

2026 GENERAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Key Investments

Homelessness &
Criminal Justice High-Utilizers

TOTAL INVESTMENT:

\$45.6M

\$19M Ongoing | \$26.6M One-Time

UTAH HOMELESS SERVICES BOARD
PRESENTED ON MARCH 24, 2026

INVESTMENT AREA

ONGOING

ONE-TIME

Pillar 1: High Utilizers in the Criminal Justice System

\$6.0M

\$2.7M

Pillar 2: Emergency Shelter & Housing

\$2.5M

\$9.4M

Pillar 3: Mental & Behavioral Health

\$1.1M

\$7.8M

Phase II: Future Homeless System Investments

\$9.4M

\$5.1M

The Other Side Village

—

\$1.0M

Switchpoint — St. George City

—

\$0.6M

Key Policies | Homelessness & Criminal Justice High-Utilizers

HB 308

Rep. Okerlund

Office of Homeless Services Restructuring

Restructures OHS to improve operational efficiency, aligning with Gov. Cox's results-driven government initiative.

HB 205

Rep. Clancy

Downtown Safety Initiative

Addresses open-air drug markets: curtails syringe exchanges in parks, creates STEP Courts & SODA zones, establishes recovery jail pods.

HB 110

Rep. Clancy

High Utilizer Supervision

Allows DOC to supervise repeat Class B misdemeanor offenders with histories of homelessness, helping to transition them into structured care.

HB 339

Rep. Clancy

Street Medicine Access

Expands street medicine access, enabling medical professionals to deliver care directly to people experiencing homelessness.

HB 572

Rep. Eliason

Leifman Model & Shelter City Mitigation

Implements key provisions of Judge Leifman's recommendations, and shifts West Valley City to Tier I for future mitigation funding.

Building Resources and Individual Destinations toward Greater Exits

Project BRIDGE is a 100-day emergency response to immediate pressures facing Utah's homeless services.



Within the next 100 days, Project BRIDGE will connect individuals with clear pathways that lead to stable housing, treatment and long-term support.

Project BRIDGE Goal

1. **Secure Stability Now**
Partnerships with local leaders – including Salt Lake City and West Valley City – ensure critical temporary capacity remains in place during the transition.
2. **Mobilize Community Partners**
Leverage the leadership and expertise of community partners by bringing case management and direct intake options to overflow clients.
3. **Map Every Resource**
A real-time, continuously updated inventory identifies all available housing, treatment and service options statewide – including supportive housing, recovery beds, mental health services and veteran resources.

A Different Approach

Project BRIDGE is fundamentally different. Instead of handing out referrals, teams provide confirmed placements. Each interaction includes rapid, individualized assessment to connect people to:

- Housing opportunities
- Substance use treatment
- Mental health services
- Family reunification options

A \$1 Million Bridge Fund Will Be Deployed To:

- Stabilize existing infrastructure during the transition period
- Ensure comprehensive case management is available to all overflow clients

How Success is Measured



- **100% Outreach:** Every individual in overflow shelter is contacted and offered a specific pathway forward
- **Meaningful Placements:** Individuals are successfully connected to housing, treatment or family support
- **Accountability:** Those who decline services are known by name with documented plans
- **System Improvement:** New contracts require case management and focus on housing exits and not just bed counts
- **Cost Efficiency:** The system operates more effectively at a lower cost than the previous model