

VT Medicaid Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Assistance Program

Stakeholder Listening Session

Conducted by the Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) on behalf of
the VT Agency of Human Services (AHS)

Proposal

- Implement a Medicaid Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Assistance Program that provides services that Vermonters need to successfully transition into and maintain residency in permanent supportive housing.
- To manage Program resources: CMS' approval includes an enrollment cap, prioritization criteria, and waitlist.

Rationale

- **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)** refers to housing for people with the most complex needs that is affordable, upholds the rights of tenancy via a lease, and offers voluntary, individualized services and supports to help them maintain their housing.
- Permanent supportive housing programs are effective in reducing homelessness, preventing emergency department use and hospitalization, and reducing overall health care costs for high-need individuals.¹
- There are some existing Medicaid covered services that help people to access and sustain housing, but these do not cover the full array of services and supports for all target populations. AHS is seeking to implement the benefit to fill gaps in services, allowing non-Medicaid resources to cover services and individuals not eligible for Medicaid coverage.

Eligibility Criteria

- Medicaid enrollees ages 18+ who are eligible for full Medicaid State Plan benefits, and meet *at least 1* health needs and *at least 1* risk-based criteria:
 - ▶ *Health needs criteria* include but are not limited to MH or SUD diagnoses; acquired brain injury (w/need for assistance with 2 or more ADLs or hands-on assistance with one or more ADLs); complex physical health needs; delays in cognitive development; individual has one or more Medicaid- eligible dependents that meet the health-needs criteria.
 - ▶ *Risk-based criteria* include but are not limited to risk of homelessness; history of homelessness; history of frequent stays in institutional or residential setting, history of frequent ED visits or hospitalization; history of involvement in criminal justice system; history of frequent moves or loss of housing as a result of mental health or SUD symptoms; at serious risk of institutionalization



Service Descriptions

Housing navigation services (also called pre-tenancy support services) –

- Housing needs and preferences assessment
- Assistance with locating and applying for housing
- Housing support plan development
- Assistance in securing resources and benefits, such as TANF, Section 8 housing vouchers, Shelter Plus, or other rental assistance

Housing retention services (also called tenancy supports services)

- Assistance with maintaining benefits, such as TANF, Section 8 housing vouchers, Shelter Plus, or other rental assistance
- Connections to community resources
- Supports to develop independent living skills
- Eviction prevention services

Community transition services (for all enrollees moving to supportive housing, regardless of the setting they are moving from. These services are furnished only to the extent it is reasonable and necessary as clearly identified through an enrollee's care plan)

- Home modifications to improve accessibility
- Security deposits
- Utility deposits
- Moving expenses
- Essential household furnishings
- Pest eradication

Provider Qualifications

Provider	Minimum Qualifications
Staff providing pre-tenancy supports, tenancy sustaining services, and community transition services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Bachelor or associate degree in a human/social services field or a relevant field; or•At least one year of relevant experience or training in the field of service.
Case management staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Bachelor Degree in Education, Human Services, Counseling or a related field; and•At least one year of relevant experience or training in the field of service.

Additional components to be developed

- Criteria or process for prioritization
- Outreach and engagement strategy
- Independent Assessment – Evaluation of Eligibility
- Person-Centered Recovery Plan
- Client flow
- Housing strategy
- Development of a waitlist and ongoing management

Thank you!

- Please feel free to contact Alicia Woodsby at awoodsby@tacinc.org with any additional questions or feedback.