

# Program of Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) team expansion

## Purpose

The Legislature provided funding to increase capacity for PACT team services designed to keep individuals with a high risk for hospitalization in their communities. In FY 2020 using the funding provided by the Legislature three new full teams and two half teams were added. In FY 2021 3 more full teams are being added. Combined this increases PACT team capacity by 700 people being served.

## Overview of PACT teams

Program of Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) is an evidence based practice which when adopted to fidelity, provides a cost effective method of service delivery to reduce hospital, emergency services, and jail utilization. PACT teams are a multidisciplinary team that serve people with severe mental illness who frequently need psychiatric care or other crisis services. PACT teams come in different sizes but every PACT team provides care 24/7 and consist of:

- A psychiatric prescriber
- A team leader
- Registered nurses
- Master's level mental health professionals
- Substance use disorder professional
- Vocational and housing support
- Peer supports

PACT teams bring their support to the client where they live. This includes taking medication to the client and transporting them to support their recovery and promote independence. The teams will work the individual to build skills and work to graduate to a lower level of care.

Full PACT teams support up to 100 individuals and half teams support up to 50 individuals. Specific fidelity standards are supported by annual fidelity reviews, technical assistance, and ongoing training for the teams. Teams are limited in the number of new clients they may accept each month in order to establish rapport and stability with each new client.

## 2018 PACT team capacity

Prior to the expansion, there were 14 PACT teams in Washington: 10 full teams and four half teams. They serve about 1200 individuals with severe mental illness across the state.

Using an estimation method called the Cuddeback method<sup>1</sup> which estimates that .6% of the adult population with severe mental illness, the University of Washington approximated there are possibly 3,400 individuals in Washington who could benefit from PACT a shortfall of 2,200 from current levels.

## Statewide expansion


To begin bridging this gap, the Legislature made an appropriation in the operating budget ESHB 1109, Section 215 (4) for the HCA to stand up three full and two half teams in FY 2020. Teams were selected through a procurement. The new teams and the counties they are based in are:

- Full team in King – Ikron
- Full team in Pierce – Greater Lakes
- Full team in Whatcom – Lifeline Connections
- Half team in Lewis – Cascade
- Half team in Walla Wall - Comprehensive

These teams will add capacity to serve 500 individuals across the state once they are fully operational which is expected between 14 and 19 months from the time they take their first individuals.

---

<sup>1</sup><https://ps.psychiatryonline.org/doi/pdf/10.1176/ps.2006.57.12.1803>



A statewide procurement for 3 new full teams is underway to complete the expansion. Teams are expected to be providing service in spring 2021 due to COVID and workforce issues.

These teams will provide support to 300 new individuals within 19 months of serving individuals.

**Funding**

Funding was provided as part of the operational budget in ESHB 1109. The funding is as follows for half teams that serve 50 people:

	FY2020	FY2021
GF-S	\$620,191.79	\$633,613.76
GF-Medicaid	\$1,337,265.01	\$1,323,843.04

And for full teams that serve 100 people

	FY2020	FY2021
GF-S	\$1,566,706.10	\$3,200,205
GF-Medicaid	\$3,327,345.10	\$6,587,898

**For more information**

Matthew Gower, Program Manager  
Email: [matthew.gower2@hca.wa.gov](mailto:matthew.gower2@hca.wa.gov)  
Phone: (360)-725-9556