

# AHS Housing Initiative

Department of Mental Health

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# DMH Housing Support Programs

DMH provides housing support services through multiple programs, providing mental health and case management services for individuals who are unhoused or experiencing housing instability, as well as direct financial assistance.



## Services include:

- Pre-Tenancy and Tenancy Sustaining Supports:
  - SAMHSA's PATH program
  - Pathways Vermont
  - Designated Agencies
- Direct Financial Assistance:
  - Housing Support Fund
  - Subsidy + Care program

# Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)



- PATH providers serve individuals with serious mental illness (SMI) experiencing homelessness, who are typically not engaged with the mental health system of care.
- SAMHSA provides funding for services for people with SMI experiencing homelessness.
- Services include outreach, screening and diagnosis, habilitation and rehabilitation, community mental health and substance use disorder treatment, referrals for primary care, job training, education services and housing, and housing services as specified in Section 522(b)(10) of the Public Health Service Act.
- Once engaged, the PATH provider agency refers the person to community affordable housing opportunities and long-term supportive services.
- PATH services are available through:
  - Homeless Prevention Center (Rutland, 1 outreach staff)
  - Northeast Kingdom Community Action (NEK, 1 outreach staff)
  - Community Health Centers of Burlington (Chittenden, 3 outreach staff)
  - Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects (Addison, 1 outreach staff)
  - Groundworks Collaborative (Windham, 1 outreach staff)
  - Good Samaritan Haven (Washington, 2 outreach staff)

[PATH FY23 State Report](#)

# Pathways Vermont



- Serves those with high acuity mental health needs, including individuals with SMI, who are experiencing homelessness by HUD definition
- Individuals are served through the Specialized Service Agency, and may be referred from DAs, hospitals, community partners, or through self-referral.
- Minimal service requirements, to preserve individual choice & self-determination for clients.
- Pathways' Permanent Supportive Housing program is funded by DMH to serve the following counties: Franklin, Grand Isle, Addison, Chittenden, Washington, Windsor, Windham, and Bennington.

# Supports available to all DA/SSA Clients when medically necessary

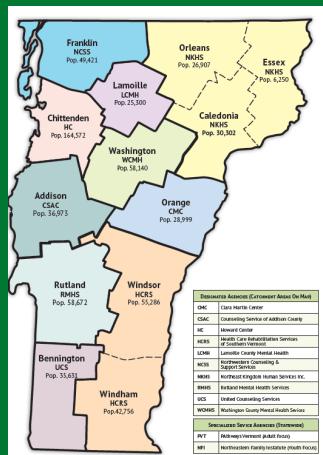
## Pre-Tenancy Supports:

- Help with identifying and assessing housing barriers for clients, such as credit challenges, criminal history, and rental debt.
- Individualized support to help clients secure necessary documentation, such as IDs, proof of income, and rental applications.
- Assistance with obtaining housing vouchers and finding units for voucher use.

## Tenancy-Sustaining Supports:

- Collaboration with landlords to negotiate lease terms and address concerns.
- Ongoing case management, partnering with community and healthcare organizations to deliver wraparound services.
- Check-ins with tenants and landlords to proactively address issues.
- Facilitation of connections to rental subsidies and emergency financial assistance programs to support households at risk of eviction.
- Support to access training on household management, financial literacy, and conflict resolution.

# Designated Agencies' Community-Based Housing Supports



- For DA clients with high acuity mental health needs, including individuals with SMI, case management may include intensive housing supports.
- DA clients with lower acuity and housing instability will be referred to housing supports provided by other state agencies or community organizations.
- Supports include Pre-Tenancy and Tenancy Sustaining Supports. These supports do not directly provide housing or financial support for housing to clients.
- All services, including housing supports, are provided dependent on treatment plan and medical necessity.

# DA/SSA Clients with SMI in the GA Emergency Housing Program

- DMH reviews on a weekly basis the number of Designated/Specialized Service Agency clients with serious mental illness being served by the GA Emergency Housing program.
- For the week of 1/21/2026, 35 DMH clients with serious mental illness were utilizing the program, a decrease of one individual from the week prior.

# DMH Subsidy & Care Program

- Built on the foundation of HUD's Shelter Plus Care model, the program operates in partnership with the Vermont State Housing Authority (VSHA).
- Provides rental assistance and supportive services to individuals living with serious mental illness transitioning out of hospitalization or therapeutic residential settings.
- Designed to help participants stabilize in the community by securing safe, affordable housing.
- Participants contribute 30% of their income toward their housing costs, while DMH provides a subsidy that covers the remaining portion of the rent.
- The housing subsidy must be used in combination with housing support services.
- DMH has funded 87 vouchers in FY26

# Housing Support Fund (HSF)

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DMH administers the Housing Support Fund to help individuals with serious mental illness maintain stability in the community.

- The fund provides supports that include:
  - Temporary Rental Assistance (up to 6 months)
  - Security Deposit and Apartment Set-up Costs
  - One-Time Assistance (utilities, damages, or other urgent needs)
  - Hospitalization Prevention supports
  - Hospital Step-Down assistance to help individuals transition safely from inpatient care
- In FY26, approximately 327 individuals have received HSF financial support for rental assistance and one-time housing costs.

# Cross-Agency Collaboration on Housing

- AHS Departments collaborate and coordinate whenever there is departmental crossover on individual cases
- In addition, DMH and other AHS Departments continue to collaborate on system improvement, including:
  - The Emergency Housing GA
  - New housing initiatives to improve service delivery, including DMH & VDH partnering on the approach to embedded services in shelters.

# Proposal: Embedded Mental Health Services

DMH recommends embedding mental health service providers at existing shelter locations, to strengthen access to services and increase opportunities to connect new individuals with mental health providers and the mental health system of care.

Embedding mental health providers will:

- Enable flexible delivery of services based on demonstrated need – with 10 hours per week per shelter, determined by the times most individuals are present at each shelter.
- Expand outreach, assessment, and referral capacity for individuals who are not yet connected with services.
- Allow individuals currently receiving DA/SSA services to continue with their existing treatment planning and team

Thank You

Questions?