

Social Impact Partnerships to Pay for Results Act (SIPPRA)
Independent Evaluator Annual Progress Report

Grantee/Organization Name: NYC Department of Homeless Services/MDRC
Federal Award Number: TDO21SIPPRA007IE
Project Title: Coordinated Behavioral Task Force -3 (CBHT-3)
Reporting Period: June 2025 – June 2026

1. Project Overview

- a. Summarize the project and progress that has been made in achieving each outcome specified in the agreement.
- b. What unique factors contributed to achieving or failing to achieve the outcome in the context of the intervention?
- c. Were there any major changes in policy or law that affected the project intervention, and if so, how?

MDRC was selected as the independent evaluator for the CBHT-3 initiative in May 2025. This report summarizes activities completed during the first year of the evaluation (June 2025 through June 2026). During this period, the study team focused on refining the evaluation design, preparing for administrative data acquisition, and launching implementation research activities. Key activities included:

- Meeting regularly with DHS to support the development and implementation of random assignment procedures and tracking processes.
- Obtaining IRB approval for the study. MDRC submitted its IRB application in June 2025, and approval was granted in early July 2025.
- Hosting a design sprint in September 2025 that brought together 12 representatives from DHS, NYC DOHMH, NYC Health + Hospitals, and outreach providers to refine key aspects of the study design and implementation approach.
- Developing data sharing language and supporting applications for Medicaid and arrest data, which DHS submitted to relevant state agencies in October and November 2025.
- Drafting language for the DHS-MDRC data-sharing agreement to support future data acquisition and analysis activities; this agreement is currently under review.
- Planning for the launch of a CBHT-3 research advisory group, which will convene in summer 2026; recruitment of group members is currently underway.

- Conducting observations of CBHT-3 care coordination calls to inform the implementation study and deepen the study team's understanding of the model in practice; observations for each task force conducted in June 2026 for a total of 5 meeting observations.

To date, project activities have focused primarily on establishing the foundation for both the implementation and outcomes components of the evaluation. Through the design sprint and early implementation research activities, the study team gained important insight into how stakeholders envision what is needed for effective coordination and the factors that facilitate collaboration across agencies. These discussions informed the study's implementation research plans and helped shape recruitment and engagement strategies for the study's research advisory group, including approaches for meaningfully incorporating perspectives of individuals with lived experience of homelessness. Data acquisition and analysis activities are expected to expand as administrative data-sharing agreements are finalized and additional study data become available.

2. Has the evaluation study encountered any challenges, such as those identified in the evaluation design plan's theory of change? If so, how has the evaluation team and/or grantee addressed these challenges?

The process of finalizing data sharing agreements among MDRC, DSS, DCJS, and NYSDOH has taken longer than initially anticipated due to administrative review and approval requirements across multiple agencies. MDRC has not yet received program or service receipt data, however, this has not affected planned evaluation activities. DHS has provided counts and descriptive information to support ongoing monitoring of the study sample.

Analysis of program data is scheduled to begin later this year. The study team expects the DSS-MDRC data sharing agreement to be finalized in the near term, while agreements related to the transfer of administrative data may require additional time for agency review and approval. Throughout this process, DSS, MDRC, and partner agencies have been responsive to requests and continued to work collaboratively toward the execution of the remaining agreements.

3. Have there been any alterations to the study's research questions or planned design on account of these challenges? If so, what changes were made?

The study's research questions and planned design have not changed from the original evaluation plan.

4. Evaluate the degree to which the project was delivered as intended, including a discussion of how closely the project's theory and intended procedures aligned with actual project implementation.

At this time, we are collecting information about program implementation to assess alignment with its underlying theory of change. During the first year of the evaluation, the study team conducted observations of CBHT-3 care coordination calls to understand how the model operates in practice, including the roles of participating agencies, stakeholder engagement, and the coordination of services to support individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness. These early observations provided valuable snapshots of care coordination calls in action and suggested that key elements of the model, such as active coordination between outreach, SOS, and housing teams, were operating as intended during the meetings we observed. The observations also provided useful insight into how these weekly meetings facilitate cross-agency engagement for each client, support the identification of next steps and follow-up decisions that had not yet been identified for presented issues, and introduce areas for further exploration by the study team. However, because these observations reflect a limited number of points in time, additional data collection is needed to understand whether the activities and interactions observed are representative of day-to-day implementation and staff experience more broadly, and whether processes and stakeholder engagement have adjusted or been refined over time. Beginning in fall 2026, the study team will conduct a survey and in-depth interviews with CBHT-3 staff and analyze program data to give a comprehensive assessment of implementation and the extent to which the program is being delivered as intended.

5. Include an assessment of the value to the federal government as discussed and defined in Section iii, Annex D Outcome Payment Calculation Methodology.

This information is forthcoming. A full assessment of the value to the federal government will be conducted through a benefit cost analysis, expected in 2030.

6. Any additional information the independent evaluator feels would be useful to the Treasury officer.

As noted above, the study team completed observations of CBHT-3 care coordination calls in June 2026. These observations provided valuable context for the evaluation and reinforced the complexity of the health, housing, and service needs experienced by the population served by this initiative. The calls were well-attended across agencies, with stakeholders sharing information, identifying opportunities to advance client care, and discussing potential next steps to address emerging needs and barriers.