

Finding the Right Fit: Imaging Health & Housing Partnerships that Work

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Impact of Housing on Health Care

1 Costs to health care systems were lower after people moved into affordable housing.

- Total Medicaid expenditures declined by 12 percent.
- Declines in expenditures were seen for all housing types.
- **IMPLICATION:** *Access to affordable housing will likely drive down costs to the health care system.*

Overall	FAM	PSH	SPD
-12%	-8%	-14%	-16%

2 Primary care visits went up after move-in; emergency department visits went down.

- Outpatient primary care utilization increased 20 percent in the year after moving in, while ED use fell by 18 percent.
- Similar trends were observed for each housing type.
- **IMPLICATION:** *Affordable housing helps meet major health reform utilization metrics.*



3 Residents reported that access to care and quality of care improved after moving into housing.

- Many residents reported that health care access and quality were better after move-in than before; very few people reported it was worse.
- **IMPLICATION:** *Expenditure and utilization differences did not come at the expense of access or quality.*

ACCESS to health care after moving to affordable housing	Better	Worse	QUALITY of health care after moving to affordable housing	Better	Worse
	40%	4%		38%	7%

4 Integrated health services were a key driver of health care outcomes.

- The presence of health services was a driver of lower costs and ED use, despite low awareness among residents. (See Exhibits 1 to 21.)
- **IMPLICATION:** *Increasing use of these services may result in even greater cost differences.*

Adjusted impact of health services:

EXPENDITURES	-\$115 member/month	ED VISITS	-0.43 visits/year
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- Differences in Medicaid program design dictate interests and opportunities to innovate in health/housing collaborations
 - Expansion vs non-expansion
 - Fee for service Medicaid vs Medicaid Managed Care
 - Medicaid benefit integration vs carved out benefit design
 - Coverage for housing related supports and services in Medicaid waiver programs
- States must consider policy and practice options for maximizing Medicaid funding for housing related supports and services
- Limitations on Medicaid funding – recent CMS guidance
- States making the business case for supportive housing are gaining traction

Opportunities for Partnership

CoC Strengths

- Coordinating access and targeting those most in need
- Coordinating and leveraging funders of supportive housing
- Connecting health plans and housing providers

Supportive Housing Provider Strengths

- Intensive supports
- Catching early warning signs of health and/or functional changes
- Recognizing changes in social or emotional state
- Providing tenancy supports
- Supporting basic needs – food, shelter, employment

Health Plan Strengths

- Accessing and arranging Medicaid services
- Facilitating relationships with providers
- Preparing for transitions from hospitals, nursing homes, institutions
- Providing health and wellness programs
- Assessing risk
- Leveraging data

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