

Foundational Community Supports (FCS)

December 2021 Program update

Overview

FCS is currently one of 5 initiatives developed under Washington State’s 1115 Medicaid Transformation waiver. In 2018, FCS began providing targeted supportive housing (SH) and supported employment (SE) services to Medicaid beneficiaries with behavioral health needs and other risk factors. By focusing on the social determinants of health, the program aims to reduce barriers and promote health equity. These services are designed to strengthen self-sufficiency by helping participants obtain and maintain housing and/or employment.

These Medicaid-reimbursable services do not replace services that are currently available, and they do not pay for room and board or wages.

HCA has contracted with Amerigroup as the third-party administrator (TPA) to authorize enrollments, pay claims, and manage the FCS provider network.

Supportive housing services

These innovative services are demonstrating the positive health effects that safe and secure housing can provide to people in need. To qualify, individuals must be Medicaid-eligible, complete a needs assessment, and be experiencing one of the following risk factors:

- Chronic homelessness
- Dependence on costly institutional care
- Dependence on restrictive adult residential care/treatment settings
- An in-home care recipient with complex needs
- At high risk for expensive care and negative outcomes

Supported employment services

Supported employment services help people who have physical, behavioral, or long-term health needs that make it difficult for them to find and maintain

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 be experiencing one of the following risk factors:

- Eligible for the Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) or aged, Blind, Disabled (ABD) program.
- Significant mental illness, substance use disorder, or co-occurring conditions.
- A long-term care recipient with complex needs.
- Behavioral health challenges related to vulnerable youth and young adults

Program reach and sustainability

Who is enrolling?

To date, more than 21,000 individuals have enrolled in FCS since its inception, including Medicaid recipients who are chronically homeless, have complex behavioral health and co-occurring substance use needs, as well as a disability or other long-term care needs.

Program Enrollments

As of December 3, 2021

Enrollment Type	Enrollees
Employment	2,969
Housing	4,660
Housing & Employment	1,880
Total	9,509

Our provider network

The FCS program provides statewide coverage through a wide range of service providers, including

mental health treatment facilities, substance use treatment facilities, housing authorities, and other community-based organizations. Funding is available annually to incentivize SUD treatment facilities to start or expand upon existing SH or SE programs.

[View the FCS Provider Map](#)

Provider Network

As of December 3, 2021

Service Type	Contracted Providers	Sites
Employment	36	74
Housing	19	45
Housing & Employment	112	334
Total	167	453

Waiver extension and new initiatives

2022 extension year

In Fall of 2020, HCA was approved by CMS to pursue a one-year extension of the 1115 Medicaid Transformation Project in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This additional year of funding will allow all 5 initiatives under the waiver to continue work through December 31, 2022. HCA and partners at DSHS are currently engaging with CMS on the topic of a 5-year renewal of the waiver and plan to submit a formal application in early 2022.

Supportive housing and IMDs

In alignment with initiatives 4 and 5 of the waiver, which allow for the use of Medicaid funds in short-term Institutions for Mental Disease (IMD), FCS and HCA staff are in the process of expanding FCS supportive housing services into these facilities. Work focused on best practices and coordination of care to assist individuals transitioning into the community is currently underway, with the goal of formally launching these services in Q1 2022.

Housing Subsidies

The Washington State Legislature appropriated \$3,109,000 of the general fund during the 2021-22 legislative session to supply individuals enrolled in Foundational Community Supports with short-term housing and rental assistance subsidies. The funds will be administered through the TPA on behalf of individuals eligible for FCS supportive housing services with behavioral health needs.

Stay informed

Visit the [Foundational Community Supports](#) website.

Join the [Foundations Newsletter](#) mailing list to receive important program updates and information.

To learn about participating in FCS, [email Amerigroup](#), call (844) 451-2828 or visit the [provider website](#) or [participant website](#)

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

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