

Foundational Community Supports

December 2019 program implementation update

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, five-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.

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 that 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 are experiencing chronic homelessness.
- People who depend on costly institutional care.

- People who reside in 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.

Who is enrolling?

As we approach the midpoint of the Medicaid waiver, the interest in FCS has sent a clear message that even our state’s most vulnerable populations want to work, and want to obtain/maintain stable housing.

To date, more than 9,050 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 1, 2019

Enrollment type	Enrollees
Employment	2,903
Housing	2,737
Housing and employment	845
Total	6,485

Our provider network

The FCS program has also started to show the ability for a wide range of non-traditional providers to deliver supportive housing and supported employment Medicaid reimbursable services. This includes mental health treatment facilities, substance use treatment facilities, and other community-based organizations who were new to Medicaid prior to joining the FCS provider network.

The Health Care Authority has contracted with Amerigroup to serve as a third-party administrator for both these services. Providers must have a contract with Amerigroup to participate in the FCS provider network. As we continue to expand this network, it has become increasingly apparent that to sustain these services, we need a provider network that is as diverse as the health needs of the populations we're serving. We are excited to see our provider numbers continue to grow as we expand the program to reach our participants where they are.

[View the FCS provider map.](#)

Provider network

As of December 1, 2019

Service type	Contracted providers	Sites
Employment	33	69
Housing	17	32
Housing and employment	83	269
Total	133	370

What's next?

We are working to form a number of strategic partnerships to braid the FCS program with other resources the help participants choose where to work and live. Some of these partners include Tribes, Housing Authorities, the Dept. of Commerce, and Washington State's regional Accountable Communities of Health.

We're also working to assess how well the FCS program is working so far in reducing overall Medicaid costs as we support participants to achieve stable housing and employment of choice.

[View the independent external evaluator fact sheet.](#)

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.