

# Housing Instability and Homelessness Require Our Attention

Housing instability and homelessness are known to negatively affect physical health and behavioral health. In fact, nearly one-third of all visits to the emergency room are made by people struggling with chronic homelessness.<sup>1</sup> During the COVID-19 pandemic, many families and individuals are facing an unfortunate new reality of unstable housing and in some cases homelessness, and this is across all demographics.

At Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania (Magellan), we know that having stable housing can be a positive contributor to an individual's overall health. Housing instability/homelessness is listed as a social determinant of health (SDOH) because of the impact it has on our overall well-being.

Our Magellan team has identified the following common distinctions between being homeless or being at risk of losing housing:

- A homeless individual or family:
  - Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation.
  - Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements.
  - Is exiting an institution where the individual has resided for 90 days or less, and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution.
- An individual or family at risk for losing housing:
  - Is at risk to lose their primary residence, including an individual or family who lacks resources or support networks needed to sustain and/or obtain other permanent housing.

Together with our county partners, we recognize these factors and proactively look to provide resources available at the county, state, and federal levels that may be able to help. For example, Magellan and our county partners are utilizing the Community Based Care Management (CBCM) Model in a coordinated multi-system approach, with braided funding, with the intention to reintegrate our members returning to the community from an acute inpatient (AIP) admission. Through this coordinated systematic approach and process, together with other stakeholders, that includes members that are hospitalized and have housing insecurities, we are proactively creating a pathway to impact physical and behavioral health outcomes. To learn more about the CBCM Model and its impact across our counties of operation, please contact our Care Management Department.

On our Magellan [website](#), we also list over 375 community resources that include many shelters and other transitional housing options. We encourage you to share this information with local stakeholders, providers, members, family, and friends.

<sup>1</sup> - <https://greendoors.org/facts/cost.php>