

Arkansas Abstract

The Arkansas Money Follows the Person application will transition 305 individuals who have resided in institutions six months or longer into qualified home and community-based programs. The following populations residing in nursing homes and ICF-MRs will be served: Individuals with developmental disabilities/mental retardation; individuals with mental illness; individuals 19 to 64 with physical disabilities; and individuals age 65+.

The application is submitted by the state Medicaid agency, the Division of Medical Services in partnership with the Divisions of Aging and Adult Services, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. All Divisions are part of the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services and serve under the same Department Deputy Director

Arkansas previously obtained four years of nursing home Minimum Data Set (MDS) data which it used to help identify the number of individuals that might transition to the community, what services they might need and where potential candidates reside. Consumers, AARP, Area Agencies on Aging, Independent Living Centers and the Governors Integrated Services Taskforce and others were active in the development of the application and are committed to serving individuals in the community.

The largest number of individuals that transition to the community will do so through ARHome a new 1915(a)(c) waiver that gives consumers in nursing homes the opportunity to return to the community by directing their own care, receiving care from agencies or a combination of the two. ARHome is built on the State's 1115 Demonstration waiver, IndependentChoices which was an original US HHS and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Cash and Counseling program state.

Consumers may also transition to the community through one of three existing waivers that serve individuals with developmental disabilities, the aged and adults with physical disabilities.

Recognizing that individuals who have resided in institutions for longer than six months may require more services than current waivers and state plan options allow, the state will offer the following HCB Demonstration services for one year to each person transitioning: Telemedicine; a 24 Hour Helpline, Intensive Transition Assistance and Attendants to accompany them when using the states medical transportation system.

Based on stakeholder input during the MFP grant development, the State will develop a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) waiver to help transition individuals with TBI.

A total of \$21,463,461 is requested: \$19,987,485 for Qualified HCB Services, \$2,311,092 for HCB Demonstration Services and \$1,475,976 for administrative costs.