



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10007

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** August 6, 2015

**CONTACT:** [pressoffice@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:pressoffice@cityhall.nyc.gov), (212) 788-2958

**Fact Sheet: NYC Safe**

The City's mental health system has been neglected for decades. People are endangering themselves and others because they are not getting the treatment they need. NYC Safe is an unprecedented partnership between law enforcement and health care agencies that will completely change how the City intervenes to stop and respond to violence by the seriously mentally ill. NYC Safe will reach a historically marginalized population, connecting them to consistent care to avoid crises and violence.

The de Blasio Administration had already committed \$323 million in additional funding over three years to mental health programs, including a \$134 million plan to continue to drive down crime while also reducing the number of people with behavioral health issues needlessly cycling through the criminal justice system. In total, today's announcement invests \$22.4 million annually to continue the Administration's efforts to make this a safer city and provide better care for people whose mental illness may place others at risk.

This approach supports public safety by:

- **Expanding treatment options** and helping City agencies identify those mentally ill individuals that pose the highest concern for violent behavior and directing resources appropriately, ensuring they have access to treatment. While treatment isn't a silver bullet, creating new programs to allow for consistent involvement with services and treatment can reduce the risk of violence.
- **Increasing coordination**, including the first citywide entity for coordinating interventions to address the mental health and criminal justice concerns for these individuals. Responses will prioritize diversion to therapeutic settings.

**More information**

**Treatment Options:** This initiative creates a number of new clinical care options for this population. These clinical interventions are designed to fill gaps in the City's existing continuum of mental health care. (\$17 million annually)

- Funding for four new Forensic Assertive Community Treatment Teams (Forensic ACT), which will provide intensive, high quality treatment to additional 272

individuals assessed at higher concern for violent behavior. These teams require approval for state Medicaid reimbursement.

- Three new Intensive Mobile Treatment Teams, which will provide 75 high concern individuals with intensive, high quality treatment. The teams are designed to keep people in treatment, even if they are in and out of jail or face housing instability.
- Additional clinical staff at the City's homeless shelters that see the highest number of seriously mentally ill people.
- Resources to increase existing City ACT Teams' effectiveness to treat co-occurring substance use and mental illness. Uncontrolled substance use among the seriously mentally ill increases the concern for violent behavior.

**Increased Coordination:** A new hub will enhance and expand capacity to share information among City agencies. This will allow agencies to more easily and effectively find people and connect them to treatment. (\$4.8 million annually)

- The new NYC Safe Hub will share appropriate information about high concern individuals to more effectively connect them with enhanced services.
  - Hub staff will convene inter-agency teams to follow each case and implement timely interventions. The Hub data will be housed at the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice and will report progress on the initiative to the Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice Task Force.
- A new case monitoring team at DOHMH to facilitate the process of connecting individuals of high concern to appropriate and effective treatment options. This team will also stay in contact with their providers to offer additional assistance and resources to make sure these individuals don't fall out of treatment.
- Resources to better leverage and more effectively use Kendra's Law, which allows a judge to mandate outpatient treatment for some people with serious mental illness.
- Five new NYPD-DOHMH co-response teams that embed DOHMH clinicians with specially trained NYPD officers to more effectively respond to and triage individuals who are at a great concern for violent behavior and have a serious mental illness.

**Improved Security:** Targeted investment to improve safety in and around homeless shelters. (\$5 million in FY2016)

- The NYPD is providing additional officers to police the area around high priority shelters.
- Increase of DHS peace officers inside highest-need shelters.

###