

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

### **Summary**

The Assistance in Community Integration Services (ACIS) program is authorized under Maryland's Section 1115 demonstration which authorizes Maryland's managed care program, known as HealthChoice. The ACIS program has been in effect in Maryland since July 1, 2017. Since its launch, this pilot program has expanded from one to four counties. The ACIS program provides housing and tenancy-based case management services to eligible participants who are currently experiencing or are at risk for homelessness to assist them in obtaining the services of state and local housing programs.

Housing and tenancy-based case management services are a set of services that assist participants with finding and securing appropriate housing, and supporting them in their obligations as tenants. ACIS aligns with Maryland's existing housing programs to effectively leverage limited resources and make available an array of high-quality services for Marylanders with complex needs.

Services are delivered by local governmental agencies, known as Lead Entities (LEs). These LEs are Medicaid enrolled ACIS providers and can contract with Participating Entities (PEs) to provide case management services to ACIS participants.

In fiscal year (FY) 2024, ACIS served a total of 525 individuals. A 2023 evaluation of the program demonstrated positive health and housing outcomes for ACIS participants. Overall, 77 percent of all pilot participants received stable housing. There was also a statistically significant reduction in the mean number of ED visits and inpatient admissions. This report is available online.<sup>1</sup>

### **Target Population**

Under the ACIS program, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) provides a set of Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) to a population that meets the needs-based criteria specified below, capped at 2,140 individuals annually. To qualify for ACIS, participants must be fully enrolled in Medicaid and must meet:

1. Health criteria (at least one)
  - a. Repeated incidents of ED use (defined as more than four visits per year) or hospital admissions; or

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<sup>1</sup> "Summary Report: Assistance in Community Integration Services (ACIS) Program Assessment, CY 2018 to CY 2021, The Hilltop Institute, UMBC, Published on September 15, 2023, <https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/Documents/HealthChoice%20Community%20Pilots/ACIS/SummaryReportACISProgramAssessment-September2023-For%20Dept%20%281%29.pdf>

- b. Two or more chronic conditions as defined in §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 Opportunity**

ACIS Pilot funding was available beginning July 1, 2017 and was effective through December 31, 2026. Specifically, up to \$3.6 million in matching federal financial funds have been available annually. When combined with the local non-federal share, ACIS pilot expenditures totalled up to \$7.2 million annually.

As part of Governor Moore's budget for FY25, an amount of \$5.4m was appropriated for ACIS in the State General Funds. This funding allowed the ACIS program to remove the local match requirement from the Lead Entities and replace it with the State General Funds. The federal match remained at 50%. The ACIS program is required to report on performance measures and share data for evaluation purposes in order to receive funding.

### **ACIS History**

- December 2017- Maryland Department of Health (MDH) approved three local government jurisdictions for federal matching funds in support of the ACIS Pilot. The 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 200 Medicaid eligible beneficiaries in total.
- January 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.
- July 2018 - MDH submitted a §1115 Demonstration Amendment to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in part requesting an additional 300 participant places for the ACIS Pilot. CMS approved the request for additional ACIS Pilot places in April 2019, bringing the total statewide cap to 600 individuals.
- May 1, 2019 - MDH issued a third round of ACIS Pilot Request for Applications (RFA), including an updated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document. In July 2019, MDH approved the Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Human Services to serve an additional 100 individuals.
- August 9, 2019 - MDH changed the ACIS Pilot application process to a rolling basis until

the remaining 290 statewide ACIS participant spaces have been awarded. In July 2021, MDH approved Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services to serve an additional 10 individuals,

- January 2022 - MDH was approved under a new §1115 Demonstration that allowed and funded additional ACIS participant spaces, raising the statewide total to 900 spaces. Beginning in July 2022, the Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Homeless Services has been awarded 300 participant spaces, the Cecil County Health Department has been awarded 15 participant spaces, the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services has been awarded 230 participant spaces and the Prince George's County Health Department has been awarded 75 spaces. The remaining 280 ACIS participant spaces are available through an open application process. This current demonstration is effective through December 31, 2026.
- July 2024 - Due to the appropriation of \$5.4m for ACIS in the Governor's budget for FY25, the local match requirement was replaced by State General Funds.
- January 2025 - CMS approved an additional 1,240 participant spaces for the ACIS program, bringing total spaces authorized to 2,140, which will support expansion of ACIS across the state. CMS also approved changes to the ACIS payment methodology, shifting the program from a grant program that leveraged local matching dollars to a Fee For Service benefit. The ACIS program continues to operationalize across Maryland and provide housing and tenancy-based case management services to the Medicaid-enrolled individuals.
- January 2025 - ACIS enrolled the four Lead Entities as ACIS Providers and trained them to bill Maryland Medicaid using the Departmental claiming process. This replaced the requirement for manual invoicing starting FY25 Q3 and allowed the ACIS Providers to bill the Department through the Medicaid Management Information Systems.
- May 12, 2025 - ACIS Regulations were promulgated and published in The Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) [10.09.66](#).
- August 18, 2025 - ACIS [Provider Transmittal](#) was released