The 2018 expansion of Medicaid in Virginia means more Virginians with limited incomes have access to healthcare they can afford.

Virginia would like to take full advantage of expansion by implementing the High Needs Support Benefit, a need identified by stakeholders that would provide additional support to individuals with complex health conditions who face barriers to maintaining housing and employment. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) through the Medicaid 1115 waiver demonstration, allows participating states to propose modifications to their program to better meet the needs of recipients.

Virginia proposed and was approved by CMS to administer the benefit. However, in order to fully implement the benefit, the General Assembly must allocate resources to conduct a rate study to determine how much these services will cost.

Allocate $175,000 of State General Funds to leverage a matching amount through Federal Financial Participation from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to conduct a rate study.
In November 2018, after public comment and feedback, Virginia’s Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) submitted their request to CMS to extend Virginia’s Medicaid 1115 demonstration and features of the benefit. CMS approved the benefit design in July 2020.

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