civil conversions
Telecare E&T	Fife	8 designated LTCC beds
MultiCare Yakima Memorial Hospital	Yakima	9 designated LTCC beds and 3 short/ long term flex beds (serves medically and psychiatrically complex population)
Navos Hospital	Burien	15 designated LTCC beds and 15 short/ long term flex beds. Also serve civil conversion.
PeaceHealth St. John	Longview	2 designated LTCC beds and 2 short/ long term flex beds
Providence Health & Services NW	Everett	3 designated LTCC beds and 3 short/ long term flex beds
University of Washington	Seattle	41 LTCC beds that can also be used for civil conversion online; an additional 34 beds expected to be online mid 2025
Wellfound Behavioral Health Hospital	Tacoma	10 designated LTCC beds and 24 short/ long term flex beds/ civil conversion
Recovery Innovations International	Fife	4 flex beds that can be used for civil conversion
Telecare	Federal Way	4 flex beds that can be used for civil conversion

Recruitment efforts and future capacity

HCA continues to work closely with Department of Social and Health Services' Behavioral Health Administration to procure beds for individuals needing to transfer out of Western State Hospital on a civil conversion. None of the civil conversion beds added have been new capacity, rather the HCA leveraged existing LTCC capacity.

HCA works closely with facilities who receive Department of Commerce direct appropriation dollars or funds based on their application for funds directly for the purpose of providing 90- or 180-day beds. The following facilities will be repurposing either existing units, obtaining an existing building, or standing up a new facility.

Facilities who have either received direct appropriation dollars or were chosen based on their application for Department of Commerce funds include:

Facility	Location	Number of beds	Projected to open
Astria Hospital	Toppenish	14 (additional)	First quarter 2025
		15 (additional)	TBD
Compass Mental Health	Everett	16	Fourth quarter 2025
Fern Lodge Behavioral Wellness	Stanwood	16	First quarter 2025
Pacific Healthcare	Sedro Woolley	16	TBD
Relief Health E&T	Spokane	16	TBD
Unity E&T	Mt. Vernon	16	Fourth quarter 2024

HCA conducts continuous recruitment efforts to increase long term civil commitment beds with licensed acute care (community) hospitals with behavioral health units and free-standing E&Ts through direct outreach and associations.

Identified gaps and barriers

- Insufficient capacity to serve individuals with complex medical, behavioral health and or cognitive needs.
- Legal complexities related to serving individuals on civil conversions.
- Counties experiencing increasing transportation and court costs.
- Operational costs continue to rise.
- Staffing shortages.
- Inconsistent application of the LTCC Toolkit, specifically related to Peer Services

Strategies to address challenges

- HCA has developed authorization processes to implement an enhanced rate as of July 1, 2024 for individuals with complex medical, behavioral, and/or care needs. HCA will ensure appropriate utilization and application of the enhanced rate.

- HCA continuously updates a marketing plan and frequently engages with community partners to encourage participation.
- HCA continues to work closely with the Washington State Department of Commerce on the RFP questions to increase the number of facilities providing LTCC beds.
- HCA staff continues to provide ongoing technical assistance to contracted providers via routine conference calls, meetings and ad hoc communication.
- Implementing legislatively funded quality oversight, identifying program training needs, and increased site visits to focus on program integrity will be a focus in the forthcoming year.
 - During the 2024 contract period, requirements were added necessary to implement quality of care expectations as identified in the [90-180 Day Civil Commitment Toolkit](#), and activities HCA will conduct to monitor them.
 - During the 2024 contract period with providers, HCA added staffing and service requirements which conform to the LTCC model, notably the requirement to provide peer services.

Rates

LTCC beds at community hospitals or E&Ts have different per diem rates. A filled contracted bed in a community hospital receives reimbursement based on the current Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS). E&Ts receive reimbursement based on the current Specialized mental health fee schedule.

During the 2024 legislative session, an increase in the per diem rate for a psychiatric hospital and an E&T was funded by the Legislature. Additionally, the Legislature funded a rate enhancement for individuals with complex medical, behavioral, or other care needs. This strategy is intended to support the transfer of individuals from medical hospitals to the most appropriate psychiatric care setting, and who's care needs prevented them from being admitted previously as the cost of care exceeded the standard per diem rate. These rate increase addressed the prior concern about rate and workforce. As mentioned in the Strategies to address challenges bullet list, staff in the Adult Services and Involuntary Treatment programs section has created a process in which to accept referrals, an approval process and a concurrent review schedule.

To support the facility in ramping up services, a start-up bed rate is provided during the first year a newly contracted facility brings dedicated beds online. The purpose of this rate is to assist the facility as they create processes and procedures to keep the dedicated beds filled.

Since FY 2023, as directed by ESSB 5092, payments to the contracted provider for unoccupied bed days have been capped at six percent of their annual contracted bed days.

For more information

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