CSPECH
Community Support Program for People Experiencing Chronic Homelessness

Using Medicaid for Tenancy Support Services in Massachusetts

CSPECH was originally developed in MA as an additional service to help people find permanent support housing for chronic and high need tenants, and is now available in many other states.

How does it work?

Innovation and Partnerships

CSPECH is an innovation of the Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance (MASHA) and the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP).

- MBHP is the state’s leading agency for support housing and housing for homeless people.
- MASHA is the most prominent non-profit organization in the state.

CSPECH was built on the existing Community Support benefits through the state’s 211 service.

CSPECH was supported by the state’s action plan for Medicaid.

Eliminates a state-wide Medicaid waiver for support housing services.

In 2015, coverage for CSPECH expanded to all PRMs in Massachusetts through the state's 211 service initiative.

CSPECH services are available through local partnerships of community-based organizations and providers.

CSPECH provides support to people in need of housing services.

Covered Services

- Person-centered support
- Supportive medical and mental health treatments
- Supportive housing, tenancy and bill paying
- Services to monitor and respond to person's needs and outcomes

Housing First

CSPECH was designed to provide wraparound Housing First services to those who were experiencing chronic and high need, and who are currently in treatment for substance use disorder.

Services must be community-based, mobile, and evidenced-based. rooftop housing is also offered through the program.

Service is an integrated and intensive support approach, focusing on client’s health and independence.

CSPECH By the Numbers

Cost Savings

Analysis of medical costs per person and cost effectiveness in CSPECH shows an
total of over $10,000 per person annually.

CSPECH shifts costs to housing from managing medical conditions on the street or in shelters.

For More Information:
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