



PROGRAM AND POLICY ALERT

MEDICAID FINANCING FOR HOUSING-RELATED SERVICES

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Releases [Informational Bulletin](#)

Washington, D.C., June 29, 2015 – Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) just released a bulletin providing information on how communities can use Medicaid to fund housing-related services. Housing is crucial for ending homelessness and many of the most vulnerable populations in the U.S. need additional supports to regain and sustain housing. CMS recognizes that stable housing provides a health benefit and lowers healthcare costs. The release of this bulletin signals CMS’s support of housing and community integration by outlining how Medicaid can be used to this end.

What Is In the Bulletin

Contained in the bulletin are the specific housing-related activities and services that can be reimbursed for Medicaid covered individuals. Activities and services include transition to housing as well as housing retention services. In addition, the bulletin outlines the Medicaid authorities and demonstrations that allow for these services as well as opportunities where states can fund collaborative activities to link Medicaid with housing-related resources. The bulletin states that CMS and SAMHSA will provide additional guidance on housing-related services that can be provided for persons experiencing chronic homelessness.

How to Use this Bulletin

The primary audience for this bulletin is state Medicaid agencies. This is therefore an opportunity for housing and services providers to reach out to their state Medicaid Director and agency and use this document as an impetus to discuss improving Medicaid benefit packages to include housing based services for Medicaid beneficiaries.

Additional Resources

Additional resources on how to incorporate Medicaid financing into your system of services for supportive housing:

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services “[A Primer on Using Medicaid for People Experiencing Chronic Homelessness and Tenants in Permanent Supportive Housing](#)”
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services “[Medicaid and Permanent Supportive Housing for Chronically Homeless Individuals](#)”
- National Health Care for the Homeless Council and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness “[Medicaid & Permanent Supportive Housing: A Quick Guide for Health Centers](#)”

- Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness “[A Quick Guide to Improving Medicaid Coverage for Supportive Housing Services](#)” and CSH “[Creating a Medicaid Supportive Housing Services Benefit](#)”

About NAEH, CSH, TAC and NHCHC

The National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH), the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH), the Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC), and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council (NHCHC) are national advocacy organizations that seek to promote programs and policies to improve housing and wellbeing for persons experiencing homelessness across the U.S.

Contact Information

Peggy Bailey

Director of Health Systems Integration
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Peggy.bailey@csh.org
www.csh.org

Jayme Day

Program and Policy Analyst
National Alliance to End Homelessness
jday@naeh.org
www.endhomelessness.org

Barbara DiPietro

Senior Director of Policy
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
bdipietro@nhchc.org
www.nhchc.org

Francine Arienti

Senior Policy Advisor
Technical Assistance Collaborative
farienti@tacinc.org
www.tacinc.org