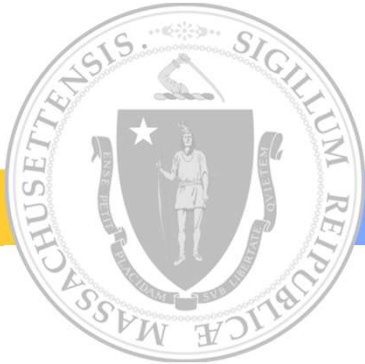


State Mental Health Planning Council

July 2026



Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Department of Mental Health

Northeast Area

CONFIDENTIAL: FOR POLICY DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES ONLY



Northeast Area DMH FY25 Initiative: Community Expansion



Community Expansion Initiative

The DMH ACCS Expansion of Adult Community Clinical Services (ACCS) was approved to meet the need for adults living with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) experiencing substantial impairments to live independently in the community.

FY25 saw the culmination of this multi-year project.

As of June 20, 2025, the DMH Northeast Area had **106 successful placements** under this program.

79 Supported Independent Environment (SIE) beds at 4 locations in Haverhill, Lowell, and Lynn
17 Group Living Environment (GLE) beds at 4 locations in Littleton, Haverhill, and Waltham
10 Intensive Group Living Environment (IGLE) beds at 2 locations in Billerica and Haverhill

Community Expansion Initiative



Edinburg opened a new 6 bed Intensive Behavioral GLE program in Billerica staffed with Master's level clinical staff and a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst. Each client was able to choose the new paint colors and décor for their bedroom.



At Eliot's Pine Tree location, the dietician led a project with clients to install a 4'x6'x6" raised garden bed and a 3' diameter grow bag. They partnered with Fresh Start Food Gardens who conducted workshops and supported the clients in building the garden beds and planting varieties of lettuce, herbs, and edible flowers. They had successful Spring and Fall harvests!



Community Expansion Initiative

Vinfen appreciates having the SIE model as an option. The clients like it and Vinfen appreciates the increased collaboration with DMH and with other services such as TIP, Safe Haven, and the Access Centers.



Our residents are very independent. Our staff assist with certain specific things, like administering medication or helping manage each person's Individual Service Plan. We have community meetings once a week, do group activities like art classes, and organize day trips for anyone interested. But, at its core, this is really a place for people who are ready for a more self-directed living situation.

~ Adwoa Briago, Residential Program Director at the new Vinfen SIE in Lowell

The SIE model inspires those we serve to think, 'That could be me.' And it's thrilling for our staff to see people really succeeding in progressing through recovery.

~Rebecca Spinale, Vinfen Service Director

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Community Expansion Initiative



Living in her new apartment, a Vinfen client is delighted with her independence. *"I can't believe how great it is. I cook for myself, I go to my own appointments, and I grow flowers in my sunroom,"* she says. *"When I need support, the staff is here to help. But this is a place where I can make my own decisions, and I finally feel like I have a home of my own. I made the right choice to come here, and I really feel like I'm gonna do great."*



Photos from a new
Vinfen SIE in Lowell

Community Expansion Initiative

Kat Ashe, Lynn Site Director, speaking about the new Eliot SIE in Lynn:

This unique setting has given people the opportunity to rebuild their lives, many of whom have not been able to do well in a traditional GLE style milieu. With each person having their own private apartment, people have had the chance to build their sense of safety and independence while accessing needed clinical supports on site. The apartments are beautiful and for many of our residents, the SIE has been a much-needed fresh start and a new beginning.

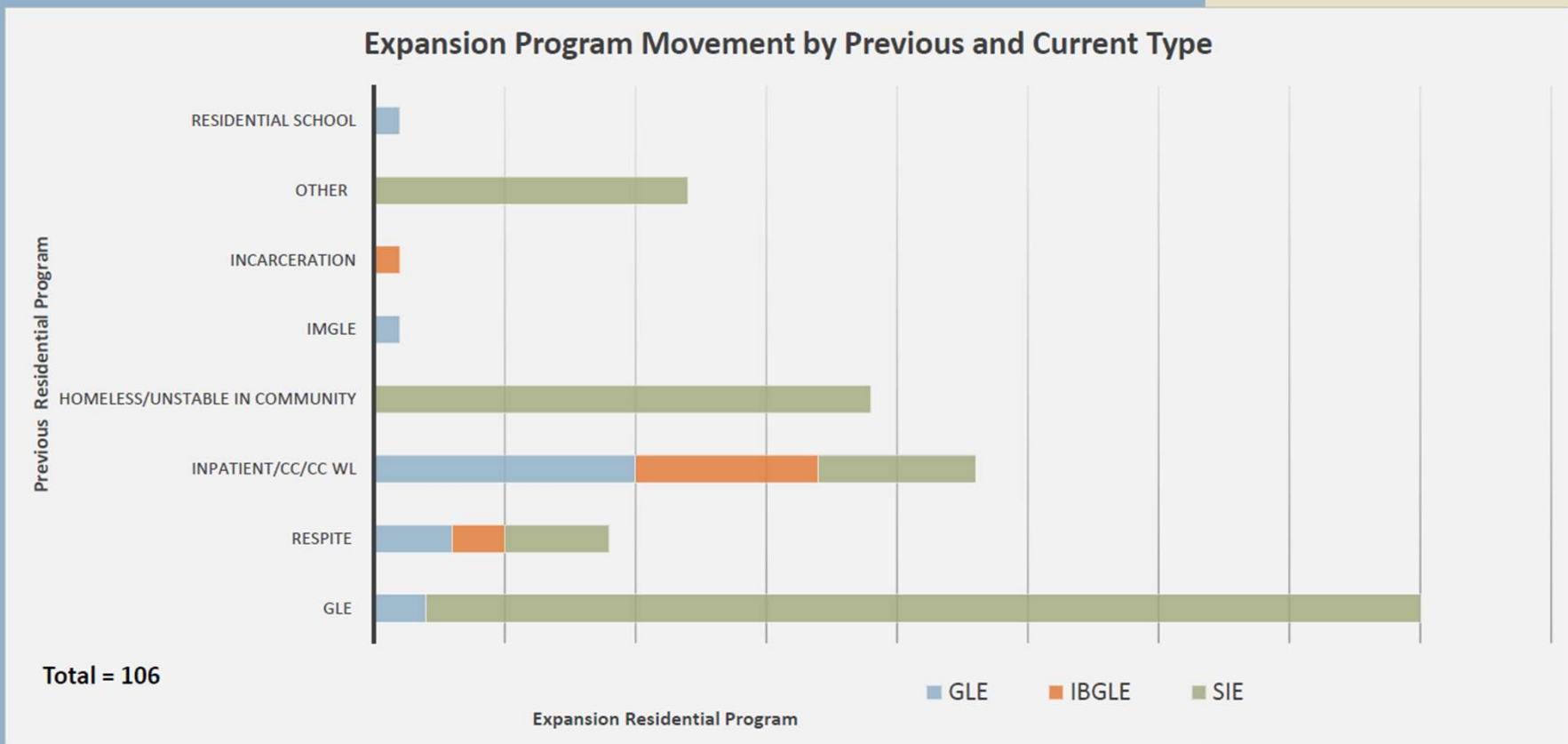
Opening [new units] has also created more movement within the system of care, allowing people who are residing at state hospitals to take the residential program spots vacated by the new residents. This expansion is transformative, providing more residential opportunities for people for decades to come.

~ Elizabeth Cella, Vinfen Senior Vice President of Community Mental Health.

The Northeast Area would like to thank all who helped make this expansion a reality.



Community Expansion Initiative



The Y Axis shows where the person had been living before moving into the expansion program.
The color along the bar shows the type of expansion program the person moved to.

Community Expansion Initiative

