

MEMORANDUM

TO: Snohomish County Council

FROM: Kara Main-Hester, Chief Recovery & Resilience Officer

DATE: May 19, 2023

RE: 2023 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Behavioral Health Facilities Awardees

Background

In the 2023 adopted budget, \$8 million in ARPA funding was appropriated for behavioral health and substance use treatment efforts, with a focus on increasing available services through the expansion or development of capital projects. The vast majority of this funding will be distributed through the [Behavioral Health Facilities Notice of Funding Availability](#) (NOFA), which is a competitive process that solicited projects from organizations that can expand behavioral health capacity.

Increasing behavioral health services countywide was identified as a [top community pandemic recovery priority](#) during the Office of Recovery & Resilience's (ORR) ARPA outreach. Nearly all measures of mental health have been impacted negatively since the pandemic. A recent [Kaiser Family Foundation study](#) found that rates of anxiety, suicide and substance use have increased nationally with a particularly outsized impact on youth. Additionally, the recently-released 2023 [Point in Time \(PIT\) Count](#) found 1,285 total people experiencing homelessness in Snohomish County. Within that population, nearly 45 percent of unhoused adults have a serious mental illness, and 43 percent identify as having a substance use disorder.

Total recommended ARPA funding is \$7,750,000 to support awarded organizations through the Behavioral Health Facilities NOFA, and an additional \$250,000 to support Pioneer Human Services North Sound Behavioral Health facility at the Denney Juvenile Justice Center.

This memo is meant to satisfy the ARPA Spending Plan required by the 2023 Adopted Budget Note No. 8.

Eligibility & Scoring

Eligible applicants for the Behavioral Health Facilities NOFA must have and maintain licensure and certification for the proposed facility and behavioral health services provided at the facility through all applicable licensing bodies. Applicants must also have previous experience in delivering the proposed service or similar service. The County was seeking projects that align with the following priorities:

- Focus on capital expenditures, like facilities;

- Meet communities where they are and ensure widespread geographic coverage; and
- Offer culturally responsive services to communities of color and residents who speak a language other than English.

A full list of eligibility criteria is available [in the NOFA](#).

Snohomish County received 14 projects for the Behavioral Health Facilities NOFA, and three projects were determined ineligible on technical grounds and were not scored. The Office of Housing & Community Development (OCHD) in the Human Services Department provided the initial technical review, and then the Office of Recovery & Resilience conducted scoring alongside representatives from Human Services and the Executive’s Office.

Awardees

Based on the scoring committee’s results the following projects will be awarded.

Evergreen Recovery Centers – New Evergreen Manor Family Center

- \$2,920,000
- The Evergreen Manor Family Center is a 27,500 square foot facility that will provide long-term housing and behavioral health treatment for opioid-dependent pregnant and parenting women and their children. The live-in facility will include short-term housing during treatment and a co-located a child care center.

Volunteers of America Western Washington – Lynnwood Neighborhood Center

- \$1,594,320
- As part of the larger Lynnwood Neighborhood Center project, 3,000 square feet of space will be dedicated to behavioral health services providing 40 individual appointments per day. Services offered include individual and group services for mental health counseling, family support, behavioral health integration (with on-site ECEAP classrooms as well as on-site medical services) and community-based intensive services for children, youth, and adults.

Edmonds School District – Behavioral Health Services Expansion

- \$1,810,225
- Edmonds School District will fund a school-based health center at Meadowdale High School that will provide behavioral health services for public school students. This project will remove barriers for students and families trying to access health care and behavioral health programs and will allow student’s the ability to self-advocate for care. Access to care will be provided to student in person during the school year and available for telehealth appointments during school breaks and non-school days.

Housing Hope – New Tomorrow’s Child Development Center

- \$1,460,000
- Housing Hope will construct a designated behavioral health space within the Tomorrow’s Hope Child Development Center. This facility will provide Theraplay, Parent Child Interaction Therapy, Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, and other research-based interventions for children ages 3 – 12 who have experienced homelessness, poverty, or other adverse childhood experiences.

Additionally, the County will grant \$250,000 to Pioneer Human Services for the North Sound Behavioral Health inpatient treatment facility located at the Denney Juvenile Justice Center. The pandemic has resulted in increased operational costs, primarily due to significant salary increases necessary to obtain and retain qualified personnel. Anticipated Medicaid rate increases in 2024 are expected to provide sufficient funding moving forward.

Timeline

Agreements with awardees are planned to be finalized and implemented by Quarter Three of 2023.