

Housing with Supports for Adults with Serious Mental Illness Grants starting in 2020

New Housing with Supports for Adults with Serious Mental Illness grants starting in 2020 are needed to help transition adults with serious mental illness to the new Housing Stabilization Services. The grants need to provide short-term stability while filling long-term gaps in services.

About Housing with Supports

The Housing with Supports grants provide supportive services for adults with serious mental illness who are homeless or who are exiting institutions, and who have complex needs and face high barriers to obtaining and maintaining housing.

Established in 2007, \$4.55 million per year in grants starting in 2020 will fund:

- Housing transition services for persons who need assistance with accessing and establishing housing
- Tenancy sustaining services to maintain tenancy once housing is secured
- Site-based services at a single-site housing location to assist tenants with retaining their housing.

In calendar year 2018, forty-three grants to 40 provider grantees provided services to 2,147 adults with serious mental illness.

Transition to Housing Stabilization Services

In the summer of 2019, Housing Stabilization Services were approved to become a new state Medicaid benefit for people with disabilities (including mental illness) and seniors to help them find and keep housing in the community. Housing Stabilization Services are anticipated to begin in July 2020.

Housing Stabilization Services are expected to fund services that the Housing with Supports grants have been funding. Therefore, 2020 Housing with Supports grants will need to support the transition to the new service.

This transition has both short-term and long-term implications:

Short-term:

Housing with Supports grants need to continue until Housing Stabilization Services are in place. While Housing Stabilization Services are planned for July 2020, there is much work to be done, and there can be no gap in services for people needing them to end or prevent homelessness.

Long-term:

While Housing Stabilization Services will soon fund much of the same supports as the Housing with Supports grants, the grants also fund other activities not covered by Medicaid, such as:

- Site-based services to assist tenants with retaining their housing

- Outreach services to engage potentially eligible persons who are homeless, in an institutional or segregated setting, and to transition them to housing services
- Direct assistance for one-time or short-term, housing-related costs that assist persons with accessing, establishing, and retaining housing.

Therefore, the grants will need to both bridge to the new service while continuing to support services not covered by Medicaid.

2020 grants

Given the need to transition some but not all Housing with Supports grant-funded services to Housing Stabilization Services, considerations for 2020 Housing with Supports grants include:

- **Seamless transition:** Current Housing Stabilization Service grantees need additional funds and time to assure that the persons served are eligible for and have a stable transition to Medicaid-based Housing Stabilization Services. The state will use available Housing with Supports funds to assure services during the transition. This will stabilize current grantee funding but reduce the funding available for RFP respondents.
- **Grant-only services:** Persons accessing or in permanent supportive housing units, whom are chronically or long-term homeless, are a special population that need targeted site-based housing services in order to assure that they can end their homelessness and maintain housing stability. Housing with Supports site-based services provide this support and are only maintained through grant-based funding.
- **Prioritize permanent supportive housing:** Applicants that have a permanent supportive housing building with dedicated apartment units, which include site-based services, must have a demonstrated capacity to house and serve persons who are chronically or long term homeless. Grants will prioritize sustainable services in permanent supportive housing units to assure stable services and housing.
- **Other considerations:** After the grant review team has met and the scores have been finalized, final funding recommendations will also consider geographic distribution, services to special populations, and the applicant's history as a state grantee and capacity to perform the work.

Grantees

Agency: Project

- Aeon: Opportunity Housing
- Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis: Dorothy Day HSASMI Services
- Center City Housing: Garfield Square, River Crest, and San Marco Stable Housing Initiatives
- CommonBond Communities: Sustained Tenancy at Lexington Commons Apartments
- Community Housing Development Corporation: Dale Street Place Apartments
- Guild Incorporated: Delancey Apartments
- Lakes and Prairies Community Action Partnership: Clay/Wilkin Collaborative Project
- Nystrom & Associates, Ltd.: Willow Grove Apartments
- Olmsted County Housing & Redevelopment Authority: The Francis Apartments
- Project for Pride in Living: Stabilizing Families 2
- RS EDEN: Making Mental Health Central
- South Central Human Relations Center: Youngdahl Living Apartments
- The Link: Lindquist Apartments
- The Salvation Army: Castleview, HOPE Harbor, and Maxfield Place Apartments