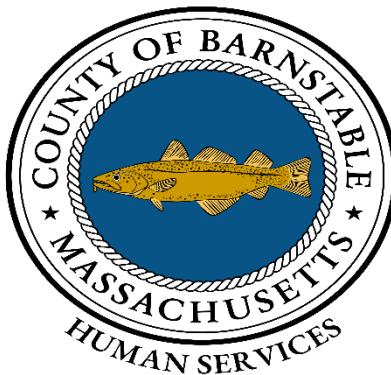


BARNSTABLE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES ANNUAL PLAN

for the period:
January 2025 – December 2025



**Joseph R. Pacheco, Director
Department of Human Services
P.O. Box 427 Barnstable, MA 02630**

www.capecod.gov



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Mission of the Department of Human Services (DHS)

The Department's mission is to:

1. Plan, develop, and implement programs which enhance the overall delivery of human services in Barnstable County
2. Promote the health and social well-being of County residents through regional efforts that improve coordination of services

The Department has a record of organizing regional approaches that promote health and wellness for underserved populations by mobilizing a community response to needs identified through data collection, analysis, and evaluation.

Primary Role

The Department's primary roles are to:

- Plan
- Convene
- Educate

Guiding Principles

The following principles and strategies guide the Department's work:

- Focus on policy, systems and community change rather than on individual behavior
- Integrated approach to prevent topical and systems silos
- Asset focused approach building on strengths while addressing needs
- County-wide approach with attention to underserved areas
- Action is based on qualitative and quantitative data and evidence-based practices

Health and Human Services Advisory Council

In 2003 the Barnstable County Commissioners adopted Ordinance 03-19 which established the Health and Human Services Advisory Council. The Advisory Council, in conjunction with the Department of Human Services, is responsible for providing advice to the Barnstable County Commissioners and Assembly of Delegates concerning the human service needs of the residents of Barnstable County. A major purpose of the Advisory Council is to assist in the development of a Health and Human Services Plan which identifies issues for action by County government.

Healthy Connected Cape Cod

Healthy Connected Cape Cod is the conceptual framework that ties together the work of the Department. The principal aim is undertaking regional approaches to plan and implement activities that promote health and well-being for County residents by engaging residents, health and human service organizations, coalitions, and networks throughout Cape Cod.

The following icons highlight the major health and human service focus areas for the Department:



1.0 Focus Area: Social Determinants of Public Health Planning and Surveillance

Aim: To coordinate and support regional efforts that improve health outcomes for county residents. Major responsibilities include:

1.1 Acquire, interpret, and monitor relevant health, housing, socio-economic data for Barnstable County

1.2 Disseminate relevant data and information to community-based organizations, elected officials, towns and county residents via presentations, publications, on-line resources, and social media

1.3 Provide leadership and technical assistance to a wide range of health and human services committees, coalitions, and groups

1.4 Foster and support interdepartmental collaboration

1.5 Convene Barnstable County Health and Human Services Advisory Council

2.0 Focus Area: Housing and Homelessness

Aim: To coordinate the Cape & Islands Regional Network on Homelessness and administer grant-funded programs of regional impact.

2.1 Cape & Islands Regional Network on Homelessness

Major Responsibilities:

- Convene and provide staff support to the Regional Network
- Provide leadership, planning, priority-setting and implementation of policies and procedures as adopted by the Regional Network on Homelessness Policy Board and Executive Committee
- Lead completion of the Collaborative Application for the Continuum of Care

2.2 HUD Continuum of Care

Major Responsibilities:

- Administer Annual HUD CoC Collaborative Grant Application
- Administer Planning Grant
- Administer Coordinated Entry System
- Administer Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
- Coordinate Annual Homeless Point in Time Count
- Conduct Annual Housing Inventory Count
- Conduct Annual CoC Grantee Monitoring
- Conduct CoC Environmental Reviews

- Convene various CoC-centered sub-committees (HMIS, CES, YYA)
- Coordinate with HOME and CDBG Grantees on submission of Consolidated and Annual Plan to HUD
- Provide administrative support to the Youth Action Board
- Implement the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Coordinated Community Plan to Address and End Youth and Young Adult Homelessness

2.3 Homeless Youth Services Grant

Major Responsibilities:

- Administer Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) grant funds to increase capacity of subgrantees/community-based organizations serving homeless youth and young adults
- Implement recommendations from county-wide homeless youth needs assessment
- Develop and implement recommendations for preventing and reducing homelessness among youth and young adults
- Convene the Youth and Young Adult Homelessness committee and provide support toward implementation of the Coordinated Community Plan action steps
- Provide support to the Youth Action Board

2.4 HOME Investment Partnership Program

Major Responsibilities:

- Administer HOME grant from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Convene Barnstable County HOME Consortium Advisory Council
- Administer Monitoring for HOME funded projects
- Conduct Environmental Reviews
- Commit HOME funds for eligible projects
- Submit Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plans, and Consolidated Annual Evaluation Reports to HUD

2.5 HOME-ARP Investment Partnership Program

Major Responsibilities:

- Administer HOME-ARP grant from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Convene Barnstable County HOME Consortium Advisory Council
- Administer Monitoring for HOME-ARP funded projects
- Conduct Environmental Reviews
- Commit HOME-ARP funds for eligible projects
- Submit Allocation Plan and Annual Reports to HUD

2.6 Shared Regional Housing Services Pilot Program

Major Responsibilities:

- Administer ARPA appropriation through Ordinance 23-03, with program sunset of program on June 30, 2025
- Manage technical work of Program Consultant Barrett Planning Group
- Provide specialized regional housing services and increase staff capacity to the 15 towns of Barnstable County
- Conduct community engagement with town officials

3.0 **Focus Area: Behavioral Health and Substance Use Prevention**

Aim: To support regional behavioral health initiatives by providing leadership, data analysis, technical assistance, strategic planning, and resources.

3.1 Barnstable County Health and Human Services Network of Care Service Directory

- Maintain and improve accessibility of the Network of Care (NOC) on-line resource directory of health and human services
- Engage providers and service organizations to regularly update their NOC profiles
- Provide community education, publicize resources and promote use of NOC

3.2 Regional Substance Addiction Council (RSAC)

Major Responsibilities:

- Maintain a Cape-wide Regional Substance Addiction Council
- Update priorities to effect policy change
- Provide support to identified regional priorities
- Maintain communication strategy
- Support evidenced-based and promising practices and programs
- Provide surveillance, information management, and technical assistance

3.3 Substance Use Prevention

Major Responsibilities:

- Administer DPH/BSAS MassCall3 Grant, coordinating across region and providing technical assistance to key stakeholders in the topic of youth prevention of first-time substance use, following SAMSHA's Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF)
- Implement the department's MassCALL3 strategic plan, which is a detailed action plan to reduce substance misuse among youth in a community, focusing on substances of first use
- Provide training, support and technical assistance to Barnstable County's 15 communities on issues surrounding substance use and town-based substance use coalitions

3.4 Barnstable County Children's Behavioral Health Work Group

Major Responsibilities:

- Increase access to, and maximize efficacy of the Cape and Islands Behavioral Health system of care for children ages 0-21
- Continue to encourage and provide opportunities to build collaboration and communication with local behavioral health providers, agencies, advocacy organizations and state agencies regarding service delivery, staffing needs program development and funding opportunities
- Use the completed Children's Behavioral Health Baseline Needs Assessment Report to further clarify priorities and inform strategic planning and action steps
- Support the Cape Cod School Counselors Group participants' work with students and promote their integration into the Behavioral Health Provider Community

4.0 **Focus Area: Aging Well & Healthy Living**

Aim: To enhance regional initiatives that improve the coordination of services and address the unmet needs of Barnstable County's older adults and individuals with disabilities, fostering a livable community for all.

4.1 Aging Well

Major Responsibilities:

- Convene and facilitate Healthy Aging Cape Cod, a collaborative effort by regional stakeholders and Barnstable County DHS to promote the likelihood and ability of persons to age successfully on Cape Cod, regardless of income

- Convene and support Age and Dementia Friendly Cape Cod efforts through regional collaboration, targeted workgroups and liaising with technical assistance provided by the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities and MA Councils on Aging Dementia Friendly Massachusetts
- Administer the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) Public Health Workforce Expansion Grant

4.2 Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone (SHINE)

Major Responsibilities:

- Administer SHINE grants from EOEA
- Operate Regional SHINE office
- Provide staff and administrative support for Regional SHINE Program
- Sustain outreach and marketing plan, specifically targeting underserved populations
- Monitor and analyze client contact and utilization reports generated by State Health Insurance Program
- Conduct Medicare annual Open Enrollment
- Secure and maintain private funds to support additional program staff
- Recruit, train and manage approximately 90 SHINE volunteers throughout Cape Cod and the Islands
- Support partner organizations by providing certified SHINE volunteers and updated information related to Medicare and SHINE services
- Assist residents eligible for Medicare navigate the complex maze so residents can make informed decisions that align with both health and financial need
- Engage new stakeholder organizations as partners in providing SHINE services to their constituents
- Offer training to community and professional organizations across Cape Cod and the Islands about Medicare and SHINE services
- Screen residents for public benefit programs and provide information to support cost saving healthcare options

5.0 **Additional Department of Human Services Priorities for 2025**

5.1 Secure grants to support increased planning and services to the community in areas of substance use prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery

5.2 Sustain increased utilization of the Department’s NOC Service Directory

- 5.3 Explore and implement alternative housing models for Youth and Young Adults experiencing housing instability
- 5.4 Expand participation in HMIS
- 5.5 Secure grants for continued support of the Older Adult Social Services Navigator initiative
- 5.6 Maintain collaboration and grant support to assist in the creation of additional affordable housing units throughout the Region