

United Health Foundation and National Health Care for the Homeless Council: *Integrating Behavioral Health in Medical Respite Care Programs*

The National Health Care for the Homeless Council (NHCHC) is a member organization for programs providing health and support services to people experiencing homelessness. In 2022, the United Health Foundation provided NHCHC with a three-year, \$2.9 million grant to incorporate new behavioral health services into medical respite programs, which provide short-term residential care for people experiencing homelessness who no longer have a clinical reason to remain in a hospital but are too ill or frail to recover on the street or shelter.

With a focus on Florida, Minnesota and North Carolina, the partnership is:

- Expanding operational capacity in medical respite programs serving rural and urban communities to include behavioral health services
- Providing technical assistance and training for the local programs and creating a peer learning community to share best practices
- Evaluating how integrating behavioral health into medical respite programs impacts health care access, experiences and outcomes for patients experiencing homelessness



COMMUNITY IMPACT*

869

total medical respite clients served

70%↑

of clients have been screened for behavioral health concerns to date, compared to 46.7% at the program's outset.

46.9%↑

of clients have been successfully connected to mental health services, compared to 37% when data first became available

*as of 3/31/25

WHY IS THIS WORK CRITICAL?

In Minnesota, the program is helping J. recover from a severe car accident that caused him serious physical and cognitive injuries. Unfortunately for J, there were personal circumstances which prevented him from receiving care from other rehabilitation facilities in the area. The program was able to support J - offering him safety and support as he strives to meet his health goals and heal.

