

## 90- or 180-day long term civil commitment (LTCC) bed capacity

### Background

In 2018, Governor Jay Inslee announced a plan to reshape how and where individuals with mental illness are treated in Washington. The plan invests in community capacity to divert individuals from the two state hospitals to treat people in their home communities. The Health Care Authority (HCA) is developing community-based capacity by contracting with community hospitals and freestanding evaluation and treatment (E&T) facilities for long-term involuntary inpatient psychiatric treatment. Individuals receive treatment in these settings rather than at the state psychiatric hospitals, allowing them to remain in or return to their communities. The community location improves the discharge planning process and keeps the individual’s friends and family members in closer proximity.

### More about this program

Individuals admitted to HCA contracted beds are those that historically would have been transferred to a state hospital but are now diverted to community treatment settings. This model provides a higher degree of continuity of care and allows individuals to participate in treatment in a community setting, closer to their natural support system and discharge resources.

Several contracted providers reported that the decision to participate in this program was due in part to multiple requests by individuals on a short-term hold to continue their treatment in the same setting. Continuity of care offers more consistency in treatment and reduces the disruption associated with transition of treatment settings.

Staff at contracted facilities are reporting success with the ability to provide continuity of care. They have stated that they are encouraged by the ability to observe care for the individual from admission to discharge.

### Current numbers

For FY 2024, ESSB 5187 has appropriated \$57.5M of general fund-state and \$109M of general fund federal for HCA to contract with community hospitals or free-standing E&Ts to provide inpatient beds for individuals on a long term civil commitment (LTCC) court order. This budget is based on current and projected bed numbers.

The current count\* of LTCC beds online is 210. An anticipated 169 additional beds are projected to come online by the end of calendar year 2024, bringing the total number of beds to 379. An additional 76 beds are anticipated to come online once facilities either repurpose an existing building or build a new facility. This will increase the number of LTCC beds in the community to 455. Further detail is provided in this section addressing these numbers.

The new Center for Behavioral Health and Learning located on the University of Washington Medical Center Northwest Campus will be a one-of-a-kind fully integrated welcoming and healing environment for individuals struggling with serious physical and behavioral health problems. The number of beds at this facility dedicated to individuals on a 90- to 180-day civil commitment order will be 75 and anticipated to come online in July 2024.

As of October 1, 2023, HCA contracts with the following facilities for long term civil commitments. Designated beds are to be held specifically for individuals on a LTCC order while flex beds are open to individuals on short or LTCC orders.

Facility	Location	Number of 90- to 180-day civil beds
<b>Astria Hospital</b>	Toppenish	10 designated LTCC beds with 4 short/long-term flex beds
<b>Cascade Mental Health Care</b>	Centralia	2 designated LTCC beds with 2 short/long term flex beds

\*Bed numbers are fluid and subject to fluctuate/change

<b>Providence Health &amp; Services NW</b>	Everett	3 designated LTCC beds with 3 short/long term flex beds
<b>Frontier Behavioral Health</b>	Spokane	4 designated LTCC beds with 6 short/long term flex beds
<b>Kitsap Mental Health Services</b>	Bremerton	4 designated LTCC beds with 2 short/ long term flex beds
<b>NorthSound Telecare</b>	Sedro Woolley	1 designated LTCC bed with 4 short/ long term flex beds that can be used for civil conversion transfers
<b>PeaceHealth St. John</b>	Longview	2 designated LTCC beds with 2 short/ long term flex beds
<b>Telecare Next Steps</b>	Olympia	11 designated LTCC beds
<b>Telecare Next Steps</b>	Shelton	16 designated LTCC beds with 8 short/long term flex beds
<b>Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital</b>	Yakima	9 designated LTCC beds with 3 short/ long term flex beds (serves medically and psychiatrically complex population)
<b>Telecare E&amp;T</b>	Fife	8 designated LTCC beds
<b>Navos Hospital</b>	Burien	15 designated LTCC beds with 15 short/long term flex beds
<b>Lifeline Connections</b>	Vancouver	4 short/long term flex beds

<b>Wellfound Behavioral Health Hospital</b>	Tacoma	10 designated LTCC beds with 24 short/long term flex beds
<b>Comprehensive Healthcare</b>	Yakima	2 designated LTCC beds with 2 short/ long term flex beds
<b>Fairfax Hospital</b>	Kirkland	20 flex beds that can be used for civil conversion transfers
<b>Recovery Innovations International Telecare</b>	Fife	4 flex beds that can be used for civil conversion transfers
	Federal Way	4 flex beds that can be used for civil conversion transfers

### Recruitment efforts and future capacity

Beginning in July 2023, HCA worked closely with Department of Social and Health Services/Behavioral Health Administration to rapidly procure beds for individuals needing to transfer out of Western State Hospital on a civil conversion. None of the civil conversion beds added were new capacity, rather HCA leveraged existing LTCC capacity.

HCA works closely with facilities who receive Department of Commerce direct appropriation dollars or funds based on their application for funds directly for the purpose of providing 90- or 180-day beds. The following facilities will be repurposing either existing units, obtaining an existing building, or standing up a new facility.

Facilities who have either received direct appropriation dollars or were chosen based on their application for Department of Commerce funds include:

Facility	Location	Number of beds	Projected to open
<b>Astria Hospital</b>	Toppenish	14 (additional)	Fourth Qtr. 2022
<b>Recovery Innovations</b>	Olympia	16	TBD

<b>Recovery Innovations</b>	Federal Way	16	TBD
<b>Compass Mental Health</b>	Everett	16	TBD
<b>Unity E&amp;T</b>	Snohomish County	16	Second Qtr. 2024

HCA conducts continuous recruitment efforts to increase long term civil commitment beds with licensed acute care (community) hospitals with behavioral health units and free-standing E&Ts through direct outreach and associations.

Facilities identified to provide future long term civil commitment beds include:

- 75 beds at UW Medicine Behavioral Health Teaching Hospital – Seattle
- 2-14 bed E&Ts in Snohomish County
- 1-16 bed E&T in Benton County
- 1-16 bed E&T in Spokane County
- 1-16 bed E&T in Skagit County
- 1-16 bed E&T in Snohomish County

Fern Lodge Behavioral Wellness at Stanwood is the result of a collaboration between the Tulalip Tribes of Washington, HCA, and the Governor’s Office. This facility will be owned by HCA and operated by a contracted provider. Fern Lodge will be dedicated to caring for individuals on 90- or 180-day civil commitment orders.

### Identified gaps and barriers

Various stakeholders have communicated the following barriers:

- The authorized daily rate is below market.
- Insufficient capacity to serve individuals with complex medical, behavioral health and or cognitive needs.
- Legal complexities related to serving individuals on civil conversions.
- Counties experiencing increasing transportation and court costs.
- Operational costs continue to rise.
- Staffing shortages.

### Strategies to address challenges

- HCA is exploring options to address issues of rate as well as possible strategies

related to capacity for individuals with complex needs.

- HCA continuously updates its communication plan and frequently engages with community partners to encourage participation.
- HCA has worked closely with the Washington State Department of Commerce on the RFP questions to increase the number of facilities providing LTCC beds.
- HCA staff provides ongoing technical assistance to contracted providers via routine conference calls, and ad hoc communication.
- Implementing legislatively funded quality oversight, identifying program training needs, and increased site visits to focus on program integrity will be a focus in the forthcoming year.

### Rates

LTCC beds at a hospital or an Evaluation Treatment Center (E&Ts) have different per diem rates. A filled contracted bed in a community hospital receives reimbursement based on the current Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS). E&Ts receive reimbursement based on the current specialized mental health fee schedule.

To support the facility in ramping up services, a start-up bed rate is provided during the first year a newly contracted facility brings beds online. The purpose of this rate is to assist the facility as they create processes and procedures to keep the dedicated beds filled.

Since FY 2023, as directed by ESSB 5092, payments to the contracted provider for unoccupied bed days have been capped at six percent of their annual contracted bed days.

### For more information

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