

Hospital to Home

Background

Chronically homeless individuals utilize hospitals for minor injuries and illnesses, chronic medical conditions such as diabetes, mental condition treatments, and to simply escape severe weather conditions. It costs approximately \$1200 per day to keep a person in a hospital room and, when that person is homeless, the hospital typically absorbs the cost.



Homeless individuals waiting for medical attention

The commission recently began a collaborative project called **Hospital to Home (H2H)**. The purpose of this project is to reduce and minimize the overuse of hospital visits and emergency room use by the homeless population. There are three primary goals for this project. The first is to save hospitals money and resources. The second is to end a person’s homelessness. The third goal is to improve health care for some of the most fragile and desperate consumers.



Homeless people receive health treatment

Results to Date

- Since its beginning, the program has worked with Grady Health System to place frequent users of the hospital system into housing with intensive case management.
- Thus far, 66 homeless individuals have been housed,
- 62 percent of clients remain in housing after six months,
- 17 percent of clients reunited with their families, and
- 37 percent have decreased or discontinued their use of emergency rooms.
- These numbers represent a savings of approximately **\$150,000** which has relieved some of the financial stress on Grady Health System and other metro Atlanta facilities.

Other Programs

Recuperative Care	164 clients were admitted to the program last year	A partnership between St. Joseph’s Mercy Care and The Gateway Center to assist those discharged from Grady Memorial Hospital by providing follow-up care and case management
Street Psychiatrist and free clinic	Over 37 percent of the clients have decreased their use of hospitals	Collaboration with Emory University to add a street psychiatrist to assist in engaging the most service-resistant homeless individuals
Expediting SSDI/SSI benefits	More than 300 homeless individuals have been approved for SSDI/SSI since Jan. 2008	Increasing homeless people’s access to health care by partnering with Grady Health System and First Step to help expedite the process of receiving benefits

For more information about H2H contact **Protip Biswas** at pbiswas@unitedwayatlanta.org or at 404.527.7237.