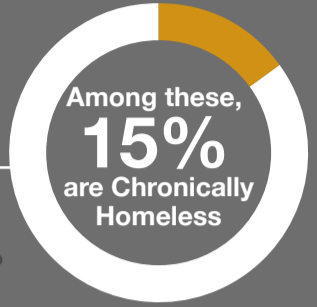


MEDICAID & HOUSING

Improving the Health of the Homeless



Half a million people are homeless in the United States on a given night.¹



The federal government defines chronic homelessness as “long-term or repeated episodes of homelessness coupled with a disabling condition.”¹

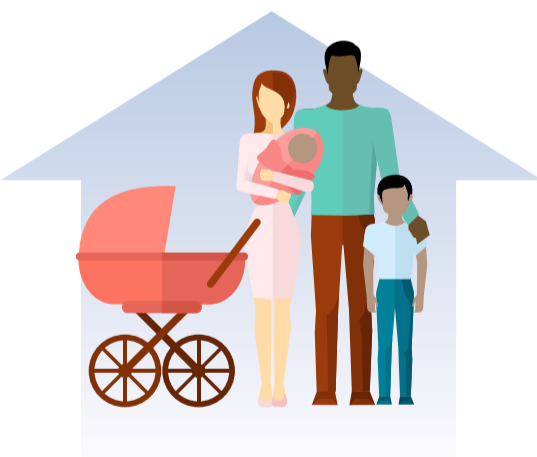
Chronically homeless individuals can experience critical physical and mental health issues, such as psychiatric disability, substance abuse, and related physical health challenges.²

What can **MEDICAID DO?**

- Pay for case management **YES**
- Provide services for those in permanent supportive housing³ **YES**
- Pay for rent or mortgage payments **NO**

WHAT THE EVIDENCE SAYS

Findings from a **recent rapid evidence review** by AcademyHealth suggest that permanent supportive housing and case management can:



Improve self-reported health outcomes.



Lower health care costs, reduce stays in inpatient psychiatric units, and reduce ER visits for mental health concerns.

Limitations of the Evidence

- Most research is not specific to Medicaid populations.
- Many included studies have small sample sizes.
- Inconsistent definitions of these services across studies limits our ability to understand which parts work best.

1. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development. The 2015 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress. 2015. Retrieved from: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2015-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

2. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Current Statistics on the Prevalence and Characteristics of People Experiencing Homelessness in the United States. 2011. Retrieved from: <http://www.brighthorizonsfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/Current-Statistics-on-the-Prevalence-and-Characteristics-of-People-Experiencing-Homelessness-in-the-United-States.pdf>

3. Permanent supportive housing is non-time-limited affordable housing assistance with wrap-around supportive services such as health care or case management. Participation in services is encouraged, but not required. Retrieved from: <https://www.usich.gov/solutions/housing/supportive-housing>