

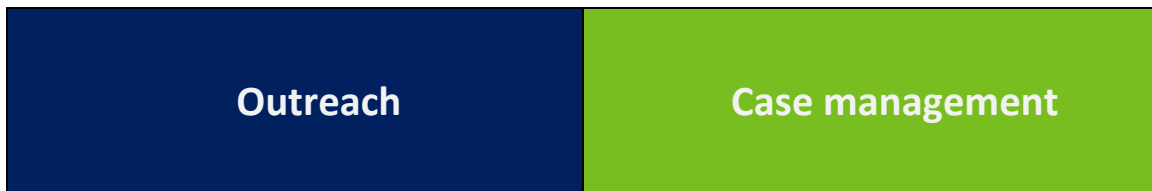
Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness

The Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) program supports the delivery of services and resources to individuals who have serious mental illness, may have a co-occurring substance use disorder, and are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness.

Background

PATH prioritizes serving people with complex needs and barriers to housing who are often difficult to locate, engage in services, and connect to resources to meet their basic needs. PATH services work to find and then assist people to connect to community-based services and transition from homelessness.

Primary services through PATH are:



PATH services may also include:



Impact of homelessness

Homelessness for people with serious mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorder in Minnesota remains a persistent and increasing problem. Wilder Research reported that in 2018, 11,371 people were homeless on a single night, an increase of 10% since 2015. Most adults experiencing homelessness (81%) have either a chronic physical health condition (57%), serious mental illness (64%), or substance use disorder (24%). Half have more than one of these conditions.

In 2021, there were 2,291 persons with serious mental illness contacted by PATH-funded providers, with 692 of the people contacted becoming enrolled. Half of these enrollees were chronically homeless. When first contacted, just over one-third of PATH enrollees were unsheltered, with half of the remaining enrollees residing in a temporary shelter and the other half at imminent risk of homelessness (including those exiting an institutional setting without housing).

History of PATH

The federal Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1990 created the PATH program. Available in all states and territories, the PATH program supports the delivery of outreach and services to individuals aged 18 and older with serious mental illnesses and those with co-occurring substance use disorder who are experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness.

Since 1987, Minnesota has supported outreach services for persons with mental illness who are homeless. In 1991, PATH funds were used to expand outreach services within Minnesota by supporting several projects in the Twin Cities Metro area and in Greater Minnesota. Currently, there are seven Minnesota PATH project grantees across the state.

Grantees

PATH projects are supported by the federal PATH grant in combination with state funds. Grantees work to:

- Establish partnerships with the local housing and homeless organizations that have available supportive housing units, rental subsidies, or other affordable housing opportunities available
- Partner with the county local mental health authority, regional adult mental health initiative, or a Tribal Nation in order to link people to behavioral health care services and eligible resources
- Provide recovery-oriented, person-centered services, linking people to community behavioral health services
- Utilize Certified Peer Specialists and Peer Recovery Specialists to provide services
- Provide access to SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) services
- Offer case management services.

