

# Medicaid Housing Supports

Balance of the State Quarterly Meeting  
May 17, 2024

# Children's Health Insurance Program Health Services Initiative

# Health Services Initiative Defined

1 of 2

- An HSI must directly improve the health of low-income children less than 19 years of age. Low income is defined as a household income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.
- States have substantial flexibility to determine the focus, scope, and design of these initiatives.

# Health Services Initiative Defined

2 of 2

Health service initiatives include activities that:

- Protect public health
- Protect the health of individuals
- Improve or promote a state's capacity to deliver public health services
- Strengthen the human and material resources necessary to accomplish public health goals
- Relate to improving the health of children (including targeted low-income children)

# Housing Support Services Health Services Initiative

Considering the correlational evidence between housing and health, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is using the health services initiative to protect and improve the health of children through supportive housing.

The purpose of the program is to improve the health of low-income children and pregnant individuals experiencing homelessness or that are at risk for homelessness.

# Eligible Population

Income that does not exceed 200% federal poverty level.  
Part of a household with dependent children 18 years and younger or be pregnant.

Experiencing homelessness as defined in any of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's four categories under 42 U.S.C. 11302, including:

- Category 1: Literally Homeless
- Category 2: Imminent Risk of Homelessness
- Category 3: Homeless under Other Federal Statutes
- Category 4: Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence

# Grants with Community Organizations

This initiative is operationalized through a grant with local homeless assistance agencies, which deliver the supportive housing services to eligible families.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is partnering with one agency each from the Dane, Racine, and Milwaukee regions, and 5 agencies throughout the Balance of State region, for a total of 8 awards.

# Selected Grantees

- Grant agreements have been developed and signed by DHS and selected agencies. The selected agencies are:
  - Dane CoC region: YWCA Madison
  - Racine CoC region: Homeless Assistance Leadership Organization
  - Milwaukee CoC region: Community Advocates
  - Balance of the State CoC region: CW Solutions, Family Promise of Washington County, House of Hope Green Bay, Renewal Unlimited, and Shalom Center of Interfaith Network
- The start date for this program was 5/1/2023.



# Supportive Housing Services

- **Housing Consultation:** Prepare housing support options through a person-centered housing support plan.
- **Transition Supports:** Assist families to prepare for and transition to housing.
- **Sustaining Supports:** Provided once a family is housed to help them achieve and maintain housing stability.
- **Relocation Supports:** Financial support for a family's transition to housing.

# Grant Funds

- The money awarded under the grant funds the following:
  - Hiring two dedicated staff persons to deliver the supportive housing services
    - Housing Navigator
    - Housing Case Manager
  - Applicable administrative costs
  - Money to provide relocation supports to qualifying families
- Each selected agency will receive about \$250,000 annually.

# Metrics and Reporting: Socioeconomic Metrics

1 of 2

Selected agencies will need to track and report the following socioeconomic metrics to the Wisconsin DHS:

- Total population served
- Number of children served
- Average length of time to become housed
- Percent of families within each HUD category of homelessness

# Metrics and Reporting: Socioeconomic Metrics

2 of 2

- Average percent of household income spent on housing once housed
- Average income (%FPL)
- Percent of total population that were enrolled into health insurance
- Percent of families returning to homelessness
- Results for CY 2023 and 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2024

# Metrics and Reporting: Health Metrics

1 of 2

Wisconsin DHS is also collecting the following health metrics for the CHIP Housing Support Services initiative:

- Percent of children with at least one early and periodic screening, diagnostic and treatment (EPSDT) visit in the previous year
- Percent of children completing influenza immunization in the previous year
- Percent of pregnant individuals with a postnatal visit
- Percent full term births
- Percent healthy birth weight

# 1915i State Plan Amendment

# 2019 Wisconsin Act 76

- 2019 Wisconsin Act 76 directs DHS to submit a request to the federal government that allows DHS to provide intensive case management services to assist Medicaid recipients who are homeless in obtaining housing.
- The 1915(i) will provide a set of supportive housing services to Medicaid members who are experiencing homelessness and have an identified health care need.

# Eligibility

- To receive 1915(i) SPA services, a Medicaid member must:
  - ◆ Have a substance abuse condition OR mental health condition, AND
  - ◆ Be 18 years or older, AND
  - ◆ Be experiencing homelessness as defined by the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under 42 U.S.C 11302, AND
  - ◆ Require assistance with at least two instrumental activities of daily living as a result of homelessness or their health care need.



# Eligibility

- There are four categories of Homelessness recognized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD):
  - ◆ Category 1: Literally Homeless
  - ◆ Category 2: Imminent Risk of Homelessness
  - ◆ Category 3: Homeless under Other Federal Statutes
  - ◆ Category 4: Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence

# Eligibility

The member must have a substance abuse condition or a mental health condition, which will be assessed through the following questions:

- Do you have any concerns or issues regarding your mental health?
- Do you have concerns about your drinking or drug use?
- Have you ever felt you ought to cut down on your drinking or drug use?

# Eligibility

- The instrumental activities of daily living members may need assistance with to be eligible are:
  - ◆ Managing finances
  - ◆ Maintaining housing stability
  - ◆ Behavioral health management
  - ◆ Medication management
  - ◆ Substance abuse treatment management
  - ◆ Decision making
  - ◆ Healthcare coordination
  - ◆ Transportation

# Supportive Housing Services

- Four services will be available as part of the 1915(i) Housing Support Services benefit:
  - ◆ Housing consultation
  - ◆ Transition supports
  - ◆ Sustaining supports
  - ◆ Relocation supports

# Supportive Housing Services

- **Housing Consultation** - identifies and evaluates a member's needs and presents options through a person-centered service plan. This includes:
  - ◆ Conducting a screening to identify the member's preferences and barriers to housing.
  - ◆ Identifying other needed services and supports and supporting access to those services.
  - ◆ Developing a person-centered housing support plan based on the identified needs.

# Supportive Housing Services

- **Transition Supports** – assists with the housing search and prepares member for transition to housing. This includes:
  - ◆ Assisting with and providing education on the housing search
  - ◆ Identifying the adequacy and availability of public transportation in areas under consideration
  - ◆ Helping to address credit issues for applying to housing
  - ◆ Assisting the member to complete an application for housing assistance and reviewing a lease or rental agreement

# Supportive Housing Services

- **Sustaining Supports** – assists the member once they are housed in maintaining housing stability and achieving the goals in the housing support plan. This includes:
  - ◆ Education on the role, rights, and responsibilities of the tenant and landlord;
  - ◆ Conflict resolution skills
  - ◆ Supporting members in the development of independent living, such as skills coaching and financial counseling
  - ◆ Providing ongoing individualized coordination efforts connecting members with needed resources in accordance with the housing support plan

# Supportive Housing Services

- **Relocation Supports** – assists members transitioning from a provider-operated setting to their own private residence. This includes:
  - ◆ Security deposits.
  - ◆ Utility activation fees.
  - ◆ Necessary health and safety services.
  - ◆ Essential household furnishings.



# Service Providers

- Services will be provided by agencies who are enrolled as Supportive Housing Providers under the Wisconsin Medicaid Provider process and agreement.
- Supportive Housing Providers will be required to belong to one of the four Continuum of Care Lead Agencies in Wisconsin (Milwaukee, Racine, Dane, Balance of the State) or be affiliated with a recognized Wisconsin Tribe.

# Service Providers

- Supportive Housing Providers will have a Moderate Risk Level classification.
- Wisconsin Medicaid performs certain screening activities for each provider during enrollment corresponding risk level classification.
- The Office of Inspector General must complete an onsite visit of Moderate Risk Level providers prior to enrolling in Wisconsin Medicaid.

# Payment Rates

- Housing Consultation is paid at \$84.36 per consultation, based on an average time estimate of 1.5 hours per consultation provided by supportive housing agencies.
- Housing transition services are reimbursed at \$14.06 per 15 minutes of service.
- Housing sustaining services are reimbursed at \$14.06 per 15 minutes of service.
- Relocation supports are reimbursed at cost up to a \$2,000 limit

# Reimbursement

- Housing services will be provided on a fee-for-service basis.
- Supportive Housing Agencies will bill ForwardHealth directly for services.

# Service Limitations

- **Housing consultation** services are available one time, annually unless the member becomes homeless or experiences a significant change in a condition that impacts their housing, or when a person requests an up date or change to their plan.
- **Housing Transition** services are limited to 150 hours annually. Additional hours beyond this threshold may be authorized by the Department.

# Service Limitations

- **Housing Sustaining** services are limited to 150 hours annually. Additional hours beyond this threshold may be authorized by the Department.
- **Relocation Supports** can be utilized once per relocation event/occurrence. Relocations supports may only be provided more than once annually if the member returns to homelessness.

# Upcoming Trainings and Communications

- DHS will create an online Handbook for the Supportive Housing Services Benefit, which will be organized into sections and chapters to describe provider enrollment, covered and noncovered services, prior authorization, claims, reimbursement, etc.
- A ForwardHealth Update
- Live recorded provider trainings with Q&A will be available prior to the benefit launch.

# Questions?

Contact Amy Pulda at  
[Amy.Pulda@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Amy.Pulda@dhs.wisconsin.gov)