

Housing Success Partnership (HSP) Program

(Community Support & Transitional Rent Program)

Transitional Rent Eligibility Criteria Tool: Behavioral Health POF

Transitional Rent is currently available only to certain Medi-Cal members with behavioral health needs. This tool simplifies the Behavioral Health Population of Focus (**Behavioral Health POF**) criteria from the [DHCS Community Supports Policy Guide, Volume 2](#) to help determine whether a Medi-Cal member may be eligible for Transitional Rent.

General Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for Transitional Rent, a Medi-Cal member must meet the following criteria:

- 1. Behavioral Health POF Clinical Risk Factors:** Meet access criteria for Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS), Drug Medi-Cal (DMC), or DMC Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS).
- 2. Homelessness Status:** Be experiencing or at risk of homelessness.¹
- 3. Additional Requirements:** Meet one of the following criteria:
 - **Living unsheltered**, which means living on the street, in a park, in a vehicle, abandoned building, shed, garage, or other place not meant for humans to live.
 - **Eligible for Full Service Partnership (FSP)**², a comprehensive behavioral health program for individuals living with significant mental health or substance use conditions.
 - **Transitioning** from homeless shelters and other interim housing, residential substance use or mental health treatment or other institutional or congregate settings, incarceration, recuperative care or short-term posthospitalization housing, or foster care.³

Behavioral Health POF Clinical Risk Factors

To meet the clinical risk factors for the Behavioral Health POF, a Medi-Cal member **must meet access criteria for SMHS, DMC, or DMC-ODS.**

Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) Criteria: Updated January 2026

For Medi-Cal members age 21 or older, they must have:

1. A significant impairment⁴ **or** a reasonable probability of significant deterioration in an important area of life functioning.

AND

2. Their condition is due to either a diagnosed mental health disorder **or** a suspected mental disorder that has not yet been diagnosed.

¹ For people at risk of homelessness, Transitional Rent may not be used in their current residence.

² Most people who meet criterion 1 and criterion 2 will also be eligible for FSP and therefore meet criterion 3. See the full FSP eligibility criteria [available here](#).

³ For transitioning populations, a Medi-Cal member must receive authorization for Transitional Rent within 6 months of the transition event (e.g., date of discharge or date of release)

⁴ Defined as distress, disability, or dysfunction in social, occupational, or other important activities.

For Medi-Cal members under 21, they must have:

1. High risk for a mental health disorder due to trauma, as evidenced by an approved screening tool, child welfare involvement, juvenile justice involvement, **or** experiencing homelessness.
OR
2. Both of the following:
 - i. A significant impairment,⁴ a responsible probability of significant deterioration in an important area of life functioning **or** of not progressing developmentally as appropriate, **or** a need for SMHS regardless of presence of impairment.

AND

- ii. Their condition is due to either a diagnosed mental health disorder, a suspected mental disorder that has not yet been diagnosed, **or** trauma placing the member at risk of a future mental health condition (as assessed by a licensed mental health professional).

Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) or DMC Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) Criteria

For Medi-Cal members age 21 or older, they must have:

1. A diagnosed substance use disorder (SUD) other than tobacco use (*current or active diagnosis*)
OR
2. Have had a diagnosed SUD other than tobacco use prior to being incarcerated or during incarceration, determined by substance use history.

For Medi-Cal members under 21, they must have:

1. Conditions that meet the medically necessary standards for one or more SUD services provided through these delivery systems, as recommended by a licensed behavioral health practitioner. *Youth under 21 can be eligible for DMC or DMC-ODS services without a SUD diagnosis if a qualifying provider recommends SUD services (including early intervention services) as medically necessary.*

Examples of Medi-Cal Members Likely to Meet Behavioral Health POF Eligibility

- Any SMHS client (or person eligible for SMHS) living on the street or in a homeless shelter, couch surfing, or otherwise at risk of homelessness¹
- Any person enrolled in FSP program who is experiencing or at risk of homelessness¹
- Any person living on the street or in a homeless shelter who has a qualifying SUD diagnosis
- A person reentering the community from a correctional or health care facility who is eligible for SMHS or has an SUD
- A person under age 26 who was in foster care on or after their 18th birthday, and is eligible for SMHS or has an SUD
- Any member who is under age 21 who is experiencing homelessness, [per BHIN 26-002](#).