

Housing Support Services Policy

Stakeholder Input Summary

Housing Support Services is one of the DDA-operated Waiver Program Support Services. This Waiver Program Service provides time-limited supports to assist a person to identify and navigate housing opportunities, address or overcome barriers to housing, and secure and retain their own home.

The Developmental Disability Administration (DDA) issued its proposed policy for Housing Support Services on July 14, 2023, requesting input from people, families, Coordination of Community Services agencies, community providers, and advocacy organizations. The Stakeholder input period ended on July 28, 2023. In total, 2 unduplicated stakeholders submitted input. Below is a summary of stakeholder recommendations and the DDA’s responses.

	Comment	DDA Response
1.	<p>Comment: Please include proposed language with additional clarifying language, consistent with the waiver. (Reference B.1.d)</p> <p><i>B. Housing Information and Assistance:</i></p> <p><i>1. Housing Information and Assistance supports people get and keep independent housing by:</i></p> <p><i>d. Helping a person with the processes of applying for the various low-income housing programs <u>that include, but are not limited to: (Housing subsidies programs, SNAP, Independence card, energy assistance, phone plan assistance, internet/cable assistance, and any other low-income assistance programs);</u></i></p>	<p>The policy was updated to include:</p> <p>B. Housing Information and Assistance:</p> <p>1. Housing Information and Assistance supports people get and keep independent housing by:</p> <p>g. Identification of resources for:</p> <p>vii. Low-income assistance programs such as Energy Assistance and Maryland Emergency Food Program (MEFP);</p>
2.	<p>Comment: Please include proposed language with additional clarifying language, consistent with the waiver.</p>	<p>Housing Support Services support people who want to live in or are living in their own home to learn how to be independent with their rent and bills. This includes setting up and monitoring systems that</p>

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	<p><i>C. Housing Tenancy Sustaining Services includes:</i></p> <p>3. Starting July 1, 2023, assistance with <u>financial wellness</u> and bill paying services (e.g., assistance with <u>ABLE accounts, shared pool trusts</u>, setting up, and monitoring, <u>documenting, and uploading financial resources to assure the payment of rent, mortgage, utilities, and other related housing expenses</u>).</p>	<p>support them to be independent in successfully meeting responsibilities related to obtaining and maintaining housing. An example may be working with a person to set up regular and automatic payments for ongoing housing related expenses. However, all services are individualized and based on the person's needs and goals.</p> <p>Housing Support Services are not intended to include financial planning or setting up a person's ABLE accounts and trusts.</p> <p>Note: An organization or provider that is a rep payee cannot bill for this waiver service.</p>
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