



Bridges to Success: Keystones of Health for Pennsylvania

This document summarizes information from a proposed five-year demonstration program. All content is preliminary and subject to approval by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Transforming Medicaid to improve health outcomes in the Keystone State

- We want to create a Medicaid program that helps beneficiaries **get what they need to stay healthy**
- Introduce specific services to **beneficiaries who need it most**
- **Thank you for joining**, we look forward to hearing what you have to say

Focus Areas

- Reentry supports
- Housing supports
- Food & nutrition supports
- Continuous coverage under age six





Where we are born, live, learn, work, and play can affect our health and quality of life. Access to health care, healthy foods, and safe housing is important to our health. By supporting these social needs through Medicaid coverage, the demonstration helps Pennsylvania.

Having enough food

Being able to get to medical services

Having a safe and stable place to live



What are Health-Related Social Needs?

Reentry Potential Populations & Services

The goal of reentry supports is to **improve the transition from correctional facilities to community living, fostering healthier outcomes.**

POTENTIAL POPULATIONS

People preparing for release and following release who:

- Have a substance use disorder
- Have mental illness
- Need support with daily activities like getting dressed
- Have a chronic health condition
- Are pregnant or in the 12-month postpartum period

REENTRY SERVICES

1. Help beneficiaries get on Medicaid by the time of their release by suspending coverage instead of terminating it and helping people apply prior to release.
2. Connect beneficiaries to healthcare providers and community services through case management.
3. Provide Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for substance use disorder prior to release.
4. Provide 30-day supply of prescriptions on release.
5. Maintain coverage for at least a year after release.
6. Help finding and keeping housing.



Housing Potential Populations & Services

The goal of housing supports is to ensure stable housing as a **foundation for overall health and well-being.**



POTENTIAL POPULATIONS

People experiencing homelessness who:

- Have serious mental illness or a substance use disorder
- Have a chronic health condition
- Are pregnant or in the 12-month postpartum period
- Are identified for reentry supports, including those at risk of homelessness

HOUSING SERVICES

1. Connect people to existing housing supports and services.
2. Provide help during transitions with moving expenses and necessary household items like, pots and pans, furniture, and air conditioning units.
3. Provide short-term help paying rent.
4. Provide education and support to keep housing.

Food and Nutrition Potential Populations & Services

The goal of food and nutrition supports is to **enhance access to nutritious food, promoting better health for all.**

POTENTIAL POPULATIONS

People experiencing food insecurity or with a history of food insecurity who:

- Are pregnant or in the post-partum period (and their household)
- Have a diet-sensitive condition

FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES

1. Provide meals or groceries designed for specific dietary needs.
2. Delivery of groceries to support healthy pregnancies.
3. Personalized help connecting to, and applying for, other food resources like SNAP and WIC.



Multi-Year Continuous Coverage for Children Under Six Years of Age

The goal of multi-year continuous coverage for children under six years of age is to **lay a strong foundation for lifelong health by ensuring consistent access to healthcare during these crucial early years.**

- Children won't lose their Medicaid coverage for failure to submit forms or a change in household circumstances.
- This starts when a child first gets Medicaid coverage. It lasts until the end of the month when they turn six.



Additional Information and Resources

Please see the following for more information including details on providing feedback about the potential program.

Where you can find more information:

1115 DEMONSTRATION WEBSITE

Read detailed context and information about Pennsylvania's 1115 application with helpful resources:



Keystones of Health Webpage

JOIN THE KEYSTONES OF HEALTH LISTSERV

Subscribe to receive email updates on Pennsylvania's 1115 waiver



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PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

View the full application and provide written comments



Keystones of Health Public Comment



DHS 2024-2029 Housing Strategy Project

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DHS's current [Housing Strategy](#) work builds on the foundation provided by the *2016-2020 Supporting Pennsylvanians Through Housing Plan*. The updated Housing Strategy will address Pennsylvanians' evolving housing needs through understanding of the state's current housing context.

Together, we can develop a 5-year DHS Housing Strategy that centers the needs of our Pennsylvania neighbors and communities through aligning our services and partnerships to address housing as both a human right and an essential social driver of health and wellbeing. We will work to increase access to affordable and workforce housing and to ensure access to supports - in times of crisis to weather unexpected challenges and to provide trauma informed, high quality services that meet Pennsylvanians' needs now and for our future.

Aligning with the Secretary's Priorities

Dr. Val Arkoosh

Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services



Priority Areas



Supportive Housing



Homelessness & Housing Stability



Housing Services & Supports



Housing Affordability



Housing Supply & Accessibility

Housing
Strategy
Release

Spring 2024

Housing Strategy Background & Path Forward



Building on DHS's [2016-2020 Supporting Pennsylvanians Through Housing Plan](#) and its [2018 Update](#):

Areas of Concentration

- Individuals who live in institutions but could live in the community with housing services and supports
- Individuals and families who experience homelessness or are at-risk of homelessness
- Individuals who have extremely low incomes and are rent-burdened

Recommendations

- Expand services to connect Pennsylvanians to increased affordable and supportive housing
 - Funding Opportunities
 - Online tools
- Remove housing barriers unique to individuals
- Promote communication between state and local government
- Assess existing and new programs to determine future needs
- Utilize data to measure progress

Impact Highlights

- Deployment of over \$1 billion in Emergency Rental Assistance Program funds to stabilize 200,000+ households
- Housing of over 700 households at 70 properties in 27 counties through the 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities program
- Implementation of Community Health Choices and statewide Managed Care Organization goals for increasing nursing home transitions to home- and community-based service; so far in 2023, 671 formerly institutionalized individuals have been transferred to and are living safely in the community

Developing an updated plan for 2025-2029 based on understanding of:



Stakeholder Expertise

- Centering needs of individuals and families who have experienced housing instability and crisis
- Integrating partner and provider perspectives who know and support housing and services needs



Current Context Analysis

- Environmental scan of Pennsylvania housing programs, policy and planning
- Gathering data through surveys, interviews, listening and engagement sessions to better understand Pennsylvania's housing needs

Complete our interest survey to follow the Housing Strategy and learn about engagement opportunities:

