

Intensive Behavioral Health Treatment Facilities (IBHTF)

A recovery-focused step-down level of care

Frequently asked questions

What is IBHTF?

Intensive Behavioral Health Treatment Facilities (IBHTF) are short-term (6-12 month) community-based, residential treatment programs for adults experiencing serious mental illness who require more support than traditional outpatient care but less than inpatient hospitalization. IBHTFs provide 24/7 structured support in a home-like setting, designed to help individuals successfully transition from institutional care back into the community.

Who does IBHTF serve?

Adults stepping down from state hospitals, community hospitals, or Long-Term Civil Commitment, Individuals requiring structured support to prevent readmission or Less Restrictive Alternative (LRA) failure.

What sets IBHTF apart?

IBHTF addresses clinical stability and real-world functioning in one integrated setting:

- Life skills development
- Housing and community integration
- Employment and income readiness
- Assistance seeking out benefits, finances, and social services
- Help in Strengthening natural supports

All services onsite:

- Behavioral health treatment
- Co-occurring treatment
- Medication management and prescribing
- Skills training
- LRA monitoring
- Primary care coordination

Payment and referral process

- IBHTF services are authorized and reimbursed through the individual's Managed Care Organization (MCO) or an eligible fee for service program.
 - Referrals are sent to the IBHTF from the treatment provider. If the IBHTF accepts the referral then, if the client is enrolled with an MCO, a request for prior authorization must be sent to the MCO.
 - Prior authorization requests submitted to the MCO can be sent by either the treatment provider or the IBHTF.
 - Admission occurs following medical necessity determination in the prior authorization process.
- IBHTF services must be authorized by a client's MCO before they are provided, or they may not be reimbursed.

Why does IBHTF work?

IBHTF emphasizes autonomy, choice, and recovery.

Unlike Enhanced Services Facilities (ESF) or traditional Residential Treatment Facilities (RTF), IBHTF offers

psycho-social rehabilitation with a focus on building independence, improving long-term outcomes, and supporting successful community re-entry.

Outcomes

- Reduced hospital readmissions
- Strong engagement in outpatient care
- Improved LRA compliance
- Increased housing stability

IBHTF = Stabilization + Skill-building + Community integration