

Abstract

COMCARE of Sedgwick County is a department within the Division of Health and Human Services. The COMCARE Homeless Program's expertise in providing street outreach and case management is evident in more than 17 years of PATH funding and positive outcomes for people experiencing literal homelessness. While PATH case managers will provide general information/referral to all homeless persons encountered, they will effectively target efforts on engaging with individuals who have traditionally avoided services or who have been challenging to engage due to their experience of mental illness and/or substance use symptoms.

This application includes funding for outreach to adults with mental illness in Sedgwick County, KS encompassing 1000 square miles. PATH funds awarded to COMCARE will focus specifically on the outreach and engagement of literally homeless persons into COMCARE community mental health center services. Program outcomes include connecting literally homeless individuals to mainstream resources such as SSI/SSDI, housing, and employment. The primary method of serving literally homeless adults with mental illness and/or substance use disorder is through assertive outreach in shelters, on the streets, and in known homeless locations in Sedgwick County. PATH case managers will not provide Medicaid reimbursable case management nor carry a caseload. COMCARE's PATH funds will be utilized to fund the following positions: two 1.0 FTE Outreach case managers to conduct outreach and one .40 FTE Office specialist to manage data for the program. The COMCARE Homeless Program proposes to outreach approximately 400 literally homeless adults with mental illness and/or substance use disorder and enroll into services approximately 200 individuals annually.