

# Preliminary evaluation report findings are in:

## Foundational Community Supports program works

Last week, the Research and Data Analysis (RDA) Division of Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) released a [preliminary evaluation report](#) on the Foundational Community Supports (FCS) program. FCS, also known as Initiative 3 of the Medicaid Transformation Project, assists the state's most vulnerable people to find and keep stable housing and employment. FCS consists of two services: supportive housing and supported employment.

### Report findings

[The report](#) covers the first nine months of FCS implementation, from January to September 2018. Key findings of the report include:

- People enrolled in supported employment services found employment at a higher rate, earned more money, and worked more hours.
- Supportive housing services helped people transition or begin to transition out of homelessness or housing instability.
- There was promising reductions in emergency room visits and hospitalizations for people enrolled in supportive housing services.

### Background on FCS

FCS is a partnership between Health Care Authority (HCA) and DSHS' Aging and Long-Term Support Administration. Amerigroup is the contracted [third-party administrator](#) for FCS. They work with a variety of agencies that provide supportive housing and supported employment services based on evidence-based practices to help people find and keep housing and jobs.

Supportive housing and supported employment services work with employers and property owners to match individuals with the right environment while providing ongoing support. These services do not pay for housing or for wages or wage enhancements.

### Why are FCS services important?

Homelessness is traumatic, cyclical, and puts people at risk for mental health, substance use disorders, and poor health outcomes. Homelessness also interferes with one's ability to receive health care and behavioral health and social services, and jeopardizes the chances for a successful recovery. Long-term unemployment has been linked to physical and behavioral health conditions.


It is foundational to someone's physical and behavioral health to have housing and employment. A person cannot be healthy without a stable roof over their head, and it's difficult to keep a house without purpose and structure, which is offered through employment. Both housing and employment are key to a healthier Washington.

### Rubi's success story

When I was approved for supported employment through Compass Career Solutions, my life was so broken. I was living in the women's homeless shelter with my two young daughters. One is seven years old and the other is a one-year-old. I then heard the worst news a mother could hear, that I had to leave the women's shelter within a week. My time had run out, I had to leave. I reached out to my case manager, my housing consultant, and Eliza, my Compass Career Solutions employment consultant to ask for advice on what to do. All three communicated with each other and came to the shelter to have a meeting with my shelter manager, and pleaded for me and my daughters to stay.

They had no luck. That Friday morning I had to leave with nowhere to go. I was so stressed out, but Eliza spoke with the Human Resources manager at Pasco Processing. By the end of that day, the manager had sent Eliza an offer letter, which turned out to be a greatest blessing because with that job offer, Housing Resource Center was able to house me and my two daughters in a shelter.





I can now say I have been working at Pasco Processing since the end of April. I started as a packer (utility), and now I am a tote scaler with a set shift. Eliza, my employment consultant, has been a great blessing, and I am glad to be given the chance to prove that I can be a great employee, and it feels good moving up due to my good work. Compass Career Solutions has been a blessing to me and my girls. I always get treated as an equal, and feel so respected. Thank you!

## For more information

- To learn more about FCS eligibility, [contact Amerigroup](#).
- Visit the [Medicaid Transformation resources](#) page to learn more about the FCS program and view other materials, such as the:
  - [FCS program update fact sheet](#)
  - FCS enrollment reports for [supported employment](#) and [supportive housing](#)
  - [Slide deck from RDA](#), which includes graphs and charts on data collected