

Model Legislation: Supportive Services

This supportive services model legislation focuses on strengthening the services infrastructure that helps individuals obtain and maintain housing. This includes directing the state to pursue a Medicaid waiver or State Plan Amendment to secure sustainable funding for housing-related services. It also creates a services fund to bridge gaps until Medicaid changes take effect and to cover non-Medicaid eligible expenses. These services may include behavioral health supports, case management, tenancy support, and other interventions that promote housing stability.

This model is often used to address long-term system capacity and sustainability. By aligning housing and health systems, it provides a framework for funding services that reduces reliance on emergency and crisis responses.

Medicaid Waiver

Sec 1 – The STATE Medicaid Agency shall submit a 1115 Waiver/ an amendment to the Medicaid plan for approval to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service to ensure long-term access to home and community-based services, including housing-related services. This will:

1. Provide comprehensive support for individuals with serious mental illness, severe substance use disorders, traumatic brain injuries, or intellectual/developmental disabilities;
2. Facilitate access to services that promote independence and community integration; and
3. Include provisions for respite care, community transition assistance, supported employment, and other necessary services to meet the needs of eligible individuals.

New Services Funding

Sect 2 - The Authority shall, subject to the availability of funds appropriated for such a purpose, develop and implement a supportive services grant program for the purpose of awarding grants for supportive services. The program must include grants for the following provisions:

1. Housing Related Services for individuals experiencing a housing crisis with a serious and persistent mental illness, a chronic chemical addiction, or a serious and persistent mental illness with a co-occurring chronic chemical addiction; and
2. Training and capacity building to develop and sustain high-quality service delivery and build administrative capacity to seek Medicaid reimbursement for eligible services.

Sec 3 – The Authority shall adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of this section. The regulations must prescribe, without limitations:

1. The criteria for eligibility to receive grant funding; and
2. Procedures for the submission and review of applications to receive grant funding.

Sec 4 – On or before Dec 1 of each year of the program, the Authority shall submit a report to the legislature. The report must include:

1. Information on and feedback from grant recipients; and
2. Information on the use of grant money and participation in the grant program.

Sec 5 – The Authority may use a portion of the money in the supportive services grant program created by Sec 2 of this act to prepare the report required by Sec 4.

Sec 6 – There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to the supportive services grant program created by Sec 2 of this act the sum of \$XX,XXX,XXX to carry out the grant program developed pursuant to Sec 2 and the report required by Sec 4 of this act.

Sec 7 – The Authority shall provide up to twenty-five (25%) of the base allocation of funds as performance payments to a political subdivision or a nonprofit organization providing services under Sec 2 of this act for meeting predetermined goals on reductions of each of the following:

1. Days unhoused.
2. Days in jail or prison.
3. Days hospitalized, with the relative weight of days hospitalized to be determined by the authority.

Sec 8 - A political subdivision or a nonprofit organization may use grants received to conduct surveys to identify individuals with the greatest number of days unhoused, in jail or prison, or hospitalized, but these expenses shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the total grant amount.

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