

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND SERVICE
INTEGRATION ADMINISTRATION**
Program for Adaptive Living Skills (PALS)
2015-17 BIENNIAL BUDGET



Reduction Option	FY16	FY17	15-17
FTE	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)
GF-State	(\$5,200,000)	(\$5,200,000)	(\$10,400,000)
Total	(\$5,200,000)	(\$5,200,000)	(\$10,400,000)

REDUCTION OPTION SUMMARY

As required by 2015-17 Biennial Budget Instructions, the Behavioral Health and Service Integration Administration (BHSIA) is submitting the following reduction option that would eliminate the Program for Adaptive Living Skills (PALS) funding to Western Regional Support Networks (RSN). These funds are primarily used to support housing for seriously and persistently mentally ill consumers who are not eligible for other funding to secure safe housing. By implementing this reduction, BHSIA expects to see increases in the number of individuals with complex mental health issues experiencing homelessness, needing crisis services, and hospitalizations.

REDUCTION OPTION DETAIL

The primary use of the PALS funding is to support approximately 800 individuals in varied housing resources and to provide non-Medicaid treatment services. Many RSNs use the PALS funding to provide Adult Residential Care Services to individuals who have complex issues but do not meet eligibility standards for assistance through Home and Community Services. These individuals often require more structure than supportive housing services provides but not at the intensive level provided at a skilled nursing facility or inpatient setting. The individuals served through these funds are not able to be maintained within their communities without structured housing supports. Removing these structured supports would result in a high likelihood of re-hospitalization and incarceration for a substantial percentage of these individuals. However, if the client is Medicaid eligible the RSNs would continue to provide such services.

A DSHS Research and Data Analysis (RDA) [*The Housing Status of Individuals Leaving Institutions and Out-of-Home Care*](#) report indicated 48 percent of individuals that exit chemical dependency residential facilities become homeless within a 12-month period following exit and 29 percent of individuals exiting state mental health hospitals (not including E&Ts or local hospitals) are homeless within a 12-month period following exit.

This reduction would be implemented by not contracting with the RSNs for these services. As soon as a final decision to implement the reduction is made, BHSIA will notify the RSNs that there will be no PALS Alternative funding in the next biennium. RSNs will then have to begin finding alternative funding for housing, or other resources for this highly



DSHS VISION
People are healthy • People are safe • People are supported • Taxpayer resources are guarded

DSHS MISSION
To transform lives

DSHS VALUES
Honesty and Integrity • Pursuit of Excellence • Open Communication • Diversity and Inclusion • Commitment to Service

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND SERVICE INTEGRATION ADMINISTRATION

Program for Adaptive Living Skills (PALS)

2015-17 BIENNIAL BUDGET

Transforming
Lives

vulnerable population. It is unlikely that RSNs will be able to secure alternative resources without cutting resources for other vulnerable consumers. No state laws or rules will need to be amended to implement these cuts.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

The RSNs would have significant concerns about the changes related to this proposed reduction and the impact on their communities. The Governor's Advisory Council on Homelessness and the Chronic Homeless Policy Academy would have concerns about the reduction in housing resources for individuals with complex behavioral health issues.



DSHS VISION

People are healthy • People are safe • People are supported • Taxpayer resources are guarded

DSHS MISSION

To transform lives

DSHS VALUES

Honesty and Integrity • Pursuit of Excellence • Open Communication • Diversity and Inclusion • Commitment to Service