



King County

Behavioral Health and Recovery Division

Department of Community and Human Services

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King County Behavioral Health Housing Programs

The King County Behavioral Health and Recovery Division (BHRD) Hospital and Mental Health Residential (HMHR) Section oversees a variety of behavioral health housing programs. This document provides an overview of those programs.

For more information, please contact Charlotte Lefler, Behavioral Health Housing Specialist, at clefler@kingcounty.gov or 206-263-3638.

Crisis Housing Vouchers (CHV)

CHV provide short-term stays at hotels, motels, or with a family member or friend. They initially cover a maximum of 14 days and can be extended an additional 14 days, based on the need of the eligible individual. CHV target individuals who are assessed to need more intensive support and stability immediately following a behavioral health crisis and are intended to increase the opportunity for stability while awaiting more permanent housing solutions. A referral to a community-based supportive housing program will also be made at the time of CHV utilization.

Eligibility Requirements:

- An individual is engaged with one of the referral programs listed below; and
- Clinically assessed to be experiencing a behavioral health crisis; and
- In need of supportive housing services; and
- Experiencing homelessness or is unstably housed.

Referral Process: The following programs can connect program participants to CHV:

- DESC Community Outreach and Advocacy Team (COAT)
- Navos Adult Crisis Services
- Navos and Valley Cities Assisted Outpatient Services Program (AOSP)
- Recovery Navigator Program

Governor's Housing/Homeless Initiative

Governor's Housing/Homeless Initiative provides housing bridge subsidy to reduce instances where an individual leaves a State operated behavioral health or private behavioral health facility directly into homelessness. Governor's Housing/Homeless Initiative can provide funding for identification documents, application fees, moving expenses, transitional housing fees for up to 2 months, move-in costs, home sustainability items, barrier removal costs, and other costs.

Eligibility Requirements:

- An individual is a Navos Peer Bridger Program participant; and
- Transitioning out of an inpatient behavioral healthcare setting, and
- At risk of homelessness upon discharge from the inpatient behavioral healthcare setting.

Referral Process: The Navos Peer Bridger Program can connect program participants to Governor's Housing/Homeless Initiative funding.

Housing Access and Services Program (HASP)

HASP vouchers help individuals with disabilities access Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers. HASP recipients also have access to housing support services through the YWCA.

Eligibility Requirements:

- An individual is between 18-61 years of age; and
- Diagnosed with a mental health disorder or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorder; and
- Enrolled with a publicly funded behavioral health provider; and
- Meets criteria for extremely low-income household, meaning income that is 30% of the Area Median Income for King County, or there are obstacles to accessing housing; and
- One of the following circumstances apply to the individual being referred:
 - Involuntarily displaced from housing, for example by disaster, domestic violence, or due to a hate crime; or
 - Living in substandard housing; or
 - Rent burdened, meaning they are paying more than 50% of total income for rent and utilities for at least 90 days; or
 - Homeless, someone living in transitional housing is classified as "homeless" for this program.

Referral Process: The following programs can refer participants to HASP.

- BHRD HMHR Utilization Management Team
- BHRD Hospital Liaisons
- King County District Court Community Court
- King County Superior Court Family Treatment Court
- Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT)
- Standard Supportive Housing Program

Housing and Recovery Through Peer Services (HARPS)

HARPS provides time-limited housing support services and housing bridge subsidy to support individuals who are exiting an inpatient behavioral healthcare setting. HARPS housing support services include housing search and placement services, advocacy for tenants, housing stability services, social and community integration skills training, and linkage to other services. HARPS housing bridge subsidy provides time-limited funding for certain housing related expenses, including 3 months of rent and utilities, rental/utility arrears, move-in costs, application fees, moving costs, and up to 30 days of hotel/motel expenses while engaging in a housing search.

Eligibility Requirements:

- An individual is 18 years of age or older; and
- Experiencing a serious mental illness (SMI), substance use disorder (SUD), or co-occurring SMI and SUD; and
- Being released from an inpatient behavioral healthcare setting; and
- At risk of homelessness upon discharge from the inpatient behavioral healthcare setting.

Individuals with an open King County authorization for PACT Engagement or PACT Enrollment, who meet the first 2 criteria above and are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or are homeless or at risk of homelessness and being released from or at risk of entering an inpatient behavioral healthcare setting are eligible for HARPS housing bridge subsidy.

Referral Process: PACT can connect program participants to HARPS housing bridge subsidy.

For all other referrals, please complete the HARPS Referral Form located on the King County Housing and Residential Services [webpage](#) and email securely to KCHARPSreferrals@p-h-s.com.

Unfortunately, we anticipate that the need for HARPS services and subsidy within the King County region will be greater than program capacity. The HARPS program will periodically close to community referrals once program capacity is met. The HARPS program will re-open when the program once again has available capacity and individuals that still need HARPS assistance on or after the date of re-opening will need to resubmit their application for review. Referrals are screened in the order they are received and applications that are accepted will be responded to individually within 5 business days from date of submission.

Community Behavioral Health Rental Assistance (CBRA)

CBRA provides long-term or bridge rental subsidies for individuals with behavioral health conditions and their households. CBRA also has limited capacity to offer housing search and placement support for those that are in need of the subsidy but have not yet identified housing. When partnered with programs offering supportive housing services, those with complex behavioral health needs have opportunities to live independently in the communities of their choice. CBRA can fund a range of housing costs, including costs related to emergency housing, securing housing, move-in, and rent and associated costs. The CBRA program acts as a housing subsidy provider only and does not offer behavioral health or housing support services.

When considering who to refer to CBRA, it is important to consider the type of housing CBRA can typically pay for. CBRA typically pays for private market housing integrated within the community where there is no or limited support located on-site. When considering who to refer, you will want to consider if this resource matches the housing goals and needs of the individual you are referring.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Household income is at or below 50% of Area Median Income as defined by HUD; and
- At least one adult household member has a documented Behavioral Health Condition; and
- The same adult household member is eligible for a long-term support services program; and
- The same adult household member has a documented need for long-term housing subsidy with no other suitable resource that can meet the long-term subsidy need. Please note, an individual is not eligible for CBRA if they are only in need of short-term housing assistance, such as assistance with move-in costs.

Referral Process: As capacity allows, the CBRA referral window will open periodically at which time the CBRA Referral Form will be activated, and program referrals will be accepted. Efforts will be made to notify the community when the referral window does open. The following is the link to the CBRA Referral Form. Please note, the form will only be active and able to accept referrals when the referral window is open.

[CBRA Referral Form \(office.com\)](https://office.com)

In addition to eligibility, referral selection will be based on priority population as well. We anticipate receiving more referrals than CBRA program capacity. The following is how the CBRA program prioritizes referrals.

- **First priority:** Eligible individuals discharging or needing to discharge from a State psychiatric hospital or long-term civil commitment bed.
- **Second priority:** Eligible individuals discharging or needing to discharge from a community psychiatric inpatient bed or who have discharged from State psychiatric hospitals or community psychiatric inpatient bed within the past 12 months.
- **Third priority:** Eligible individuals