

Trueblood Frequently Asked Questions

What is Trueblood v DSHS?

Trueblood v DSHS (Trueblood) is an active lawsuit that challenged unconstitutional delays in competency evaluation and restoration services. As a result of this case, the state has been ordered to provide court-ordered competency evaluations within 14 days and competency restoration services within seven days. Trueblood helps individuals who are detained in city and county jails awaiting a competency evaluation or restoration services, and individuals who have previously received competency evaluation and restoration services, who are released and at-risk for re-arrest or re-institutionalization.

What is the Trueblood Settlement Agreement?

The [settlement agreement](#) aims to resolve the contempt of court resulting from the Trueblood lawsuit by creating a plan delivering an array of services for class members and potential class members.

This agreement includes expanding residential mental health with crisis services; additional training for jail staff and law enforcement; hiring additional forensic evaluators and more mental health professionals to educate courts about the availability of supports that could meet the needs of individuals who have to wait in jail for evaluation and restoration services.

Additionally, the goal is to bring the state into compliance and reduce the number of people who become or remain class members and timely serve those who cannot be diverted from becoming class members and focus on effective outcomes and success of existing programs in Washington.

Where will the State start implementing the Trueblood Settlement?

The [settlement](#) has three phases. The first phase is scheduled for July 2019 through June 2021 and involves the Southwest, Spokane and Pierce regions. The second phase integrates King County region. After the first two phases are complete, there will be an opportunity to a) expand or modify the first two phases within the already participating regions, or b) if the first two phases are successful, look at integrating the agreement into new, high-referral regions or c) a mixture of both a and b.

Is funding guaranteed as a Phase 1 or Phase 2 region?

We follow the [Washington state budget process](#) in requesting funding for the Trueblood Settlement. Each phase will require involvement in the budget process in order to secure funding for these efforts.

For more information on Trueblood and the Settlement Agreement, please visit: www.dshs.wa.gov and search "Trueblood"

Why were those counties/regions selected for Phase 1 and 2?

When selecting regions for the first two phases, the negotiation team looked at how many of the services were already partially or completely underway in various regions. These three regions were selected because of the ability to have a large impact on class members. By implementing in stages, we can build a system that incorporates known successes in current programs in our state and new services in a way that breaks down silos, which become barriers to people in a behavioral health crisis from getting the right care, at the right time and in the right place.

Our county is not a part of the two phases. What does this mean for my county?

Like anything, there will be a learning phase with the implementation of this plan – if you are not in a region taking part in the first two phases, remember, there are still opportunities for all of us to learn what works and what doesn't from what's happening during the implementation of this plan and an opportunity to continue adding regions in the future.

Will successes and lessons learned from implementation of the Settlement Agreement be shared? Can regions not selected in phase 1 or 2 implement these successes on their own?

Absolutely. We will share successes regularly. All Regions can choose to implement diversion strategies that work. Currently, there are diversion strategies occurring throughout the state of Washington that are showing a positive impact.