



Health Care for the Homeless Programs

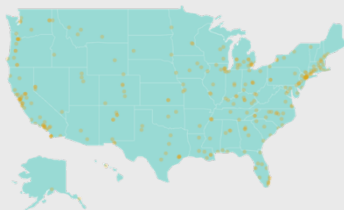
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WHO WE ARE: The Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) program has been part of the community health center program for 30 years, authorized under Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act. Funded and regulated by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), HCH programs are a “special populations” category of health centers that are required to serve people experiencing homelessness.

These programs meet the same regulatory requirements of other health centers, but with the additional statutory requirement to provide substance abuse services. Important funding sources for HCH services include the HRSA Health Center program, HRSA Ryan White funding, HRSA National Health Service Corps, SAMHSA Projects to Assist in Transition from Homelessness (PATH), Medicaid/Medicare, and philanthropy and private fundraising.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE: Some HCH programs are stand-alone centers, with all services focused on people experiencing homelessness, while other programs are part of larger health centers, hospital systems, or local public health departments. Service settings include health clinics, mobile vans, shelter-based care, street outreach, and drop-in centers.

300 HCH grantees across the U.S. provide health care in ~ 4,000 service sites



Nearly 1 million patients served through 5 million clinic visits



83% live at/below the poverty line



55% insured through Medicaid
28% uninsured

SERVICES WE PROVIDE: A multi-disciplinary workforce consisting of clinical providers and support staff (physicians, nurses, dentists, psychiatrists, social workers, case managers, community health workers/peer specialists, etc.) provide the following services:

- Primary care
- Mental health treatment
- Substance use treatment
- Dental care
- Translation services
- Preventive care
- Connections to specialty care
- Outreach/transportation
- Enrollment/benefits assistance
- Supportive housing services
- Health education
- Case management

OUR MODEL OF CARE: Because poor health causes homelessness, HCH programs actively remove barriers to health care by using an integrated, trauma-informed, harm reduction approach focused on patient-centered goals. Ultimately, HCH programs endeavor to provide the highest quality, culturally competent outpatient care possible. HCH programs are also heavily invested in supportive housing programs and medical respite care programs to facilitate recovery and stability for individuals experiencing homelessness.

