

North Sound Behavioral Health – Administrative Service Organization Proviso 13(b) pilot

BH-ASO reserve funding levels

Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5950; Section 215(13)(b); Chapter 376; Laws of 2024

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North Sound BH-ASO Proviso 13(b) pilot

Acknowledgements

This report was created with the North Sound Behavioral Health – Administrative Service Organization.



Financial Services Division – Behavioral Health Unit
Division of Behavioral Health & Recovery
P.O. Box 42704
Olympia, WA 98501
Phone: 360-725-9421
hca.wa.gov



North Sound BH-ASO
2021 E. College Way, Suite 101,
Mt. Vernon, WA 98273
Phone: (360) 416-7013
Fax: (360) 899-4754
nsbhaso.org

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Executive summary

The Health Care Authority (HCA), in partnership with the North Sound Behavioral Health – Administrative Service Organization (BH-ASO), is submitting this report as directed by the Legislature in Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 5950; Section 215(13)(b).

In contracts effective during fiscal year 2025, the authority must allow the north sound behavioral health administrative services organization to pilot reserve funding flexibility by allowing the north sound behavioral health administrative services organization to utilize, for other purposes, 30 percent of funding received prior to that contract period currently in reserves and that was received pursuant to a specific legislative proviso. Funding repurposed under this subsection must be used to support the duties of the administrative services organization under RCW 71.24.045 through programs serving individuals with severe and persistent behavioral health conditions and behavioral health services that promote stability and recovery within their regional service area. Expenditures pursuant to this pilot program may include, but are not limited to, crisis wraparound services, jail transition and diversion services, court costs, and co-responder programs. The authority, in partnership with the north sound behavioral health administrative services organization, must provide a report to the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 31, 2024, describing the impacts of this pilot program to the regional crisis continuum of care. The report must also include information on which specific legislative provisos north sound behavioral health administrative services organization repurposed funding from under this subsection and for what purpose those funds were used.

North Sound BH-ASO was chosen for a pilot program that provides more flexibility in spending excess proviso funds. The proviso allowed North Sound BH-ASO to utilize 30 percent of reserve funds across the GFS and other provisos to enhance their crisis system of care. North Sound BH-ASO had accumulated a substantial proviso fund due to startup delays of their programs. During the Supplemental segment of the 2023–2025 biennial legislation, North Sound BH-ASO appropriated \$1,407,726 from other provisos.

Programs funded by repurposed funds

The following programs were all funded by repurposing funds from ESSB 5092 (2021); 215(65): Added crisis teams/including child crisis teams.

Integrated Behavioral Health – Pediatric Associates: Behavioral Health Care Navigator Gap Coverage

Location: Island County

Funding allocated: \$60,000

Individuals served between July 1 to September 20, 2024: 88 total children, youth, and transitional-age youth.

- Birth to four years old: 15 served
- 5–17 years old: 65 served
- 18–24 years old: 8 served

Impact on the crisis continuum of care: The Pediatric Associates of Whidbey Island (PAWI) Integrated Behavioral Health program works to identify behavioral health needs in youth and to connect them with appropriate levels of interventions. The goal is for all youth to receive basic screening to identify needs at an early stage and connect youth and families with resources to build resiliency before significant needs arise, hence preventing interactions with crisis services.

Homeless Outreach Stabilization and Transition (HOST) program

Location: Island and Skagit counties

Funding allocated: \$400,000

Individuals served between July 1 to September 20, 2024: 23 individuals served; 17 received case management

Impact on the crisis continuum of care: Homeless Outreach Stabilization and Transition (HOST) program provides outreach-based treatment services to individuals with serious behavioral health challenges including substance use disorder (SUD). Multidisciplinary teams can provide SUD, medical, rehabilitation, and peer services in the field to individuals who lack consistent access to these vital services.

This multidisciplinary team carries a caseload, which prevents individuals from decompensating, resulting in a need for crisis interventions.

Mental health services for underinsured

Location: San Juan County

Funding allocated: \$100,000

Individuals served between July 1 to September 20, 2024: 45 individuals

Impact on the crisis continuum of care: Funding is used to supplement the underinsured in the North Sound communities who need access to care and have large deductibles and copays. Funding is not used

for Medicaid individuals. Providing short-term mental health services to individuals on San Juan Island is preventative and will keep individuals from accessing crisis systems for short-term help when not in a crisis.

Parental Resilience Program (PRP) – parent education and resilience collaborative

Location: Skagit County

Funding allocated: \$240,000

Individuals served between July 1 to September 20, 2024: 13 individuals served; 17 families referred for peer-support services

Impact on the crisis continuum of care: This program provides nonclinical peer-support services to pregnant and parenting people who are at-risk of, or currently experiencing perinatal mental health mood and anxiety disorders (PMADs). The PRP aims to make a cultural match between a Parent Resilience Specialist (PRS) and parents who share lived experience and cultural community. The PRS will meet throughout the week via phone, text, video, and in-person support based on family and specialist needs. This is a partnership with Perinatal Support WA.

PRP provides early intervention preventing decompensation and utilization of the crisis system.

Older adult behavioral health supports through Homage Senior Services

Location: Snohomish County

Funding allocated: \$99,000

Individuals served between July 1 to September 20, 2024: 17 individuals

Impact on the crisis continuum of care: Homage Senior Services, currently contracted with Snohomish County Human Services, is the largest provider of comprehensive services for older adults within Snohomish County. Homage currently provides community based mental health services in at least 10 individually operated senior centers across Snohomish County, with five full-time counselors and one manager. Direct services offered through geriatric depression screening and peer support services.

Peer support groups to provide additional client support with topics focused on grief, anxiety, and depression. Keeping individuals stabilized in their home and community reduces the chance of interacting with crisis system and ultimately being hospitalized.

In North Sound BH-ASO's 2022 needs assessment, the older population was identified as an underserved population in their region.

Snohomish County Outreach Team (SCOUT)

Location: Snohomish County

Funding allocated: \$311,948

Individuals served between July 1 to September 20, 2024: 93 individuals served; an additional 30 individuals served October 2024

Impact on the crisis continuum of care: The goal of the SCOUT program is to provide an alternative to police and security response to those people with social service needs. The SCOUT program provides assistance with police response, as well as outreach and engagement services, to those in the community who have unmet needs related to homelessness and housing, behavioral health issues, veteran status, medical concerns, financial needs, and other related concerns. The program aims to build relationships with vulnerable individuals, reduce and/or eliminate barriers to existing resources, and assist individuals to access the support and services available to them.

Substance-use response: recovery navigator/coordinator

Location: Whatcom County

Funding allocated: \$127,000

Individuals served between July 1 to September 20, 2024: New program, hiring was just completed, referrals began in November.

Impact on the crisis continuum of care: The recovery navigator/coordinator will focus on reaching individuals who have had an overdose to assist in service coordination. The navigator will work to help transport individuals to the 23-hour recovery center, crisis triage, or withdrawal management after an overdose, when appropriate. They will also work closely with the SUDP at the hospital to help individuals get inpatient treatment in the state when it's an option.

These are all gaps in the continuum of care that have been identified as a key position needed to help individuals get out of the cycle of addiction.

Substance-use response: substance use disorder professional (SUDP) at local emergency room

Location: Bellingham

Funding allocated: \$100,000

Individuals served between July 1 to September 20, 2024: New program; hiring was just completed, referrals began in November.

Impact on the crisis continuum of care: The SUDP located at PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center will provide the required ASAM assessment so patients can access SUD treatment directly after discharge from the hospital; this could include inpatient, intensive outpatient program (IOP), and outpatient treatment. Additionally, the SUDP will act as a liaison for providers and the treatment team to provide additional support for other resources, such as Peer Pathfinder navigators and connections to medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD).

This SUDP is intended to engage with the full care continuum including the Response Division at Whatcom County. The SUDP will have some hours set aside to engage in quality improvement efforts and community-wide trend monitoring as it pertains to individuals with substance use disorders that have had hospital interaction.

Steps to fulfill Proviso 13(b)

To fulfill Proviso 13(b), HCA met with North Sound BH-ASO to shift funds from the current proviso funding in ESSB 5092 (2021); 215(65): Crisis teams/including child crisis teams to Proviso 13(b). North Sound BH-ASO reported the shift in funds during the January–March FY 2024 Revenue and Expense Report period.

HCA added the 13(b) pilot into the contract with North Sound BH-ASO, and included the following information:

- North Sound BH-ASO made a one-time shift of \$1,407,726 to Proviso 13(b).
- The funding source was Proviso 5092(65): added crisis teams/including child crisis teams.

North Sound BH-ASO also presented a spending plan for FY 2025.

Table 1: North Sound BH-ASO spending plan, FY 2025

Fund Source	Incoming Balance from FY2024(should equal from R&E, funding sheet, End Balance)	Total Funds Available through FY2025	Planned Spending by Quarter Please report projected expenses using historical and current information to forecast actual utilization for each quarter.				Plan Total
			July-Sept 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-June 2025	
Pilot per Proviso 13b Shift revenue from other provisos	1,407,726	1,407,726	359,500	359,500	359,500	359,500	1,438,000

Conclusion

HCA will continue to work with North Sound BH-ASO to monitor progress and outcomes.