

# Enhancing crisis triage and crisis stabilization

Crisis triage and crisis stabilization facilities offer a place for individuals recovering from a behavioral health crisis to receive stabilization support from a multi-disciplinary treatment team. These facilities can help divert individuals from inpatient hospitalization or incarceration. The treatment may include counseling, medication management and administration, peer support, and other resources.

Agencies operating these facilities are licensed and certified by the state.

## Crisis triage and stabilization and the Trueblood settlement

As part of the Trueblood settlement, the 2019-21 state operating budget included funding to enhance crisis triage and stabilization services, including:

- Adding 16 beds in the Spokane region to serve both rural and urban needs.
- Assessing capacity in King, Pierce, Southwest and Spokane regions, and reporting recommendations on increasing crisis capacity to the Trueblood general advisory committee by March 2020.
- Coordination and enrollment with community behavioral support agencies and Apple Health (Medicaid).
- Increasing rates for licensed community behavioral health agencies that operate crisis triage and stabilization facilities in the Southwest and Pierce regions to:
  - Increase the capacity to accept individuals brought in by police for a six to 12-hour hold for assessment.
  - Increase coordination with crisis responders and forensic navigators.
  - Provide short-term housing vouchers if needed by an individual.

The Health Care Authority is leading this part of the Trueblood settlement, in close collaboration with the Department of Social and Health Services and community stakeholders.

## About the Trueblood settlement of contempt

The Trueblood v. DSHS lawsuit challenged unconstitutional delays in competency evaluation and restoration services for individuals detained in city and county jails. The Trueblood 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 settlement agreement includes a plan for phasing in programs and services:

- Pierce, Southwest and Spokane regions (July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021)
- King region (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023)
- To be determined (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025)

[www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/trueblood-et-al-v-washington-state-dshs](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/trueblood-et-al-v-washington-state-dshs)