

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND SERVICE
INTEGRATION ADMINISTRATION**



Federal Authority – BRIDGES Grant

2015-17 BIENNIAL BUDGET

Request	FY 15	FY16	FY17	15-17
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
GF-State	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$993,000	\$712,000	\$178,000	\$890,000

DECISION PACKAGE SUMMARY

The Behavioral Health and Service Integration Administration (BHSIA) requests increased federal authority for the Bringing Recovery into Diverse Groups through Engagement & Support (BRIDGES) in order to utilize awarded federal funds. By funding this request, BHSIA is expected to provide delivery of behavioral health, housing support, peer, and other recovery-oriented services not covered under the state’s Medicaid plan.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The BRIDGES project will benefit individuals who experience behavioral health disorders and chronic homelessness by facilitating access to Evidence Based Permanent Supportive Housing and Supported Employment through engagement and support. BRIDGES provides meaningful choice regarding housing and support services, utilizes Peer Navigators to assist with enrollment in Medicaid and mainstream benefits, and connects individuals with needed treatment.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

BRIDGES is a Washington State partnership between the Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR), other State agencies, and providers in three communities. The project will provide outreach efforts to 600 individuals and will assist 90 individuals to obtain Permanent Supportive Housing over the course of the grant. Services will be provided by local teams that include a Housing Specialist, a Peer Navigator, and an Employment Specialist. Grant resources will be leveraged to obtain rental subsidies (e.g. “bridge” vouchers) through local funding to ensure housing is affordable for all individuals. The grant does not require match funding.

BRIDGES will utilize Permanent Supportive Housing and Supported Employment. Individuals will be enrolled in Medicaid and other mainstream benefits through a Peer Navigator. The Peer Navigator will be certified as an ‘In-person Assistor’ and will utilize SSI/SSDI Outreach Access and Recovery (SOAR) to help eligible individual access disability benefits. Special training will be provided to the teams on the unique needs of the population being served such as the Housing First philosophy. The project team will work with local homeless continuums of care and consumer groups/organizations to identify any modifications that may be needed to ensure services are culturally relevant and meet the Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) requirement.



DSHS VISION
People are healthy • People are safe • People are supported • Taxpayer resources are guarded

DSHS MISSION
To transform lives

DSHS VALUES
Honesty and Integrity • Pursuit of Excellence • Open Communication • Diversity and Inclusion • Commitment to Service

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Transforming
Lives

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EXPECTED RESULTS

The budget request supports DSHS Goal 4: Quality of Life – Each individual in need will be supported to attain the highest possible quality of life.

The decision package is essential to implementing the BHSIA's Strategic Objective 1.2: Increase the number of adults (18 and older) receiving outpatient mental health services.

This request supports Results Washington goals 1.2.A.a: Increase the percent of mental health consumers receiving a service within seven days after discharge from inpatient settings and 1.2.A.b: Increase the number of adults (18 and older) receiving outpatient mental health services.

Primary outcomes include improved housing retention, increased enrollment in Medicaid and mainstream governmental benefits, and improved employment outcomes. Alternative funding sources will be developed to ensure sustainability after the grant has ended. BRIDGES will coordinate efforts with the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) as well as the Unified Block Grant priorities to reduce homelessness. The BRIDGES teams will assist individuals who are chronically homeless with behavioral health issues connect with services and treatment. Many individuals who are chronically homeless are discharged from inpatient settings. Many individuals who are chronically homeless face chronic health conditions in addition to behavioral health issues.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

BHSIA is coordinating the efforts of and requesting a subcommittee of the Governor's Interagency Council on Chronic Homelessness be established in conjunction with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Policy Academy on Chronic Homelessness activities. The goals of the Policy Academy are to reduce chronic homelessness through SAMHSA-sponsored, cross-agency federal efforts to provide intensive, targeted technical assistance. The statewide plan to ensure sustained partnerships across public health and housing systems will result in short and long-term strategies to support individuals who experience chronic homelessness through the state.



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