

Fact Sheet: Permanent Options for Recovery Centered Housing (PORCH)

Updated: October 16, 2016

<p>Overview</p>	<p>PORCH was originally funded by a five year Mental Health Transformation Grant from the Department of Health and Human Services - Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Because this expired September 30, 2015, DBHR is using Mental Health Block Grant Funds to maintain PORCH until supportive housing services are a Medicaid-reimbursable service under the 1115 Medicaid Demonstration Waiver (http://hca.wa.gov/assets/program/waiverfactsheet-i3.pdf).</p> <p>PORCH is an initiative to improve the living situation of people with serious mental illness served in the public mental health system. PORCH provides evidence-based, permanent supportive housing in one urban and two rural Washington counties based on the SAMHSA toolkit. Over 50 percent of the services are provided by peer specialists. Program services are leveraged with rental subsidies through federal, state and/or local funding sources to ensure housing is affordable.</p> <p>PORCH provides consumers with meaningful choice and control of housing and support services, reduces homelessness, and supports the recovery and resiliency of individuals with serious mental illnesses.</p>
<p>Eligibility Requirements</p>	<p>Services are prioritized for adults in transition with severe mental illnesses who are homeless, at risk for homelessness, inappropriately housed, or transitioning from institutional settings.</p>
<p>Authority</p>	<p>PORCH was originally funded by a five year Mental Health Transformation Grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and continued through federal mental health block grant funds.</p>
<p>Budget</p>	<p>Funding for six months of FFY 2016 is \$75,000.</p>
<p>Rates</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>Costs and Numbers Served</p>	<p>Over the life of the project the Chelan/Douglas Counties team has assisted 95 people in finding housing. Four individuals have been housed more than once, and two individuals have been assisted three times.</p> <p>The Pierce County site has assisted 74 individuals in finding housing in the community; 38 are currently open with PORCH and continue to receive housing retention services. Of the individuals currently housed, 15 are in their first unit, 20 are in their second unit and 3 are in their third unit. This is an indication of the Housing First principles adopted by the PORCH teams.</p>

Partners	Optum-Health Pierce Behavioral Health Organization, the North Central Behavioral Health Organization, and their respective local mental health and housing provider agencies. The Washington State Department of Commerce, Chelan/Douglas Community Action Council, has committed tenant-based rental assistance. There are public housing authorities in both counties as well as multiple coordination opportunities on an individual basis for each person served.
Oversight	<p>PORCH will follow the fidelity of the evidence-based Permanent Supportive Housing model based on the SAMHSA toolkit through cross-site fidelity reviews conducted yearly. The principles of evidence-based Permanent Supportive Housing are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenants have leases in their names with full tenancy rights, including control over living space. • Leases are consistent with those held by people who do not have a psychiatric disability. • Participation in services is voluntary and tenants cannot be evicted for rejecting services. • Housing is not time-limited, and the lease is renewable at the tenants' and owners' option. • Housing based on preferences/range of choices as available to others at the same income level. • Housing is affordable; tenants pay no more than 30 percent of income toward rent and utilities. • Housing is integrated; tenants interact with neighbors who do not have psychiatric disabilities. <p>The DSHS Research and Data Analysis Division (RDA) completed a comprehensive baseline evaluation for each of the first three years of direct services (May 2011-April 2014). All three reports are available at www.dshs.wa.gov\RDA. The final evaluation of PORCH can be found at https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sesa/rda/research-reports/impacts-permanent-supportive-housing-services.</p>
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