

Transitional Rent

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Member-Facing Teams March 2026

These FAQs answer common questions Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP) members may have about Transitional Rent.

1. What is Transitional Rent?

- Transitional Rent is a new Medi-Cal Community Support, and it provides up to six months of rent or temporary housing assistance to qualified individuals. Transitional Rent is designed for eligible Medi-Cal members who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. This includes individuals who are in critical life transitions, such as exiting institutional care or other support systems.

2. Who is eligible for Transitional Rent?

- Currently, Gold Coast Health Plan only provides Transitional Rent to the Behavioral Health Population of Focus.
- Eligibility is based on specific requirements and clinical risk factors:
 - o Have a significant behavioral health need (i.e., serious mental illness or substance use disorder)
 - o Individuals receiving Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS)
 - o Individuals experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness
 - Eviction notice
 - Documentation from landlord indicating housing instability
 - Verification of unsafe or unstable housing conditions
 - o Transitioning from a critical life event, such as leaving a hospital, residential program, jail, prison, foster care, or another institutional setting
 - o Individuals who are eligible for Full-Service Partnership (FSP) services

3. What is a Housing Supports Plan?

- The Housing Support Plan (HSP) is the core document used to demonstrate that a member has a realistic and sustainable plan to obtain and maintain housing. For Transitional Rent, the HSP outlines the member's housing goal, anticipated housing costs, income and subsidy sources, barriers to housing, and the specific steps that will be taken to secure stable housing after Transitional Rent ends.
- GCHP recommends the use of its Housing Support Plan Template:

- <https://www.goldcoasthealthplan.org/for-providers/provider-resources/calaim-resources/community-supports/>

4. What happens after the six months of Transitional Rent?

- The Housing Support Plan should be completed prior to Transitional Rent approval and updated throughout the service period. By the end of the six-month Transitional Rent period, the member and housing coordinator should have identified stable housing, ongoing payment sources, and a plan to maintain housing stability after Transitional Rent ends.

5. After the six months of Transitional Rent are used, can a member obtain the same services after a period of time?

- No, Transitional Rent is a one-time benefit that provides up to six months of rental assistance per household during the current demonstration period. Once the six months have been used, the household is not eligible to receive additional Transitional Rent.
- Interim Settings are temporary places where a member may stay while waiting to move into permanent housing. Transitional Rent can cover rent in these settings when a member meets program requirements. Examples of Interim Settings include:
 - o Single room occupancy (SRO) units
 - o Tiny homes
 - o Hotels/motels
 - o Interim settings with a small number of individuals per room
 - o Transitional and recovery housing with no lease agreement
- Permanent Settings are housing arrangements where the member intends to live long term. Examples of Permanent Settings include:
 - o Single-family and multi-family homes
 - o Apartments
 - o Housing in mobile home communities
 - o Accessory dwelling units (ADUs)
 - o Share housing
 - o Tiny homes
 - o Single room occupancy units
- Individuals seeking self-sufficiency will need to submit documentation demonstrating the ability to be successfully self-sufficient. Examples include:
 - o W-2

- Three months of pay stubs
- Employer verification letter
- Minimum savings equal to at least one month of rent or
- Documented ability to pay first Post-Transitional Rent month (i.e., proof of recurring income, bank statements)
 - Budget showing rent can be paid without Transitional Rent assistance
 - If a family member will be responsible for future rent payments, documentation requires their name to be on the lease

6. Does an eligible member automatically get six months of Transitional Rent?

- No, Transitional Rent is a one-time benefit
- Eligible members may receive up to six months of rental assistance per household during the current CalAIM demonstration period
- Once the six months are used, the household is not eligible for additional Transitional Rent
- Members are expected to transition to another long-term source of housing support

7. What does Transitional Rent cover?

- Transitional Rent can cover:
 - **Up to** six months of rental assistance
 - Rent in either temporary (interim) or permanent housing settings
 - A member's share of rent in a shared household
- Transitional Rent does not cover:
 - Rental arrears (back rent). Transitional Rent cannot be used to pay for past-due rent owed before the member was approved for the service.
 - Late fees
 - Mortgage payments

8. Does Transitional Rent cover families or multi-person households?

- Yes, Transitional Rent may support families and households with more than one person
- At least one household member must be an eligible GCHP member who meets all Transitional Rent requirements
- Transitional Rent eligibility and approval are determined at the household level, not separately for each household member. Payment is limited to the eligible member's portion of rent, based on household size and bedroom allocation
- Other household members do not need to be GCHP members

9. How can a member learn more about Transitional Rent?

1. Visit GoldCoastHealthPlan.org / Health Resources / Community Supports (CS) / Additional Resources
2. Talk to your doctor, care manager, or social worker
3. Call GCHP Member Services at 1-888-301-1228