

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

FORT LYON SUPPORTIVE RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY PRELIMINARY EVALUATION REPORT, AUGUST 2017

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KEY INITIAL RESULTS

- The average annual per participant cost of the Fort Lyon Supportive Residential Community Program (Fort Lyon Program) from Fiscal Years 2014 through 2016, was about \$18,000 based on a 250-person capacity.
- Of the 600 participants exiting the Fort Lyon Program as of December 13, 2016, 39.7 percent completed the Program by meeting their goals (234 of 590 with complete data) and 38.6 percent exited to permanent housing (200 of 518 with complete data).
- Costs per participant decreased 27 percent for physical and behavioral health care and 66 percent for the judicial system (i.e., incarceration and probation) from pre-enrollment in the Fort Lyon Program to post-enrollment in the Program for participants who had 1-year of post-enrollment data and who received Medicaid both pre- and post-enrollment. These results are consistent with the results of cost studies conducted of other similar programs, although the cost reduction at Fort Lyon is less for than other programs.
- The more days a participant stays in the Fort Lyon Program, the greater the odds of completing the Program and exiting to permanent housing. In contrast, a participant's drug and alcohol use history, behavioral health concerns, and participation in vocational, educational, or employment programs were not significant predictors of completing the program or exiting to permanent housing.
- Participants reported significant improvements in their levels of anxiety, depression, and overall quality of life after entering the Fort Lyon 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 the Bent County area in 2015- 2016.
- Of the three comparison programs reviewed, the Fort Lyon Program had the lowest costs, and a similar average length of stay as two of the three programs.

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 \$3.1 million annually, and mortgage settlement funds which averaged \$1.7 million annually, for Fiscal Years 2014 through 2016.
- Between September 2013, when the Fort Lyon Program began, and December 13, 2016, the Program has served 798 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 21 percent were veterans.
- Of the 798 individuals participating in the Fort Lyon Program, 600 (75 percent) had exited the Program as of December 13, 2016.