

United States District Court
Western District of Washington

PATHWAY

(Promoting Accountability, Treatment, Healing, and Wellness Court)

Introduction:

At PATHWAY, we recognize the critical importance of providing comprehensive support and resources to individuals navigating the intersection of mental health challenges and the legal system. PATHWAY is a comprehensive pre-adjudication diversionary court program that blends treatment, incentives, and sanction alternatives to effectively address participants' behavior, quality of life, long term wellness stability, incarceration costs, and the safety of the community. Our commitment to holistic care extends beyond the courtroom, fostering an environment where individuals can partner with the U.S. Probation & Pretrial Services Office to access the resources they need to achieve stability and well-being.

In PATHWAY, the participant enters a guilty plea and their sentencing is postponed while they complete the program. Participants will execute an Agreement where they agree to participate in the program and abide by its governing terms. Participants agree to take part in PATHWAY for at least 12 months, though the term of involvement may be extended as necessary to a maximum of no more than 24 months. The program is intended to be flexible, recognizing that individual progress may be nonlinear and may fluctuate. Successful completion of PATHWAY will result in withdrawal of the participant's guilty plea(s) and dismissal of the related federal charge(s). If a participant is terminated from PATHWAY, the Court will impose a sentence pursuant to the previously entered plea agreement.

Eligibility Criteria:

A. Diagnosis

- Candidates must have a mental health diagnosis (as identified in the DSM-IV-TR) determined or reassessed by a licensed mental health professional within the last two-years;
- The mental health diagnosis must be persistent and cause significant distress which interferes with the candidate's social functioning (e.g., activities of daily living, work, school, family/interpersonal relationships, social activities); and
- For candidates with cooccurring/dual diagnoses of mental health and substance use disorders, the non-substance misuse mental health diagnosis must be the primary

diagnosis and any substance use disorder must be secondary. Participation in dual diagnosis groups and/or recovery meetings such as AA/NA may be directed.

B. Amenability

Acceptance into PATHWAY is an opportunity for participants to receive therapeutic services and community resources in support of treatment and other essential needs. Participants must be amenable to participating in their individualized PATHWAY program, which may include compliance with treatment requirements and other community resource programs. Such requirements may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Evaluation and treatment services provided via private funding, insurance, or contract providers with the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services office.
- Consent to disclose treatment and monitoring information to the supervision officer and/or the PATHWAY Executive Review Team.
- Appearance at all court hearings.
- Compliance with conditions of the Appearance Bond and supervision rules of U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services.
- Amenability to relocating based on treatment, housing, and other service needs.
- Participation in data collection for research purposes.

C. Available Resources

The U.S. Probation & Pretrial Services Office will examine the applicant's requirements in the key areas targeted by PATHWAY (including Mental Health Services, Substance Use Disorder Treatment, and Housing Assistance) to determine if we have the necessary resources to meet these needs. The standard for eligibility will be based on the available resources.

D. Nexus

The applicant's diagnosed mental health challenge(s) were the predominant cause of the conduct in the underlying offense.

E. Suitability

1. The U.S. Attorney or U.S. Attorney's delegate within the U.S. Attorney's Office agrees with PATHWAY participation for the applicant.
2. The applicant is charged in the Western District of Washington for any offense except:

- a. possession of a firearm during and in furtherance of the commission of the alleged offense, felony unlawful possession of a firearm, or an offense involving brandishing or use of a firearm or other deadly weapon;
 - b. a sexual offense, including an offense related to child exploitation or child pornography, or an offense involving sexual abuse or sexual assault;
 - c. an offense resulting in serious bodily injury or death;
 - d. a civil rights offense alleged under chapter 13 of title 18;
 - e. a public official or former public official accused of an offense arising out of an alleged violation of public trust;
 - f. an offense related to national security, including a terrorism offense, or foreign affairs; or
 - g. an offense in connection with which the individual held a significant managerial role in a large-scale criminal organization or in a violent gang.
3. The applicant is a lawful resident or citizen of the United States and resides within the Western District of Washington.
4. The applicant is competent and must enter a guilty plea prior to admission into the program.
5. The applicant may not work as an informant for the government during their participation in PATHWAY.

Application Process:

Application is by invitation only. To be considered, please download and complete the [PATHWAY Statement of Interest Form](#). Submit the completed form and any pertinent supplemental materials to pathwayteam@wawd.uscourts.gov. If invited to apply, you will be provided a more detailed application packet and checklist.