

Overview – Free Through Recovery (FTR)

54-23.3-10. Community behavioral health program - Reports to legislative management and governor.

1. The department of corrections and rehabilitation shall establish and implement a community behavioral health program to provide comprehensive community-based services for individuals who have serious behavioral health conditions, as a term and condition of parole under chapter 12-59, and as a sentencing alternative under section 12.1-32-02.
2. In developing the program under this section, the department of corrections and rehabilitation shall collaborate with the department of human services to:
 - a. Establish a referral and evaluation process for access to the program.
 - b. Establish eligibility criteria that includes consideration of recidivism risk and behavioral health condition severity.
 - c. Establish discharge criteria and processes, with a goal of establishing a seamless transition to postprogram services to decrease recidivism.
 - d. Develop program oversight, auditing, and evaluation processes that must include:
 - (1) Oversight of case management services through the department of human services;
 - (2) Outcome and provider reporting metrics; and
 - (3) Annual reports to the legislative management and the governor on the status of the program.
 - e. Establish a system through which:
 - (1) The department of human services:
 - (a) Contracts with and pays behavioral health service providers; and
 - (b) Supervises, supports, and monitors referral caseloads and the provision of services by contract behavioral health service providers.
 - (2) Contract behavioral health service providers accept all eligible referrals, provide individualized care delivered through integrated multidisciplinary care teams, and continue services on an ongoing basis until discharge criteria are met.
 - (3) Contract behavioral health service providers receive payments on a pay-for-performance model that includes consideration of identified outcomes and the level of services required.
 - (4) Contract behavioral health service providers bill third-parties for services and direct payment to the general fund.
3. The department of human services may adopt rules as necessary to implement this program.

DOCR	DHS
1 FTE – Clinical Coordinator for FTR	1 FTE – FTR Lead Administrator
.5 Temp – Administrative Assistant	5 FTE – Regional Administrators
DOCS/TARS (IT system for documentation & outcome tracking) – funds updates specific to FTR	1 Temp – FTR Administrative Assistant
Contracts with providers for documentation & outcome tracking) – funds updates specific to FTR	Contracts with providers for service delivery – payment to providers issued from DHS

Biennium Budget for FTR - \$7,000,000

19-21 Budget with 17-19 Carryover – \$9,138,533

19-21 Expended DOCR through 2/23/21 - \$10,765,699.93 (Percent Remaining -17.81%)

- DHS has not submitted bills to DOCR for
 - salaries from Jan to current (6 DHS FTE)
 - provider payments Dec to current (~\$450,000/month)

2021-2023 Executive Budget Request for FTR - \$7,000,000 + \$1,000,000

- DOCR OAR request was for \$13,800,000 (cost to continue serving 1500 participants)

DHS FUNDS ADDRESSING 2019-2021 GAP:

- CARES FUNDING – Approved by Emergency Commission/Budget Section October 2020.
 - \$1,700,000 for Community Behavioral Health Program (November 20 – June 2021)
- Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG): provides reimbursement for individuals with a Serious Mental Illness (SMI) to participate in FTR.
- HB 1025 – DHS Amendment requesting authority to utilize DHS funds to pay for FTR program costs.

HB 1395 – DHS requested an additional \$1,700,000 unexpended CARES funds for July – December 2021.

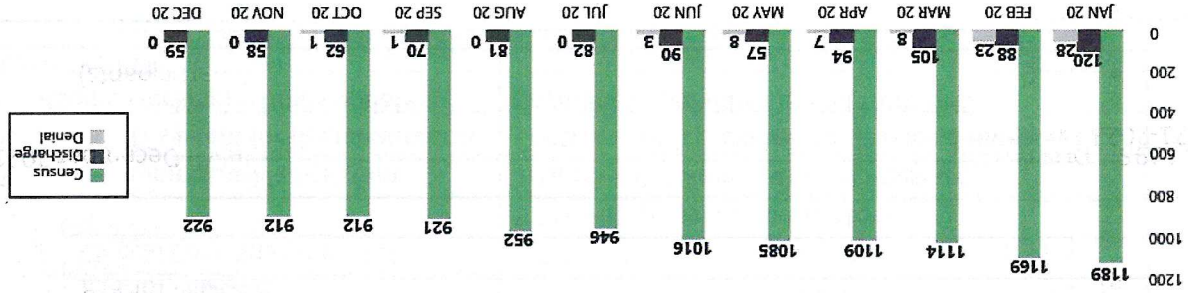
FREE THROUGH RECOVERY PROVIDERS

There are currently 35 Free Through Recovery Providers located throughout the state with the capacity to serve 1,800 participants.

IMPLEMENTATION

Free Through Recovery launched on February 1, 2018. Since then, over 2,905 individuals have participated in the program, with 922 individuals being served (as of December 2020).

Monthly Census (active participants), Discharges and Denials



There has been a total of 2,174 discharges from Free Through Recovery. The majority of individuals declined or stopped participating (39%), followed by those who had no contact with their care coordinator or absconded (23%), 247 individuals were identified as not eligible.

Of the 2,905 total participants:

- 45% of participants have a co-occurring (mental health and substance use) behavioral health need.
- 63% of participants are male.
- Half of the participants (56%) are between the ages of 31-50 and a third (34%) of the individuals are between the ages of 18-30.
- The majority (64%) of participants are white. 27% of participants are Native American.
- 72% of participants have a moderate-high or high risk of committing new crimes (LSI-R score of 30 or above).
- The majority of referrals to the program come from the Bismarck area (29%), followed by Fargo (27%).

OUTCOMES

Free Through Recovery Providers are reimbursed with a pay for performance model. In addition to monthly base pay, providers can receive performance pay if participants meet at least 3 of 4 outcome metrics (Housing, Employment, Recovery, and Involvement with Law Enforcement). Overall, from March 2018 through December 2020, providers earned performance pay for 68% of their participants.

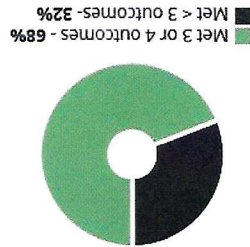
TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE THROUGH RECOVERY, INDIVIDUALS MUST:

- ⊕ 18 years of age or older
- ⊕ Involved with the criminal justice system and at risk for future criminal justice involvement
- ⊕ Have a behavioral health condition such as; bipolar disorder, major depression, obsessive compulsive disorder, borderline personality disorder, panic disorder, moderate and severe substance use disorder(s)
- ⊕ Display concerns/challenges in areas of daily living (housing, employment, etc.)

SERVICES PROVIDED THROUGH FREE THROUGH RECOVERY

- Care Coordination**
A Care Coordinator assists with support in working towards long and short-term goals.
- Recovery Services**
Recovery looks different for everyone, a provider can assist with access to individualized resources needed to help lead a healthy and fulfilling life.
- Peer Support**
A supportive relationship with a peer who has similar lived experience and who serves as an advocate and mentor, offering sound advice and resources.

March 2018 - December 2020 Outcomes



Positive outcomes were achieved by:

- ⊕ 71% of the participants in the law enforcement domain
- ⊕ 76% of the participants in the housing domain
- ⊕ 66% of the participants in the employment domain
- ⊕ 70% of the participants in the recovery domain

REFERRALS

Individuals can be referred to the program by a parole and probation officer, or if the person is transitioning from prison, through an internal assessment process at the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Behavioral Health Needs

