

Crisis Stabilization Facilities Progress Report



Behavioral Health Facilities Program report to the Legislature pursuant to the 2022 Supplemental Capital Budget, Laws of 2022, Chapter 296 (SB 5561, Section 1025(5))

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
FACILITIES**

March 1, 2023

Report to the Legislature

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Executive summary

Authorizing legislation

The Legislature directed the Department of Commerce (Commerce) to submit a progress report summarizing grants made by the Behavioral Health Facilities Program for crisis stabilization facilities. The report, due March 2023, is required by [Chapter 296, Laws of 2022 \(SB 5651, section 1025\)](#) and must include:

- (a) [The total number of applications and amount of funding requested](#)
- (b) [A list and description of the projects approved for funding including state funding, total project cost, services anticipated to be provided, bed capacity, and anticipated completion date](#)

Highlights

- Commerce has awarded five crisis stabilization facility grants totaling \$20.5 million.
- The awards to date will create 16 new beds and four outpatient treatment centers in Benton, King, Skagit and Whatcom counties.
- The Behavioral Health Facilities Program is planning another funding round in early spring of 2023 for the remaining funds.
- Number of applications received: 13
- Total funding requested: \$53,604,677

Key findings

- Commerce received few viable applications for funding, leading to extended time to award and grant funds. Eligible facilities are facing staff shortages, which may limit provider interest in applying to expand services or operate new facilities. The steps the Legislature took in 2022 to raise reimbursement rates for providers, expand workforce training programs, and provide operating funding to facilities will alleviate the pressure on providers seeking to expand existing or open new facilities. Commerce is monitoring progress of this situation and acknowledge that improving the behavioral health workforce will aid fund distribution by increasing provider service capacity.
- Commerce, in concert with state partners and providers, identified that the ongoing inflationary environment compounded the ability of providers to construct new facilities within the current grant framework. We are exploring an increase to the maximum dollar amounts for Behavioral Health Facilities grants to address this concern and ensure facilities have the resources they need to complete construction and open on schedule.
- The crisis stabilization funds are a helpful complement to the work the Health Care Authority is doing to support new crisis services in Washington, such as [Mobile Crisis Response Program](#) and the [988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#).

Introduction

Commerce’s Behavioral Health Facilities (BHF) Program funds community-based behavioral health facilities in all parts of the state. The number of grants awarded has increased in recent biennia as the state works to close the gap between the number of adults and children needing treatment for mental health and substance use disorders and the availability of appropriate treatment options. Governor Jay Inslee’s behavioral health plan calls for more community-based treatment options as the state works to transition civilly committed individuals out of Western and Eastern State Hospitals.

Since the start of the program in the 2013-15 biennium, the BHF Program has made 220 awards to projects across a variety of facility types statewide. Grouping these facility types into five categories, the BHF program has funded:

- 959 crisis behavioral health treatment beds
- 885 long-term behavioral health treatment beds
- 629 substance use disorder treatment beds
- 523 beds in other behavioral health categories
- 48 outpatient treatment facilities

This report provides details about the progress of creating new behavioral health facilities, highlighting those funded by the 2022 State Supplemental Budget for crisis stabilization facilities. Specifically, the Legislature requested:

- (a) The total number of applications and amount of funding requested
- (b) A list and description of the projects approved for funding including state funding, total project cost, services anticipated to be provided, bed capacity, and anticipated completion date

Key findings

- Commerce has received few viable applications for funding, leading to extended time to award and grant funds. Eligible facilities are facing staff shortages that may be limiting provider interest in applying to expand services or operate new facilities. This might improve in 2023 and beyond with the steps the Legislature took in 2022 to raise reimbursement rates for providers, expand workforce training programs, and provide operating funding to facilities. Monitoring progress made and maintaining momentum for improving the behavioral health workforce will aid fund distribution and increase provider service capacity.
- Commerce, in concert with our state partners and providers, identified that the ongoing inflationary environment compounded the ability of providers to construct new facilities within the current grant framework. We are exploring an increase to the maximum dollar amounts for Behavioral Health Facilities grants to address this concern and ensure facilities have the resources they need to complete construction and open on schedule.
- The crisis stabilization funds are a helpful complement to the work the Health Care Authority is doing to support new crisis services in Washington, such as [Mobile Crisis Response Program](#) and the [988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#).

Funding report

Behavioral Health Facilities grant applications and funding requests

- Number of applications received: 13
- Total funding requested: \$53,604,677

Funded projects

Table 1: 2021-2023 Behavioral Health Facilities Crisis Stabilization grant awards

Grantee Name	Project Name	Service availability	Beds	Planned Facility Opening Date	Commerce Grant Amount	Total Project Cost	County
Benton County	Three Rivers Behavioral Health Recovery Center	Outpatient Treatment, 20 Recliners	N/A	04/01/25	\$2,170,739	\$2,170,739	Benton
ConnectionsWA	North King County Crisis Receiving Center	Outpatient Treatment 20 Recliners	N/A	10/01/23	\$5,820,000	\$5,820,000	King
Skagit County	Skagit County Crisis Stabilization Center	Crisis Stabilization 16 Beds	16	10/01/24	\$5,800,000	\$6,830,288	Skagit
SOUND	Adult Crisis Triage Facility	Outpatient Treatment 12 Recliners	N/A	09/15/23	\$5,800,000	\$5,800,000	King
TouchStone Behavioral Health	Youth Crisis Triage, Stabilization and Intensive Outpatient Treatment	Outpatient Treatment 3 Recliners	N/A	08/01/23	\$900,000	\$1,015,000	Whatcom
Totals			16 beds		\$20,490,739	\$21,636,027	

Project summaries:

Benton County: Three Rivers Behavioral Health Recovery Center

This project will provide services for up to 52 people in crisis. Grant funds will contribute to building a 23-hour observation unit with 20 recliners.¹ This unit will be attached to a 16-bed crisis stabilization unit and a 16-bed secure withdrawal management unit project, where appropriate referrals can be made.

Connections WA: North King County Crisis Receiving Center

This project aims to serve up to 13,650 individuals yearly and connect to community supports; 70% or 9,555 individuals yearly will be stabilized within 24 hours. The project creates walk-in access to 20 new 23-hour recliners and psychiatric care. This unit will be attached to two complementary units with 16 new 23-hour crisis stabilization beds, and 16 new 120-hour evaluation and treatment beds.

Skagit County: Skagit County Crisis Stabilization Center

The Skagit County Crisis Stabilization Center will create 48 new beds among three separate units: 16 beds in the mental health stabilization services unit, 16 beds in an acute/medical withdrawal management/detoxification services unit, and 16 beds in a residential substance use/co-occurring treatment program unit.

SOUND: Adult Crisis Triage Facility (King County)

This project funds the development of a crisis stabilization facility with 12 recliners. Sound's facility will be a non-residential facility allowing those in crisis to be seen for up to 23 hours and 59 minutes. Individuals in crisis needing crisis intervention services beyond 23 hours will be connected to appropriate long-term crisis and diversion facilities. Sound's facility will serve all adults including those with intellectual and developmental disabilities regardless of their ability to pay for services.

TouchStone Behavioral Health: Youth Crisis Triage, Stabilization and Intensive Outpatient Treatment (Whatcom County)

This project will acquire an existing facility to create dedicated space for three crisis stabilization recliners, Intensive Outpatient Substance Abuse Group Therapy, and Crisis Triage and Stabilization. TouchStone anticipates this project will result in doubling its average number of annual therapeutic visits with 12,840 visits per year.

¹ "... observation units (OU) provide a setting where patients can be evaluated and given short term treatments while ... staff determines if an inpatient admission is required or if ambulatory care is sufficient." Washington Office of Financial Management, [Observation Unit stays in Washington State](#)