

Pathways Vermont 2019 FACT SHEET

Housing First

Housing First ends homelessness. It's that simple.

HOUSING FIRST is an evidence-based, permanent supportive housing program that supports individuals to maintain independent housing and lead meaningful lives in their community.

The program immediately ends homelessness by supporting individuals and families to locate independent apartments in the community. Housing First clients are provided long-term, multidisciplinary community supports, including service coordination, drug & alcohol counseling, employment support, psychiatry, nursing care and representative payee services.

ENDING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Housing First is recognized by the Department of Housing and Urban Development as the most effective intervention for addressing chronic homelessness.

- Since 2010, the Housing First program has ended the cycle of chronic homelessness for over 250 Vermonters.
- The Housing First program maintains an 85% Housing Retention Rate.

SERVING THE UNDESERVED

The program targets the most vulnerable individuals, especially those who have "fallen through the cracks" of the system of care.

- The population served by Pathways' Housing First program have experienced long histories of homelessness, involvement with corrections, frequent contact with emergency services and long periods of institutionalization.
- The program has supported 100+ individuals with long stays in hospitals, prisons and other institutional settings to successfully transition into the community.
- The average daily "cost" of homelessness for this population is approximately \$91.51.

FY19 FUNDING

The Housing First program is funded primarily by contracts with the Department of Mental Health & Department of Corrections.

VT Department of Mental Health Community Rehabilitation and Treatment	\$513,794
VT Department of Mental Health Medicaid Fee For Services	\$1,045,880
VT Department of Corrections	\$1,039,363
Other Funding Sources: United Way of Northwest Vermont, UVM Medical Center, Burlington Community Development Block Grant	\$141,364
Total	\$2,740,401



FAST FACTS*:

\$43

AVERAGE DAILY
COST OF HOUSING
FIRST PROGRAM

250+
CYCLES OF
CHRONIC
HOMELESSNESS
ENDED

200+
INDIVIDUALS
SUPPORTED TO
TRANSITION INTO
THE COMMUNITY

*Through 2018



Client Testimonial

Jenn (pictured right, holding dog Chloe and her Housing Coordinator Amanda on her left) grew up in what she described as a "pretty amazing family." Up until her teens, life was going well for Jenn. However, things began to go south when she started taking recreational drugs which eventually led to opiate abuse, including heroin. Jenn describes this period of her life as one of the most painful experiences. Jenn found herself in a cycle of abusive relationships, homelessness, and psychiatric hospitalizations. In Jenn's words, "I've couch-surfed, tented outside, lived with friends and family, and been in bad abusive relationships because I had nowhere to go. It's been a long road."



Jenn's story began to turn around when she was referred to Pathways Vermont's Housing First program. She was introduced to our team in Windham County who were quickly able to secure her a beautiful apartment overlooking a brook in Putney. After over 10 years of not having a place to call her own, Jen and her 12-year-old terrier Chloe finally feel like they are home. Jenn has created strong bonds with her Pathways Vermont service team who are helping her to realize her dreams. She now has goals of going back to school for equine therapy and has created an online forum for people with other similar life experiences to share their stories. Jenn also recently joined the Pathways Vermont Tenant Advisory Committee, helping us better understand the needs of our service recipients. Jenn is beginning to plan a future for herself - one she didn't think was possible just a few years ago.

Housing First Corrections Project

Supporting Community Integration

In partnership with the Department of Corrections, Pathways Vermont has adapted the Housing First model to serve individuals with long correctional histories to transition back into the community.

- Since 2010, the DOC project has supported over 180 individuals re-enter the community.
- 80% of program participants have not returned to long term incarceration.

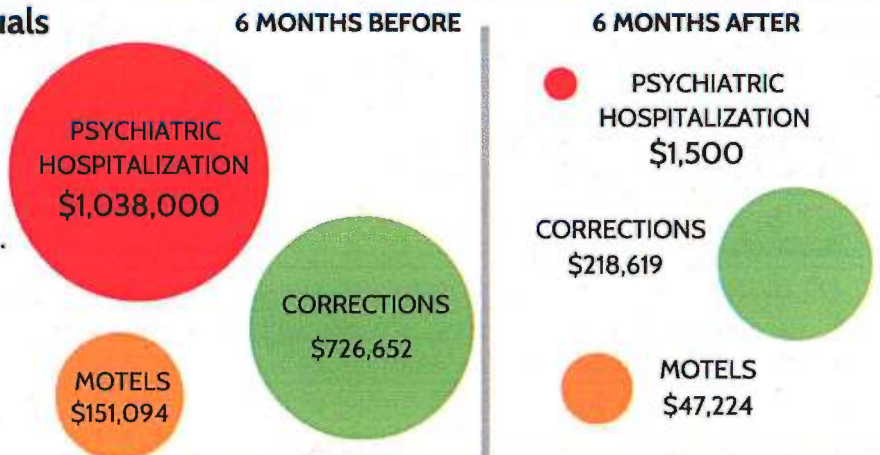
Cost Effective Solution

By supporting individuals under the custody of corrections to transition back into community, Pathways Vermont's program reduces rate of incarceration and saves the state money. By providing individuals with acceptable housing and follow-up support, the program breaks the cycle of incarceration. Pathways Vermont's approach is cost-effective in comparison to other re-entry programs, without compromising quality and quantity of care and long-term outcomes.



A Direct Cost Comparison of 129 Individuals

The graphic to the right illustrates a direct comparison of the combined estimated service costs expended by 129 clients 6 months prior to entering the Housing First program and 6 months after entering the Housing First program.



Service cost estimates were derived using information from relevant agency reports.