

Forensic HARPS

The Trueblood v. DSHS lawsuit challenged unconstitutional delays in competency evaluation and restoration services for people detained in city and county jails. The Trueblood Contempt Settlement Agreement establishes a plan for providing services to persons involved in the criminal court system and for providing treatment to people when needed so they are less likely to become involved in the criminal court system. The Trueblood Contempt Settlement Agreement includes a plan for phasing in programs and services:

- **Phase 1** [2019-2021]: Pierce, Southwest, and Spokane regions including Pierce, Clark, Skamania, Klickitat, Spokane, Ferry, Stevens, Adams, Lincoln, and Pend Oreille counties.
- **Phase 2** [2021-2023]: King region/county
- **Phase 3** [2023-2025]: Thurston, Mason, and Salish regions including Thurston, Mason, Clallam, Kitsap, and Jefferson counties.

Homelessness is traumatic and cyclical and can be a significant barrier to receiving services, including services for behavioral health conditions.

Residential supports connect people with housing through peer support and subsidies for costs such as application fees, security deposits, and up to a few months of rent vouchers while they are helped with finding more permanent housing support.

Residential Supports/Forensic HARPS and the Trueblood Contempt Settlement Agreement

The Health Care Authority implemented Forensic Housing and Recovery through Peer Services teams in the Phase 1, 2, and 3 regions. The goal is to help participants overcome barriers and obtain and maintain housing.

The teams are staffed with people who have lived experience with behavioral health challenges. This approach helps Forensic HARPS teams engage with the people they serve.

To be eligible, a person must be identified as unstably housed and meet one of the following criteria:

1. Recommended to an outpatient competency restoration program, or
2. Meet FPATH eligibility of having two or more orders for competency evaluation (on two separate cases) within the past 24 months, or

3. Exiting a Crisis Stabilization Facility or has utilized a crisis housing voucher and meets all the following eligibility criteria:
 - Have had at least one prior contact with the forensic mental system in the past 24 months or were brought to a crisis triage or stabilization facility via arrest diversion under RCW 10.31.11 as determined by the crisis triage and stabilization provider.
 - Need assistance accessing independent living options and would benefit from short-term housing assistance beyond the 14-day vouchers.
 - Are diagnosed with an acute behavioral health disorder and found to need housing support beyond what is offered through the crisis triage and stabilization facilities or short-term voucher.
 - Are unstably housed.
 - Are not currently in the community outpatient competency restoration program.

For more information

- For more information, contact Sarah Taylor at sarah.taylor@hca.wa.gov | (360) 725-5948
- For more information about Trueblood, or to be added to the Listserv, email truebloodtaskforce@dshs.wa.gov

