



Keystones of Health Housing Stakeholder Sessions

Overview

Housing is widely recognized as a critical social driver of health. There is growing evidence that interventions that help unhoused people find and keep housing improve access to health care and lead to better health outcomes by providing stability, safety, and support. When people are stably housed, it provides the foundation to attend medical appointments, manage chronic conditions, and safely store medications, resulting in more consistent care and long-term health improvements. Housing interventions and supportive services that connect people with primary care, mental health and substance use disorder treatment, and recovery supports can decrease use of avoidable emergency and acute care. Ultimately, stable housing serves as a foundation for both individual well-being and more efficient, cost-effective health care delivery.

In December 2024, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), approved a five-year waiver, [Bridges to Success: Keystones of Health for Pennsylvania](#), that grants federal authority to include housing interventions in the Pennsylvania Medicaid program. This provides the opportunity to build and expand programs across the Commonwealth

While this portion of the demonstration waiver is not in the Governor's proposed budget for state fiscal year 25-26 and future implementation is contingent on budget appropriations from the General Assembly, DHS is planning a virtual "looking ahead" series. This series will engage stakeholders to help determine the essentials for successful implementation. This series will help inform CMS-required deliverables due in summer and fall 2025 regardless of the year we implement.

Pennsylvania is home to 16 Continuums of Care and many community-based organizations that have partnered with hospitals and health systems to pilot and grow various housing initiatives like supportive housing and street medicine programs. These sessions will bring together entities across the Commonwealth who provide housing and services to the unhoused, hospitals and health systems and other health care providers, managed care organizations, and state government. Through these sessions, DHS will share information and seek input on key drivers to achieve success and impact.

Goals

The goals of this series of "Housing Stakeholder Sessions" are to identify key steps and needs for implementation and measures of program success.

First Session

The first *virtual* stakeholder engagement session will be held **May 14, 2025 (1:00-2:00 PM)** and will serve as an opportunity to share updates regarding the status of the Keystones of Health waiver and CMS approvals. We will then have opportunities for discussion of needs and future strategies for implementation. Future implementation is contingent on budget appropriations.

Subsequent Sessions

Future monthly sessions will focus on specific aspects of implementation ranging from screening and referring individuals to the delivery of services and translating time-limited services to long-term impact. Sessions will be held on the **4th Monday of the month (2:00-3:00 PM) June through August 2025**.