

Overview of Pathways to Health + Home

Pathways to Health + Home — the City of Sacramento’s Whole Person Care program — is a four-year pilot to improve the health, quality of life, and housing stability for the City’s most vulnerable individuals experiencing, or at-risk of experiencing, homelessness. Led by the City, the program brings together local hospitals, community clinics, health plans, homeless services and housing providers, first responders, and community-based organizations to create an integrated system of care. The program is the cornerstone of the City’s commitment to housing 2,000 homeless individuals by 2020.

What is Whole Person Care?

Whole Person Care is a state Medicaid program designed to increase coordination between housing, health, behavioral health, and social services in a patient-centered manner. Whole Person Care offers flexible funding to pay for infrastructure and services not typically covered by Medi-Cal. Sacramento leads one of 25 pilots throughout the state. While each pilot is uniquely designed to meet the needs of their communities, all are required to form partnerships that work together to identify target populations, assess health and housing needs, share data across systems, coordinate services in real-time, and report and evaluate outcomes.

Why this Matters

There is an urgent need to address Sacramento’s homeless crisis through a holistic and coordinated “no wrong door” approach that stabilizes and connects individuals to the right care in the most appropriate settings. Individuals experiencing homelessness are often the sickest and most vulnerable people in our communities. The lack of housing and stabilizing social supports is a root cause of poor health and mental health. At the same time, untreated health, mental health, and substance abuse issues make it extremely difficult for homeless individuals to access and maintain housing. Although housing and health outcomes are interconnected, services are too often disconnected and only provided in times of crisis.

Who We Serve

Pathways to Health + Home targets Sacramento’s most vulnerable individuals experiencing or at-risk of homelessness, who are enrolled in or eligible for Medi-Cal. The program will support individuals who not only have the highest service needs, but also the highest utilization and costs associated with ambulance rides, fire and police department encounters, health emergencies, and hospitalizations.

Early Engagement Approach

The program will begin providing services in November with the goal of enrolling 250 individuals by the end of 2017. During this “Early Engagement” period, the program will build key infrastructure and provide services in four main areas: 1) Assertive Outreach & Referrals, 2) Enrollment and Eligibility, 3) Comprehensive Care Planning, and 4) Connection to Integrated Health and Housing Supports. Key community-based providers — including Sacramento Covered, Sacramento Steps Forward, and Sacramento Self Help Housing — will work together to provide these services, testing new models of care and developing best practices to inform the full launch of the program in early 2018.

For More Info

For questions or to sign up for our newsletter, email pathways@transformhc.org or call (916) 623-5697.