

Through HHRN, SAMHSA shares best practices for addressing serious mental illness, substance use disorders, and homelessness.



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Medicaid Substance Use Disorder Treatment via Telehealth, and Rural Health Care and Medicaid Telehealth Flexibilities Guidance

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released an [Informational Bulletin](#) to states that identifies opportunities for telehealth delivery methods to increase access to Medicaid services and federal reimbursement for services and treatment for substance use disorders under Medicaid using services delivered via telehealth, including in school-based health centers. This Informational Bulletin is composed of two parts: Rural Health Care and Medicaid Telehealth Flexibilities; and Medicaid Substance Use Disorder Treatment via Telehealth.

CMS is releasing this [guidance](#) in accordance with section 1009(b) of the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act. While this guidance applies to states generally, it includes information useful for states in light of the ongoing response to the COVID-19 virus. Maximizing telehealth flexibilities will help prevent vulnerable beneficiaries from unnecessarily entering a healthcare facility when their needs can be met remotely. In keeping with CMS's commitment to providing our state partners with the flexibilities they need to serve their unique populations, the [guidance](#) will provide state Medicaid agencies, and other interested stakeholders, information about options to facilitate access to services through telehealth during the current public health crisis and beyond.

This [guidance](#) supports earlier CMS actions in response to the COVID-19 virus, which are part of the ongoing White House Task Force efforts. To keep up with the important work the Task Force is doing in response to COVID-19, click www.coronavirus.gov. For information specific to CMS, please visit the [Current Emergencies website](#). Additionally, CMS has launched a dedicated [Medicaid.gov COVID-19 resource page](#) that will be continually updated with relevant information.

SAMHSA's Homeless and Housing Resource Network (HHRN) provides technical assistance and support to federal, state, and local agencies, as well as providers, individuals, and families who experience or are at risk of homelessness. Support is provided through individualized technical assistance, webinars/e-learning opportunities, products, workshops, and SAMHSA's Homeless Programs and Resources web pages.