

Promoting Community Integration through Long-Term Services and Supports State Medicaid-Housing Agency Partnerships Implementation Track

Program Overview

Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Program

The Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Program (IAP) is a collaboration between the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services (CMCS) and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) designed to build state capacity and support ongoing innovation in Medicaid. IAP provides targeted technical support to states' ongoing delivery system reform efforts across four priority program areas: (1) substance use disorders; (2) Medicaid beneficiaries with complex care needs; (3) community integration through long-term services and supports; and (4) physical/mental health integration. IAP also provides support to states in four functional areas, which IAP sees as the building blocks to delivery system reform: (1) data analytics; (2) quality measurement; (3) value-based payment and financial simulations; and (4) performance improvement.

IAP's Community Integration through Long-Term Services and Supports (CI-LTSS) program area offers targeted technical support to Medicaid agencies seeking to promote community integration for Medicaid beneficiaries. Since 2016, IAP has provided technical support to 16 states to develop public and private partnerships between the state Medicaid agency and housing systems with the end goal of fostering additional community living opportunities for Medicaid beneficiaries.

IAP is offering a nine-month Partnerships Implementation Track to provide technical support to states that aim to implement housing and service changes that will increase community integration options for individuals requiring long-term services and supports. This technical support opportunity is open to all states that have a detailed action plan (note: action plan includes identified goals, strategies, partners/resources, and timeline to guide the work) and are ready to begin implementation. This includes states with plans developed outside of the IAP, as well the 16 states that have previously participated in the Medicaid IAP State Medicaid-Housing Agency Partnerships Track.

Overview of Technical Support

The goal of the Partnerships Implementation Track is to support states in implementing strategies that will increase community integration options for Medicaid beneficiaries through public and private partnerships between Medicaid and housing systems. **Consistent with statute, CMS does not provide Federal Financial Participation for room and board in home and community-based services.**

The Partnerships Implementation Track is for states that have well-established Medicaid and housing agency partnerships and are ready to implement housing and service changes to increase community living opportunities for their target population(s). Technical support begins in January 2019 and runs for nine months. Any state that has a written implementation plan with strategies that can be partially or fully implemented during the technical support period is invited to submit an Expression of Interest.

Examples of such strategies may include but are not be limited to: routine data matches that identify individuals who are then targeted for and receive housing-related services; the transitioning of members of the target population into new community living opportunities; and/or the implementation of housing-related services through managed care and/or provider arrangements. Selected states will have the opportunity to work on implementing their strategies with industry experts through individualized technical support and state-to-state learning activities.

The IAP will select up to eight (8) states to participate in the Partnerships Implementation Track. To help inform the state selection process, each state will be asked to submit its written implementation plan to demonstrate that the state has identified service and housing gaps and opportunities for its target population, developed strategies to address the gaps and build on identified opportunities, and is ready for implementation. **It is expected that states will implement one or a subset of the strategies included in their written plans during the technical support period.**

The IAP is working closely with its federal partners: the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); the Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation; and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, to plan and coordinate this technical support. The IAP intends to leverage its collaboration with these federal agencies to promote partnerships between state Medicaid agencies, state and public housing agencies, state and local service agencies, and health care and housing providers that increase community living opportunities for Medicaid beneficiaries requiring long-term services and supports.

What is the Benefit to Selected States?

Participating state Medicaid agencies will sustain and expand partnerships with housing and non-Medicaid service agencies and implement service and housing changes to foster additional community living opportunities for Medicaid beneficiaries. States will identify the area of technical support most beneficial to them, including, but not limited to support that is focused on the following objectives:

- Aligning policies across Medicaid and housing systems to improve coordination and collaboration;
- Implementing strategies that address identified gaps in housing and services for the state's target population(s);
- Applying strategies for data-driven targeting of new housing and service opportunities; and
- Engaging private and public stakeholders such as developers, landlords, local housing agencies, managed care organizations, HUD Continua of Care, and service providers to help implement and sustain housing-related services and supports.

Components of Technical Support for State Medicaid Agencies

Technical support begins in January 2019 and runs for nine months through September 2019. Each state will be assigned a two-person IAP technical support coaching team that includes a housing expert and a services expert. One of these individuals will be the lead coach and serve as the state's primary contact. Additional subject matter experts will be available to answer questions or address state technical support needs. The coaching team will meet regularly with the state's interagency team to support them with implementation and facilitate cross-state learning, including:

- An individual pre-kickoff call with each state to introduce the state team to the coaches, confirm states' understanding of the overall process, and prepare for the kick-off webinar with peer states;
- A kick-off webinar for participating states with IAP staff, federal partners, the coaching teams, and other subject matter experts to introduce states to each other and identify common goals, challenges, and technical support needs;
- An on-site visit with each state's coaching team to review the team's implementation plan and identify opportunities, challenges, and technical support needs to help guide planning for the remainder of the track;
- Peer-to-peer calls to facilitate state networking between states on common topics of interest (e.g., building provider capacity, working with local housing stakeholders, coordinating access to housing, and outcomes measurement). Each call is led by an expert on the topic and a state experienced with the subject matter; and
- Three cross-state learning webinars focused on common activities and strategies across states and to facilitate sharing of lessons learned and state accomplishments. The first cross-state learning webinar will occur in April 2019, the second webinar will be in July 2019, and the final webinar will be at the conclusion of the track.

Selection Criteria and Timeline

IAP seeks to engage Medicaid agencies that demonstrate a commitment to sustaining established interagency partnerships and implementing strategies to increase community integration options for individuals requiring long-term services and supports. Each state will submit an Expression of Interest and participate in an individual state call with CMS as part of the application process. Using information gathered through these application processes, the following criteria will be used to select participating states:

- Evidence of well-established and currently active Medicaid and housing agency partnerships that provide a foundation for implementing housing-related services and supports;
- A written document or plan with clearly identified goals and detailed strategies to improve or expand housing and services for the state's target population(s) that demonstrates that the state has analyzed service and housing opportunities and is ready to begin implementing changes;

- Clear articulation of technical support needs and the specific outcomes the state wants to achieve with the IAP technical support;
- Designation of a staff member from the Medicaid agency who will serve as the team lead and will have the time and resources necessary to be responsible for the day-to-day activities associated with implementing the state’s action plan;
- Identification of 3-6 operational staff within Medicaid, housing, and non-Medicaid services (as appropriate to populations being targeted) to serve as core team members;
- Alignment of technical support goals with other housing and service activities in the state;
- Capacity and readiness to begin work immediately upon selection for IAP Partnerships track participation;
- Commitment from the State Medicaid Director;
- Commitment from appropriate housing agency leadership, demonstrated by the Letter of Commitment described below; and
- Assurance that team members will have sufficient time and resources for the duration of the track necessary to achieve success with this effort.

A Letter of Commitment from a housing agency will be required for participation in the State Medicaid-Housing Agency Partnership Implementation track, but the letter does not need to be submitted until a state has been selected to participate. It is preferred, but not required, that the Letter of Commitment come from a statewide agency involved in the action plan implementation, such as the Housing Finance Agency or Housing Department.

How Do Interested States Apply for Technical Support?

Interested states are asked to submit the Expression of Interest form to IAP by midnight (ET) on November 15, 2018 with the subject line “Medicaid-Housing Partnerships Implementation” to MedicaidIAP@cms.hhs.gov. The Expression of Interest form can be found online on the [IAP CI-LTSS web page](#). Please direct questions to Melanie Brown at melanie.brown@cms.hhs.gov, using the subject line “Medicaid-Housing Partnerships Implementation.”