

Breaking News, February 2018

Targeted Adult Medicaid Program

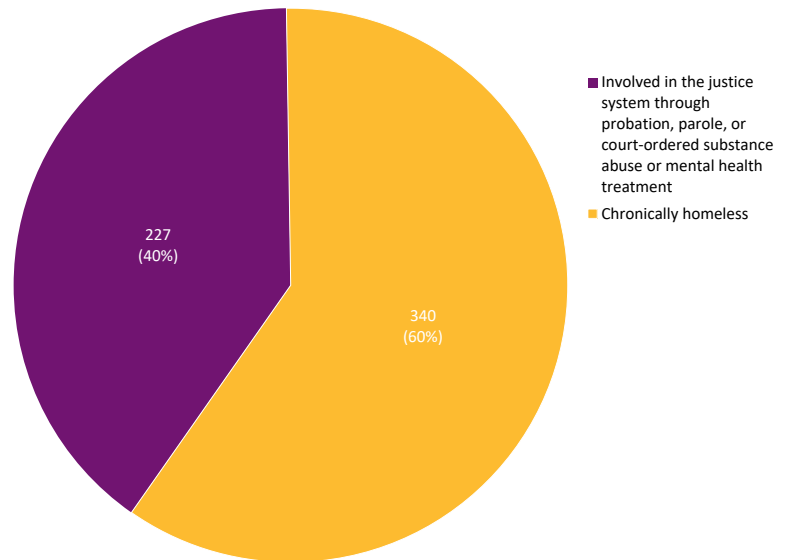
On November 1, 2017, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved a 2016 request from the state to expand Medicaid services to 4,000–6,000 Utah adults without dependent children. In order to be eligible, individuals may not earn more than five percent of the federal poverty level (approximately \$50 per month for a single adult) and must be chronically homeless or involved in the justice system through probation, parole, or court-ordered substance abuse or mental health treatment.

This limited expansion of Medicaid is a critical element of Operation Rio Grande, as many of the newly eligible recipients are members of the homeless population (60%). Program enrollment opened immediately when the waiver was approved and to-date the program has enrolled more than 550 individuals (see Figure).

The approval also includes authority to use federal funds to provide residential substance abuse treatment services to Medicaid recipients. Phase two of Operation Rio Grande focuses on bringing additional treatment beds into the system to support individuals in recovery. The waiver approval will encourage treatment centers to begin offering services for Medicaid members. Historically, substance abuse treatment through Medicaid was limited to facilities with 16 beds or fewer. Under the waiver, the bed capacity limit will be lifted allowing more treatment centers to have the ability to provide care to Medicaid members with substance use disorders.

For more information, visit: <https://medicaid.utah.gov/targeted-adult-medicaid-program>.

Targeted Adult Medicaid Enrollment as of January 18, 2018



Community Health Spotlight, February 2018

Million Hearts and the Utah Excellence in Blood Pressure Recognition Program

Every 40 seconds, an adult in the United States dies from a heart attack, stroke, or other adverse outcome of cardiovascular disease (CVD), accounting for about one-third (30.9%) of all deaths in the United States.¹ In Utah, there were 4,869 deaths in 2016, or about 13 adults every day, from CVD-related conditions.² CVD has a high economic toll, accounting for about \$1 of every \$6 spent on health care in the country.³

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services launched a new campaign this year, building on previous efforts, to prevent 1 million heart attacks and strokes over the next five years. The priorities of the Million Hearts® 2022 campaign include: 1) Keeping people healthy by reducing sodium consumption, increasing physical activity, and decreasing tobacco use; 2) Optimizing care to improve the ABCS (aspirin, blood pressure control, cholesterol management, and smoking cessation); and 3) Improving outcomes for priority populations, including Blacks/African Americans, 35–64-year-olds, and people with mental illness or substance use disorders.

The Utah Million Hearts Coalition has a goal to improve blood pressure management and control rates. Coalition members include the Utah Department of Health, Intermountain Healthcare, University of Utah, HealthInsight, American Heart Association, local health departments, private providers, and the Utah Medical Association. The coalition is working toward its goal by recognizing top performing clinics throughout Utah with the Excellence in Blood Pressure Recognition program. The coalition recognized 54 clinics from 12 out of 13 local health districts in 2017. For more information, visit www.healthinsight.org/bloodpressureaward.

1. Benjamin, E.J., Blaha, M.J., Chiuve, S.E., Cushman, M., Das, S.R., Deo, R.,...Muntner, P. (2017). Heart disease and stroke statistics-2017 update. AHA Circulation, 135(10). doi:10.1161/CIR.0000000000000485.

2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. (2017). Underlying cause of death 1999–2016 on CDC WONDER Online Database [Multiple cause of death files, 1999–2016]. Retrieved from <https://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd.html>.

3. CDC Foundation. (2015). Heart disease and stroke cost America nearly \$1 billion a day in medical costs, lost productivity. Retrieved from <https://www.cdcfoundation.org/pr/2015/heart-disease-and-stroke-cost-america-nearly-1-billion-day-medical-costs-lost-productivity>.