

In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS): A Tool for Obtaining & Maintaining Housing

HOME STRETCH:
HOUSING NAVIGATION TRAINING #2

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UCSF

University of California
San Francisco

JUSTICE IN AGING

FIGHTING SENIOR POVERTY THROUGH LAW



Learning Objectives

- ID at least 3 ways family/friends can help in a housing crisis
- IHSS – know and share the purpose, eligibility criteria, and application process
- Know at least 3 roles you can play in helping people access and effectively utilize IHSS
- Know how to help someone experiencing homelessness to develop a plan that involves family, friends, and/or IHSS in helping the person obtain and maintain housing

Training Outline

- What is Home Stretch and Housing Navigation?
- Data/research on homelessness and potential role of family, friends, and IHSS
- IHSS Overview
- IHSS Q&A – Myth Busters
- Potential Family/Friend Roles
- No Cost/Low Cost Ideas Brainstorm
- Interest and Evals

Home Stretch & Housing Navigation

HOME STRETCH

- Part of Alameda County's Coordinated System for Ending Homelessness
- Registry of disabled and homeless households used to prioritize and match people for services and permanent supportive housing

HOUSING NAVIGATION

- A committed process and partnership to assist someone in obtaining and maintaining a safe and healthy place to call home.
- Housing navigators can be family, friends, case/care managers, peer counselors/specialists, social workers, nurses, and others

Data on Role of Family and Friends Among Those Experiencing Homelessness in Alameda County

From Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) 2015 and 2016 data

- 13-19% of people entering programs for homeless people last stayed with family/friends
- Of those that exit programs to PH, 20-31% move in with family/friends
- Of all exits from programs, 18-25% exit to live with family/friends

In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

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Alameda County Social Services Agency

Department of Adult and Aging Services

- *IHSS*
- *Area Agency on Aging*
- *Division of Adult Protection*
- *Veteran's Services*
- *Ombudsman*

Medi-Cal in Department of Workforce and Benefits Administration

JUSTICE IN AGING

FIGHTING SENIOR POVERTY THROUGH LAW

Justice in Aging is a national organization that uses the power of law to fight senior poverty by securing access to affordable health care, economic security, and the courts for older adults with limited resources.

Since 1972 we've focused our efforts primarily on populations that have traditionally lacked legal protection such as women, people of color, LGBT individuals, and people with limited English proficiency.

IHSS Program

Purpose: IHSS assists aged, blind, or persons with disabilities to remain safely in their own homes by providing a variety of services.

Philosophy: IHSS is a recipient-driven program that helps consumers avoid unnecessary institutionalization.

Who does IHSS help?

- Teenage boy with muscular dystrophy who requires physical assistance with self-care.
- Senior with dementia who wanders out of the house and forgets how to get home.
- Adult woman with bipolar disorder and depression who requires coaching and verbal assistance to take medication and go to doctor.

IHSS Program Eligibility

Basic Eligibility Requirements:

- Medi-Cal eligible (free or share of cost)
- California Resident/County Resident
- Immigration Status
- Be aged (65+), blind, or disabled
- Live in own home

PLUS:

- Must have need for services because of functional limitations

Live in Own Home

House

Apartment

Hotel Room

Shelter

SRO

Skilled Nursing Facility

Hospital

Assisted Living Facility

Board and Care

Application Process

Consumers must:

- Apply by phone, in-person or by mail
- Submit required forms
- Participate in home visit & needs assessment

County Intake Process

The County must:

- Accept application
- Confirm Medi-Cal eligibility
- Mail required form (Health Care Certification)
- Complete home visit and needs assessment
- Process application in 30 days
- Send Notice of Action (NOA)

Provider Intake Process

- Prospective provider must:
 - Complete and sign SOC 426
 - Get fingerprinted and background checked
 - Attend mandatory in-person provider orientation
 - Complete and sign SOC 846
- Effect of criminal convictions
 - Tier 1 crimes w/in 10 years ≠ IHSS provider
 - Tier 2 crimes w/10 years = possible IHSS provider

IHSS Authorization

County authorizes:

- Specific IHSS services needed by individual consumer
- Number of hours per service

Client must:

- Hire provider (family, friend, registry provider)
- Determine schedule within the approved hours
- Supervise provider and fire if necessary

Range of Services

Personal Care
Services

Domestic & Related
Services

Paramedical Services

Protective
Supervision

Payment for IHSS Services

- IHSS is a covered Medi-Cal service
- If consumer eligible for free Medi-Cal, state pays all wages
- If consumer on share of cost Medi-Cal, consumer must pay up to SOC each month
- Consumer and provider must complete and sign timesheet to receive payment

IHSS Resources

IHSS Social Workers

- Assessment and Reassessment
- Consumer point of contact

Public Health Nurses

- Specialized assessment capabilities, especially for paramedical

Public Authority (Separate from SSA)

- Employer of record for IHSS
- Maintains provider registry
- Provides trainings

QUESTIONS?



Common IHSS Myths

- Only people with physical disabilities can get IHSS
- IHSS Social Workers are case managers for consumers
- Providers need specialized training
- Applicants can't apply for IHSS until Medical is approved
- “Homeless” individuals cannot get IHSS

Common IHSS Myths:

Brainstorming and Discussion

Family and Friends in a Housing Crisis

“Family members may be the biological parents, foster parents, siblings, spouses, domestic partners, children, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, or anyone whom the consumer/client defines as “their family members.”

Do we ask?

- Where do you go for support when you're having a really hard time?
- Do you have any family or friends that really care about you?
- Who were you living with before you came here?
- Others.....

Potential “Family” Roles

- Living together – increasing income, sharing places
- Family as IHSS caregiver
- Short-term support – emotional, financial, respite, etc.
- Historical information – all children once
- Inspiration

UCSF Presentation

Low Cost/No Cost Ideas...that could help make IHSS, work with “family”, more effective tools for you as a housing navigator

- Write down 3-5 ideas on your own
- Share your ideas w/ two other people (groups of 3)
- Get rid of duplicates
- Pick your group’s top 3-5 ideas and write them down
- CLEAR & BIG LETTERS – NO MORE THAN 5 WORDS PER SHEET
- Post them on the “Wall of Ideas”