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## Pathways Vermont Overview

**Pathways Vermont** is a social service agency that provides housing and supportive services to over 1,000 Vermonters each year. All of Pathways Vermont's services create alternatives to services that exist in the system of care and create more options for Vermonters struggling with mental health and other life crises who are seeking support. In May 2014 Pathways was awarded conditional designation as a Specialized Services Agency by the Department of Mental Health in order to access Medicaid funding for Housing First services. These funds replace a five-year federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grant that ended at the end of September 2014.

- The **Housing First** program support individuals with serious mental health issues and long histories of homelessness and/or institutionalization lead independent lives in their local community through permanent supportive housing. The Housing First program is composed of interdisciplinary support teams that provide community-based services. Since 2010, the Housing First program has successfully housed over 260 individuals. The program currently supports 201 individuals in 6 counties.
- The **Supportive Services for Veteran Families** program provides rapid re-housing and short-term case management to veterans and their families who have recently become or are at imminent risk of becoming homeless. Services are designed to support participants in reducing barriers to housing and rapidly exit homelessness, returning to or maintaining stable housing in the community. SSVF services are person-centered, meaning services are planned around each individual household's eligibility for community resources, barriers to housing, and desired housing outcomes. In 2014 Pathways' SSVF program successfully ended homelessness for over 100 veteran households. 90% of households exited the program with a sustainable housing situation. Pathways SSVF program is funded from a subgrant from Vermont Veteran Services at the University of Vermont.
- **Soteria Vermont** will provide residential support for individuals experiencing an initial episode of psychosis who are looking to navigate their experience with limited use of medication. The objective of Soteria Vermont is to divert individuals from unnecessary hospitalization and support them to work through their experiences, develop coping methods and get back on the track to life. *Soteria Vermont was created by Act 79 and is funded by the Department of Mental Health.*
- The **Vermont Support Line** is a free, confidential phone service for Vermonters seeking connection and support. The line is staffed by individuals with their own experiences of mental health struggles and is available 8 hours a day, 365 days a year. In 2015 the support line completed 5,280 instances of support and diverted 263 calls from emergency services. *The Vermont Support Line was created by Act 79 and is funded by the Department of Mental Health.*
- **The Wellness Co-op** (TWC) is a community resource center in Burlington's Old North End. TWC targets its programming to young adults, aged 18-34, who are at risk of contact with crisis services (i.e. police, crisis teams and emergency departments) due to mental health crisis, addiction or trauma - but are not accessing traditional support services. Currently, TWC offers a range of services including individual and group peer support, employment support, art and music activities and a space to access to free Wi-Fi, public computers, snacks, tea and coffee. In 2014 TWC was regularly engaging with approximately 650 individuals. *TWC is a demonstration site for the Department of Mental Health's Mental Health Transformation Grant (funded by SAMHSA).*