

Housing Stabilization Services

Services will begin July 2020.

Housing Stabilization Services is a new state Medicaid benefit for people with disabilities and seniors, designed to help people with disabilities and seniors find and keep housing.

Including Housing Stabilization Services in Medicaid means that support for finding stable housing will soon become a part of health care. We know that it is hard to maintain good health when stressed by having to get or maintain housing. Minnesota is the first state in the country to have these benefits approved as a basic service by the federal government. Services will begin July 2020.

Housing Stabilization Services are for people with disabilities, including mental illness and substance abuse disorder, who are:

- Homeless or at risk of becoming homeless
- Living in institutions or other segregated settings, or are at risk of living in those settings.

The purpose of these services is to:

- Support an individual's transition into housing,
- Increase long-term stability in housing in the community, and
- Avoid future periods of homelessness or institutionalization.

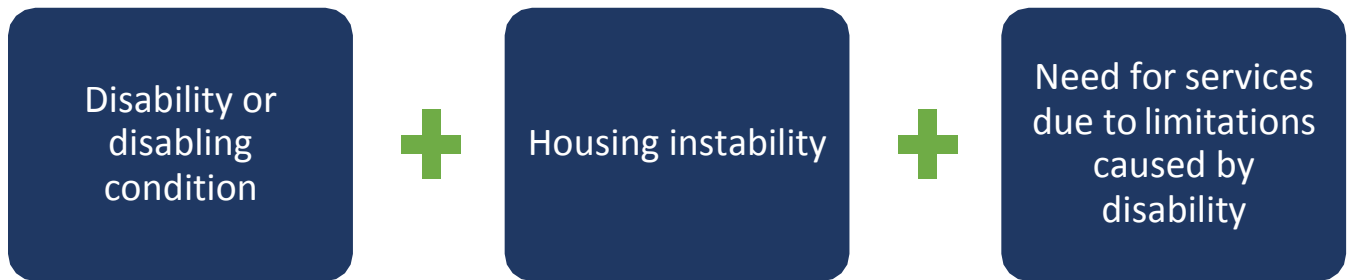
Background

People with disabilities often need support to live successfully in the community. However, that support is often unavailable. Affordable housing is not always enough; challenges such as mental illness and developmental disabilities can make it difficult for someone to find housing, budget, interact with landlords and neighbors, and understand the rules of a lease.

With the right supports, provided by a professional with knowledge and experience in housing, more people can be successful.

As directed by the 2017 legislature, the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) applied to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to add Housing Stabilization Services to Minnesota's Medicaid plan. This was approved August 1, 2019. Housing Stabilization Services will replace Housing Access Coordination services in the Developmental Disabilities, Community Access Disability Inclusion, Community Alternative Care and Brain Injury waivers, retaining the services for those on them and expanding access to housing services to a broader population.

Eligibility



Housing instability includes homelessness or at risk for homelessness, transition from an institution or segregated setting, or at risk for institutionalization.

Services

Housing Stabilization Services include two main services:

Housing Transition Service

Helps people plan for, find and move into housing by:

- Developing an individualized housing plan
- Identifying and assisting in resolving barriers to accessing housing
- Supporting the person in applying for benefits to afford their housing
- Contacting prospective housing options for availability and information
- Supporting the person with tenant screening and housing assessment
- Helping to understand and negotiate a lease
- Identifying resources to cover moving expenses
- Ensuring the new living arrangement is safe and ready for move-in

Housing Sustaining Service

Supports a person to maintain housing through:

- Prevention and early identification of behaviors that may jeopardize continued housing
- Assistance with the housing recertification processes
- Training on being a good tenant, lease compliance, and household management
- Supporting the person to understand and maintain income and benefits to retain housing
- Supporting the building of natural housing supports and resources in the community
- Housing sustaining services do not cover room and board