

Building Hope Through Partnership: Bridgeway Honors the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation

A shared commitment to health equity, serious mental illness and stronger systems of community care

At Bridgeway Behavioral Health Services, hope becomes meaningful when it is backed by action: access to care, stable housing, compassionate support and the resources people need to build healthier, more independent lives.

That is why Bridgeway is proud to honor the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation at our 2026 Chairperson's Dinner on October 22.

The Foundation's support of Bridgeway represents far more than philanthropy. It reflects a shared belief that people living with serious mental illness deserve access to high-quality care in their own communities and that stronger behavioral health systems can change lives.

In 2025, Bridgeway received a \$300,000 grant from the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation through the New Jersey Safety Net Innovation Proposal, or NJ SNIP. Funded by the Foundation and administered by the Camden Coalition, the initiative was created to strengthen New Jersey's healthcare safety net and improve care for people living with serious mental illness.

When the grant was announced, Bridgeway President and CEO Cory Storch emphasized what the investment would mean for the people Bridgeway serves, "This funding through the NJ SNIP program will help us continue to deliver critical person-centered, integrated care to the people we serve," he said.

For Bridgeway, the significance of the grant extends well beyond the funding itself. It represents an investment in a model of care that meets people where they are, addresses the many health needs that affect recovery and helps individuals with serious mental illness build healthier, more stable lives in their communities.

Supporting the Whole Person

Bridgeway's NJ SNIP initiative, BBHS – Thrive, focuses on improving the health and wellness of people living with serious mental illness who are served by Bridgeway's wraparound teams. The project strengthens connections with healthcare partners, advances integrated care and builds staff capacity to address complex health needs like diabetes and hypertension. The funding supports Bridgeway's Program of Assertive Community Treatment and Supportive Housing Program, which serves

approximately 1500 people across Essex, Hudson, Bergen, Passaic, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren counties. Bridgeway teams help people living with mental health conditions, chronic medical conditions, substance use disorders and other co-occurring challenges not only find and maintain safe housing but also address the factors that contribute to long-term wellness and recovery.

That work reflects something Bridgeway has understood for decades: mental health cannot be separated from the rest of a person's life.

Someone may need psychiatric care, but also a safe place to live. They may need help managing their physical health, securing benefits, finding employment, reconnecting with family, or navigating a complicated healthcare and social service system.

Support from partners like the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation helps Bridgeway strengthen those connections and create more effective pathways to care, stability and recovery.

A Shared Commitment to Mental Health

The connection between the two organizations is particularly meaningful as the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation has expanded its focus on brain health and serious mental illness.

The Foundation is working nationally to strengthen systems that support prevention, earlier identification and access to care, particularly in communities where significant barriers remain. Its strategy includes cross-sector collaboration, whole-person care, workforce development, and community-based alternatives for people who too often encounter emergency or criminal justice systems when what they need is integrated healthcare.

Those priorities closely reflect Bridgeway's work throughout New Jersey.

From supportive housing and outpatient services to Mental Health Urgent Care, mobile crisis response, community outreach and long-term recovery services, Bridgeway works to make care accessible when and where people need it and to help individuals remain connected to their families and communities.

The Foundation's broader mission to expand healthcare access and strengthen systems serving populations that face barriers to care further reinforces the alignment between our organizations.

Investing in New Jersey

Through NJ SNIP, the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation made a direct investment in strengthening New Jersey's healthcare safety net. Bridgeway was selected for the program's second cohort, focused on nonprofit mental health organizations serving people with serious mental illness and demonstrating the potential for significant community impact.

That partnership continues today.

The Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation is also a Champion of Hope Sponsor of this year's Chairperson's Dinner, demonstrating its continued commitment to Bridgeway and to accessible behavioral healthcare throughout New Jersey.

Building Hope Together

Bridgeway's 2026 Chairperson's Dinner theme, "Give Hope a Home: A Legacy of Impact. A Future of Recovery," speaks directly to what partnerships like this can accomplish.

Hope is finding a safe place to live after experiencing homelessness. It is receiving behavioral healthcare before a crisis becomes an emergency. It is having access to coordinated physical and behavioral healthcare. It is a family knowing where to turn for help.

And it is organizations coming together to strengthen the systems that make those outcomes possible.

Bridgeway is proud to honor the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation for investing in that vision, strengthening behavioral healthcare in New Jersey and standing with us as we work to build a future in which recovery, health and opportunity are within reach for the people and communities we serve.