

## Project description

### 1. Target population/Outreach:

The target population for this Initiative is chronically homeless individuals who have frequently utilized the Hudson County jail and Hudson County homeless system. Both CSPNJ and GSECDC currently partner through the County FUSE project to identify and house chronically homeless individuals with high vulnerability, as measured by the Coordinated Assessment Matrix and data provided by the Hudson County Department of Corrections and area hospitals. The process for the DCA voucher program will be similar, however will utilize data and input from the Department of Corrections up front, rather than at the back end.

CSPNJ and GSECDC will work closely with the County's Division of Housing and Community Development and Department of Corrections to identify eligible participants for this program. The process will begin with the administrative data match. As previously indicated, a preliminary match has been completed which has identified approximately 2,000 individuals that have been incarcerated and experienced homelessness in the last five years. The County is working with the Corporation for Supportive Housing and John Jay College of Criminal Justice to refine this match and analyze the data. Ultimately, together the group will define what a frequent utilizer is in Hudson County (i.e. a person who has been incarcerated 4 times in 5 years).

Once the list has been narrowed to those that are considered frequent utilizers of the jail and who have experienced homelessness, the Department of Corrections will do a further analysis using each individual's assessment from the COMPAS Risk Assessment tool. All individuals who have been incarcerated are assessed using this tool, which takes a comprehensive look at the individual's unique situation, needs and motivation behind the criminal behavior that resulted in incarceration. The tool results in an assessment score of high, medium or low for their risk for recidivism. Those scoring low on the COMPAS assessment will be removed from the list, with the medium and high scoring cohort moving on.

Finally, a list of the remaining frequent utilizers, those who have experienced homelessness and scored high or medium for their risk of recidivism, will be passed on to the GSECDC and CSPNJ for outreach and engagement for the DCA voucher program. All of the assessment prior to this point was done with existing data sets, and no outreach or engagement would have been necessary with the client. CSPNJ and GSECDC will review the list, using HMIS and the Coordinated Assessment Matrix Tool, determine Chronic Homeless Status, and work to house individuals who are most vulnerable and have the greatest number of incarcerations first. (See Attachment 5 Coordinated Assessment Matrix Tool)

It is anticipated that many of the potential clients will already be in the Hudson CASA Coordinated Entry Program (HCCEP). For purposes of this program, individuals scoring below 25 will be prioritized. Once it is determined which individuals will be eligible for the program CSPNJ and GSECDC will begin the process of locating, and engaging the clients. Outreach and engagement are integral components of the GSECDC HCCEP Program.

GSECDC and CSPNJ are uniquely qualified to outreach and engage potential clients as a result of their existing programs. GSECDC operates a year round street outreach program that has engaged over 500 unduplicated individuals since its inception just over a year ago. As discussed earlier GSECDC runs the HCCEP that features a drop-in center for homeless clients. GSECDC also recently acquired the PERC

shelter that provides low barrier emergency shelter services and day time drop in program to over 100 on a daily/nightly basis. Additionally, CSP operates the Hudson County Self Help Center that hosts approximately 100 individuals on a daily basis. In addition, both agencies will work with all partners in the community to locate and engage those that are identified for the program, including, the remaining two homeless shelters and the county's winter emergency warming center. HMIS can be utilized to determine if clients are currently in existing shelters.

The Department of Corrections will play an important role in engagement as well as they will be able to identify individuals on the list who are currently incarcerated, or those that may have recently been released. CSPNJ and GSECDC will work with Reintegration Program staff to determine an appropriate plan for discharge and housing.

CSPNJ will also utilize Peer Bridgers for outreach and engagement in partnership with GSECDC. Peer Bridger's utilize their unique skills and life experiences to outreach to and engage individuals in services and to teach and model the principles and practices of recovery and self-help and provide quality psychiatric rehabilitation interventions to individuals. Peer Specialists can provide CSS Medicaid billable services.

## 2. Supportive services:

Participants for this initiative will receive a full array of supportive housing and case management services as well as critical healthcare, behavioral health care, and mainstream community based services. All potential participants in this Initiative will be assessed through the Hudson County Coordinated Assessment Process using the Hudson County Coordinated Assessment Matrix. The matrix measures are used when developing individual service plans for goals and interventions. Under Medicaid CSS services individuals will receive a Comprehensive Rehabilitation Needs Assessment (CRNA) which must be completed by a licensed mental health professional. This assessment then serves as the guide for the individual's goals and interventions for services. Case management services and linkages to community resources will be supported based on each individual's initial assessment as well as with updated assessments, goals and service planning every six months thereafter.

Supportive housing services staffing will be fully credentialed to meet Medicaid Community Services (CSS) Division of Mental Health and Human Services Billing requirements. Both CSPNJ and GSECDC are NJ Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) contract agencies. Both organizations are preparing to implement Medicaid CSS billable services within the current State Fiscal Year. We anticipate being licensed as CSS Medicaid providers by July 2017 as DMHAS phases in the CMS approved Medicaid Plan Amendment for Community Support Services statewide. With the implementation of Medicaid billing within the State Fiscal Year we anticipate providing sustainable funding for supportive services for the future. The following supportive housing (CSS) services will be provided: Comprehensive Rehabilitation Needs Assessment (CRNA); Services Contributing to the Development, Implementation and Monitoring and Updating of Rehabilitation Plan; Therapeutic Rehabilitative Skill development; Crisis Intervention; and Coordinating and Managing Services.

CSPNJ and GSECDC also partner with a full range of Hudson County community based service organizations. As indicated in the support and leveraging letters in Attachment 9 these services include the following:

- The Hudson County Department of Corrections provides Medicaid enrollment, enrollment into cash and food stamp assistance, Supportive Case Management, and Intensive Outpatient Programs for substance use treatment.
- Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services provides Psychiatric Crisis Services, Individual Therapy and Medication Management.
- The Metropolitan Family Health Network (FQHC) provides general Primary Medical Care, Gynecological Care, Diagnostic Laboratory Services, Screening Services, Immunizations, Preventive Dental Care, Pharmaceutical Services, Substance Abuse Counseling, Medicaid eligibility assistance and Transportation services.
- Khaleidoscope Health Care, Inc. will provide Mental Health Assessment, intake, Toxicology, Breathalyzer, Physical Exam, Individual and Group Counseling services.
- Jersey City Medical Center's Medical and Social Services for the Homeless (MASSH) and PATH Programs will provide Intake and Assessment for adults with serious mental illness who are eligible for the PATH program, Psychiatric Evaluation to confirm serious mental illness and medication options, Case Management services, Medication Monitoring for consumers linked to community mental health services.
- Jersey City Medical Center – Center for Comprehensive Care (CCC) Program provides Counseling and rapid testing for HIV infection, New positive and out of care patient navigation, linkage to care and partner testing, Primary and Specialty Medical Care services to children, youth and adults living with HIV, Medical Case Management, Dental Screening and Treatment, Psychiatric evaluations and treatment, In-Home Primary Care, Outreach Services, and GYN services.
- Let's Celebrate will provide daily breakfast & lunch, and monthly bagged groceries.
- Community Health Law Project will provide legal and advocacy services.
- GSEDC will provide the Hudson CASA Coordinated Entry Program (HCCEP), including street outreach, warming center, engagement, and assistance with obtaining documentation for housing applications.
- P.E.R.C. Shelter will provide daily dinner at P.E.R.C.'s soup kitchen, monthly food pantry assistance, clothing and toiletries.
- CSPNJ will provide services and activities available at the Hudson County Community Wellness Center and Financial Services.

CSPNJ and GSEDC staff will also link and support consumers to access educational resources, including literacy programs, GED and College classes in accordance with their life goals and employment aspirations. Once their educational goals and needs have been addressed they will be assisted to access vocational training, employment training and job opportunities with job coaching to help them reduce poverty and increase their income..

All tenants will be encouraged to participate in the CSPNJ Financial Services or other local programs that include an individual financial assessment, identification of financial goals, credit counseling and assistance with banking services. CSPNJ also provides a payee service for those individuals who choose to participate in order to help them meet their rent responsibilities and/or start a savings plan. A modest matching loan program is also available for those individuals who have specific asset and/or educational goals. We believe that financial services are critical to assisting individuals to stabilize their housing, increase their income, repair credit and become more financially independent.