

2019-2021 Biennial Budget Summary for Trueblood Agreed Settlement

With legislative approval and the support of the Governor, the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Health Care Authority (HCA) and the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) received the below funding that will benefit the implementation of the settlement agreement approved in the *Trueblood et al. v. DSHS* lawsuit.

The agreement implementation occurs in phases within different regions of the state. The first phase covers Pierce, Southwest and the Spokane regions. This agreement outlines five key areas of investment: competency evaluations, competency restoration, crisis diversion and supports, education and training, and workforce development.

Administration. \$2.5 million for positions for the 2019-21 biennium at both DSHS and HCA to administer the settlement agreement.

Competency evaluation. \$5 million to DSHS for 13 competency evaluator positions in fiscal year 2020 and five in fiscal year 2021. It also pays for two additional program manager and three administrative assistant positions to support the evaluators' work.

Competency restoration. \$1.89 million to HCA for outpatient competency-restoration teams.

Crisis services. Expanded crisis triage/crisis stabilization and mobile crisis services to divert individuals from potentially becoming class members was included within one item in the HCA budget. The total amount for these projects is \$10,233,000.

Diversion support. \$11 million to HCA for individuals with behavioral health issues arrested for misdemeanor crimes. This funding is for non-Medicaid costs associated with serving individuals in crisis triage, outpatient restoration or other programs that divert individuals with behavioral health disorders from the criminal justice system. This funding can also be used for housing supports.

Engagement and Outreach. Intensive case management services focused on individuals identified through a comprehensive data system that is based on history of services, risk scores and predictive modeling. \$4.7 million is allocated to HCA to create teams that will locate, engage and connect individuals identified as high utilizers with services and resources.

Housing supports. \$6.4 million allocated to HCA for four forensic Housing and Recovery through Peer Services (HARPS) teams in the Phase 1 regions. These teams provide supportive housing services and transitional housing vouchers for individuals referred for outpatient competency restoration, intensive case management and other populations under the settlement. Each team will consist of a housing support specialist, two peer specialists, and resources to support the transitional housing needs of individuals in the forensic system as well as resources to assist individuals transitioning from crisis services.

Forensic navigators. \$2.2 million to DSHS to fund nine forensic navigators, a new position established in the settlement agreement. Based on the agreement, navigators' work will begin in the Phase 1 Regions. The budget outlook assumes an additional nine positions in fiscal year 2021-23 for Phase 2 of the settlement.

For more information, please contact [Melena Thompson](#) at 360-902-7543.

Washington State
Health Care Authority

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Additional Forensic Bed Capacity. Over \$27 million allocated to DSHS for the addition of forensic bed capacity across the state. This includes two new 25-bed competency restoration units at Eastern State Hospital. In the 2017-19 budget, the Legislature allotted funding for the conversion of 42 beds from civil to forensic on two wards at Western State Hospital per the agreement.

Technical assistance to jails. \$633,000 to DSHS for positions to provide technical assistance and training to jails identified in the settlement agreement.

Crisis intervention training (CIT). \$899,000 for the CJTC to provide crisis intervention training to law enforcement agencies. There is also \$4 million allocated to CJTC to fund the WASPC co-responders.

Workforce development. \$653,000 to DSHS for job positions dedicated to workforce development activities as identified in the settlement agreement.

Enhanced Peer Support. Just over \$400,000 is allocated to HCA and one FTE to develop an enhanced continuing education curriculum for certified peer counselors on the criminal justice system. Funds and activities will focus on the curriculum development, materials to train and training costs.

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