Housing Stabilization Services for Corrections Partners

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Start with “Why”
Objectives

At the end of the presentation today, you will:

• Develop a basic understanding of Housing Stabilization Services and how it can benefit people you support

• Identify pathways onto Housing Stabilization Services and promote service access for people who are justice-involved

• Learn how to connect people you support to Housing Stabilization Services

• Understand how to find enrolled Housing Stabilization Services providers in your area

• Know where to start if your agency wants to enroll as a Housing Stabilization Services Provider

• Deepen your understanding of person-centeredness

• Determine ways your agency can integrate Housing Stabilization Services into its structure

• Know where to go when you need more information or technical assistance about the service
Are you aware that Medical Assistance can cover housing services?
Housing Stabilization Services Overview
Goals of the Services

Support an individual's **transition** to housing

Increase **long-term stability** in housing

**Avoid** future periods of homelessness or institutionalization
Housing Stabilization Services

Transition

• Helps people plan for, find and move into housing

Sustaining

• Supports a person to maintain living in their home

**Housing Consultation**: A new planning service available through Housing Stabilization Services that provides a person-centered plan for people without Medicaid funded case management.
What are transition/sustaining services?

**Transition Services**
- 150 hours per transition
- Helping with the housing search and application process
- Teaching budgeting to support housing goals
- Assisting with organizing the move and locating funding for deposits or household needs
- Identifying benefits to help promote housing stability

**Sustaining Services**
- 150 hours per year
- Developing and updating a crisis or safety plan
- Educating the person about tenant-landlord rights and responsibilities
- Advocating on a person's behalf to prevent eviction
- Training the person how to comply with the rules of a lease and manage one's household to be a good tenant
Eligibility Criteria
Connecting People to Medical Assistance

• Person must be approved for Medical Assistance before enrolling in Housing Stabilization Services

• Increase Medical Assistance enrollment pre-release by:
  • Submitting Medical Assistance application 45 days before release

• Increase Medical Assistance enrollment post-release by:
  • Connecting a person with a MNsure navigator or a financial worker
    • Find and partner with an organization within the MNsure navigator network at [MNsure.org](http://MNsure.org)
  • Helping a person complete enrollment paperwork and gather documentation
Three Different Assessment Pathways

**Professional Statement of Need**

**Access Point:** Qualified Professional such as a licensed psychologist, physician, or alcohol and drug counselor

**MnCHOICES Assessment or Long-term Care Consultation**

**Access Point:** Certified County or tribal assessor or senior care coordinator

**Coordinated Entry Assessment**

**Access Point:** Through the local Continuum of Care
Eligibility for Housing Stabilization Services

Medical Assistance recipient who is 18 years old or older

Disability or disabling condition + Housing instability + Need for services due to limitations caused by the individual's disability

Eligibility for Housing Stabilization Services
Disability/Disabling Condition

• Aged, blind, or disabled as described under Title II of the Social Security Act (SSI/SSDI)

• People determined by a medical professional to have any of the following conditions:
  • Long-term injury or illness
  • Mental illness
  • Developmental disability
  • Learning disability
  • Substance use disorder
Proof of Disability or Disabling Condition

- Allowed Proof Types:
  - **Professional Statement of Need**
  - SMRT Determination
  - SSI/SSDI Recipient
  - Medical Opinion Form
  - On MA-DX/ MA-BX/MA-EPD
  - Age 65 or Older
  - Verification of Disability for HUD Section 811 Project-Based Rental Assistance Program
Housing Instability

- Meets Minnesota’s definition for homeless
- At-risk of homelessness
- Currently transitioning or have recently transitioned from an institution or licensed or registered setting
- Eligible for waiver services

Housing instability can be documented by:

- Professional Statement of Need
- MnCHOICES Assessment or Long-Term Care Consultation (LTCC) (for persons with a need for Long Term Services and Supports)
- Coordinated Entry Assessment (for persons experiencing homelessness)
Assessed Need for Services

• Requires assistance due to their disability in one of the following areas:
  • Communication
  • Mobility
  • Decision-making
  • Managing challenging behaviors

Assessed need for services can be documented by:

• Professional Statement of Need
• MnCHOICES Assessment or Long-Term Care Consultation (LTCC) (for persons with a need for Long Term Services and Supports)
• Coordinated Entry Assessment (for persons experiencing homelessness)
Quick Note on the Professional Statement of Need

• Multiple professionals can complete different sections of the form

• Use Housing Benefits 101 to help a person keep track of the form
Sign up for a Vault at mn hb101.org

Complete Housing-Related Activities

Plan for Your Home, with the Services You Need

Explore your housing options. Discover what works for you. Make a plan to get there.

Securely Store and Send Documents to Others
What is person-centeredness?

- Based on the principle that government and service providers must listen to people about what is important to them
  - What is important TO the person
  - What is important FOR the person
- Person-centered planning looks at services and supports in the context of what it takes for a person to have the life they want
- Views people as unique and whole individuals with potential and gifts to share
- Support a person’s informed choice to make decisions in their life

Example:
- A person really values their friendships and having a place of their own, but some of those friendships are not pro-social
  - Important to the Person: to have a friend group that can visit their new place
  - Important for the Person: to have friends whose behaviors will not jeopardize the person losing their place
The person-centered planning process must:

- Be driven by the individual,
- Include the person’s strengths, interests, wants as well as what supports they need, and
- Help the person make an informed choice about their Housing Stabilization provider.
Who Does the Person-Centered Plan?

Current roles required to complete plan:

- Waiver case manager
  - Coordinated Services and Support Plan
  - Housing Focused Person-Centered plan
- Senior care coordinator
  - Coordinated Care Plan

New service for people who do not have a Medicaid case manager or senior care coordinator:

- Enrolled Housing Consultation provider
  - Housing Focused Person-Centered Plan
- Corrections partners can help connect people to enrolled housing consultants in their area!
Pick a Transition/Sustaining Provider

• The MA-funded case manager or housing consultant helps the person:
  • Find out what transition/sustaining providers are available through the Minnesota Health Care Programs Provider Directory
  • Help the person make an informed choice when selecting a provider
  • Give the provider selected a copy of a person-centered plan to sign
Housing Stabilization Services

Find and keep housing

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**Is there a service for me?**

*Yes! If you are over age 18, and on Medical Assistance, you may benefit from Housing Stabilization Services, a new state service that can help you plan for, find, and keep housing.*

*Learn more from:*
  - Your case manager
  - A housing advocate
  - County or tribal social service agencies
  - Housing Benefits 101 online at mn.hb101.org

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**What do I do next?**

*Get an assessment to make sure you are eligible.*

*You can get an assessment from:*
  - A qualified professional, like a mental health professional, nurse practitioner, or doctor
  - A certified assessor (with a MnCHOICES assessment)
  - A senior care coordinator
  - A coordinated entry assessor (who also helps you get on the housing list for people who are homeless)

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**Now what?**

*Develop a person-centered plan with a housing consultant or your case manager, which, along with your assessment, will be sent to the Minnesota Department of Human Services. If approved, you can start working with your provider to help you find, move, and keep housing. You can decide to make a change in your plan at any time, pick a new provider, or appeal an eligibility decision if you don’t agree. It is up to you!**
If Approved for Services:

- If in the community, a person can start working with a housing transition/sustaining provider right away, including working on a housing services plan.

- If a person wants to change providers or their person-centered plan, they will need to update their person-centered plan with the MA-funded case manager or housing consultant.

- If a person wants to keep getting services after the first year, reassessment is required as well as an update to the person-centered plan.
  - Providers get a reminder from DHS before the annual renewal date to set this up.
Accessing Services

**Assessment:**
1. PSN
2. MnChoices/ Long Term Care Consultation (LTCC)
3. Coordinated Entry Assessment

**Plan:**
1. Housing Focused Person Centered Plan (Housing Consultant/Targeted Case Manager)
2. Coordinated Services and Supports Plan (Waiver Case Manager)
3. Coordinated Care Plan (Senior Care Coordinator)

**Housing Stabilization Services Provider Submits:**
1. Assessment
2. Plan
3. Documentation of disability/disabling condition

**Eligibility Review:**
1. Provider notified through MN-ITS that they can begin working with person.
2. Provider bills DHS through MN-ITS (FFS) or the person’s MCO (if enrolled)
Important! Additional Support Available

• Additional hours of transition and sustaining service are available when barriers to finding or keeping housing
  • Prior evictions
  • Past due bills
  • Presence of a criminal history

• Request an additional 150 hours per transition or 150 hours of sustaining services per year
Home and Community-Based Services: Conflict of interest requirement

Assessment
- Health professional (physician, NP, social worker, etc.) OR
- LTCC certified assessor OR
- Trained CES assessor

Housing-focused plan
- Case manager OR
- Enrolled Housing Consultation provider

Housing Transition and Sustaining Services
- Enrolled Housing Stabilization Services provider

May be same provider
A conflict of interest exception is required for a provider agency to do the assessment/plan and transition/sustaining service for the same person.

Conflict of interest exceptions are only for provider shortage by:

- geographic area
- cultural/language specific providers

Providers will submit an exception request to DHS to determine if they can waive the conflict of interest.
Housing Stabilization Services and Other Services

• Housing Stabilization Services duplicates:
  
  • **Housing Access Coordination** in 1915(c) waivers—these will be removed from waivers, and recipients will access through state plan. People will transition onto Housing Stabilization Services at their annual renewal with their waiver case manager.
  
  • People will NOT be allowed to receive HSS and the following services at the same time: **Relocation Service Coordination, Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), Moving Home Minnesota (MHM)**
If more intensive housing-related services are needed, people receiving these services should be referred to Housing Stabilization Services:

- ARMHS
- Targeted Case Management (TCM) (not housing consultation)
- 1915(c) waiver services (not Housing consultation)
- Semi Independent Living Services (SILS)
- Behavioral Health Homes (BHH)
- Healthcare care coordination (e.g., through Substance Use Disorder reform services or CCBHC)

**Housing-related grant programs:** Adults who are in a grant-funded program and eligible for Housing Stabilization should be referred to the new service, but may continue to also receive grant-funded services if those services fall outside those covered by Housing Stabilization (e.g., support with CD recovery).
Policies and procedures

Get help with common policies and procedures for DHS partners and providers. Pages include links to manuals, bulletins, administrative updates, grants and requests for proposals.

- Health care
  - Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP)
    - Provider billing, enrollment, authorization and more
    - MHCP Provider Manual
    - Managed care organizations
    - State, county and tribal eligibility workers (CountyLink)
  - Behavioral health
    - Adult mental health
    - Disabilities and livelihoods
Requirements for Housing Stabilization Services Providers

- Be knowledgeable of local housing resources
- Pass criminal background check
- Complete mandated reporter training
- Consultation providers – complete mandated Housing Consultation training available on TrainLink.
- Transition/Sustaining providers – complete mandated Housing Transition and Housing Sustaining training available on TrainLink.
• Application fee must be paid before applying to Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP).

• Pay the application fee or attach proof you paid the fee to either Medicare or another state.

• Pay the fee online through the MHCP Provider Screening Collections System.

• The address on payment must be the same as the address being enrolled.
When is the application fee required?

• If you are a brand-new provider, never been enrolled with MHCP and using an Employer Identification Number.

• Note: Housing Stabilization providers with controlled or owned locations where they will be providing housing sustaining services must enroll each location separately.
When is the application fee NOT required?

- If you are a brand-new provider, never been enrolled with MHCP and using your Social Security Number for your business.
- If the provider is currently enrolled with MHCP and has an active Housing Access Coordination enrollment record.
• Whether submitted using MPSE portal or fax, applications are processed in date order received.

• Allow 30 days for processing.

• If MHCP needs more information, you will receive a Request For More Information letter (RFMI).

• Each RFMI is considered a new request and is subject to the same processing timeline (30 days).
How to Enroll with MHCP

Enroll online using the Minnesota Provider Screening and Enrollment Portal (MPSE)

or

Fax completed forms to 651-431-7493

Questions? Contact the MHCP Provider Call Center: 651-431-2700 or 800-366-5411

Want a visual for completing provider enrollment? Visit HB101 for a [flowchart](#)
Minnesota Department of Human Services’ Provider Relations offers training for MHCP-enrolled fee-for-service providers who provide services to MHCP members.

Please visit the MHCP-enrolled Provider Training webpage for upcoming courses, conferences, webinars and online training.
Enrollment Data (as of 11/25/2020)

• 2,647 applications submitted
  • 82% apply for transition services
  • 18% apply for sustaining services

• Pathways onto Services and Planning
  • 69% have a waiver, and use the MnCHOICES/LTCC pathway with either the Coordinated Services and Supports Plan or Coordinated Care Plan person-centered planning service
  • 30% use the Professional Statement of Need pathway, and use the Housing Focused Person-Centered Plan planning service

• 1,683 approved for services

• 126 enrolled providers
Additional DHS Program Updates

**Housing Support (eff. 7/1/2020)**
- New basis of eligibility for people leaving residential behavioral health treatment
- Provides three months of Housing Support with no individual obligation
- Designed to disrupt cycle of residential treatment and homelessness
- Basis of eligibility now included on the Professional Statement of Need

**Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA) Housing Assistance (eff. 7/1/2020)**
- For people under age 65 at time of application, on or eligible for SSI with housing expenses exceeding 40% of income
  - Benefit rate doubled to $392/month
  - Must be on MSA to get Housing Assistance ($81/month)
  - Expands eligibility to include people relocating to the community from a Housing Support setting

**Child Care Assistance Program (eff. 9/21/2020)**
- Expedited child care for families experiencing homelessness
  - Families experiencing homelessness exempt from activity requirements during three months following application to allow family to search for housing or meet other basic needs
  - Care is approved for 60 hours per biweekly period

12/3/2020
• DHS Websites
  • [Housing Stabilization Services Policy Page](#)
    • New! Important Program Announcements Section
    • Sign up for our mailing list to receive important announcements!
  • [MHCP Provider Manual](#)
  • [MHCP Provider Directory](#)
    • Search under Home and Community Based Services
    • Subtype “Housing Stabilization Services”
  • [Person-Centered Practices](#)
• [Frequently Asked Questions Document (PDF)](#) – updated monthly!
• [Person-Served Workflow (DHS-7347)](#)
Additional Resources

• Webinars
  • General Overview (recorded) on Housing Benefits 101 and Policy Page (PDF only)
  • Provider and County – Tribal Remote Regional Roadshows (slide decks and recorded presentations) on the HB101 Partners Page

• Housing Benefits 101 (mn hb101.org)
  • Helpful tools for people served, including benefits look-ups, budgeting pathways, and general information about Housing Stabilization Services (brochure/visual aids), provider enrollment flowchart

• New Resources
  • Allowable Documentation for Housing Stabilization Services Eligibility Requests Guidance
  • Information for Targeted Case Managers Guidance and “Introduction to the Housing-Focused Person-Centered Plan” training on TrainLink

• Contact Us!
  • dhshousingstabilization@state.mn.us
Best Practices for Corrections Professionals

- Ask about housing wants, needs, and goals right away – and determine if Housing Stabilization Services could support a person to achieve them.

- Explain Housing Stabilization Services to people supervised and supported so they can understand what the service does and how it might benefit them.

- Develop partnerships with MNsure navigators in your area.

- Verify a person’s enrollment in Medical Assistance (or help them get on it) as soon as possible.

- Help someone find enrolled housing consultants in their area (if not on MA-funded case-management) through the MHCP Provider Directory.
Best Practices for Corrections Professionals

• Help a person to identify documentation needed and talk through the enrollment process with the individual

• Expand provider pools by recruiting corrections partners to enroll in Housing Stabilization to serve this specialty population, or consider enrolling yourself

• Reach out to the enrolled Housing Stabilization Service providers in your area to build relationships and advocate for the housing needs of people supported

• Use HB101 (and HB101 Places)
With what you have learned, do you think the individuals you work with could benefit from Housing Stabilization Services?
Thank you for your participation!

Do you have unanswered questions about Housing Stabilization Services?
Email dhshousingstabilization@state.mn.us

Do you need help developing housing stability plans for people under correctional supervision?
Email housingsupports.doc@state.mn.us