



150 YEARS
OF ADVANCING
PUBLIC
HEALTH

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

LOW-THRESHOLD HOUSING & SERVICES

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MDPH Procurements

MDPH's Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) facilitated **3 separate procurements** with goals including:

- **Reducing homelessness,**
- **improving health outcomes, and**
- **advancing health equity for residents who:**
 - are experiencing homelessness,
 - have substance use disorder(s) and/or co-occurring mental health conditions,
 - may be at high risk for or living with HIV, and
 - do not qualify for or drop-off other pathways to supportive housing.



Units/Data

BSAS contracts include:

- LTHS: 14
 - 534-unit capacity for FY24 state-wide + two bids in review
 - Procurement is open and rolling
- Temporary LTHS: 6
 - 156 bed capacity for FY23 statewide
 - Contracting in process
- Recovery Housing & Services
 - 70 new units created in Boston, occupancy in FY25/26
- **771 units contracted (temp & perm)**
- **Over 400 placements** to date
- On track to house **over 500 people by the end of FY24**



Low-Threshold Housing Providers

- **Boston/Suffolk County**

- Commonwealth Land Trust
- Victory Programs
- Justice Resource Institute
- Pine Street Inn (temp)

- **Northeast**

- Commonwealth Land Trust
- Eliot Community Health Services

- **Metrowest / Southeast**

- Father Bill's & MainSpring
- Health Imperatives
- Square Medical (temp)

- **Central MA**

- South Middlesex Opportunity Council (x4) (perm and temp)
- Open Sky (temp)
- Living In Freedom Together (LIFT)(temp)

- **Western MA**

- River Valley Counseling Center
- Center for Human Development (x2) (perm and temp)
- Clinical Support Options
- Amherst Community Connections

Data

BSAS is collecting the following data:

- **Outreach and engagement data** from outreach efforts to target population (quarterly)
- Outreach and engagement data from outreach efforts to those **experiencing sexual exploitation** (quarterly)
- **Assessment and enrollment data** in the BSAS ESM system (monthly)



What's Working

Feedback received during monthly provider calls and site visits:

- flexible funding is utilized as vendor/program requires
 - staffing levels
 - staff compensation
 - clinical staff as member of support team
- flexible funding allows vendors to lease or otherwise hold units
 - Continued rent payments to maintain unit between client placements
 - Continued rent payments to maintain housing during medical/mental health/SUD treatment, short-term carceral involvement, etc.
 - Purchase of furniture, clothing, housing items, transportation, cell phones, etc.
- ability to house outside of HUD-defined Coordinated Entry system
- temporary Housing requires pathway to permanent placement and supports
- vulnerability index developed by contract requirements and local need of population





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Thank you!

Access the Low-Threshold Housing & Services procurement here:

<https://www.commbuys.com/bs0/external/bidDetail.sdo?docId=BD-22-1031-ADMIN-ADM07-66770&external=true&parentUrl=close>