

Healthier Washington Medicaid Transformation Foundational Community Supports

In 2017, Washington State and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized an agreement for a five-year Medicaid transformation project to improve the state's health care systems, provide better health care, and control costs.

Connecting our most vulnerable populations with targeted Medicaid benefits

The research is clear—unemployment and job insecurity, homelessness, and unstable housing contribute to poor health. Homelessness is traumatic and cyclical; it puts people at risk for physical and mental health conditions and substance use disorders. Similarly, evidence links unemployment to poor physical and mental health outcomes, even in the absence of pre-existing conditions.

Foundational Community Supports (FCS)—part of Washington's federally authorized, 5-year Medicaid Transformation—addresses these factors with targeted benefits for supportive housing and supported employment. These new benefits are effectively serving people throughout the state, people who are often the most vulnerable and have complex care needs.

Foundational Community Supports

What it is

Targeted Medicaid benefits that help eligible clients with complex health needs find and maintain housing and employment

- Supportive housing services
- Supported employment services

What it isn't

- Ongoing payments for housing purchase, rental, or room and board
- Wages or wage enhancements
- An entitlement

Supportive housing services

In 2018, FCS began providing targeted, supportive housing services for eligible Medicaid beneficiaries. These services identify people in need, help them obtain appropriate housing, and provide support so they can maintain housing. They do not replace services that are currently available, and they do not pay for room and board.

These innovative services are demonstrating the positive health effects safe, secure housing can provide to people in need. To qualify, individuals must be Medicaid-eligible, complete a needs assessment, and fit within the profile of at least one of these groups:

- People who experiencing chronic homelessness
- People who depend on costly institutional care
- People who depend on restrictive adult residential care/treatment settings
- In-home care recipients with complex needs
- Those at highest risk for expensive care and negative outcomes

Supported employment services

Supported employment services help people who are Medicaid-eligible and have physical, behavioral, or long-term service needs that make it difficult for them to get and keep jobs. These ongoing services include individualized job coaching and training, help with employer relations, and assistance with job placement.

To qualify, individuals must be Medicaid-eligible, complete a needs assessment, and fit within the profile of at least one of these groups:

- Disabling conditions that make it difficult to remain employed
- Significant mental illness, substance use disorder, or co-occurring conditions
- Needs associated with long-term care
- Needs associated with teens and young adults

Provider reimbursement

The Health Care Authority has contracted with Amerigroup to serve as a third-party administrator (TPA) for both these services. Providers must have a contract with Amerigroup to participate in the FCS program.

Stay informed

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Learn about participating in FCS: [email Amerigroup](#), call (844) 451-2828 or visit the [provider website](#) or [client website](#)

Email questions and comments to medicaidtransformation@hca.wa.gov.

Note: These programs are funded through a federal 1115 waiver, issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Funding is not a grant. The state must demonstrate that it will not spend more federal dollars on its Medicaid program with this project than it would have without it.