

Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

Overview

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.

Per federal legislation, PATH eligibility criteria are defined as any individual who is experiencing a Serious Mental Illness (SMI), or Co-Occurring Disorders (COD) {SMI & Substance Use Disorder (SUD)} and is experiencing homelessness or is at imminent risk of experiencing homelessness.

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 US Department of Health and Human Services. The PATH Program was initially authorized by the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1990.

Budget and funding

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 2023 federal award for Washington State totaled \$1,329,353. Cash or in-kind local match funding is required at 33.33% of expenditures for each PATH recipient.

Washington State received an increase in federal award for fiscal year 2024 in the amount of \$1,365,043.

Key partners

The Washington Health Care Authority's Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) contracts with Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organizations (BH-ASOs) 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 four regions have two PATH providers due to the large urban or geographical areas.

Oversight

DBHR is Washington State's PATH recipient and administers PATH funding statewide as well as providing 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 service summary for FFY 2022

- 934 individuals were enrolled in PATH services
- 57% received mental health services
- 39% received substance use treatment
- 3,472 services were provided

For more information

Em Jones
Supported Employment & Supportive Housing
Program Administrator
em.jones@hca.wa.gov