



Pennsylvania
Department of Human Services

Bridges to Success: Keystones of Health for Pennsylvania

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Services

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This document summarizes information from a recently approved five-year demonstration program. All content is preliminary and subject to the budget appropriations process with the General Assembly.

What to expect today?



- **Update** on Keystones of Health
– Housing Support Component
- Opportunity for **discussion**
- **Future sessions** with deeper discussion of key factors necessary to drive impact and success



Status Update - Overall

- CMS approvals – November/December 2024
- Focused on phased and stepwise implementation
- SFY 25-26 proposed budget focuses on reentry program with our State Correctional Institutions
- All future implementation is contingent on budget appropriations from the General Assembly
- While this portion of the waiver is not in the Governor's proposed SFY 25-26 budget and future implementation is contingent on budget appropriations from the General Assembly, this "looking ahead" series will help determine what would be necessary for implementation.
- CMS required deliverables due in 2025 regardless of the year we implement.



What is an 1115 Demonstration Waiver?

A vehicle for innovation

- “Waive” certain rules that govern state Medicaid programs
- The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) authorizes **five-year demonstrations** with **independent evaluation requirements**
- Provides federal authorities and **new tools** for states – not entitlements or obligations
- Recent waivers strengthen work to address health-related social needs and reentry programs for people leaving correctional facilities
- CMS approved Pennsylvania waivers in late 2024





CMS framework: unmet social needs that directly contribute to poor health and drive health care use

- Clinical risk factors *and*
- Social risk factors

Time-limited programs during key life transitions can have large impact

What are Health-Related Social Needs?



Bridges to Success: Keystones Health - Transforming Medicaid to improve health outcomes

Bring new tools to our Medicaid program to work upstream

- Reduce avoidable health care use and improve health
- Build on national research and local pilots and programs
- *Targeted* programs focused on *high-risk* populations

Focus Areas

- Reentry supports
- *Housing supports*
- Food is Medicine
- Targeted continuous eligibility policies



Reentry Supports

Goal: Improve transitions to communities, fostering success and healthier outcomes.

THE OPPORTUNITY

- Health conditions like Substance Use Disorder and Serious Mental Illness lead to high rates of overdose, criminal justice involvement, and recidivism
- Bipartisan SUPPORT Act of 2018 led to a new waiver opportunity to improve reentry by leveraging federal resources through Medicaid
- What if we could...
 - Reduce overdoses, recidivism and avoidable hospital use?
 - Improve public safety and set returning citizens up for success?

NEW TOOLS

- Reactivate Medicaid up to 90 days prior to release
- Provide **intensive case management and SUD care** that continues post-release with significant federal resources
- Ensure coverage for a full 12 months post-release to avoid gaps in care during this high-risk reentry period
- Create stronger connections between counties and state correctional institutions and future opportunities for county jail programs



Housing Supports

Goal: Opportunities for stable housing as a **foundation for overall health and well-being.**



THE OPPORTUNITY

- Homelessness and poor health outcomes linked
- Poor health leads to high health care utilization
- Housing supports focused on high-risk populations:
- What if we could leverage Medicaid to support some of the highest risk, highest cost populations to improve outcomes long-term?

NEW TOOLS

- Connect people to existing housing supports and services.
- Provide help during transitions with moving expenses and necessary household items.
- Provide short-term help paying rent.
- Provide education and support to keep housing.



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Housing– National Priority

The New York Times

More Renters Than Ever Before Are Burdened by the Rent They Pay

Published Jan. 25, 2024 Updated May 22, 2024

Half of all renters in the United States spend more than 30 percent of their income on rent and utilities, more than at any other time in history, according to a new report by [Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies](#).



The Homelessness Response System is Helping More People Sleep Inside, But It Can't Keep Up with Demand →

Pennsylvania

425,212

Number of extremely low income renter households

40

Number of affordable and available rental homes per 100 extremely low income renter households

71%

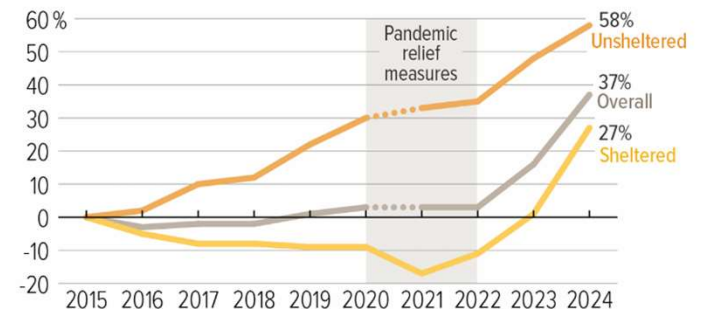
Extremely low income renter households with severe cost burden

Policy Brief: Policymakers Can Solve Homelessness by Scaling Up Rental Assistance and Supportive Services

MARCH 12, 2025 | BY ANNA BAILEY, PEGGY BAILEY AND ERIK GARTLAND

Homelessness Climbed to Another Record High After Expiration of Pandemic Relief, Eviction Protections

Percent change in people experiencing homelessness since 2015



Note: Dotted line indicates missing unsheltered homelessness data in 2021 due to pandemic-related data collection issues. Pandemic relief measures include the CDC eviction moratorium, Emergency Rental Assistance, Economic Impact Payments, and the expanded Child Tax Credit and Unemployment Insurance.

Source: HUD Point-in-Time count data from January of each year

CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES | CBPP.ORG



Pennsylvania
Department of Human Services

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Sources: [CBPP](#); [NAEH](#); [NLIHC](#); [NYT](#)

Housing– National Priority

Shapiro Administration Continues Reducing Barriers to Health Care Through Street Medicine, Announces Expanded List of Eligible Providers for Medicaid Coverage

October 20, 2023

Governor Shapiro Signs Executive Order Creating Pennsylvania's First Housing Action Plan to Increase Affordable Housing, Address Homelessness, and Make Commonwealth More Competitive

Governor Josh Shapiro recognizes that affordable housing is key to economic development and growth across the Commonwealth

First-Ever Comprehensive Housing Action Plan will guide efforts to increase housing availability, affordability, and quality through a coordinated, multi-agency approach to effectively address Pennsylvania's housing challenges

September 12, 2024

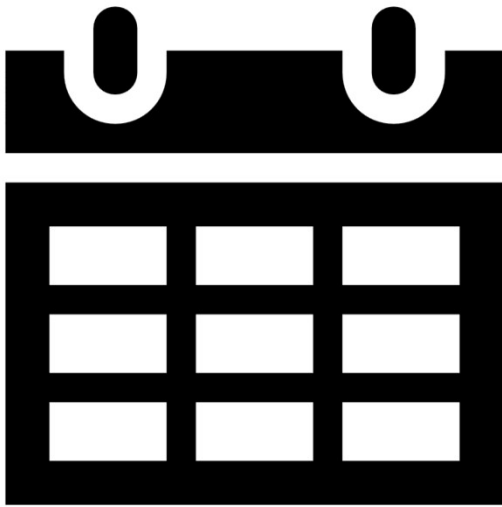


Housing- Hypotheses and Rationale

- Homelessness + high-risk conditions → poor outcomes, high cost
- Housing programs can:
 - Improve health outcomes
 - Reduce avoidable hospitalizations and emergency department use
 - Reduce homelessness, homelessness recidivism and increase housing instability
 - Improve access to health care



Housing– Application and Approval



- Phase I: pre-application (mid 2023 – early 2024)
 - Pennsylvania pilots and lessons learned
 - National research and other state demonstrations
 - Stakeholder engagement through public sessions, public comment
- Phase II: CMS review and negotiation (2024)
 - Approval process including budget neutrality terms (capped expenditures)
 - Approval of populations that could be served
 - Approval of housing support service definitions



Housing – Approved Populations

- Individuals experiencing homelessness and have:
 - Serious Mental Illness
 - Substance Use Disorders
 - Pregnant or post-partum
- Individuals who are incarcerated and at risk of homelessness who:
 - Meet the above populations
 - Have a chronic health condition

Chronic Health Conditions:

- Active cancer with current chemotherapy or radiation treatment
- End-stage renal disease with active dialysis
- Chronic pulmonary disease requiring oxygen
- Type 1 diabetes
- Type 2 diabetes requiring at least one injectable insulin/day.



Housing Supports–Housing/Home Environment interventions *without* room and board



- **Case management services** for access to housing
 - Outreach and education; linkages to other state and federal benefit programs, benefit program application assistance, and benefit program application fees
- **Housing navigation and tenancy supports**
 - Pre-tenancy Navigation Services to find and secure housing
 - Tenancy and Sustaining Services – Eviction prevention, tenant rights education.



Housing Supports–Housing/Home Environment interventions *without* room and board



- **One-time transition costs** and moving costs other than rent, to assist with identifying, coordinating, securing, or funding one-time necessary services and modifications to help a person establish a basic household.
 - security deposit, application and inspection fees, utilities activation fees, movers, relocation expenses
- **Utility Assistance:** capped at six months per demonstration period for total prospective/retrospective payments including activation expenses and back payments to secure utilities. **Allowable utilities** include water, garbage, sewage, recycling, gas, electric, internet, and phone services.



Housing Supports–Housing/Home Environment interventions *with* room and board

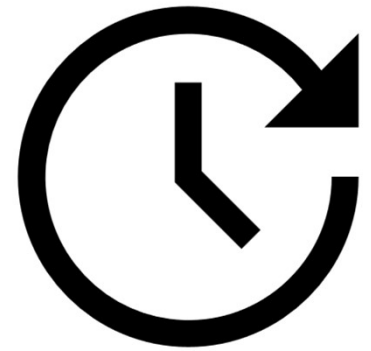
Room and board-only supports (also referred to as “rent-only” supports or interventions), limited to a clinically appropriate amount of time, including:

- **First month’s rent** as a transitional service.
- **Short-term rental assistance** with room alone or with room and board together, without clinical services included in the rental assistance payment.



Housing– Post-Approval & Looking Ahead

- Phased, stepwise implementation – proposed budget includes reentry program
- This portion of the demonstration is not in the Governor’s proposed budget for SFY 25-26
- Future implementation is contingent on budget appropriations from the General Assembly
- This “looking ahead” series will lay the groundwork for what would be necessary for future implementation
 - Implementation and Evaluation Planning
 - Data Sharing with Continuums of Care and Counties



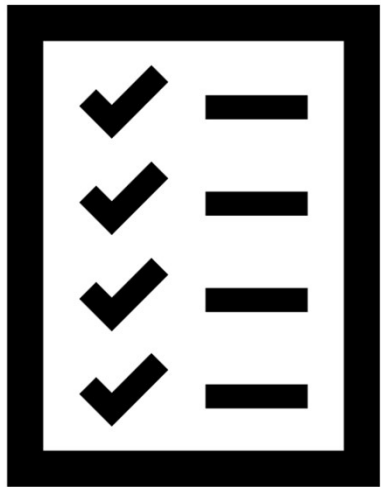
Housing– Next Steps



- This series will inform CMS-required deliverables due in summer/fall 2025 regardless of the year we implement
- Deliverables do not obligate us to implementation, but we must meet them to have these tools available to us
 - Evaluation plan
 - Implementation plan
- Virtual sessions to facilitate dialogue and discussion and inform key performance indicators and needs for program success



Housing– Key Performance Indicators



- ☐ Screening and referrals
 - Screening to identify need
 - Effective referral mechanisms to housing support services
- ☐ Client enrollment and engagement
 - Successful engagement and initiation of services
- ☐ Service delivery and maximizing impact
 - Maximizing the quality and impact of services delivered
- ☐ Long-term impact
 - Leveraging short-term interventions for long-term impact



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Questions

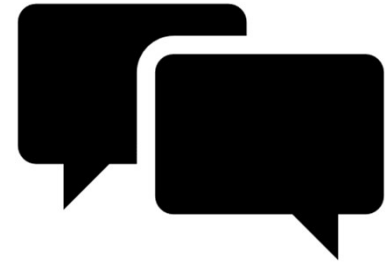


- How can we target resources to the right members where we can see the greatest impact? MSO
- What are the eligibility requirements and limitations?
- How will this will be rolled out and integrated with other available housing resources?
- How quickly can we get people the housing they need?



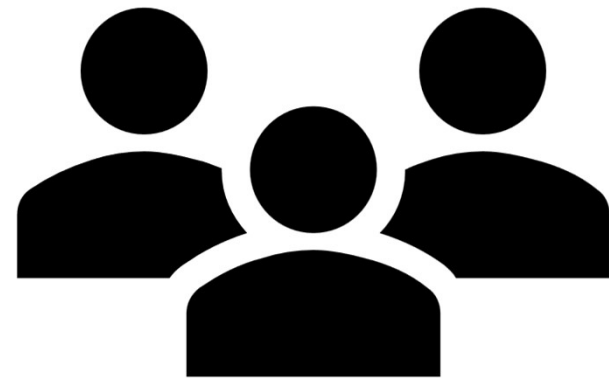
Housing

- What can PA learn about the start-up implementation challenges other states have encountered and strategized?
- How can individuals ensure they receive up to date information on available housing resources?
- How can we ensure that support is available for those individuals who may need assistance to successfully connect to resources?



Housing– Future Sessions

- Preliminary topics for future sessions (4th Mondays 1-2pm)
 - Screening and referrals (i.e., identify need, connections to providers)
 - Client enrollment and engagement (i.e., service delivery and quality)
 - Service delivery and quality (i.e., maximizing impact)
- Identify factors that can maximize long term impact in all sessions (education, other benefits, etc.)
- Expect to hear from us!



Additional Information and Resources

Please see the following for more information about the potential program.

Where you can find more information:

1115 DEMONSTRATION WEBSITE

Read detailed context and information about Pennsylvania's 1115 application with helpful resources:

[Keystones of Health | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania \(pa.gov\)](https://www.keystonesofhealth.pa.gov/)

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