

## **Maryland's Medicaid's §1115 HealthChoice Waiver Assistance in Community Integration Services (ACIS) Community Health Pilot**

### **Summary**

As part of Maryland's §1115 HealthChoice Waiver Renewal, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) offered local governments the opportunity to request matching federal funds for the Assistance in Community Integration Services (ACIS) Pilot. Each ACIS Pilot program will be managed locally by a lead local governmental entity (Lead Entity) that has the ability to fund fifty percent of total ACIS Pilot costs with local dollars, provide leadership, and coordinate with key community partners to implement the Pilot. Each Lead Entity may also identify other entities that will participate and assist the Lead Entity in providing services in the ACIS Pilot (Participating Entities).

### **Funding Opportunity**

ACIS Pilot funding was available beginning July 1, 2017 and is effective through December 31, 2021; the 4 ½ years duration of the waiver. Specifically, up to \$1.2 million in matching federal financial funds are available annually. When combined with the local non-federal share, ACIS pilot expenditures may total up to \$2.4 million annually. ACIS Pilots are required to report on performance measures and share data for evaluation purposes in order to receive funding.

### **Target Population**

The intent of the ACIS Pilot is to provide tenancy-based case management services/tenancy support services, and housing case management services to a population that meets the needs-based criteria specified below, capped at 300 individuals annually. The state's needs based criteria are specified below:

1. Health criteria (at least one)
  - a. Repeated incidents of emergency department (ED) use (defined as more than 4 visits per year) or hospital admissions; or
  - b. Two or more chronic conditions as defined in Section 1945(h)(2) of the Social Security Act.
  
2. Housing Criteria (at least one)
  - a. Individuals who will experience homelessness upon release from the settings defined in 24 CFR 578.3; or
  - b. Those at imminent risk of institutional placement.

### **Funding Update**

In December 2017, MDH approved three local government jurisdictions for federal matching funds in support of the ACIS Pilots. Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Human Services, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, and Cecil County Health Department were approved for funding to serve up to 190 Medicaid-eligible beneficiaries total in the ACIS Pilot.

On January 8, 2018, MDH issued a second round of ACIS Pilot Request for Applications (RFA), including an updated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document, anticipating that additional awards for new Pilots and Pilot expansions would go into effect in July 2018. In April 2018, MDH approved Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services to serve an additional 35 individuals, and the Prince George's County Health Department to serve 75 individuals.

The ACIS Pilot has been capped at 300 individuals statewide. In July 2018, MDH submitted a §1115 Waiver Amendment to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in part requesting an additional 300 participant places for the ACIS Pilot, bringing the total statewide cap to 600 individuals. The expected effective date is January 1, 2019, pending CMS approval.