

1915i Housing Support Services

Balance of the State Quarterly Meeting
November 17, 2023

1915i State Plan Amendment

- Section 1915(i) of the Social Security Act allows states to offer certain home and community-based services (HCBS) to individuals:
 - ◆ Who do not meet an institutional level of care.
 - ◆ Who are diagnosed with mental health and substance use disorders.

1915i State Plan Amendment

- 2019 Wisconsin Act 76
- The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is amending the Medicaid State Plan to provide home and community-based services as described in section 1915(i) of the Social Security Act.
- The 1915(i) State Plan Amendment (SPA) will provide a set of supportive housing services to Medicaid members who are experiencing homelessness and have an identified health care need.

1915i State Plan Amendment

- DHS submitted the 1915i State Plan Amendment to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on September 30th, 2022.
- We anticipate receiving approval for the 1915i State Plan Amendment by the end 2023.

Eligibility

- To receive 1915(i) SPA services, a Medicaid member must:
 - ◆ Have a substance abuse condition OR mental health condition, AND
 - ◆ Be 18 years or older, AND
 - ◆ Be experiencing homelessness as defined by the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under 42 U.S.C 11302, AND
 - ◆ Require assistance with at least two instrumental activities of daily living as a result of homelessness or their health care need.

Eligibility

- There are four categories of Homelessness recognized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD):
 - ◆ Category 1: Literally Homeless
 - ◆ Category 2: Imminent Risk of Homelessness
 - ◆ Category 3: Homeless under Other Federal Statutes
 - ◆ Category 4: Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence

Eligibility

The member must have a substance abuse condition or a mental health condition, which will be assessed through the following questions:

- Do you have any concerns or issues regarding your mental health?
- Do you have concerns about your drinking or drug use?
- Have you ever felt you ought to cut down on your drinking or drug use?

Eligibility

- The instrumental activities of daily living members may need assistance with to be eligible are:
 - ◆ Managing finances
 - ◆ Maintaining housing stability
 - ◆ Behavioral health management
 - ◆ Medication management
 - ◆ Substance abuse treatment management
 - ◆ Decision making
 - ◆ Healthcare coordination
 - ◆ Transportation

Supportive Housing Services

- Four services will be available as part of the 1915i Housing Support Services benefit:
 - ◆ Housing consultation
 - ◆ Transition supports
 - ◆ Sustaining supports
 - ◆ Relocation supports

Supportive Housing Services

- **Housing Consultation** - identifies and evaluates a member's needs and presents options through a person-centered service plan. This includes:
 - ◆ Conducting a screening to identify the member's preferences and barriers to housing.
 - ◆ Identifying other needed services and supports and supporting access to those services.
 - ◆ Developing a person-centered housing support plan based on the identified needs.

Supportive Housing Services

- **Transition Supports** – assists with the housing search and prepares member for transition to housing. This includes:
 - ◆ Assisting with and providing education on the housing search
 - ◆ Identifying the adequacy and availability of public transportation in areas under consideration
 - ◆ Helping to address credit issues for applying to housing
 - ◆ Assisting the member to complete an application for housing assistance and reviewing a lease or rental agreement

Supportive Housing Services

- **Transition Supports – continued**
 - ◆ Ensuring that housing units are safe and ready for move-in based on federal Housing Quality Standards in 24 CFR 567.403.
 - ◆ Assessing living environment for potential health risks.
 - ◆ Making any reasonable accommodation request(s) related to disability to a housing provider.

Supportive Housing Services

- **Sustaining Supports** – assists the member once they are housed in maintaining housing stability and achieving the goals in the housing support plan. This includes:
 - ◆ Education on the role, rights, and responsibilities of the tenant and landlord;
 - ◆ Conflict resolution skills
 - ◆ Supporting members in the development of independent living, such as skills coaching and financial counseling
 - ◆ Providing ongoing individualized coordination efforts connecting members with needed resources in accordance with the housing support plan

Supportive Housing Services

- **Relocation Supports** – assists members transitioning from a provider-operated setting to their own private residence. This includes:
 - ◆ Security deposits.
 - ◆ Utility activation fees.
 - ◆ Necessary health and safety services.
 - ◆ Essential household furnishings.

Conflict of Interest Protections

- Federal Medicaid regulations prohibit the same professional within an agency from conducting eligibility functions and care plan development (housing consultation) from also delivering state plan home and community-based services (transition, sustaining and relocation services).

Service Providers

- Services will be provided by agencies who are enrolled as Supportive Housing Providers under the Wisconsin Medicaid Provider process and agreement.
- Supportive Housing Providers will also complete the 1915i eligibility evaluation and needs assessment with the member.
- Supportive Housing Providers will be required to belong to one of the four Continuum of Care Lead Agencies in Wisconsin (Milwaukee, Racine, Dane, Balance of State) or be affiliated with a federally recognized Wisconsin Tribe.

Service Providers

- Supportive Housing Providers will have a Moderate Risk Level classification.
- Wisconsin Medicaid performs certain screening activities for each provider during enrollment corresponding risk level classification.
- The Office of Inspector General must complete an onsite visit of Moderate Risk Level providers prior to enrolling in Wisconsin Medicaid.
- Medicaid application fee of \$600.

Payment Rates

- Housing Consultation is paid at \$84.36 per consultation, based on an average time estimate of 1.5 hours per consultation provided by supportive housing agencies.
- Housing transition services are reimbursed at \$14.06 per 15 minutes of service.
- Housing sustaining services are reimbursed at \$14.06 per 15 minutes of service.
- Relocation supports are reimbursed at cost up to a \$2,000 limit

Reimbursement

- Housing services will be provided on a fee-for-service basis.
- Supportive Housing Agencies will bill ForwardHealth directly for services.

Upcoming Trainings and Communications

- DHS will create an online Handbook for the Supportive Housing Services Benefit, which will be organized into sections and chapters to describe provider enrollment, covered and noncovered services, prior authorization, claims, reimbursement, etc.
- A ForwardHealth Update
- Live recorded provider trainings with Q&A will be available prior to the benefit launch.

Housing Benefit Workgroup

- Every other Wednesday, 10-11a.m. CST to discuss program and policy operations pertaining to the 1915i
- Please reach out if you'd like to participate.

Questions?

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