

DOWNTOWN EMERGENCY SERVICES CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



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2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

DESC helps people with the complex needs of homelessness, substance use disorders, and serious mental illness achieve their highest potential for health and well-being through comprehensive services, treatment, and housing.

Our vision is a community where all people are shown compassion, treated with dignity, and everyone has a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home. **In 2025, we moved 327 people into permanent supportive housing, with 98% of all clients retaining their homes after one year** — evidence of the stability DESC provides.

2,063

Total people housed in DESC permanent supportive housing

6,569

Total people served in behavioral health, entry-level survival services, or supportive housing

1,539

People received treatment for substance use disorder, including opioid use disorder



DESC Executive Director Daniel Malone speaking at the grand opening of the ORCA Center in August 2025.

This year was a big year for growth at DESC as we opened multiple new facilities to serve single adults experiencing chronic homelessness, substance use disorder, and physical and mental health disabilities. We opened Steven's Place, our **18th permanent supportive housing location**, in the Interbay neighborhood in Seattle — now home to 109 tenants.

We also opened the Opioid Recovery & Care Access (ORCA) Center, an innovative, judgment-free space for individuals to stabilize after an overdose and receive treatment for opioid use disorder. Located in the relocated and revamped Downtown Behavioral Health Clinic, **ORCA had 1,311 service visits from community members within four months of opening.**

We also opened the Stability Through Access & Resources (STAR) Center, an innovative, non-congregate shelter designed to connect our most vulnerable neighbors with the services they need most. **In 2025, STAR served 248 individuals.**

Figures in this report are for fiscal year January-December 2025, released in August 2026 following annual auditing.

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING



DESC operated nearly **2,000 units of permanent supportive housing** across Seattle and Burien in 2025, across 18 site-based programs. All DESC permanent supportive housing locations feature 24/7 onsite support staff and integrated clinical and behavioral health services.

We advanced development of two additional permanent supportive housing locations—Clover Place, a 95-unit building in Seattle's Woodland neighborhood, and Birch Grove, a 120-unit building in Lake City.

DESC also manages 40+ master-leased, market-rate scattered-site units, where tenants receive intensive case management and other support as needed. DESC also supports another 250+ clients in private-market scattered-site units with case management and rent subsidies controlled by DESC.



Bloomside, DESC's only permanent supportive housing location outside of Seattle; located in Burien, WA.

1,927

Units of permanent supportive housing

98%

of people remained in their housing after one year

2,063

People housed in permanent supportive housing



DESC's Steven's Place, our 18th permanent supportive housing location with 109 units, which opened in November 2025.

STEVEN'S PLACE

Steven's Place is DESC's second permanent supportive housing location in the Interbay neighborhood of Seattle. Located at **2626 15th Ave W, Seattle, 98119**, this affordable housing location includes 109 studio units and five respite units for single adults living with disabilities and experiencing chronic homelessness.

This location is named after former DESC Deputy Director Steven Bullock. Steven led with warmth, kindness, and commitment to inclusion, and cared deeply for staff, clients, and community. He's remembered through words and actions like **"Nothing about you without you."**

"Steven's Place" carries forward his legacy of compassion, equity, and collaboration, and his spirit will guide us as we care for one another and remain committed to those we serve.

Steven's Place includes access to wraparound services, including **behavioral health support, substance use disorder treatment, and case management**. Each tenant has an assigned support staff member on-site to help with the following:

- Medication monitoring
- Referrals to outpatient clinical and substance use disorder programs
- Community event facilitation

- 109 studio units (29 ADA accessible)
- 5 units for post-crisis recovery
- Indoor and outdoor community spaces

OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES



DESC nursing staff with a client.



DESC staff member doing client outreach.



DESC nursing staff performing outpatient wound care.

PROGRAMS

DESC provides a variety of outpatient behavioral health and medical services in clinics and through community outreach.

Programs include:

- **SAGE** (Support, Advocacy, Growth, and Employment)
- **HOST** (Homeless Outreach, Stabilization, and Transition)
- **PACT** (Program of Assertive Community Treatment)
- **SUD** (Substance Use Disorder)
- **COAT** (Community Outreach and Advocacy Team)
- **ORCA POD** (Patient Outreach Division) for opioid use disorder treatment via the ORCA program

*DESC served **1,875 people** across all outpatient behavioral health programs in 2025.*

61%

Percent of PSH tenants enrolled in one or more behavioral health program

96%

Average retention rate across all programs after 90 days

DOWNTOWN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINIC



DESC's Downtown Behavioral Health Clinic is a welcoming, low-barrier space offering comprehensive health and other services for adults experiencing homelessness, serious mental health challenges, and substance use disorders. Located in a newly upgraded space in DESC's Morrison building, the **clinic expands access to health, recovery, and stabilization services — all in one place.**

Whether someone is seeking mental health support, addiction treatment, basic health services, peer support, or help with other basic needs, the clinic meets people where they are with dignity and compassion.

LEW MIDDLETON DROP-IN CENTER

Open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., this peer-led space offers DESC clients living essentials and connection with peer counselors who draw on their own experiences with behavioral health challenges.



The Drop-In Center serves as a welcoming space for community, connection, and support. It often plays a crucial role in reaching people who may be hesitant to seek formal behavioral health care.

Amenities include:

- Breakfast and snacks
- Showers and hygiene supplies
- Laundry
- Basic first aid
- Support groups, recovery planning, and wellness support

Pictured above: DESC's Downtown Behavioral Health Clinic.



1,311

*people received treatment for
opioid use disorder in 2025*

Recliners at DESC's ORCA Center, where individuals can recover after an overdose for up to 24 hours.

Opened in September 2025, the ORCA Center is a key part of DESC's innovative response to the opioid crisis. Located inside our Downtown Behavioral Health Clinic, it is a safe, judgment-free place where people can recover post-overdose, start treatment, and take the first steps toward stability.

ORCA Center offers:

- 24/7 post-overdose stabilization for up to eight people.
- Opioid use disorder walk-in services available every day, 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- Medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD), like oral or injectable buprenorphine or methadone.
- Access to showers, snacks, and laundry during treatment.

At the ORCA Center, individuals can also meet with medical staff and peer support specialists, learn about ways to mitigate the risks of substance use, and connect to longer-term behavioral health support, shelter, and housing navigation.

The ORCA program also includes the Patient Outreach Division (POD), a mobile team providing care directly to people in the Seattle community in supportive housing and shelter sites.

The ORCA Center is a community effort, in collaboration with the University of Washington's Addictions, Drug & Alcohol Institute (UW ADAI), King County Behavioral Health and Recovery Division, Public Health – Seattle and King County, City of Seattle Human Services Department, the State of Washington Health Care Authority and the Seattle Fire Department.

This judgment-free space is built on **DESC's decades of experience delivering substance use disorder care that is client-centered, evidence-based, and grounded in harm reduction.**

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE



2,475 clients assisted by DESC's mobile crisis response in 2025

DESC responds to individuals in behavioral health crisis who may otherwise not receive help or would be taken to an expensive alternative such as jail, an emergency room, or a psychiatric hospital.

Programs include DESC's Crisis Solutions Center (CSC) and the King-County funded Mobile Rapid Response Crisis Team (MRRCT):

CSC has two components:

- **Crisis Diversion Facility (CDF):** Supports people in behavioral health crisis who are referred by first responders.
- **Crisis Diversion Interim Services (CDIS):** A short term "step-down" program for people coming from CDF who are at risk of homelessness.
- **1,866 clients enrolled in 2025.**

Mobile Rapid Response Crisis Team (MRRCT):

- King County-funded program that responds to the immediate needs of community members experiencing behavioral health crises across Seattle.
- **Outreached 2,822 community members in crisis.**

DESC previously provided pre- and post-crisis support through its Mobile Response Team (MRT), a program designed to promote housing stability for tenants in permanent supportive housing and the well-being of people experiencing complex behavioral health and medical needs. The program officially ended in 2025 due to funding changes, with much of the team transitioning to the new MRRCT.

SHELTER & EMERGENCY HOUSING



DESC's low-barrier, high-impact shelter, the STAR Center.



Staff in a guest room at the STAR Center.

DESC emergency housing is a low-barrier program that provides rooms for single adults experiencing chronic homelessness.

We offer basic amenities and safe, private, dignified spaces where people can live temporarily while they search for permanent housing.

In 2025, DESC operated 2 emergency housing sites and 3 shelters, providing services for 932 individuals.

Emergency Housing:

- [Mary Pilgrim Inn](#)
- [The Gateway in Honor of Tenaya Wright](#)

Shelter:

- [West Wing Shelter](#)
- [Kerner-Scott House](#)
- [STAR Center](#)

*We also opened the **STAR Center**, a service-rich, non-congregate shelter designed to support adults facing chronic homelessness and complex behavioral health challenges.*

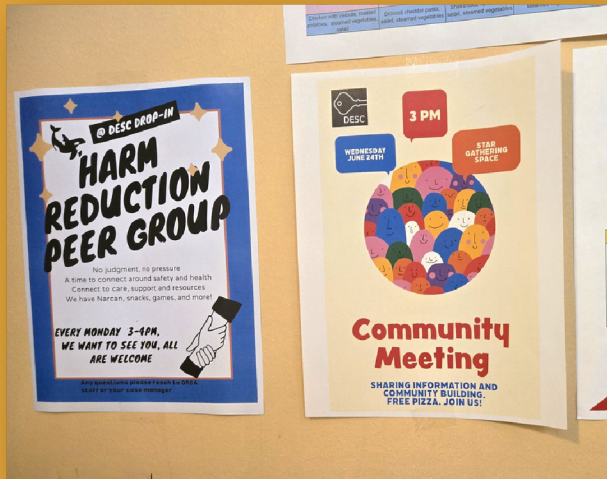
932

Number of people housed in DESC emergency housing or shelter in 2025

STAR CENTER



Front desk staff at the STAR Center.



Community programming signage at the STAR Center.

95% of STAR Center residents are **enrolled in behavioral health programming**

The STAR Center is a low-barrier, high-impact shelter designed for adults experiencing chronic homelessness, serious mental health conditions, and/or substance use disorders.

We work closely with outreach teams, crisis responders, and healthcare providers to ensure people with high needs receive timely support and ongoing care.

Behavioral Health & Medical Support:

- On-site mental health services
- Substance use treatment options
- A dedicated intake specialist for enrollment in care programs
- On-site registered nurse and access to a psychiatric provider

Mental Health Services:

- Substance use disorder treatment
- Permanent supportive housing navigation
- Enrollment in benefits and essential programs
- Referrals to additional community-based resources

Additional Supports:

- Hot meals and showers
- Safe, semi-private rooms
- Community programming, including support groups and educational programming

COMMUNITY SUPPORT



\$1,484,096

Total monetary value of in-kind donations made in 2025, including food, hygiene items, and household supplies.



1,292

volunteers served a total of

3,750

volunteer hours

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

DESC + RELATED PARTNERSHIPS

Assets

Cash + Cash Equivalents	\$7,676,070
Restricted Assets + Housing Reserves	\$28,235,708
Notes Receivable, Construction in Progress + Other Assets	\$12,787,526
Accounts Receivable + Prepaid Expenses	\$33,307,166
Land, Buildings, Furnishings + Leasehold Improvements	\$435,360,852
Total Assets	\$517,367,322

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$17,789,058
Notes Payable	\$333,864,268
Deferred Revenue	\$7,183,779
Client Custodial Accounts + Other Liabilities	\$2,585,544
Total Liabilities	\$361,422,649

Net Assets	\$155,944,673
Total Liabilities + Net Assets	\$517,367,322

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES: DESC + RELATED PARTNERSHIPS

Revenue

Housing Rents + Related Income	\$11,610,222
Public Grants + Contracts	\$128,033,842
Contributions	\$13,121,452
Contributions In-Kind	\$2,022,708
Interest	\$1,580,972
Other	\$5,280,210
Total Revenue	\$161,694,406

Expenses

Housing Programs	\$86,042,897
Clinical Programs	\$42,599,905
Other: Real Estate Development	\$2,378,681
Other: Fundraising	\$716,928
Management + Admin	\$23,014,136
Total Expenses	\$154,752,547

Net Income	\$6,941,859
Adjustments for non-operating activity (e.g., depreciation, amortization, other)	(\$4,042,460)
Operating Surplus	\$2,899,399



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