

Other Avenues of Support

If a CARE Act petition is not accepted or the participant chooses not to take part in the program, there are many other ways to find support.

If someone you know needs help, please use the numbers on the back page or visit the *Los Angeles County Department of Health (LACDMH) Get Help Now!* page at dmh.lacounty.gov/get-help-now to find additional resources and helplines, or email CARECourt@dmh.lacounty.gov for more information.

Call or Text 988

to contact the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline for support with mental health-related distress.

Text "LA" to 741741

to connect with a trained crisis counselor to receive free crisis support via text message.

Call 1-800-854-7771 (LACDMH 24/7 Help Line)

for crisis response teams in the field or mental health resources.

Call 211

for general information on resources or to be connected to health, human and social services.



The CARE Court Application Process



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
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What Is CARE Court?

Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court helps people with untreated schizophrenia or other associated psychotic disorders receive treatment and services for their recovery and well-being.

Participants can receive many kinds of support, which may include counseling, medication, housing options, social services, and other resources.

The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) is pleased to offer CARE Court as part of an extended menu of programs to provide mental health assistance for those who need it.

The CARE Court Process at a Glance →



How to Begin

A family member, roommate, clinician, or other eligible person may file a petition at lacourt.org/care, referring an individual that needs help to the CARE program.

Please learn about the CARE Court eligibility requirements at dmh.lacounty.gov/care-court BEFORE moving forward with the petition process. Not everyone is eligible to receive CARE services.



Assessment

If the petition is accepted, a hearing is scheduled within 14 days to determine if the individual qualifies for the CARE program. Once a petition is accepted, a judge appoints a legal representative for the individual and will ask to include a client-chosen supporter. An assessment is conducted to determine if the individual qualifies to take part in the CARE program.



CARE Plan

If the individual is accepted, a clinical team of experts, which can include clinicians, case managers, people with lived experience, and others, meets with them in the community to create a personalized treatment plan tailored to their needs. It may include housing options, stabilization medications, counseling, wellness and recovery support, and other resources.

The plan provides participants with up to a year of services and support, which can be renewed for an additional year.



Support

CARE Court will have periodic check-ins with the participant. These check-ins evaluate the individual's progress and allow for changes to the CARE Plan and its services and resources to support healing and recovery.



Completion

At 11 months, CARE Court holds a one-year status hearing to determine whether the plan's services and supports should be extended for up to 12 more months.



Next Steps

The participant can continue with treatment, supportive services, and housing options in the community to support their long-term recovery.