Homeless Programs

Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Program

The PATH Program was authorized by the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-645), and is a formula grant program authorized under Section 521 et seq. of the Public Health Service Act and administered by the Center for Mental Health Services, Homeless Programs Branch, within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

The PATH Program provides federal funds in the form of block grants to serve individuals with a serious mental illness, who may also have a co-occurring substance abuse disorder, and who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. PATH allocations to the state are based on a legislatively determined formula based on the number of individuals residing in urbanized areas in the state as a percentage of the total United States population in urbanized areas.

PATH funds are used to provide a menu of allowable services, including street outreach, case management, and services that are not supported by mainstream mental health programs.


Cooperative Agreement for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals (CABHI) Program

The CABHI Program is a three-year grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) and Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS). The purpose of the grant is to enhance the infrastructure of treatment service systems to increase capacity and provide accessible, effective, comprehensive, coordinated/integrated, and evidence-based treatment services, permanent supportive housing, peer supports, and other recovery support services to:

- Individuals who experience chronic homelessness and have substance use disorders, serious mental illnesses (SMI), or co-occurring mental and substance use disorders; and/or
- Veterans who experience homelessness/chronic homelessness and have substance use disorders, SMI, or co-occurring mental and substance use disorders.

The grant seeks to:

- improve statewide strategies to address planning and coordination of behavioral health and primary care services, and permanent housing to reduce homelessness;
- increase the number of individuals, residing in permanent housing, who receive behavioral health treatment and recovery support services; and
- increase the number of individuals placed in permanent housing and enrolled in Medicaid and other mainstream benefits (e.g., SSI/SSDI, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families [TANF], Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program [SNAP]).

Grant funds are contracted to Centerstone KY, Bluegrass.org, NorthKey Community Care and the Welcome House of Northern KY to provide evidenced-based practices such as Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT); Assertive Community Treatment; SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) services; and assistance in gaining access to housing using Housing First principles.
Homeless Prevention Project

This project originated as an attempt to address institutional discharge into homelessness. A survey of Louisville shelters showed that 77.5% of persons in the shelters had an institutional background. This project offers institutional discharge planning to persons exiting state-operated or supervised institutions involving mental health and foster care programs, and persons exiting state-operated prisons in Oldham County. There is both an urban and a rural component to this project, with the urban component served by Family & Children Place in Louisville, and the rural component served by The Adanta Group in south-central KY. Coordination of the program is provided by the Louisville Coalition for the Homeless.

The goal of the project is to assist potentially homeless persons exiting state institutions for return or reentry into the community, and to offer information about any necessary linkage of the person to needed community services and supports; such as employment, medical and mental health services, housing, education, social supports and other community-based services; and thereby decrease the number of persons discharged from state-operated institutions into homelessness.

In a typical year, approximately 28 persons are served from the correctional system, 11 from state psychiatric hospitals, and 5 from foster care. From data collected from the inception of the program, it is expected that 95% of persons coming from Corrections would not return to jail or prison, 82% of persons discharged from state psychiatric hospitals would not require readmission, and for all the populations served, it is expected that approximately 90% would not end up homeless.

SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) Program

SOAR is a program designed to increase access to Social Security Administration (SSA) disability benefits, Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSI/SSDI), for eligible adults who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder.

For people who are homeless or who are returning to the community from institutions (jails, prisons or hospitals), access to these programs can be extremely challenging. Approval on initial application for people who are homeless and who have no one to assist them is about 10-15 percent. For those who have a mental illness, substance use issues, or co-occurring disorders that impair cognition, the application process is even more difficult - yet accessing these benefits is often a critical first step in recovery.

The SOAR Online Course is free and can be accessed at:

https://soarworks.prainc.com/course/ssi-ssdi-outreach-access-and-recovery-soar-online-training

The course consists of seven classes, each of which has a series of articles, short quizzes, and a practice case component. The practice case provides an opportunity for participants to apply what they have learned by completing a sample SSI/SSDI application packet for a fictitious applicant using SOAR techniques. It takes approximately 16-20 hours to complete the course and participants can work at their own pace, starting and stopping as they wish.

Some communities have local SOAR initiatives. Getting involved locally can be a great way to connect with others who are doing similar work. For more information on local initiatives, please contact the SOAR State Team Lead for Kentucky using the contact information on the upper right-hand corner of this page.

Link to the SOAR Website: https://soarworks.prainc.com