

FCS Rental Assistance FAQ

A health-related social needs (HRSN) service

This document provides answers to frequently asked questions about the Foundational Community Supports (FCS) health-related social needs (HRSN) housing service that provides six-month rental assistance. Etc. etc.

General questions

1. What is HSRN Rental Assistance?

Under the Medicaid Transformation Project (MTP 2.0), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved the Health Care Authority (HCA) to provide housing transition navigation and rent/temporary housing services. Six-month rental assistance is **one-time** funding to help remove the barriers to affordable housing.

Eligibility questions

2. Who is eligible for HSRN Rental Assistance? / What are the eligibility requirements?

Individuals who:

- Are 18 or older
- Live in WA
- Have a need for six months (or less) of rental assistance
- Receive housing supports (FCS-Supportive Housing and/or Support Employment)
- Qualify for FCS under these risk factors:
 - Chronic homelessness: Homeless for at least 12 months or Homeless on at least four separate occasions in the last three years (combined to equal at least 12 months).
 - Frequent or lengthy institutional contacts: Two or more contacts in an institutional care facility; ninety or more consecutive days within in institutional care facility within the past 12 months.
 - Frequent residential care stays: Two or more adult residential care stays (including adult residential care, assisted living facilities or adult family homes) within the past 12 months.

3. Is this only for a specific region of the State?

No, individuals across the state who meet the eligibility criteria are able to access 6 month rent assistance.

4. Who is NOT eligible for HSRN Rental Assistance?

Individuals that are not enrolled in Medicaid or FCS and individuals who don't meet the eligibility criteria listed above. FCS providers should check with HCA if they have questions.

5. What documentation is required for HSRN Rental Assistance?

The following documentation is needed:

- Documents verifying rent amount (rent log, lease, landlord contact info, etc.)
- A P1 number

Application questions

6. How do I apply for HSRN Rental Assistance?

An FCS provider must apply on behalf of a client. A request for rental assistance should be made to the Spokane Housing Authority through its portal [Core Relief](#).

7. What is the difference between TAP and HSRN Rental Assistance? Can I apply for both?

Yes, you may apply for both. Transition Assistance Program (TAP) funds are housing transition navigation services, such as first month's rent, security deposit, payment for ID and other documentation, housing application fees, and others. Please review the TAP website for a complete list of TAP services.

8. If I already received TAP funds this year, am I eligible for HSRN Rental Assistance?

Yes, it can be used in conjunction with TAP funding, but if first month's rent has been accessed via TAP, it must be subtracted from six-month HSRN rental assistance.

9. What expenses are eligible to be paid with HSRN Rental Assistance?

Six months of rental arrears, up to a maximum amount of 150% of Fair Market Rent (FMR). If rent includes utilities, those will be covered.

10. How much can be paid with HSRN Rental Assistance?

Up to a maximum amount of 150% of Fair Market Rent (FMR) per month for up to six months

11. What expenses are not eligible to be paid with HSRN Rental Assistance?

Application fees, last month's rent, moving expenses, etc. HSRN rental assistance can ONLY pay rent (and utilities IF utilities are included in the rent). At this time, the HSRN funds can ONLY pay rental arrears owed to a landlord.

12. My client is an Apple Health and Homes enrollee, are they eligible for HSRN Rental Assistance?

Individuals accessing rental assistance through Apple Health and Homes are already utilizing HSRN rental assistance, so they aren't eligible for both rental assistance programs.

13. How does utilizing Medical Respite Care impact access to HSRN rental assistance?

Eligible individuals may have a combination of 6 months of medical respite and rental assistance. For example, if someone accessed 1 month of medical respite they would only be eligible for 5 months of rental assistance.

14. Who is paying the HSRN rental assistance?

Once an application is complete, include required documents, Spokane Housing Authority (SHA) will pay the approved amount directly to the landlord.

15. Will HSRN Rental Assistance be paid to the FCS-SH enrollee?

No, rental assistance is paid directly to the landlord.

16. Who is paid/receives the HSRN Rental Assistance?

Once the rental assistance request is approved, the SHA will pay the landlord.

17. How long does it take to get HSRN Rental Assistance?

Once the application is complete, the request approved and the rental assistance amount is verified by the Landlord, the payment will be issued to the landlord within 3 business days.

18. Is it a reimbursement model like TAP?

Yes, SHA will reimburse a landlord for the approved amount of rental assistance for arrears.

19. How often can HSRN rental assistance be utilized?

HSRN rental assistance can be utilized once in the demonstration period (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2028).

20. Can HSRN Rental Assistance be accessed if two members of the household members are enrolled in FCS-SH? i.e., “I live with someone and we are both enrolled in FCS-SH. Can we both access HRSN rental assistance?”

Yes, but only for 6 months of rental assistance combined.

21. What is defined as a household?

Household is defined as the individual eligible for the service and any other persons occupying the housing unit with that person except for any approved live-in-aide whose income is excluded from consideration. Examples of households include a single adult, one or more adults living with children under age 18 or with older adults who are dependents, two or more families living together; or any other group of related or unrelated persons who share living arrangements, regardless of actual or perceived, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.

22. Can we request a review of a denied or rejected request?

Yes, you should contact Anessa Williams. (anessa.williams@hca.wa.gov).

23. If I have questions, who can I contact?

You should contact Anessa Williams (anessa.williams@hca.wa.gov).

24. If someone lives in transitional housing, such as Oxford, are they eligible for six-month rental assistance?

No, an individual living in transitional housing is not eligible as there is no standard lease.

25. If someone is renting a single room (rather than the entire unit) are they eligible?

Yes, if they meet the criteria listed above, however the FMR is calculated differently

Examples:

Jane Doe spent 30 days in Medical Respite Care. Jane has now found an apartment. She used TAP funding to pay her security deposit and first month of rent. How many months of HRSN rental assistance is Jane able to receive?

Jane was issued an eviction notice because she owes 4 months of past due rent. She is eligible for 4 months of rental arrears through SHA. She is not eligible for more because she previously used 1 month for medical respite and 1 month for first month's rent through TAP.