

## Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery

*Transforming lives by supporting recovery and wellness for Washingtonians. Behavioral health is essential to health.*

### Fact Sheet: Supported Employment

#### Overview

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) research, about 70 percent of adults with serious mental illnesses desire work. (Mueser et al., 2001; Roger et al., 2001). Supported Employment, also known as the Individual Placement and Support (IPS) model has been proven effective in 27 randomized, controlled trials. IPS is three times more effective than other vocational approaches in helping people with mental illness to work competitively. IPS has been found effective for numerous populations with which it has been tried, including people with many different diagnoses, educational levels, and prior work histories; long-term Social Security beneficiaries; young adults; older adults; veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder or spinal cord injury; and people with co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders. (Making the case for IPS Supported Employment).

The supported employment service package through the Foundational Community Supports (FCS) Initiative 3, Supported Employment includes services that identify and assist individuals in obtaining employment based on their preferences, and support to maintain employment to reduce higher cost services and incarceration, The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) consider these services as an evidence-based practice and have created a toolkit for implementation that is available at:

<https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Supported-Employment-Evidence-Based-Practices-EBP-KIT/SMA08-4365>.

Supported employment services will demonstrate the positive effect of assisting individuals stay engaged in

the labor market, preventing the escalation of behavioral health service needs and changing the trajectory of vulnerable youth and young adults. In order to be qualified for these services, individuals must be eligible for Medicaid; have a medical/functional need; exhibit a demonstrated need through an assessment as well as meet one of the following risk factors:


- Individuals eligible for the Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) or aged, Blind, Disabled (ABD) program
- Those experiencing significant mental illness, substance use disorder, or co-occurring conditions
- Long-term care recipients with complex needs
- Vulnerable youth and young adults with behavioral health challenges

#### Authority

In January 2017, Washington State and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) signed an 1115 waiver agreement authorizing a five-year project to demonstrate the state's ability to transform its Medicaid program. This agreement includes Foundational Community Supports (FCS), also called Initiative 3. Supported employment is part of this initiative. More information on FCS is available at <https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/healthier-washington/medicaid-transformation>.

#### 2017-2019 budget

According to the 5883-S.SL 2017-2019 biennial budget that no more than \$42,584,000 of the general fund—federal appropriation may be expended for supportive housing and supported employment services described in Initiative 3 of the Healthier



Washington Medicaid Transformation. Under the initiative, the Health Care Authority shall ensure that allowable and necessary services are provided to eligible clients as identified by a Third Party Administrator (TPA).

The Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery contact for Supported Employment is Melodie Pazolt at 360-725-0487 or [Melodie.pazolt@hca.wa.gov](mailto:Melodie.pazolt@hca.wa.gov)

## Rates

Rates will be determined by the TPA, Amerigroup.

## FY 2018 costs and numbers served

The Health Care Authority—Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery has operated pilot projects related to supported employment. Numbers served and costs are available on the following programs:

- Becoming Employed Starts Today (BEST)
- TANF pilot project—need name

## Key partners

The state contracted with Amerigroup as a TPA to select, qualify, and contract with employment and housing providers. This TPA authorizes FCS services and reimburses providers. The contact information for Amerigroup is: Phone: 844-451-2828; email: [FCSTPA@amerigroup.com](mailto:FCSTPA@amerigroup.com)

## Oversight

Washington State Health Care Authority as the State's Medicaid Agency and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized in 2018 the agreement on a five-year demonstration that supports the goals of healthier Washington—better health, better care, and lower costs.

## For more information

Visit the [Medicaid Transformation](#) page or [Join the Healthier Washington Feedback Network](#) and receive regular updates and announcements of upcoming webinars. Email questions and comments to [medicaidtransformation@hca.wa.gov](mailto:medicaidtransformation@hca.wa.gov)

## Contact