

# FREE THROUGH Recovery



Free Through Recovery is a community based behavioral health program designed to increase access to recovery support services for individuals engaged with the criminal justice system who have serious behavioral health concerns.

Free Through Recovery was established in 2017, when Governor Burgum signed Senate Bill 2012 which created a new section to chapter 54-23.3-10 of North Dakota Century Code. Seven million dollars was appropriated for the development, administration and implementation of Free Through Recovery.

Free Through Recovery is a partnership between Health and Human services and the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and together they launched Free Through Recovery on February 1, 2018. The mission of Free Through Recovery is to improve healthcare outcomes and reduce recidivism by delivering high-quality community behavioral health services linked with effective community supervision. The goals are to improve engagement in quality services and to provide access to individualized services that are responsive to each person's specific needs.

## Eligibility

- Be 18 years of age or older.
- Involved with the criminal justice system and at risk for future criminal justice involvement.
- Have a behavioral health condition such as; bipolar disorder, major depression, psychotic disorders of all types, post-traumatic stress disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, borderline personality disorder, panic disorder, moderate and severe substance use disorder(s).
- Display concerns/challenges in areas of daily living (housing, employment, etc.).

## Referrals

Individuals can be referred to the program by a parole and probation officer, or if the person is transitioning from prison, through an internal assessment process at the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

## Services

### Care Coordination

A Care Coordinator assists with support in working towards long and short-term goals.

### Recovery Services

Recovery looks different for everyone, a provider can assist with access to individualized resources needed to help lead a healthy and fulfilling life.

### Peer Support

A supportive relationship with a peer who has similar lived experience and who serves as an advocate and mentor, offering sound advice and resources.

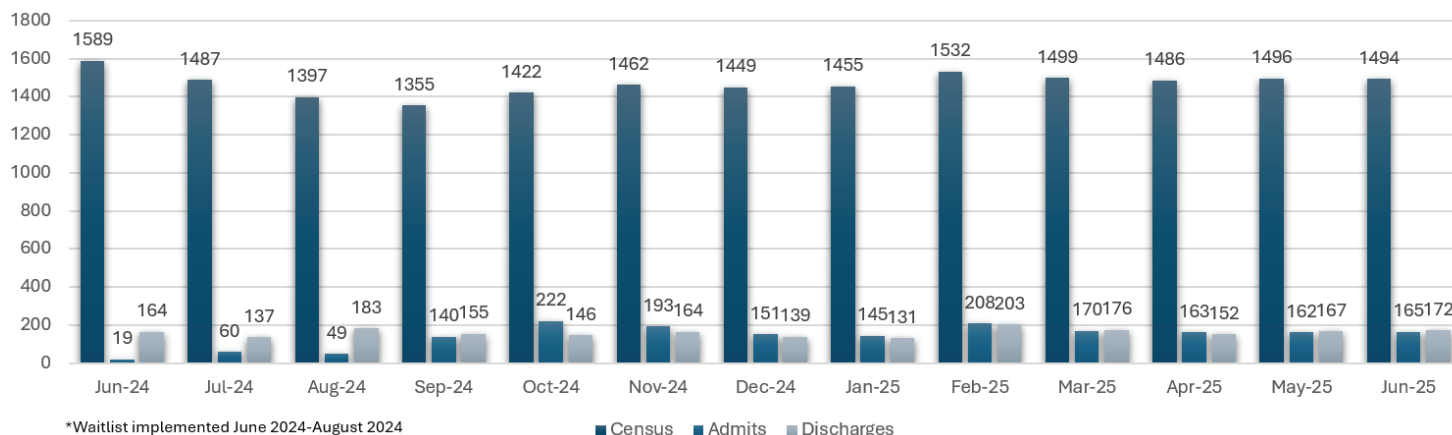
## Providers

There are currently 42 providers located throughout the state with a goal to increase monthly census to serve 2,050 participants in the 2025-2027 biennium.

## Implementation

Free Through Recovery launched on Feb. 1, 2018. Since then, 7,883 individuals have participated in the program, with 1,528 individuals currently being served (6/18/2025).

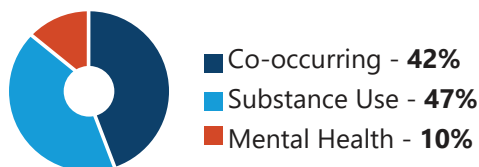
### Monthly Census (active participants), Admits and Discharges



### Of the 7,883 total participants

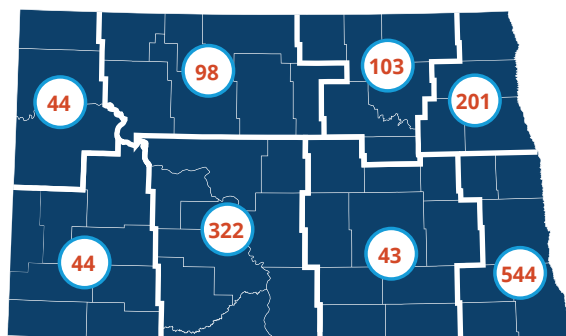
- 42% have a co-occurring (mental health and substance use) behavioral health need.
- 66% are between the ages of 31-50 and a 20% of the individuals are between the ages of 18-30. One percent of individuals are over the age of 65.
- 28% of participants are American Indian; 4% of participants are Hispanic.
- 17% of program participants live within the rural regions of 1, 3, 6 and 8.

#### Behavioral Health Needs



#### Referrals by Region

Of the 1,399 individuals currently being served



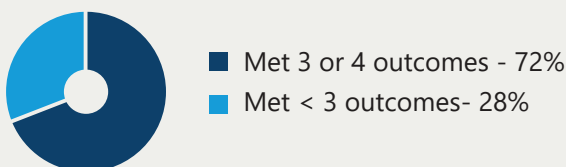
(As of June 18, 2025)

## Outcomes

The Free Through Recovery program utilizes a pay-for-outcomes model. Outcomes in the domains of criminal justice, employment/financial, housing, and recovery are gathered monthly.

Overall, from March 2018 through June 2025, 72% of the time participants achieved 3 of the 4 outcomes.

#### March 2018 - Sept. 2024 Outcomes



#### Positive outcomes were achieved by:

- **75%** of the participants in the housing domain
- **68%** of the participants in the employment domain
- **71%** of the participants in the recovery domain
- **73%** of the participants in the law enforcement domain