

Behavioral Health Services

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



Individuals living with serious mental illness who are experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness are served throughout the behavioral health services continuum.

Behavioral Health Services (BHS) outpatient treatment programs provide mental health treatment services and supports, including housing supports, to individuals and families across the life span. The Guest House Program is an entry point to homeless services for individuals who present with mental health conditions who are living on the street, in shelters, and in parks, etc. and provides direct access to a clinic and emergency housing. The Wellness and Recovery Centers are community based multiservice centers offering an array of comprehensive treatment services and wellness activities designed to support clients in their recovery goals. The Centers also serve as entry points to homeless services.

The Full Service Partnership (FSP) programs provide the full spectrum of high intensity outpatient mental health treatment for children and youth (and their families) living with severe emotional disturbance and TAY, adults, and older adults living with serious mental illness. In Fiscal Year 2020-21, the FSPs served 2,590 individuals and families.

BHS places a high priority on housing for people with mental illness who are experiencing or are at-risk of homelessness. The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Housing Program provides a continuum of interventions including homelessness prevention, flexible housing funds, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing. Housing interventions are targeted towards consumers in FSP and outpatient services.

Fiscal Year 2020-21, FSP Program Outcomes:

- Homeless occurrences decreased by 66.4%
- Homeless days decreased by 80%
- Housed 374 clients/households who were literally homeless
- Served 182 clients/households residing in MHSA-funded apartments
- Provided over \$2.1M in rental assistance
- Provided over \$2.9M in housing supports and services

Since 2007, more than \$20 million of local MHSA funding has leveraged millions in federal, state, and local funds to finance ten developments and create 221 units of supportive housing for MHSA eligible tenants. The built unit portfolio represents years of cultivation of effective, strategic partnerships with SHRA, non-profit housing developers, property management companies, and FSP providers.

BHS, in partnership with affordable housing developers, has been awarded \$27.3 million in No Place Like Home (NPLH) funding to build/renovate 137 additional dedicated apartments. Another \$9.5 million in NPLH funding is currently under State review to build an additional 37 dedicated apartments.

In FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22, BHS committed \$8.9 million in MHA Housing Program funding for 60 new dedicated permanent supportive housing units at four developments in the pipeline:

In addition to supporting a portfolio of PSH projects, BHS provides flexible housing supports to assist clients in obtaining or maintaining other forms of housing. Flexible housing support funds are used to provide consumers assistance in the form of homelessness prevention and short and long-term rental subsidies. Beginning in FY 2019-20, BHS invested MHA funds in homelessness prevention assistance for households experiencing a housing crisis and at imminent risk of homelessness. BHS continues to explore opportunities to expand these initiatives.