

Medical Respite 1115 Medicaid Waiver Budget and Program Description FY20/21

BUDGET:

CMS Required Evaluation <i>One-Time</i>	\$100,000
Medical Respite Reimbursements to Enrolled Providers <i>Ongoing</i> (10% of the \$138.50 daily reimbursement rate, which provides up to 21,660 days of medical respite care to chronically homeless adults)	\$300,000
TOTAL	\$400,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

This waiver is modeled after the New Choices Waiver's caregiver respite benefit which reimburses enrolled providers \$138.50 per day for caregiver respite, up to 39 days annually (three 13-day stays), for patients who are on the New Choices Waiver; however, this waiver is virtually impossible for homeless individuals to qualify for, and Resource Centers and shelters are not staffed, equipped, zoned or licensed to take individuals with high medical needs, leaving a gap in medical beds.

This project includes the creation, evaluation and implementation of the new 1115 Medicaid Waiver is necessary to cover individuals experiencing homelessness. UDOH must submit a waiver application and CMS must approve it before the program can begin. UDOH budgeted \$100,000 for the study based on those for past waivers. This is a lengthy process; therefore, the Waiver will be in effect less than 50% of the first year.

Under the new Medical Respite Waiver, Medicaid members who are chronically homeless (more than one year) adults would be eligible for up to 39 medical respite days (3 stays of 13 days, which may be consecutive if needed) at Skilled Nursing Facilities, Assisted Living Type II Facilities or Eleemosynary Facilities that are enrolled as Medical Respite Waiver providers, at the daily reimbursement rate of \$138.50 (\$13.85 cost to Utah due to the 90% Federal match). The total project cost is \$3,000,000, of which \$2,700,000 is leveraged buy the Federal match. This will provide up to 21,660 days of medical respite annually, which can serve up to 1,666 people depending on the length of stay.

In 2019, the Point in Time Count reported 512 chronically homeless adults, not all of whom will be eligible for Medicaid or require medical respite care. Therefore, this Medical Respite Waiver has ample funding to cover the need, and is not likely to be fully expended each year. If 400 people each utilize the full 39 days of Medical Respite annually, the cost to Utah would be \$216,060.

We believe that the Medical Respite Waiver will reduce hospitalization as follows: 1) hospital emergency rooms will have a safe option for some patients in lieu of admitting them to hospital; 2) hospital readmissions (for a previously treated condition) will decrease because patients have

stability and assistance complying with medical orders such as rest, medication and follow up outpatient appointments. This will need to be studied, and we will implement data-sharing agreements with hospitals using their existing platforms to measure and evaluate admission and readmission rates for the patients served under the Medical Respite Waiver. University Healthcare and Intermountain Healthcare have expressed willingness to participate.

The Medical Respite Waiver allows providers from across the State to participate, which serves the state-wide need for 1) ensuring that our most vulnerable citizens have adequate end-of-life housing, stability to qualify for and recuperate from life-saving surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, and to recuperate from acute illness outside of a hospital setting, and 2) more effectively manage hospital resources by reducing high emergency room utilization common among chronically homeless adults.