



Meta House encourages the state to keep funds to support room & board expenses for Medicaid members seeking residential substance use disorder treatment in the 2023-2025 biennial budget.

Federal law prohibits Medicaid from reimbursing treatment providers for a client's room and board expenses. Lack of funds to cover room and board costs is a significant barrier to access the residential level of treatment for Medicaid members.

As a community-based residential substance use disorder treatment provider that almost exclusively serves clients enrolled in Medicaid, Meta House experiences first-hand the health inequities perpetuated by the disjointed approach to room & board reimbursement.

While some counties and tribes have the financial resources to cover these costs, not all are able to do so, which most often results in the Medicaid member not having access to an appropriate level of care. Additionally, reimbursement rates are inconsistent and often insufficient to cover the actual costs associated with this service. These inconsistencies create uneven and inequitable pathways to services, leaving lower income clients without access to the most effective levels of treatment. Furthermore, the administrative burden of seeking reimbursement from multiple sources is significant, and not one that all community-based treatment providers are able to absorb.

Having a consistent source of funding to support room and board for the long-term will both provide access to life-saving treatment and help stabilize what continues to be an uncertain environment for treatment providers seeking to offer the residential level of care.

Thank you for your consideration.

For more information, please contact:

Valerie P. Vidal
President & CEO
Meta House, Inc.
Vidal@metahouse.org
(414) 977-5808