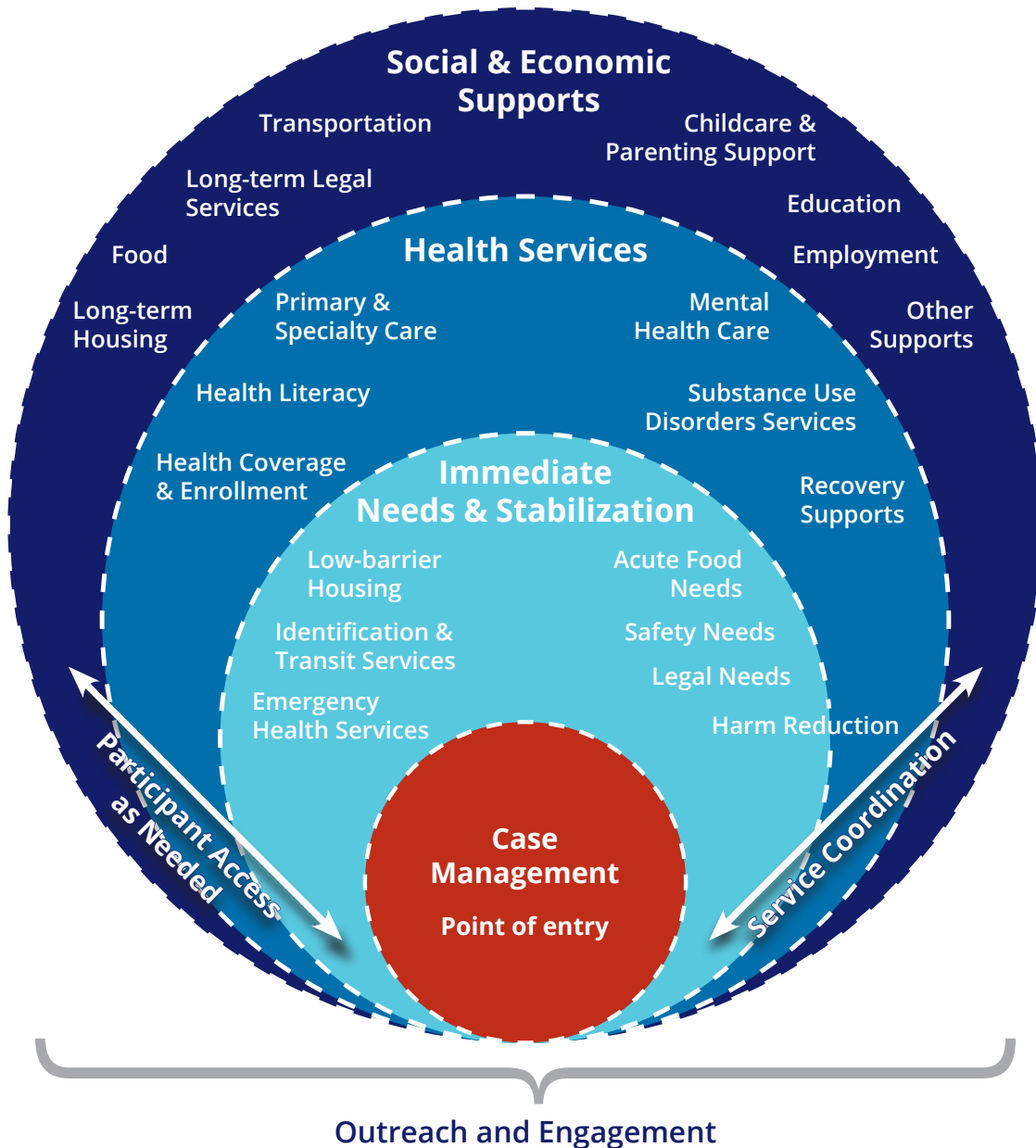


# Continuum of Services for Pre-arrest Diversion Programs

Locking people up for non-violent crimes related to drug and alcohol issues is overcrowding our jails and prisons and failing to reduce addiction.

Smart investments in health and social services through a “pre-arrest diversion” program are a more cost-effective way to help people achieve healthier lives.

This continuum explains the services most needed to meet the health and social service needs of people with drug and alcohol problems to divert them from entering the criminal justice system for low-level nonviolent offenses.



# Services Most Needed for Pre-arrest Diversion

**Case management** is the glue that holds together the continuum of services needed to meet the health and social service needs and goals of individuals with drug and alcohol problems to divert them from the criminal justice system. Generally, the case manager will facilitate enrollment and engagement, help design individualized care plans, and conduct referrals. The case manager should act under a guiding principle of reducing the harms associated with drug-related behaviors, at no time requiring that participants practice abstinence in order to receive services. Those with lived experience may be the most effective in this role.

The **continuum of services** provided must be robust, as well as culturally and linguistically appropriate for the population served. Diversion programs can tap existing services or establish new ones as needed, and participants should have ready access to these services and supports in any order they need.

Stage of Continuum	Service Category	Examples of Specific Services
Immediate Needs & Stabilization	Emergency health services	Naloxone, first aid, wound care, detoxification, mental health screening and referrals, STI care
	Identification & transit services	Securing ID card, cell phone, transit pass
	Low-barrier housing	Emergency shelter, short-term housing
	Acute food needs	Meals, food stamps, food bank referral
	Safety needs	Safety planning, safe housing, emergency contacts, support & referrals to services for sex trafficking, domestic violence, sexual assault
	Legal needs	Addressing outstanding warrants & other previous legal issues
Health Services	Harm reduction	Syringe access programs, testing & counseling for HIV, Hepatitis C and sexually transmitted infections (STI), drop-in centers, recovery planning, peer support services, contraception
	Health coverage & enrollment	Enrollment in Medicaid or private insurance, health care system navigation, interpretation services
	Health literacy	Patient navigators, simple & tailored health materials in multiple languages, education about health system
	Primary & specialty care	Primary care, infectious and chronic disease treatment and management, sexual health services, dental care, wound care
	Mental health care	Mental health screening, counseling (individual, group, family), medication support groups
	Substance use disorders services	Screening & early intervention, inpatient, residential, or outpatient treatment including medication assisted treatment
Social & Economic Supports	Recovery supports	Peer and family groups, recovery coaching and recovery centers, supportive housing, recovery housing
	Long-term housing	Appropriate long-term housing, housing navigation, tenant supports, rental/mortgage subsidies, supportive housing
	Food	Nutrition education, school lunch applications, Supplemental Nutritional Assistance, Women, Infants and Children Nutrition Program
	Long-term legal services	Legal support for: housing/tenant rights, employment, disability, health, immigration, restoration of parental rights, outstanding criminal charges or early intervention commitments, driver's license recovery services
	Transportation	Public transportation passes, transportation to medical appointments
	Childcare & parenting support	Childcare subsidies, parenting classes and support groups, Early Intervention referrals
	Education	Literacy, GED completion, community college enrollment and financial aid, vocational training
Employment	Job readiness training, resume development, job skills training, interview clothes, supported employment programs	
Other supports	Cellular phones, furniture, yoga and meditation classes, clothes	