**Solicitation of Public Input Regarding Housing Supports and Services in the Managed Care Program**

**Response Deadline: Sunday October 27, 2024**

**Introduction**

The Nevada Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (the Division) is soliciting informational responses from interested health care providers, recipients, contracted managed care organizations (MCOs), and other interested parties to inform the State’s development of an *In Lieu of Services Policy Guide* to support the implementation and administration of housing supports and services in the Medicaid Managed Care program.

**Background**

The Division contracts with managed care organizations (MCOs) to deliver services to Medicaid members in urban Washoe and urban Clark counties. These MCOs will soon have the option to offer housing supports and services to Medicaid members experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness. These services include:

1. *Specialized case management*, including the development of a housing stabilization plan
2. *Housing transition supports*, including environmental modifications to ensure necessary accommodations for member accessibility
3. *Housing-related deposits*, including first and last month’s rent and initial utility costs
4. *Housing sustainment services*, including medically tailored groceries, healthy food vouchers, and food prescriptions

See the Appendix for full eligibility criteria and service descriptions in the Division’s managed care contract.

These housing supports and services are optional managed care services called “in lieu of services.” MCOs can provide all, none, or a subset, of these services, and service offerings may differ from MCO to MCO. In coming years, the Division will seek other opportunities to provide more uniform coverage and access to these services, including through a Section 1115 demonstration.

Recently, MCOs submitted their housing supports and services implementation plans, and the Division is actively drafting an *In Lieu of Services Policy Guide* to support the implementation and administration of this benefit.

**Request for Information:**

Because these services involve new and exciting partnerships with housing providers and community‑based organizations, the Division requests public comment on targeted areas to inform guidance and guidelines for housing supports and services as in lieu of services and, potentially, future mandatory benefits. This is only a solicitation for public comment; no award will be made because of this solicitation. This is solely for information and planning purposes and does not constitute a request for proposal or an invitation to bid.

All responses will be considered public records under state law and may be available upon a public records request made pursuant to the requirements of State law. The following items under consideration include, but are not limited to:

**1.**  **How can the Division’s policy guidance support MCO partnerships with housing supports and services providers new to the Medicaid program?** Are there expected barriers for qualified providers to enroll as Medicaid providers or contract with MCOs? Should the Division provide guidance to MCOs on vetting housing supports and services providers, setting certain standards or expectations for such providers, and/or potential payment models or suggested rate ranges to facilitate the contracting process?

**2. Should the Division support standardization or cross-MCO collaboration in screening, intake, and documentation of need?** Examples include requiring a minimum set of standard screening questions and/or priority Z codes in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) to be included in the screening and assessment phase.

**3. What policies and processes will help supplement and enhance services provided by Continuum of Care programs and housing-specific community-based organizations in Washoe and Clark counties?** For example, how can screening and intake complement or connect with Coordinated Entry Systems or use data from the Homelessness Management Information System? (See, e.g., [Medicaid-Funded Housing Services: Opportunities for Alignment and Coordination with Housing Resources within Homeless CES - HUD Exchange](https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/7194/medicaid-funded-housing-services-opportunities-for-alignment-and-coordination-with-housing-resources-within-homeless-ces/).)

**4. Should the Division’s guidance support streamlined authorization of Medicaid housing supports and services?** For example, should the Division require MCOs to comply with expedited authorization timeframes for members with certain urgent needs?

**5. Should the Division consider requiring MCOs to not solely utilize their internal case managers or housing navigators that are employed by the MCO to provide housing in lieu of services to ensure the ILOS strengthens the community-based service system for these services?** The current managed care contract allows MCO staff members to deliver housing supports and services. Should this flexibility only be available for a limited amount of time (e.g., as a time-limited exception as plans build their network of community-based housing supports and services providers)? If this were allowed, how would the MCO ensure all requirements for ILOS are met, including submission of valid encounter data?

**Written feedback on this notice should be submitted to the Division in writing by 5:00pm Sunday October 27, 2024, to managedcare@dhcfp.nv.gov.** There will be no acknowledgement by the Division of receipt of the comments. Acceptance of comments places no obligations of any kind upon the Division. Furthermore, when submitting comments and feedback to this notice, commenters should clearly identify themselves and their affiliation, the item(s) to which their comments are referring. Commenters are not required to address all the items in this notice. The Division may publish feedback received to the Division's internet webpage [www.dhcfp.nv.gov](http://www.dhcfp.nv.gov).