L.A. Care Housing Support Services and Transitional Rent

L.A. Care HEALTH PLAN
For All of L.A.



ELEVATING HEALTHCARE IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY SINCE 1997

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CalAIM and Community Supports

- In 2022, DHCS launched the **CalAIM (California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal) Initiative** with the intent to transform and strengthen Medi-Cal by offering Californians a more equitable, coordinated, and person-centered approach to maximizing their health and life trajectory
- One of several CalAIM Initiatives, Community Supports (CS) offers new services to help Med-Cal members address unmet basic needs that can impact their health
  - There are currently 15 Community Supports available

• Housing Transition Navigation Services	• Asthma Remediation
• Housing Deposits	• Transitional Rent
• Housing Tenancy and Sustaining Services	• Personal Care and Homemaker Services
• Day Habilitation Programs	• Environmental Accessibility Adaptations
• Recuperative Care (Medical Respite)	• Medically Supportive Food/Meals/Medically Tailored Meals
• Caregiver Respite Services Nursing Facility	• Sobering Centers
• Transition/Diversion to Assisted Living Facilities	• Community Transition Services/Nursing Facility Transition to a Home
• Short-Term Post-Hospitalization Housing (sunsets 12/31/2026)	

Housing CS Overview | 2

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HOUSING TRIO



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Housing Trio Eligibility

The Housing Navigation, Tenancy Sustaining Services, and Housing Deposits Community Supports are together known as the Housing Trio

Housing Trio CS Eligibility
(Housing Navigation, Tenancy Sustaining Services, Housing Deposits)

L.A Care MCLA or DSNP Member and must meet one of the following:

Experiencing or At Risk of Homelessness	Member prioritized for permanent supportive housing	Member determined eligible for Transitional Rent CS
Must have one or more of the following qualifying clinical risk factors: • Meets the access criteria for Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS); **or** • Meets the access criteria for Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) or Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS); **or** • 1+ serious chronic physical health conditions; **or** • 1+ physical, intellectual, or developmental disabilities; **or** • Is pregnant up through 12-mos postpartum	Prioritized for a PSH unit or rental subsidy resource through the local homeless CES or similar system designed to identify highly vulnerable individuals with: • Disabilities; **and/or** • 1+ serious chronic conditions; **and/or** • Serious mental illness, institutionalization or requiring residential services because of a SUD; **and/or** • Is exiting incarceration	

As of 1/1/2026

More on HHSS and HN/TSS Eligibility and Housing Deposits & Eligibility

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Housing Navigation & Tenancy Support

Housing Navigation (HN): services to help homeless members find housing

- Services offered include: Screening and Housing Assessment, Housing Support Plan (HSP), Locating Housing for Members, Applications and Documentation Assistance, Benefits Advocacy, Identifying and Securing Resources for Housing Expenses, Landlord-Related Services

Tenancy Sustaining Services (TSS): services to help formerly homeless members maintain safe and stable tenancy once housing is secured

- Services offered include: Screening and Housing Assessment, Housing Support Plan (HSP), Housing Retention, Landlord-Related Services, Connection to Community Resources, Benefits Advocacy, Life Skills

How to Enroll into HN or TSS CS:

- Program services are reasonable and necessary
- Member must meet eligibility criteria
- Service authorization request must be submitted and approved
  - When approved, Member will be assigned to an L.A. Care contracted Housing CS provider

More on HN/TSS in our HN/TSS Quick Reference Guide

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HN/TSS Restrictions & Limitations

- HN/TSS must be identified as reasonable and necessary, as documented in Member's Housing Support Plan (HSP).
  - To qualify for consideration of a second round of services, must provide documentation in Member's Housing Support Plan as to why continued services are reasonable and necessary
- Participation is based on member choice (opt-in for services)
- Member must not be enrolled in a duplicative housing navigation or tenancy sustaining services program.
- Members enrolled with plan partners (Anthem Blue Cross, Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan) or other health plans are not eligible for L.A. Care's Community Supports.

More on Eligibility and Exclusion Criteria in our HN/TSS Quick Reference Guide.

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Housing Deposits

Housing Deposits (HD): Offers support for initial move-in costs for Members in the process of moving into permanent housing.

- Provides funds to help support for one-time services and items necessary to enable a person to establish a basic household (does not include room and board)
- Eligible costs may include:

Security deposit*, application fee	One-time cleaning/pest eradication prior to move-in
Utilities set-up/deposits/arrears	Medically necessary adaptive aids**
Essential household items	

* *Must align with AB12 exclusion requirements*
** *Must include DME denial*

- HD is available once per demonstration period with a total max amount of $6,000
- Member must also be enrolled in Housing Navigation or Tenancy Sustaining Services to support Member move-in
  - Member's HN or TSS provider must submit the HD request

How to Enroll into Housing Deposits CS:
- Member must meet eligibility criteria
- Service authorization Request for Funds Form (RFF) submitted for review
- When approved, Member and Provider notified (HD is approved for 6-month term)

More on Housing Deposits & Eligibility

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HD Restrictions & Limitations

- HD and the services/goods requested must be identified as reasonable and necessary, as documented in Member's Housing Support Plan (HSP).
- HD is available once per demonstration period. However, L.A. Care will consider a second round of services for a new move-in occurrence.
  - Must provide documentation in Member's HSP as to what conditions have changed to demonstrate why providing HD would be more successful on the second attempt
- Participation is based on member choice (opt-in for services)
- Member must not be enrolled in a duplicative housing deposits program
- Members enrolled with plan partners (Anthem Blue Cross, Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan) or other health plans are not eligible for L.A. Care's Community Supports.

More on Eligibility and Exclusion Criteria in our HD Quick Reference Guide.

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Transitional Rent



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Room and Board Global Cap Guidelines

- **As of January 2025, DHCS implemented new guidelines for TR, Recuperative Care, and Short-Term Post Hospitalization Housing (STPHH) called Room and Board Global Cap – please refer to DHCS policy guide for more information.**

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- **Global Cap:**
  - Under the global cap, coverage is limited to six months of Room and Board services per Member within a rolling 12-month period. (e.g., Members may not receive more than a combined 182 days (6-months) of TR, Recuperative Care, and STPHH during any rolling 12 month-period.)
- **TR Utilization Limits**
  - TR can provide up to six months of rent and housing fees per 5-year demonstration period. This is subject to the six-month global cap on Room and Board services within a rolling 12-month period.
  - The six months of TR are not required to be continuous.
- **Changes as of January 2027**
  - Short-Term Post-Hospitalization housing sunsetting
  - Recuperative Care utilization after January 1st 2027 will not impact Transitional Rent limits
  - Room and Board Utilization in 2026 will count towards Recuperative Care and Transitional Rent limits in 2027.

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Eligibility Criteria

- L.A. Care launched TR with the Behavioral Health Population of Focus (POF).

MEMBERS ENROLLED IN L.A. CARE MEDI-CAL (MCLA) OR L.A. CARE MEDICARE PLUS (HMO D-SNP) ARE ELIGIBLE FOR TR IF THEY MEET ALL THREE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:	
1. CLINICAL RISK FACTOR	• Meets the access criteria for Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS); OR • Meets the access criteria for Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) or Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS)
AND **2. SOCIAL RISK FACTOR**	Meets HUD definition of homelessness • Experiencing homelessness; OR • At risk of homelessness
AND **3. TRANSITIONING POPULATION**	Member must be included within one of the following transitioning populations: • Transitioning out of an institutional or congregate residential setting; OR • Transitioning out of a carceral setting; OR • Transitioning out of interim housing; OR • Transitioning out of recuperative care or short-term post-hospitalization housing; OR • Transitioning out of foster care
*** Populations exempt from transitioning population requirement are those experiencing unsheltered homelessness or eligible for Full-Service Partnership (FSP)**	

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TR Services

- TR provides up to six months (182 days) of rental assistance in interim or permanent settings to eligible Members.

Interim Settings

- Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Units
- Tiny Homes
- Hotels/Motels when Serving as the Member's Primary Residence

Permanent Settings

- Single-Family and Multi-Family Homes (e.g., Duplexes)
- Apartments
- Housing in Mobile Home Communities
- Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)
- Recovery Housing

- For more information about TR, visit the DHCS Community Supports Policy Guide Volume 2.

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Transitioning Population Settings

Transitioning out of an Institutional or Congregate Residential Setting

Individuals transitioning out of an institutional or congregate residential setting, including but not limited to an inpatient hospital stay, an inpatient or residential substance use disorder treatment facility, an inpatient or residential mental health facility, or nursing facility.

Transitioning out of a Carceral Setting

Individuals transitioning out of a state prison, county jail, youth correctional facility, or other state, local, or federal penal setting where they have been in custody and held involuntarily through operation of law enforcement authorities.

Transitioning out of Interim Housing

Individuals transitioning out of transitional housing, rapid rehousing, a domestic violence shelter or domestic violence housing, a homeless shelter, or other interim housing, whether funded or administered by HUD, or at the State or local level.

Transitioning out of Recuperative Care or Short-Term Post-Hospitalization Housing

Individuals transitioning out of short-term post-hospitalization housing or recuperative care, whether the stay was covered by Medi-Cal managed care, or another source.

Transitioning out of Foster Care

Individuals having aged out of foster care up to age 26 (having been in foster care on or after their 18th birthday) either in California or in another state.

Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness

Individuals or families with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.

Eligible for Full-Service Partnership (FSP)

FSP is a comprehensive behavioral health program for individuals living with significant mental health and/or co-occurring substance use conditions that have demonstrated a need for intensive wraparound services.

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Required Data Elements for Demonstrating a Member meets SMHS, DMC,DMC-ODS Access Criteria

1. Member is already receiving or has a history of receiving services in the past 12 months through the SMHS/DMC/DMC-ODS delivery systems
2. Member has been referred to the SMHS/DMC/DMC-ODS delivery systems (including Members screened[3] by their MCP and referred to the other delivery systems)
3. Member is receiving ECM and meets the "SMH and/or SUD Needs" POF
4. Referral is from a provider who is serving the Member or served the Member in the last 12 months, and this provider believes within his/her professional expertise that the Member meets the SMHS, DMC or DMC-ODS access criteria.

B. The referring entity is **encouraged to** submit supporting information, **to the extent it has access to it**, that describes the Member's behavioral health condition. This might include:
   - Chart notes or written observations from qualified health professional
   - Information on previous screenings or referrals to SMHS/DMC/DMC-ODS delivery systems
   - Information about other providers serving the Member (e.g., Street Medicine, PCP)

   In order to verify eligibility, the MCP may contact the referring entity and/or request additional documentation to which the referring entity has access. The MCP may also contact other entities who may have served the Member.

C. Referring entities must also simultaneously refer the Member to SMHS/DMC/DMC-ODS, to the extent that the Member consents, to promote connection to other services the Member needs. The referring entity attests to referring the Member to SMHS/DMC/DMC-ODS services.

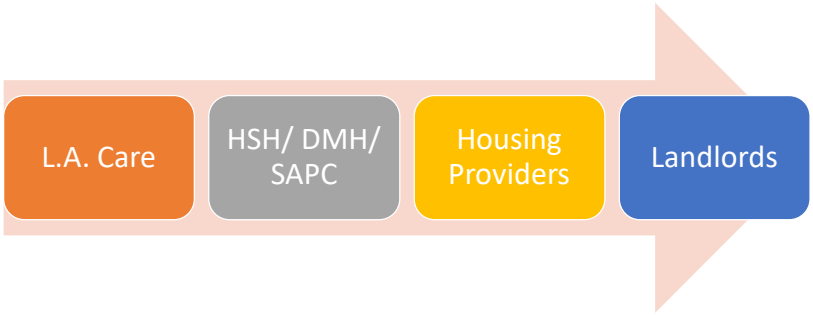
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Restrictions and Limitations

- TR is only for members who are experiencing homelessness and meet the Behavioral Health Population of Focus.
- Member must be exiting the identified setting or situations.
- Housing support plan must be completed and include sustainability plan/ voucher or subsidy information or confirmation.
- L.A. Care does not provide housing subsidies or vouchers.
- Member must not have exhausted Room and Board Cap.
- TR **may not be used to cover eviction prevention**, i.e., rental arrears (back rent) or prospective rental assistance for individuals who are housed but at risk of homelessness.
- TR does not pay landlords directly.
- There must be an identified housing unit prior to TR authorization.
- TR does not offer:
  - Help locating housing - please refer to **Housing Transition Navigation Services**
  - Support for move-in goods/services (such as lease fees, essential home goods) - please refer to **Housing Deposits**
  - Support for sustaining tenancy – please refer to **Housing Tenancy and Sustaining Services**

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TR Referral Pathway: County Coordination



- Due to the specific Population of Focus eligible for TR, L.A. Care has contracted with L.A. County Department of Homeless Services and Housing (HSH), who is collaborating with L.A. County Department of Mental Health (DMH) and L.A. County Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC).
- L.A. Care reimburses **contracted TR providers** for TR services rendered.
- L.A. Care does **not** reimburse members or landlords directly.
- Coordination with county entities is strongly recommended.

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TR Referral Pathway: Member Self Referral or Non-County Provider

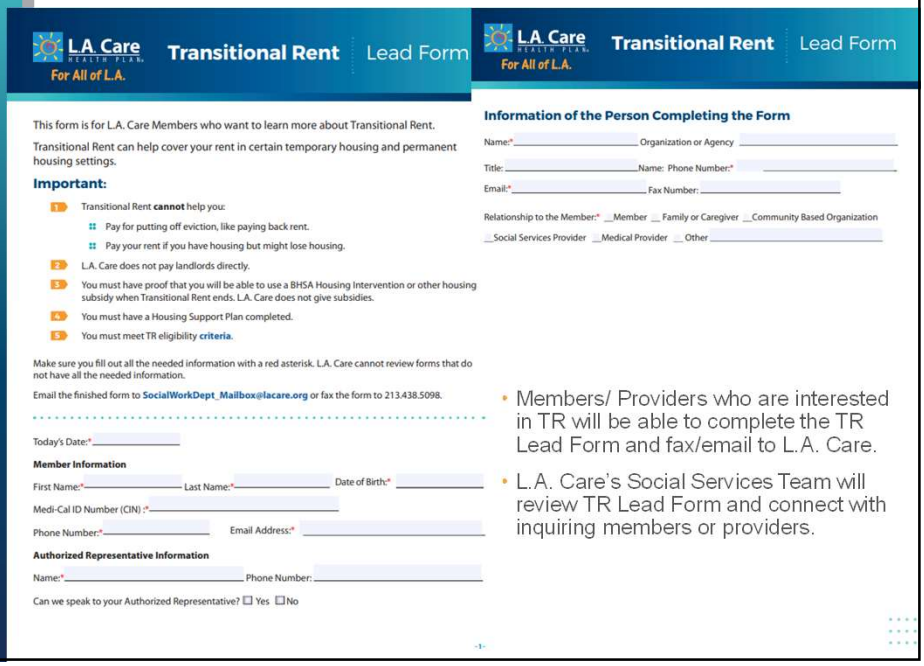
Member/ Non-County Provider calls L.A. Care Member Services (1-888-839-9909) to be connected to Social Services Team

L.A. Care Social Services Team triage and coordinate with:

- County for TR services
- Other services (Housing Navigation, Housing Deposits, Housing Tenancy and Supporting Services, and/or other services/resources)

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TR Lead Form



L.A. Care For All of L.A. **Transitional Rent** Lead Form

This form is for L.A. Care Members who want to learn more about Transitional Rent.

Transitional Rent can help cover your rent in certain temporary housing and permanent housing settings.

Important:

1. Transitional Rent **cannot** help you:
   - Pay for putting off eviction, like paying back rent.
   - Pay your rent if you have housing but might lose housing.
2. L.A. Care does not pay landlords directly.
3. You must have proof that you will be able to use a BHSA Housing Intervention or other housing subsidy when Transitional Rent ends. L.A. Care does not give subsidies.
4. You must have a Housing Support Plan completed.
5. You must meet TR eligibility **criteria**.

Make sure you fill out all the needed information with a red asterisk. L.A. Care cannot review forms that do not have all the needed information.

Email the finished form to **SocialWorkDept_Mailbox@lacare.org** or fax the form to 213.438.5098.

Today's Date:*

Member Information

First Name:* Last Name:* Date of Birth:*

Medi-Cal ID Number (CIN) :*

Phone Number:* Email Address:*

Authorized Representative Information

Name:* Phone Number:

Can we speak to your Authorized Representative? ☐ Yes ☐ No

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L.A. Care For All of L.A. **Transitional Rent** Lead Form

Information of the Person Completing the Form

Name:* Organization or Agency

Title: Name: Phone Number:*

Email:* Fax Number:

Relationship to the Member:* __Member __ Family or Caregiver __Community Based Organization

__Social Services Provider __Medical Provider __ Other

- Members/ Providers who are interested in TR will be able to complete the TR Lead Form and fax/email to L.A. Care.
- L.A. Care's Social Services Team will review TR Lead Form and connect with inquiring members or providers.

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Links and Resources

Resources:

- DHCS Community Supports Policy Guide Volume 2
- TR Quick Reference Guide
- LA Care TR Provider Webpage
- LA Care TR Member Webpage
- Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Housing Interventions FAQ
- Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) Access Criteria Screening Tool

Contacts:

- TR General Inbox: TR-Referrals@lacare.org

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From all of us...



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