

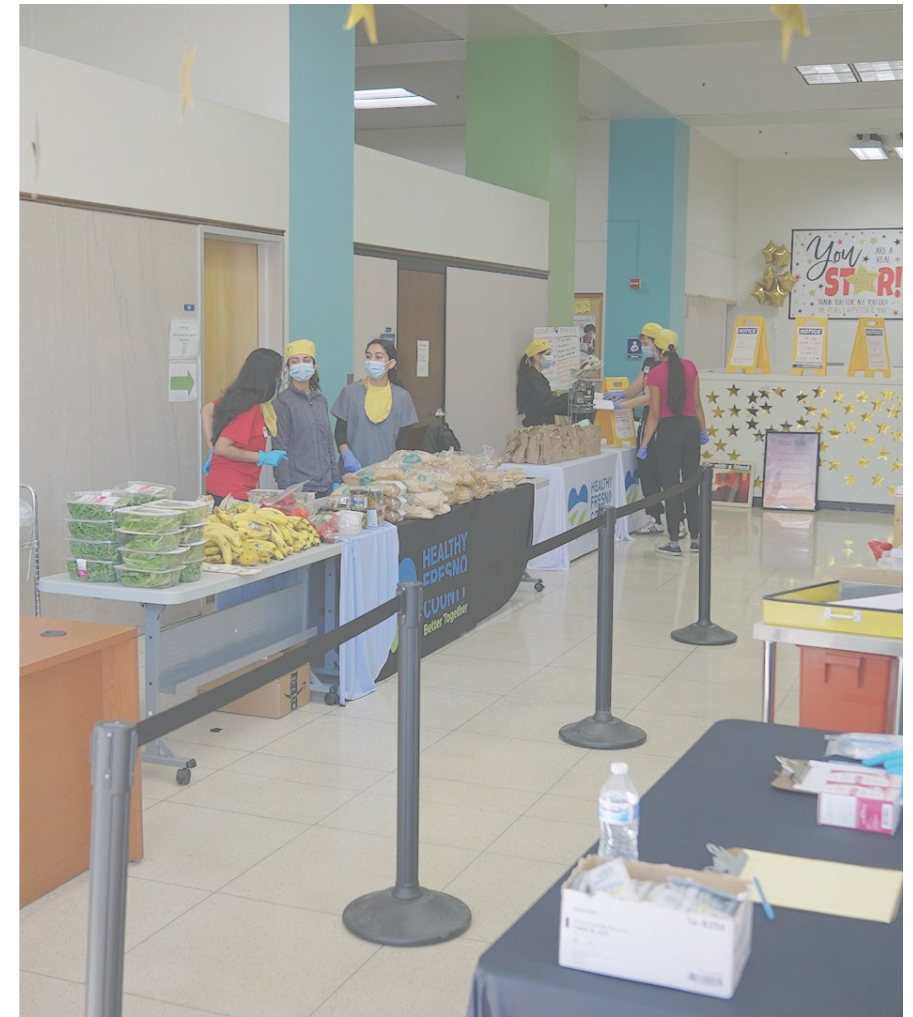
Whole Person Harm Reduction Pilot Program Review: A Comparative Analysis

Fresno County Department of Public Health

August 19, 2025

Executive Summary

- **Program Overview:** Whole Person Harm Reduction Program is a pilot program to provide a whole person approach to harm reduction, approved August 2023.
- **Program Goal:** Address the opioid crisis and public health issues by providing comprehensive services.
- **Review Focus:** Compare 2022-2023 (non-profit only operations) with 2024-2025 (FCDPH enhanced access) data.
- **Overall Outcome:** Consistent public health benefits and positive community impact with minimal County financial burden. Identified successful outcomes, challenges, and areas for future focus.



Key Findings and Challenges:

- Persistent Chronic Homelessness Participation
- Pathways to Recovery & Integrated Care
- Community Feedback
- Significant Taxpayer Savings and Cost Efficiency
- Comprehensive Social Support





Persistent Chronic Homelessness:

On average 52% of individuals utilizing the Whole Person Harm Reduction Program reported chronic homelessness, highlighting the need for continued broader systemic housing solutions.



Pathways to Recovery & Integrated Care:

Successfully enrolled **327** individuals in drug treatment through Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) in 2024, a service intended to help individuals stop using drugs. Also connected clients to primary care (63 referred) and behavioral health (20 referred).

Community Feedback & Input:



The County engaged contracts with the Downtown Fresno Partnership and Poverello House to determine the effects of the pilot program on the area in the area around DPH.

The data shows no sustained increase in unsheltered population or tents, and police data shows a drop in 'homeless' loitering/trespassing calls.

Significant Taxpayer Savings and Cost Efficiency:

- Estimated 2024 savings total over **\$6.3 million**, primarily from avoided emergency room visits, medical treatments and lifetime savings from MAT engagement.
- Direct costs for utilities, janitorial, security, labor, and materials offset or have minimal County expense resulting in \$90,760.62 in costs in 2024.

Comprehensive Social Support:

DSS served **844 individuals**, facilitating hundreds of applications for essential benefits (Medi-Cal, CalFresh, General Relief) and addressing over **700 case inquiries**, primarily for unhoused individuals.



The background image shows a health fair booth. Two staff members wearing yellow head coverings and face masks are seated at a table covered with a black cloth. A man in a grey t-shirt and jeans is standing at the table, looking at a red box. To the right, a woman in a black hoodie and a man with a grey backpack are standing and talking. The booth has a large banner that says "WALK WITH YOU HEALTH TEAM" in colorful letters. The floor is polished and reflects the people and lights.

Conclusion & Staff Recommendation:

Outcome:

Pilot program has been successful in continuing to assist and enhance the services for at-risk individuals by connecting them to drug treatment, medical care, social service benefits, housing resources, and meeting other resource needs.

Staff's Recommendation:

Consideration of five-year lease and service agreement with annual review to ensure ongoing alignment with County goals.