



## PATH Homeless Outreach Program

### Eligibility Criteria:

- Some form of significant mental illness or substance use disorder (not necessarily identified by the client as such). Those who are potential candidates for DMH services are especially high priority for our services (serious mental illness, high utilizers of emergency services, those with a history of psychiatric hospitalizations). Chronic homelessness (12+ months) - we are not averse to engaging people with less homelessness, but there is very little we can do for folks with less than 6 months homeless. Our priority is long-term, unsheltered homeless individuals.
- The person is not already receiving adequate services from another homeless services/housing navigation program. If the person has some engagement with another program but is in need of additional support, we can consider on a case-by-case basis. Our goal is to avoid duplication of services and reserve our capacity for those most in need of our intensive outreach model.

### What we do:

- Housing assessment and application for City, State and federal housing opportunities (CoC, CHAMP, Housing Authorities, etc.).
- Referral for appropriate level of mental health services: outpatient therapy/psychiatry, DMH service application, etc. **Note:** We are not a crisis response team but can be available to support connection to BEST and to follow-up in the hospital or community to stabilize following a clinically significant event or hospitalization.
- Acquisition of Mass ID, Social Security cards, birth certificates and other documentation necessary to housing readiness. **Note:** We are not experts in immigration and do not have access to legal counsel; we are equipped to help people of various immigration statuses pursue appropriate housing pathways, and to help them obtain documentation related to their legal status in the US (Green Cards, SS cards, etc.) but we are not attorneys and should not be referred clients solely for the purpose of immigration support. This should be secondary to housing and mental health needs. Other agencies are much better positioned to support clients with these matters.
- Court/legal support: We are available to assist engaged and eligible clients in resolving criminal court matters, especially as related to cases that might otherwise impede a housing pathway.

### Who We Do Not Serve:

- People who are not yet homeless but rather 'at risk of homelessness.' We are happy to consult on these cases, or send to our triage department for internal Eliot referral, but contractually cannot serve them directly.
- People who are very recently homeless - again, happy to consult.
- People who are very consistently couch-surfing and finding consistent indoor accommodations.
- People experiencing homelessness with genuinely no mental health or SUD challenges (very rare).