



A leading organization in the field of addiction recovery.
We help people build lives of meaning, purpose, and recovery.

Untreated Drug Abuse and Addiction = Major Burdens to Society

The costs of drug abuse and addiction to our state and our nation are unbelievable.

- Almost 20 percent of all Medicaid hospital costs and nearly \$1 of every \$4 Medicare spends on inpatient care is associated with substance abuse.
- 70 percent of individuals in state prisons and jails have used illegal drugs regularly.
- Drug offenders account for more than one-third of the growth in state prison population and more than 80 percent of the increase in the number of prison inmates since 1985.
- The economic burden in the United States for addiction, at over \$600 billion a year, is twice that of any other disease affecting the brain, including Parkinson's and Alzheimer's Disease, as well as all the others.

(National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2012)

The Research is Clear - Addiction Treatment Programs Save Lives and Money!

- \$4 to \$7 reduction in the cost of drug-related crimes, with some outpatient programs, total savings can exceed costs by a ratio of 12:1.
- \$3 - \$5 reduction in emergent medical care use (ER and Crisis Center)
- Among women – a \$4 reduction in welfare and child welfare costs
- Among employed men – a \$7 increase in productivity (fewer absences and health claims)
- Increased employment earnings after treatment equates to an average of \$3,400/year per person treated.

(National Institute on Drug Abuse, 20012; Robert Wood Johnson Foundation., Economic Benefits of Treating Substance Abuse, 2006)



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The Healthy Utah Plan will help low-income Utahns struggling with addiction.

*First Step House serves low-income and no-income men with substance abuse treatment and housing. Most low-income men struggling with substance abuse, who do not have insurance through their employer, are also NOT eligible for Medicaid. Eighty-four percent of the men we admitted in the last 5 years were uninsured. **Eighty-six percent earned less than \$14,500 in 2014 and would be eligible for coverage under the Healthy Utah Plan.***

Fourteen percent of our clients begin treatment employed, while 41 percent were employed at the time of discharge.

The Healthy Utah Plan will ensure access to treatment and it will increase employment within the SUD population.

We have a five month waiting list for publicly funded treatment. The longer the wait, the worse the consequences are; some men die while they wait to receive treatment.
Increased insurance means that treatment will happen sooner, saving lives and money in the state of Utah.

The facts about substance abuse in Utah

- 90,856 adults in Utah are in need of SUD treatment
- Out of all 50 states, Utah ranks 8th in the number of prescription drugs overdose deaths
- In a 2013 Greater Salt Lake Area survey conducted as part of the nationwide 100,000 Homes Campaign, 56% of the homeless individuals reported substance abuse institutional history
- In the state of Utah, 42% of individuals seeking treatment for SUDs were unemployed in 2013 and could not access insurance through their employer

(State of Utah, Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, 2013)