

Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

Overview

The Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) program is designed to outreach and assist eligible individuals to access supportive services, basic needs resources and connection to care. Services include housing resources, systems and benefits advocacy, mental health care, substance use treatment, disability support, and other services to enable enrollees to move toward their self-determined goals. Skilled, consistent outreach practices, especially when services are provided at both the pace and leadership of the PATH participant are critical steps to ensure quality care.

Authority

PATH is administered by the Center for Mental Health Services, a component of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), within the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The PATH Program was initially authorized by the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1990.

Eligibility requirements

Per federal legislation, PATH eligibility criteria are defined as any individual who is experiencing a serious mental illness (SMI) or co-occurring disorders (COD) and is experiencing homelessness or is at imminent risk of experiencing homelessness.

Budget for FFY 25

PATH is a formula grant administered to the fifty United States, in addition to the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and U.S. Virgin Islands.

The 2025 federal award for Washington State totaled \$1,365,043. Cash or in-kind local match funding is required at 33.33% of expenditures for each PATH recipient.

Key partners

The Washington Health Care Authority's Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) contracts with Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organizations (BHASO) who subcontract PATH services to licensed community behavioral health agencies. In nine locations, PATH contracts are issued directly to licensed community behavioral health agencies.

There are PATH providers in all ten Regional Service Areas (RSAs) of Washington and three regions have two PATH providers due to the large urban or geographical areas.

Oversight

HCA's DBHR is Washington State's PATH recipient and administers PATH funding statewide and provides oversight to agencies under direct contract. BHASOs provide local oversight and subcontract with local, state-licensed private, non-profit mental health agencies to provide services directly.

PATH services summary for FFY 2023

- Total people contacted: 2,159 (Number of people contacted by PATH-funded staff during this reporting period).
- Total people enrolled: 1,387 (Number with active, enrolled PATH status at any point during reporting period).
- Percent eligible enrolled: 72% (Percentage of contacted homeless people with serious mental illness who become enrolled in services).
- PATH participants receiving community mental health services: 835
- PATH participants connected to substance use disorder (SUD) services: 210

For more information

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