

# Opportunities for Developing and Expanding State Strategies to Provide Housing-Related Supports under Medicaid for Individuals with Substance Use Disorders



*August 19, 2020*

# Welcome

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# Purpose

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- Learn about housing-related supports under Medicaid for individuals with SUD.
- Understand current opportunity for states to participate in needs assessment to identify the technical assistance needs related to this topic.
- Understand upcoming opportunities for states to participate in technical assistance activities related to this topic, including a state learning collaborative and national webinars.



# Polling Question #1

Who is joining us on the webinar today (organizational affiliation)?

- State Medicaid agency
- Single state agency for substance abuse services
- State mental health agency
- Managed care organization
- State housing finance agency
- Regional or local housing organization
- Supportive housing provider
- Recovery housing provider
- Mental health/SUD provider
- Advocacy organization
- Other



## Background on the Relationship Between SUD and Housing-Related Supports

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# Intersection of SUD, Homelessness, and Housing Stability

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- Nearly 12% of Medicaid beneficiaries over 18 years of age have a SUD
- Nearly 50% of those with SUD have a co-occurring mental health disorder
- Research has established a strong association between homelessness and SUD
- Studies indicate associations between stable housing and positive health outcomes for individuals with SUD



# Populations at Risk for Both SUD and Housing Instability

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- Individuals in transition:
  - Youth aging out of foster care
  - Individuals released from prisons and jails
- Individuals experiencing homelessness, including subgroups with unique needs:
  - Adolescents and youth
  - Pregnant women
  - Chronically homeless adults
  - Older adults



# Housing-Related Challenges Unique to Individuals with SUD

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- **An inadequate supply of a continuum of housing options**
  - Supplies of affordable housing and rent subsidies are inadequate to meet the need
  - Range of housing models that meet individuals where they are in their recovery process are not adequate (Housing First Permanent Supportive Housing and Recovery Housing options)

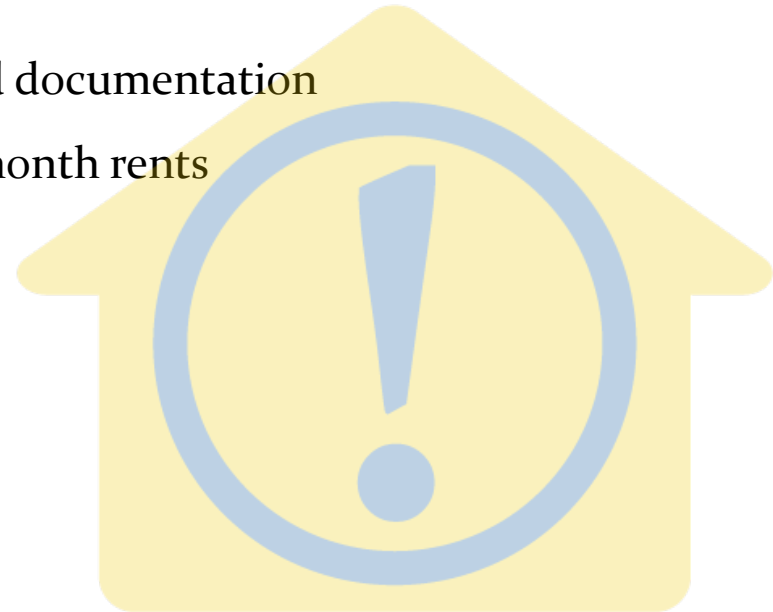




# Housing-Related Challenges Unique to Individuals with SUD

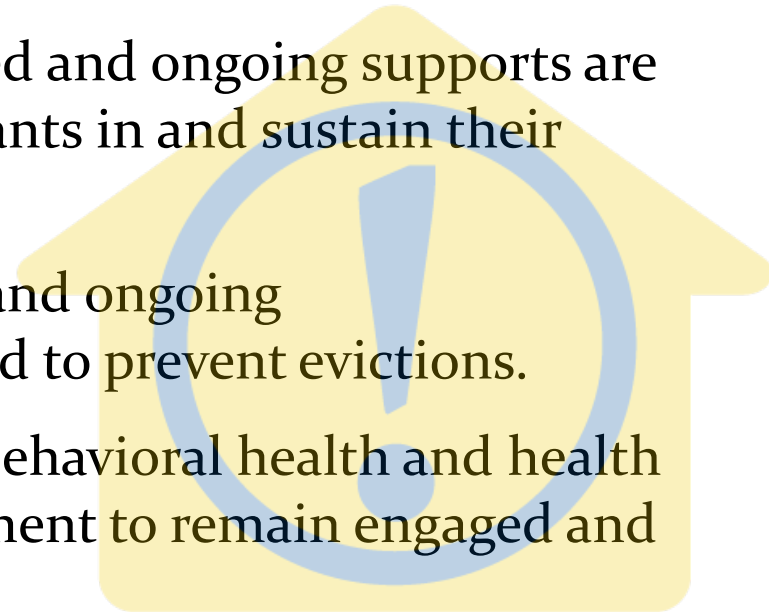
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- **Multiple barriers that may complicate or exclude access to housing**
  - Criminal record
  - Poor credit history
  - Outstanding rent or utility arrears
  - Securing identification and other required documentation
  - Access to security deposits and first/last month rents



## Housing-Related Challenges Unique to Individuals with SUD

- **Individuals with co-occurring mental health and SUD are among the most vulnerable and hardest-to-house**
  - Outreach and engagement are often required and relationships may need to be built gradually over time to assist individuals into housing
  - Housing paired with individualized and ongoing supports are required to help stabilize participants in and sustain their housing once placed.
  - Landlord outreach, engagement, and ongoing communications are often required to prevent evictions.
  - Intensive care coordination with behavioral health and health care providers can improve agreement to remain engaged and continuity of care.



## Housing-Related Challenges Unique to Individuals with SUD

- **Individuals with SUD who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness face unique barriers to enrolling in Medicaid programs**
  - One-on-one assistance is often required to help navigate the enrollment process
  - Ongoing supports are required to maintain enrollment in some places



# Medicaid Opportunities to Address Housing-Related Supports

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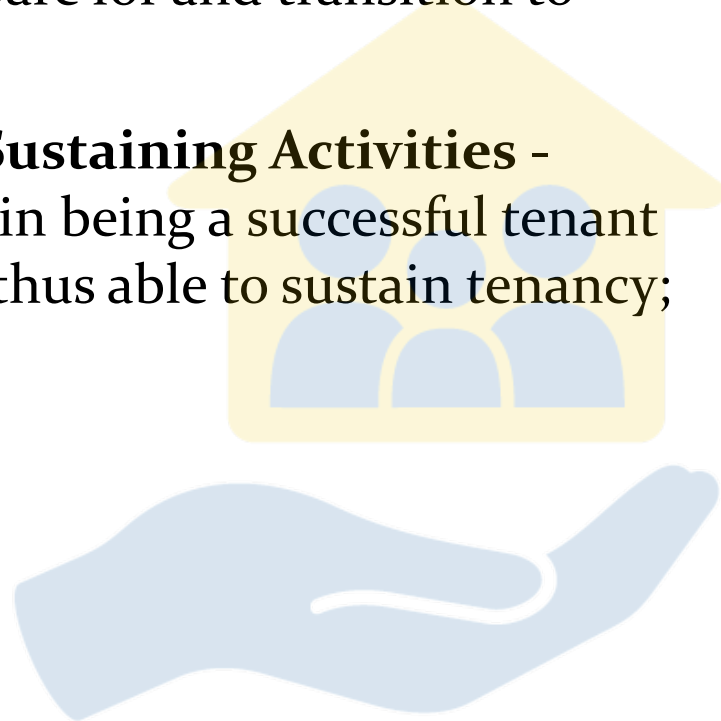
- Federal Financial Participation (FFP) is not available to state Medicaid programs for room and board (except in certain Medicaid medical institutions).
- FFP is available under certain federal authorities for housing-related activities and supports that promote health and community integration for Medicaid-eligible individuals with SUD.
- More recently, many individuals who are experiencing homelessness have become eligible for Medicaid as a result of Medicaid expansion, increasing the need for state Medicaid programs to cover supports for individuals with a mental disorder and/or SUD, including housing-related and recovery supports.

## Housing-Related Activities and Supports

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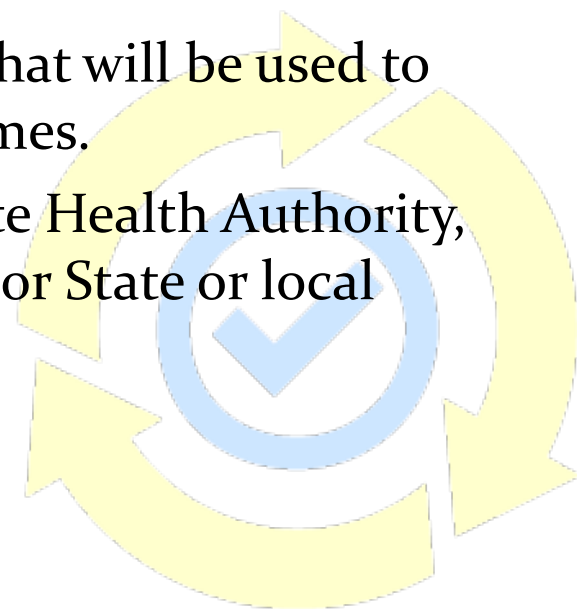
Housing-related supports intended to help an individual achieve and maintain housing stability include the following:

- **Individual Housing Transition Activities** - activities that support an individual's ability to prepare for and transition to housing;
- **Individual Housing and Tenancy Sustaining Activities** - activities that support the individual in being a successful tenant in his/her housing arrangement and thus able to sustain tenancy; and



# State-Level Housing Related Collaborative Activities

- Defining priority population/s to target with housing-related supports based on medical need and other risk factors.
- Determine care coordination strategies to ensure multi-disciplinary medical, behavioral health and social support needs are assessed and linkages are made.
- Examine cross system data strategies that will be used to examine service utilization and outcomes.
- Bring together in partnerships the State Health Authority, State Behavioral Health Agencies and/or State or local housing agencies.



## Polling Question #2

Has your state been engaged in efforts to identify and/or address the housing-related needs of Medicaid beneficiaries with SUD?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know



## **Upcoming State Opportunities to Participate in Activities to Identify and Address Technical Assistance Needs**

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# State Technical Assistance (TA) Needs Assessment

- Section 1018 of the SUPPORT Act authorized HHS to provide TA to states related to housing supports under Medicaid for people with SUD
- To inform this work, CMS is conducting a state-by-state Needs Assessment to collect information about:
  - Current and planned activities in this area
  - Barriers to states working in this area
  - Technical assistance needs
- States were contacted on July 15th to begin completing the survey and responses are currently being collected.
- If you would like more information about the Needs Assessment, please contact: [MedicaidHousingTA@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:MedicaidHousingTA@mathematica-mpr.com).



# State TA Opportunities

- State Learning Collaborative
- National Webinars
- Informational Briefs



# State Learning Collaborative

- The State Medicaid Housing-Related Supports for SUD Learning Collaborative will be available for up to 10 states and will convene from November 2020 through July 2021.
- CMS will provide selected states with the opportunity to learn from peer states through facilitated sharing of information, resources, best practices, and lessons learned from states' experiences.
- Participating state Medicaid agencies will develop and expand their capacity to implement and strengthen strategies for providing housing-related supports and care coordination under Medicaid to individuals with SUD.

# State Learning Collaborative

The Learning Collaborative will include:

- An onboarding webinar;
- A virtual kick-off meeting;
- An in-person mid-way point meeting in the Washington, DC area with CMS and subject matter experts (depending on conditions at the time);
- Three to four peer-to-peer topical webinars;
- One-on-one state check-ins; and
- A final close out webinar on lessons learned and next steps.

# State Learning Collaborative

- State Medicaid agency participants are strongly encouraged to invite partners from state-level housing and behavioral health agencies to join them in this learning opportunity, thereby sharing state learning and potentially strengthening these critical partnerships.
- Information about the learning community has been distributed to state Medicaid agencies.
- If you would like more information about this opportunity, please contact: [MedicaidHousingTA@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:MedicaidHousingTA@mathematica-mpr.com).
- CMS will notify state Medicaid agencies of their selection into the Learning Collaborative by November 2020.

# National Webinars

A National webinar series will focus on HRSS for Medicaid beneficiaries with SUD, including:

- Lessons learned from states that are working to build HRSS for Medicaid beneficiaries with SUD;
- State presenters and examples, highlighting approaches to providing these supports through Medicaid;
- Specific topical issues, to be identified based on the Needs Assessment and Learning Collaborative.

# Informational Briefs

CMS will be issuing the following Informational Briefs to support states in their efforts to develop and expand strategies to provide Housing-Related Supports under Medicaid for individuals with SUD:

- 1) Housing-Related Supports for Medicaid Beneficiaries with SUD: Using Data to Identify Needs, Target Resources & Examine Outcomes
- 2) Working with Managed Care Entities & Providers to Deliver Housing-Related Supports to Medicaid Beneficiaries with SUD
- 3) Strategies to Identify, Engage & Enroll Individuals with SUD who May Benefit from Housing-Related Supports into Medicaid
- 4) Performance Measurement, Reporting, and Quality Improvement Activities related to Housing-Related Supports under Medicaid for individuals with SUD

# Questions/Additional Information

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For additional information, please contact:  
[MedicaidHousingTA@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:MedicaidHousingTA@mathematica-mpr.com).

Thank you!