

Peer Pathfinder Program

Overview

The Peer Pathfinder Projects build on the already established Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) program to provide substance use disorder (SUD) peer support in emergency rooms and homeless encampments. The project links individuals to treatment options including Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD).

Peer Pathfinder teams consist of two peer supporters who assist individuals in navigating and obtaining services to address barriers to independence and recovery. These services address housing, financial resources, transportation, habilitation and rehabilitation services, prevocational and vocational services.

Authority

The Peer Pathfinder program is funded by the State Opiate Response (SOR) grant administered by the Center for Mental Health Services, a component of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Eligibility requirements

Adults (age 18 or over), with one of the following conditions:

- Individuals with Opioid Use Disorders (OUD) or Stimulant Use Disorder (SUD)
- Individuals who are suspected of opioid or stimulant use and who may be experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness.
- Individuals experiencing an opioid or stimulant use health crisis and are utilizing emergency room settings.
- Individuals experiencing substance use challenges who are at risk of overdose.

Oversight

The Washington State Health Care Authority's Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR)

is the state Peer Pathfinder funding recipient and administrator of the project. There are nine locations in the state where contracts are issued directly with licensed community behavioral health agencies, and two locations where the Behavioral Health Service Organizations (BH-ASOs) provide local oversight and sub-contract with local, state-licensed private, non-profit mental health agencies to provide services directly.

There is a Peer Pathfinder site in all regional service areas. Two of the eleven sites have two Peer Pathfinder teams due to the large urban population.

Partners

Fundamental to the success of the Peer Pathfinder program is the dedication and support of community partners across the state, including two BH-ASOs and nine behavioral health agencies statewide.

Program Outcomes

During the first 22 months of SOR III, Peer Pathfinder programs:

- Enrolled 2,019 unique individuals
- Provided 1,166 behavioral health peer engagements
- Provided 3,624 care coordination engagements
- Provided 1,817 behavioral health referrals
- Provided 1,167 housing referrals

Budget for SFY 25

Peer Pathfinders is funded by State Opioid Response Grant (SOR)

- SFY2024: \$1,677,972
- SFY2025: \$1,733,820

For more information

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