

New housing services to support where you choose to live!

Minnesota supports people with disabilities to live, work, and play in communities of their choice. Various challenges and barriers can make it hard to find housing, budget, interact with landlords and neighbors, and understand the rules of a lease. Finding and keeping stable affordable housing is important to your health. To help you find and keep a stable place to live in the community, the state of Minnesota will offer a new housing service starting in July 2020.

What are the new services?

Minnesota added a new service to our Medical Assistance program called housing stabilization. Housing stabilization is designed to help people with disabilities and seniors find and keep housing. There are three housing stabilization services:

- **Housing Consultation** – Person-centered planning service which helps you plan for housing you want based on your needs and choices. If you have a Brain Injury, Community Alternative Care, Community Access for Disability Inclusion, or Developmental Disability waiver case manager or targeted case manager, they will perform this service.
- **Housing Transition** – Helps you plan for, find, and move to housing of your own in the community
- **Housing Sustaining** – Once you find the housing you want, helps you keep your housing

Housing stabilization pays for supports and services to help you find and keep your housing in the community. Housing stabilization does not pay for rent, utilities, or allowable household expenses. Housing stabilization is a service that helps you find or keep your own housing in the community.

What happens to the housing access coordination services I get now?

You currently receive housing access coordination services through the Brain Injury, Community Alternative Care, Community Access for Disability Inclusion, or Developmental Disabilities waiver. Housing access coordination assists you to find or keep housing. Housing stabilization provides the same services as housing access coordination. Federal requirements do not allow Minnesota to offer the same service through two different programs.

Beginning July 2020, at your annual waiver renewal, you will transition from housing access coordination to housing stabilization services. Nothing is being taken from you. You will receive the same services you get now through housing stabilization services. It is up to you if you still want to get housing-related support through the

new service. You will also be able to choose whether you keep the same provider or find a new one. The housing access coordination waiver service will end July 1, 2021.

What will the new service mean for me?

Your current services will not necessarily change. People who are on a waiver and need support to find or keep housing are eligible for housing stabilization services. Unless you decide you do not want housing stabilization services, you will continue to receive support to find or keep your home in the community. You may want to ask your housing access coordinator if they plan to offer housing stabilization.

How do I apply for housing stabilization services?

Your waiver case manager will help you move onto housing stabilization services at your annual renewal. Your waiver case manager will:

1. Help you update your Coordinated Services and Supports Plan to include your wants, needs, and goals for housing;
2. Help you pick a housing transition or housing sustaining provider to help you meet the housing goals you selected in your Coordinated Services and Supports Plan. Remember, a housing transition provider helps you plan for, find, and move into new housing, while a housing sustaining provider helps you to keep your housing; and
3. Ask the Minnesota Department of Human Services to review your Coordinated Services and Supports Plan and other documents to make sure you can get housing stabilization.

Once eligibility for the services is reviewed, you will be notified by mail. The housing transition or housing sustaining provider you selected will also be notified. Please keep your contact information updated with your waiver case manager.

When are the new housing services available?

Housing stabilization services will be available July 2020.

What are my rights under the new services?

You have the right to:

- Use housing stabilization services, if eligible;
- Say when and how you receive housing-related services;
- Refuse housing-related services or stop using them (and understand what happens if you do so), and;
- Appeal a decision made by the Minnesota Department of Human Services if you disagree with it.

How can I learn more about the new services?

Your waiver case manager or housing access coordinator can answer your questions about housing and how to use the new housing stabilization services. You can also talk with the experts at Housing Benefits 101 (HB101). Visit <https://mn.hb101.org> or call 1-866-333-2466.