

# Apple Health and Homes

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## Program launch plan

Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1866; Section 4(5); Chapter 216; Laws of 2022

December 1, 2023



# Apple Health and Homes

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## Acknowledgements

Many thanks to the Department of Commerce (Commerce), Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Amerigroup, and the vast network of FCS providers for collaborating with the Health Care Authority (HCA) to develop a plan for launching the upcoming Apple Health and Homes program.



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## Executive summary

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Following direction and significant investment from the Legislature in 2022, HCA continues to collaborate with the Department of Commerce's (Commerce) Office of Apple Health and Homes and Permanent Supportive Housing (Office), Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Amerigroup, and others to launch the Apple Health and Homes (AHAH) initiative.

Access to stable housing is a critical indicator of someone's overall health. The AHAH initiative pairs FCS supportive housing services with affordable housing resources from the Department of Commerce's Office of AHAH. Once operational, the AHAH initiative is anticipated to extend supportive housing services and affordable housing vouchers to nearly 600 individuals, ultimately increasing connectivity between our health care delivery system, social services, and affordable housing while generating greater long-term health outcomes for individuals and communities.

Key milestones include:

- Approval by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for five more years of Foundational Community Supports (FCS) services under Washington's Section 1115 waiver which also allows HCA to shift the duration of FCS Supportive Housing service authorizations from 6-months to 12-months.
- Authorization and prioritization processes are being configured via a cross-agency collaboration with Amerigroup – AHAH's coordinating entity.
- Establishment of a contract between Commerce and DSHS's Research and Data Analysis (RDA) to conduct an evaluation of the AHAH initiative's impact.
- Commerce designed and implemented the Funds, Unit Tracking, Unit Rental Exchange (FUTURE) platform. This platform facilitates data tracking, connections to housing, and rental subsidy payments on behalf of eligible AHAH enrollees.
- AHAH capital funding is creating 370 total units via an award of \$41.6 million to seven developers, with 119 specific units aiming to serve individuals eligible in Foundational Community Supports.
- Commerce's capacity grant funding procurement resulted in awards to 27 community support service and housing providers across 12 counties aiming to enhance their capacity for delivering community support services and permanent supportive housing.
- HCA has established a subcommittee under the existing FCS Advisory Committee to obtain feedback on the FCS program and to provide up-to-date information regarding best practices in eligibility screening, case rate, case management tools, and other topics.

HCA, DSHS, Commerce's Office of AHAH, and Amerigroup meet regularly to collaborate, review the project management plan for each of the AHAH implementation milestones, and develop administrative functions including establishing assessments, prioritization tools, data collection protocols and performance metrics.

# Background

On January 9, 2017, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved Washington’s Section 1115 Medicaid waiver, known as the Medicaid Transformation Project (MTP). Foundational Community Supports (FCS) – the third initiative of Washington’s MTP – provides supportive housing and supported employment services to high-risk Medicaid recipients with complex physical and/or behavioral health needs. Program goals are to promote recovery through self-sufficiency and integration into the community and to reduce the need for high-cost intensive services by helping individuals find and maintain stable housing and competitive employment. HCA received approval for MTP 2.0 – or the second iteration of the state's Section 1115 waiver – from CMS for implementation during SFY 2024.

Since launching in 2018, FCS has enrolled more than 35,000 participants and created a network of more than 190 contracted providers to serve eligible individuals statewide at 550+ locations statewide. Using two evidence-based practices and fidelity reviews, FCS staff have also established rigorous quality improvement processes, ultimately yielding dependable and consistent data collection and program evaluation. Findings by the Research and Data Analysis (RDA) Division of the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) show a promising and statistically significant increase in wages and hours worked and successful transitions out of homelessness among FCS Supportive Housing and Supported Employment enrollees.

Chapter 216, Laws of 2022 established Apple Health and Homes (AHAH) to align health care and housing for individuals with complex needs by combining the acquisition and development of permanent supportive housing (PSH) with community support services (CSS). The legislature identifies FCS Supportive Housing services as the mechanism for delivering CSS, also known as pre-tenancy and tenancy-sustaining services, which are reimbursable under Washington’s 1115 waiver. AHAH is a collaborative partnership between HCA, the Department of Commerce (COM), and DSHS to house eligible individuals experiencing homelessness and provide CSS to help them obtain and keep stable housing that aligns with their preferences and recovery goals.

## Eligibility

AHAH eligibility uses a subset of existing eligibility criteria used by FCS Supportive Housing benefit. Enrollment in FCS Supportive Housing requires individuals to meet several risk factors and medical necessity requirements.

AHAH eligibility criteria includes:

Eligibility Criteria		Apple Health and Homes
Age	18+	
Medicaid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must be enrolled in a medical assistance program under this chapter and eligible for community support services;</li><li>• Have a countable income that is at or below 138% of the federal poverty level, adjusted for family size, and determined annually by the federal department of health and human services; and</li></ul>	

**Eligibility Criteria**     **Apple Health and Homes**

- Not be eligible for categorically needy medical assistance, as defined in the social security Title XIX state plan; or
- Be assessed as likely eligible for, but not yet enrolled in, a medical assistance program under this chapter due to the severity of behavioral health symptom acuity level

<b>Health Need</b>	<p>Have been assessed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By a licensed behavioral health agency to have a behavioral health need which is defined as meeting one or both of the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Having mental health needs, including a need for improvement, stabilization, or prevention of deterioration of functioning resulting from the presence of a mental illness; or</li> <li>○ Having substance use disorder needs indicating the need for outpatient substance use disorder treatment which may be determined by an assessment using the American society of addiction medicine criteria or a similar assessment tool approved by the authority;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• By the Department of Social and Health Services as needing either assistance with at least three activities of daily living or hands-on assistance with at least one activity of daily living and have the preliminary determination confirmed by the Department of Social and Health services through an in-person assessment conducted by DSHS; or</li> <li>• To be a homeless person with a long-continuing or indefinite physical condition requiring improvement, stabilization, or prevention of deterioration of functioning, including the ability to live independently without support; and</li> </ul>
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- Risk Factor** Have at least one of the following risk factors:
- Be a homeless person at the time of the eligibility determination for the program and have been homeless for 12 months prior to the eligibility determination; or
  - Have been a homeless person on at least four separate occasions in the three years prior to the eligibility determination for the program, as long as the combined occasions equal at least 12 months;
  - Have a history of frequent or lengthy institutional contact, including contact at institutional care facilities such as jails, substance use disorder or mental health treatment facilities, hospitals, or skilled nursing facilities; or
  - Have a history of frequent stays at adult residential care facilities or residential treatment facilities.

While AHAAH’s eligibility criteria are similar to the FCS Supportive Housing program’s eligibility criteria, AHAAH’s eligibility criteria are narrowed around two risk factors:

1. Frequent turnover of in-home caregivers.
2. Individuals who have a [predictive risk score \(PRISM\)](#) of 1.5 or higher.

## Section 1115 waiver update

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CMS approved Washington's first five-year MTP waiver in 2017 – with FCS services launching in 2018. As 2021 ended, CMS extended Washington's initial MTP waiver through 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In June 2023, CMS approved another 5-year waiver – ultimately, supporting the continuation of FCS services until at least 2028. Without CMS approval for FCS Supportive Housing services – a critical component of AHAH's framework – HCA was unable to launch AHAH in collaboration with COM and DSHS.

### 5-year waiver approval from CMS

HCA's newly approved waiver includes several components that directly impact AHAH:

1. **12-month service FCS authorizations:** In accordance with ESHB 1866, CMS approved FCS Supportive Housing service authorizations for 12-months. Extending FCS Supportive Housing authorizations from 6- to 12-months reduces the administrative burden on Amerigroup and the FCS Supportive Housing provider network while allowing HCA to align FCS Supportive Housing service authorizations with 12-month lease terms. HCA, COM, and DSHS hope that by shifting to 12-month authorizations, FCS supportive housing service authorizations will align with AHAH's rental unit recertification processes.
2. **Potential funding for transition cost coverage:** HCA aims to address barriers to obtaining housing by covering short-term and one-time costs that may occur as a person takes steps toward permanent housing, including first/last month's rent, deposits, and other fees. The AHAH program design considers the availability of other funding and resources participants may have access to.
3. **Potential funding for up to 6 months of rent:** The renewal of the 1115 MTP waiver includes the new Health Related Social Needs (HRSN) framework that aims to further address the social determinants of health of the state's Medicaid population. This funding would include the ability to bolster individuals in homes by providing FCS enrollees with up to 6 months of Medicaid-funded rental assistance prior to transitioning to AHAH rent assistance.

# AHAH's key players

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## Health Care Authority

ESHB 1866 (2022) directed HCA to identify one or more organizations, including Medicaid Managed Care organizations (MCOs), under contract with HCA to coordinate community support services – otherwise known as FCS Supportive Housing services – as required by the legislation.

The coordinating entity is responsible for:

- Administration of eligibility determinations for services,
- Enrollment in AHAH's CSS benefit, and
- Coordination of permanent supportive housing units for eligible individuals.

### **Amerigroup: AHAH's coordinating entity**

HCA has identified Amerigroup, the FCS program's third-party administrator (TPA), as the coordinating entity in preparation for the launch of AHAH in late 2023 or early 2024. Currently, Amerigroup manages the FCS Supportive housing network, which serves over 11,000 individuals across 190+ providers across nearly 500 service locations. Nearly 5,000 current FCS Supportive Housing service enrollees may be eligible for AHAH. HCA has already amended the FCS TPA contract to delegate additional responsibilities to Amerigroup and bolster their staffing capacity to fully support implementation of the AHAH benefit.

As AHAH units and rental assistance become available, Amerigroup will communicate with FCS Supportive Housing service providers within the FCS Supportive Housing network to identify individuals currently enrolled who meet AHAH eligibility criteria. Since AHAH's eligibility criteria is narrower than FCS Supportive Housing eligibility criteria, service providers must also assess current program enrollees to ensure AHAH eligibility.

Once eligible individuals are identified, each enrollee's respective FCS Supportive Housing service provider will contact each enrollee identified as eligible. FCS Supportive Housing service providers will debrief AHAH-eligible individuals about the program, including an overview of the PSH benefit, information about prioritization and waitlist, and the path towards housing once a voucher is issued. Once an eligible individual consents to enter the AHAH program, the FCS Supportive Housing service provider will perform an AHAH housing assessment to identify information needed to pair them with housing options that align with their housing goals and preferences.

Since the number of potentially eligible AHAH enrollees surpasses the number of housing resources available under AHAH, Amerigroup will maintain a dynamic priority list. Once an individual seeking AHAH housing arrives at the top of the priority list, Amerigroup will notify the enrollee and their service provider within 5 business days.

Pre-tenancy supports offered by FCS Supportive Housing services will assist the enrollee with identifying housing options that align with the housing preferences expressed in the initial AHAH assessment and connecting with landlords and housing operators.



## Office of Apple Health and Homes

ESHB 1866 (2022) also established the Office of Apple Health and Homes (Office) within the Dept. of Commerce (Commerce). This unit within Commerce's Housing Division, is responsible for managing the funds appropriated by the Legislature in an account created in the state treasury. Expenditures from this account may be used only for permanent supportive housing programs and are appropriated through the operating and capital budgets.

The Office is also responsible for providing technical assistance, building capacity, establishing work plans, and maintaining dashboards to track the collaborative implementation of this multi-system initiative. The Office has contracted with DSHS's Research and Data Analysis (RDA) to conduct an evaluation to determine the program's effect on providing individuals enrolled in FCS with permanent supportive housing. RDA's evaluation will also offer insight into long-term housing stability, improved health outcomes for people in the program, estimated reduced health care spending to the state on persons enrolled in the program, and outcomes related to social determinants of health.

## Department of Social and Health Services

Two divisions within DSHS play key roles with the implementation of the AHAH initiative. Aging and Long-term Supports Administration (AL TSA) has been a founding partner in the FCS program and has a well-established supportive housing program serving individuals with functional barriers to adult daily living skills. The lessons learned from the implementation of the Governor's Opportunity for Supportive Housing (GOSH) program. GOSH is a long-standing state-funded housing program within AL TSA that pairs supportive housing services with a rental subsidy for ATLSA clients discharging or diverting from Eastern and Western State Hospitals. Information gathered from GOSH has been an invaluable asset to the coordinating and planning of the AHAH initiative.

RDA provides an analytical data driven perspective to the multisystem planning meetings and will be conducting an overall evaluation of the AHAH program through a contract with Commerce.

# Budgets

## Biennial budget and enrollment

### HCA

The Foundational Community Supports program is funded through the 1115 Medicaid Transformation Project, renewed for a new 5-year period as MTP 2.0, on July 1, 2023. For the 23-35 biennium, \$14,439,000 of the Foundational Community Supports Medicaid budget was appropriated for Supportive Housing services and administrative costs for services provided to Apple Health and Homes housing benefit recipients. Because these are Medicaid funds, these dollars pay for services for individuals also enrolled in the FCS Supportive Housing services benefit.

HCA Apple Health and Homes	SFY24	SFY25
<b>GF-Federal</b>	\$4,868,000	\$5,064,000
<b>GF-Local</b>	\$2,209,000	\$2,298,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,077,000</b>	<b>\$7,362,000</b>

The AHAH planning committee has designed the program to allow for other short- and long-term rent assistance resources to be blended with AHAH rent assistance, which could allow for higher enrollment in both the AHAH SH services and housing benefit.

### Commerce

Apple Health and Homes Account	SFY24	SFY25
<b>Operating*</b>		\$28,452,000
<b>Capital*</b>		\$59,952,000

\*Min. 10% of all expenditures from AHAH account must be focused on organizations that serve and are substantially governed by individuals disproportionately impacted by homelessness and behavioral health conditions, including Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, transgender, and other gender diverse individuals per RCW 43.330.184.

## Staffing and personnel

The Office has been recruiting and hiring staff to fulfill the responsibilities laid out in [RCW 43.330.181](#). The Managing Director was hired in July 2022 as reported in the [2022 Legislative Report](#). The Office currently includes an AHAH PSH Program Manager/Trainer that will provide technical assistance to organizations interested in the capital program funds, enhancing the quality of their PSH programs. The AHAH Capacity Grant/Rent Assistance Program Manager oversees the implementation of capacity grants and the contract with the rent assistance TPA. A Behavioral Health Liaison position was created to develop stronger relationships between Commerce and the behavioral health system including the state hospital system, substance use and long-term civil commitment systems of care. The Multi-family Housing Unit has also established positions to manage the capital funding through the AHAH account. The Office also manages

other programs dedicated to expanding and increasing the quality of PSH. Currently the Office has eleven staff that are committed to PSH but may be funded through other sources.

HCA received two FTEs to oversee and monitor the Apple Health and Homes implementation through its FCS program. Scott Tankersley was hired June 1, 2023, as the new FCS Program Administrator who will oversee the contract with Amerigroup for their roles as TPA of the FCS program and Coordinating Entity for AHAH. The program is also hiring a new AHAH Program Manager who will coordinate enrollment in the AHAH housing benefit with the FCS Program Manager, along with program monitoring and reporting.

## Funds, Unit Tracking, Unit Rental Exchange (FUTURE): AHAH’s online platform

To fulfill RCW 43.330.18, the Office is developing a software platform that will track rents paid as tenant-based rent assistance (TBRA), project-based rent assistance (PBRA), master leasing and units created through the capital funding program. The platform known as FUTURE will track the number of people served, the number of units created and will post aggregate data onto a public dashboard on the Commerce website.

## Capacity Grants

In the fall of 2022, the Office along with HCA and DSHS partners reviewed 29 applicants from Request for Proposals (RFP) 23-46SH0250. This capacity grant funding procurement resulted in contracts to 27 organizations to build capacity in communities throughout Washington State to enhance the ability of community support services providers and housing providers to deliver community support services and permanent supportive housing and assure that an initial infrastructure is established to create strong networks for AHAH implementation.

The 27 entities, within 12 counties were broken down into 3 categories: Adding FCS to their book of business; expanding FCS to new regions or serving marginalized populations; or unique purposes proposed by the grantee. Approximately 15 organizations identify themselves as primarily serving black, indigenous, people of color, led by and for marginalized populations, women owned or a small business.

**Table 1: Number of grantees within the three categories and the outcomes:**

Capacity Grant Goal:	Total Grantees	Outcome
Adding FCS to their book of business	11	7 fully added FCS, 3 finalizing becoming part of the FCS program
Expand to new regions or serving marginalized populations	9	201 individuals served; providers expanded into 11 counties
Unique proposals from grantees	7	Example: 1 organization built a toolkit that will be utilized as an ongoing tool for smaller non-profit boards and marginalized non-profits to explore and educate as to why adding FCS to their business makes sense or what other streams of funding should be braided in full support for PSH.

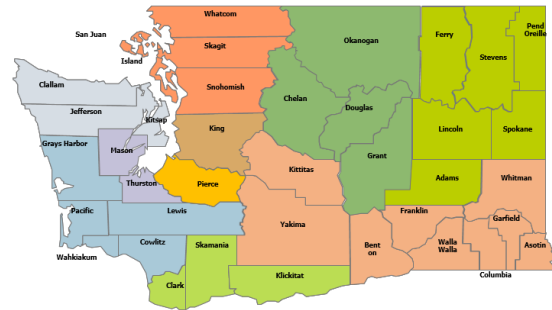
The Office is developing the procurement for state fiscal year 2024 Capacity Grants building from the feedback from grantees, stakeholders and state agency partners the capacity grants.

## Capital Grants

February 2023, Commerce released a Notice of Funding Announcement (NOFA #MHU-2022-02) for affordable housing projects seeking capital funding from the AHAAH Capital Program. The application/addendum was intended to fund construction of permanent supportive housing (PSH) units or acquire real property for quick conversion for PSH. This first installment of AHAAH Capital funds is intended to complete funding with projects that were waitlisted during the competitive round of Housing Trust Fund (HTF) applications.

Utilizing the Homeless Snapshot report (January 2022), a methodology was created to distribute the funds between the ten [Apple Health Medicaid regions](#).

Applications are also scrutinized within the region to meet the thirty percent (30%) set aside for projects that meet 'rural' designation. Commerce also prioritized at least ten percent (10%) of the AHAAH Capital funds for organizations that serve and are substantially governed by individuals disproportionately impacted by homelessness and behavioral health conditions, including black, indigenous, and other people of color, lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, transgender, and other gender diverse individuals per RCW 43.330.184. These will be referred to as "By and For Organizations" in the application addendum. One of the awardees, the Muckleshoot Housing Authority, meets this definition.



The AHAAH Capital Program received a total of 10 applications. Seven applicants had received partial HTF funding and three were wait-listed in the 2023 Application, all of which had demonstrated project viability and qualifications for the capital funding, and the substantive reviews were handled by the Office of Apple Health and Housing, Health Care Authority, Department of Social and Health Services and Amerigroup. The 10 applications requested \$45,121,829 in funding to create 667 total units. The seven final awards, detailed in the table below, will create 370 total units from an AHAAH Capital award of \$41.6 million. 119 specific units will serve individuals eligible in Foundational Community Supports.

**Table 2: Seven final AHAAH Capital Program awards**

Organization	Region	Total Units	Total PSH units	Total AHAAH units	Final AHAAH budget award	Anticipated Completion Date
Coastal Community Action Program	Great Rivers	37	12	12	\$3,282,077	9/1/24
DESC	King	109	109	18	\$7,697,021	5/15/25
Muckleshoot Housing Authority	King	50	50	50	\$16,748,305	12/30/24

Kitsap Community Resources	Salish	9	9	6	\$3,247,697	5/31/24
Olympic Community Action Program	Salish	44	13	13	\$2,585,000	9/1/24
Opportunity Council	North Sound	81	8	8	\$2,842,000	2/1/25
Vancouver Housing Authority	Southwest	40	40	12	\$5,000,000	6/14/25
<b>Total</b>		<b>370</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>\$41,402,100</b>	

### Rent Assistance

The Apple Health and Homes Account also includes operating funds appropriated from the Legislature that can be used for operations, maintenance, and services costs, project-based vouchers, provider grants and rent subsidies for permanent supportive housing. HCA, DSHS, Commerce and Amerigroup are finalizing prioritization and screening process for the rent assistance program. HCA is working with national technical assistance organizations such as Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) and the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH). Both organizations have indicated that a national vetted or accredited prioritization tool does not exist at this time, which has caused some delays in the implementation of the rent assistance portion of the program.

### FCS Workgroup

Per [RCW 74.09.888](#), HCA has established a subcommittee under the existing FCS Advisory Committee to meet the requirements of obtaining feedback on the FCS program as well as provide a forum to provide information on topics such as best practices in eligibility screening, case rate, case management tools etc. HCA’s TPA Amerigroup facilitates the FCS Advisory Committee and has held three committee meetings thus far this state fiscal year. Information on the AHAH program was disseminated at the December 2022 meeting and the subcommittee will continue to address the topics identified in the legislation and report on the improvements of the FCS program.

## Multi-System Collaboration

HCA, DSHS, Amerigroup, and the Office meet regularly to collaborate, review the project management plan for each of the AHAH implementation milestones, develop administrative functions, including establishing assessments, prioritization tools, data collection protocols, and performance metrics. The Office has established a project management dashboard and regularly reviews the task schedule with the planning group. Several planning subcommittees have been established to maximize the efficiency of the planning meetings (Data collection, AHAH Assessment, Prioritization, Guideline dissemination, Capital grantee cohort).

Operationalizing the AHAH initiative is multi-faceted as the initiative is multi-systemic bringing the three legs of the permanent supportive housing stool together (capital, rent assistance and services). Guidelines have been created for the AHAH initiative and were launched for public feedback January 2023. Multiple stakeholders submitted comments through a feedback platform. In addition, state agency partners meet with stakeholders throughout the months following the posting of the guidelines including meetings with the bill sponsors. Based on that feedback, revised guidelines have been posted on the [Office website](#).

Marketing and dissemination of the AHAH initiative continues to be a partnership between the state agencies and contracted partners. As part of the project management planning, a presentation tracking system has been implemented and has identified 27 joint presentations to approximately 933 attendees. This includes presentations at the 2023 Washington State Behavioral Health Conference, 2023 State of Reform Conference, Senate Housing Committee, as well as national conferences.

## Technical Assistance

### HCA/DBHR's dynamic supportive housing training calendar

HCA/DBHR offers a variety of training and technical assistance opportunities to the FCS Supportive Housing provider network and Washington's broader community of PSH providers. Trainings are hosted by HCA's FCS staff members, as well as nationally recognized training and technical assistance organizations that specialize in supporting the provision of PSH services.

HCA hosts a variety of monthly topical webinars to share information about new resources and raise awareness about current needs impacting enrollees of the FCS Supportive Housing and Supported Employment network. AHAH was featured in a variety of topical webinars presented to the FCS Supportive Housing and Supported Employment providers including a full overview of the AHAH initiative in early 2023.

**Table 3: Recent webinars relating to AHAH**

Webinar title	Description
<b>Apple Health and Homes and other FCS updates</b>	Presented by Commerce and HCA, this session provided FCS Supportive Housing providers and others with an overview AHAH, including the goals and strategies of AHAH and updates on CMS's Section 1115 waiver approval, which was pending at the time.

**Washington’s Supportive Housing Institute (SHI)**

The SHI offers in-depth, accessible, free of charge trainings for any stakeholders interested in supportive housing. The Institute includes a comprehensive overview of supportive housing, property management, service coordination, fair housing, and development. Attendees come away with greater awareness of how to expand supportive housing opportunities in their communities.

**Medicaid Academy**

HCA’s FCS team and the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) collaborate on a 7-part Medicaid Academy series to clarify the ins-and-outs of billing Medicaid for FCS. This training helps providers explore FCS benefit implementation and utilization. HCA hosted two Medicaid Academies with CSH during SFY '23. Topics addressed during the 7-part series include Medicaid 101, provider orientation & enrollment, staffing and budgeting, developing policies & procedures, documentation, billing, and more.

**Mapping Washington’s Housing Subsidy and Service Landscape**

Presented by HCA, Commerce, and AL TSA, this session reviewed Washington’s housing subsidy and support service landscape serving individuals with complex behavioral health conditions to raise awareness of the state’s continuum of support resources including the upcoming AHAH initiative.

Other training and technical assistance opportunities are provided to the FCS network and aim to improve service quality and access to housing resources. Topics include:

- FCS Supervisor Learning Collaborative Call: Aims to support mid-level supervisor development at agencies providing FCS services.
- Landlord Outreach Learning Community Call: Equips FCS providers, landlords, and supportive housing enrollees with a better understanding of how FCS SH services support long-term tenancy.
- DBHR’s Supportive Housing Monthly Topical Webinar: Connects FCS providers with information, tools, and best practices related to PSH, case management tools, fair housing issues, and more.
- FCS Fidelity Reviewer Trainings: The FCS supportive housing benefit follows the Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) fidelity model established by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA). These quarterly trainings assist FCS providers with implementing strategies that improve service quality and housing and health outcomes for people enrolled in FCS.

**PSH Fidelity Reviews**

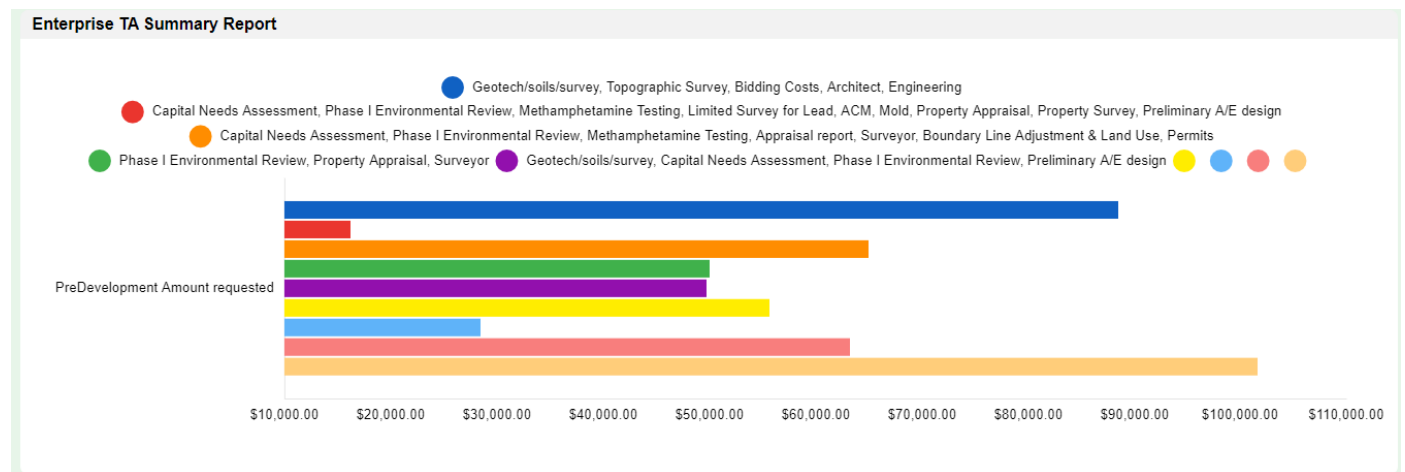
The use of SAMHSA’s PSH model as the framework for service provision increases the likelihood that an individual will obtain and maintain housing in communities across Washington. HCA performs fidelity reviews to ensure adherence to the core principles of PSH. These reviews aim to help the FCS provider network achieve better housing outcomes through continuous improvement in quality of services.

HCA created a community-based approach to review fidelity among FCS Supportive Housing and FCS Supported Employment service providers. Participating in fidelity training and reviews with other agencies facilitates the sharing of PSH knowledge and best practices among FCS providers. DBHR offers limited

grants for participation in either hosting a fidelity review or sending staff to participate in the review of another agency.

## Commerce’s Technical Assistance

The Office recently hired a PSH Program Manager and PSH Trainer. They will enhance the technical assistance HCA provides to FCS service providers by focusing on the technical assistance to housing owners and operators. In addition, in the 2023 operating budget, Commerce received a proviso for a national technical assistance organization to provide technical assistance on the constructive alignment of yet-to-be secured state or local capital funds for the construction, acquisition, refurbishment, redevelopment or conversion of units for PSH. Commerce contracted with Enterprise Community Partners, a national community development financial institution, to provide this expertise. Enterprise Community Partners provided technical assistance to 20 organizations in SFY23 providing over \$600,000 in pre-development grants to organizations. Pre-development grants consisted of items such as capital needs assessments and geo-tech surveys.



## Conclusion

The AHAH program is a system-changing initiative that aligns multiple state agencies, community partners, stakeholders, service providers, and housing owner/operators to address homelessness by pairing supportive housing services with affordable housing resources; ultimately, treating affordable housing as a health care solution. AHAH program partners aim to address systemic barriers in access to housing resources for the state’s most vulnerable populations who are homeless, exiting institutional settings, and are historically marginalized. The planning and implementation committees are dedicated to designing AHAH with a lens of equity and ensuring the goals of the initiative are met through continuous stakeholder engagement and quality improvement efforts. Capital funds and capacity grants have been issued to communities to further the state’s interest in expanding the units of PSH and creating a network of providers to deliver community support services. The FCS services benefit has been sustained through the renewal of the 1115 Medicaid Transformation Project. Coordination between the state agencies is demonstrated through regular planning and subcommittee planning efforts. Dissemination of the program and technical assistance are active throughout the state. Data collection, evaluation and public dashboard reporting requirements are being addressed through the development of a software platform.