

Intensive behavioral health treatment facilities

Program overview

Behavioral health treatment facilities are meant to provide ongoing care to those who no longer benefit from state hospitalization but need additional treatment, resources, and support to fully integrate back into their communities.

Need identification

During a systematic review of state hospital discharges, a group was identified who no longer benefited from treatment but whose discharge was postponed due to need of further treatment options at a lower level of care. There was no appropriate facility to provide such treatment.

Facility design

To meet this need, the Washington State Legislature approved implementation of a new type of facility called Intensive Behavioral Health Treatment Facilities (IBHTF). These facilities have up to 16 inpatient beds for live-in care and active, rehabilitative treatment in an environment meant to bridge the gap between hospitalization and full discharge.

Clinical staff will work to provide recovery-oriented treatment using evidence-based practices, independent living skills training, social skills, and community integration. These facilities will be staffed 24/7 with a clinical team to work with the individual all hours of the day, if needed.

The facilities are designed to be residences for the individuals that live there. Individuals will only be discharged from the facility if they complete their treatment plan objectives and can be safely served within the community in a less-structured setting. The facility will allow for limited egress from the facility by monitoring individuals leaving the facility, providing staff the ability to assess if the individual presents as a risk to themselves or others.

The facilities will make individual crisis plans available to local behavioral health crisis services and local first responders to better coordinate response to these individuals and support them in their recovery.

Treatment options

Services will be provided by specially trained, qualified licensed staff 24/7 coverage to meet individual treatment needs. Staff work with individuals to develop care plans that tackle specific barriers and aim for higher levels of independence.

Start up

There are seven projects funded by the Department of Commerce, with various projected dates of completion in the 23-25 biennium. The first facility is set to be operational by the close of 2022 and is in Olympia. Currently, the Department of Commerce is reviewing proposals for additional IBHTFs for funding.

HCA has been working with the awardees of the previous round and contracted with Advocates for Human Potential for technical assistance to further develop the facilities and provide support while the facilities are being built. Additionally, HCA will contract with facilities to provide start-up funds.

The facilities currently in development are in:

- Tacoma
- Renton
- Chewelah
- Kennewick
- Spokane
- Bremerton
- one additional facility yet to be determined

Current funding

GF-State: \$1,401,000, fiscal year 2023

GF-Federal: \$3,210,000 total, 2021-2023 biennium

For more information

Email the [HCA behavioral health facilities team](#).