

REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS

FORT LYON SUPPORTIVE RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY FINAL EVALUATION REPORT, AUGUST 2018

Illuminate Evaluation Services, LLC

KEY RESULTS

- The average annual per participant cost of the Fort Lyon Supportive Residential Community Program (Fort Lyon Program) from Fiscal Years 2014 through 2017 was about \$18,800 based on a 250-person capacity.
- Of the 777 participants exiting the Fort Lyon Program as of June 30, 2017, 47 percent exited to permanent housing (333 of 715 with complete data).
- The average total costs per Fort Lyon Program participant decreased by 33 percent from pre-enrollment in the Fort Lyon Program to post-enrollment for participants who had 1-year of post-enrollment data and who received Medicaid both pre- and post-enrollment.
 - Results show decreases of 9 percent for physical health care, 34 percent for behavioral health care, 80 percent for the judicial system (i.e., incarceration, probation, and jail), and 65 percent for shelters and vouchers.
- The average total costs per comparison group participant decreased by 12 percent over the same time period.
 - Costs remained the same for physical health care, increased 10 percent for behavioral health care, and decreased 68 percent for the judicial system (i.e., incarceration, probation, and jail).
- Participants who stay in the Fort Lyon Program longer, and those who participate in employment opportunities while in the Program, have greater odds of completing the Program and exiting to permanent housing. Participants with less severe behavioral health needs and those who participate in vocational programs tend to have higher completion rates, but there was no relationship to permanent housing. A participant's severity of drug and alcohol use history was not a significant predictor of completing the Program or exiting to permanent housing.
- Fort Lyon Program participants reported significant improvements in their levels of anxiety, depression, and overall quality of life after entering the Program.
- A benefit cost analysis performed for the Bent County Development Foundation on the Fort Lyon Program estimated that economic activity at Fort Lyon generated 119 jobs and approximately \$10.3 million of financial activity in Colorado in 2015- 2016.

BACKGROUND

- The Fort Lyon Program's primary purpose is to provide transitional housing and facilitate peer-based recovery from substance use for homeless and at-risk individuals from across Colorado, with a priority on homeless veterans.
- Funding for the Fort Lyon Program comes from State General Funds, which averaged about \$3.5 million annually, and mortgage settlement funds, which averaged \$1.2 million annually, for Fiscal Years 2014 through 2017.
- Between September 2013, when the Fort Lyon Program began, and June 30, 2017, the Program has served 968 individuals. Participation levels are set at an average of 250 per month.
- The average age of Program participants was 49 years, about 82 percent were male, and about 19 percent were veterans.
- Of the 968 individuals participating in the Fort Lyon Program, 777 (80 percent) had exited the Program as of June 30, 2017.