

Project Abstract

The project “Money Follows the Person: Community Transition for Persons with Disabilities” will be implemented by the District of Columbia Department of Health, Medical Assistance Administration (MAA), the state Medicaid agency for the District of Columbia. The four major District Government collaborating partner agencies supporting MAA in this effort are the Department of Human Services Department of Mental Health, the Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Administration, District of Columbia Housing Authority and the DC Office on Aging submit a proposal response to the Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration grant initiative. The total funding requested under this proposal is \$30,900,728 over the project period (January 1, 2007 to September 30, 2011).

The District has a long and generous public benefit history of providing institutional care but has been weak in developing new processes to coordinate health care delivery with regard to Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) options. The District has made however, some modest gains in the improvement of its infrastructure in this area over the past five years. There is more to be accomplished and milestones to be achieved. Understanding this need, the District’s leadership is committed to further working to sustain infrastructure with more viable access as well as more financial and regulatory supports. This is critical to providing more choice along the long-term care continuum. Therefore, this proposal, affords the opportunity for the District to develop and implement flexible financing strategies for long-term services and support, wherein available funds move with the individual to the most appropriate and preferred setting as the individual’s needs and preferences change. In addition, the proposal discusses a nursing facility transition initiative that identifies consumers in institutions who desire to transition in to the community, while assisting them to achieve this quest.

The project “Money Follows the Person: Community Transition for Persons with Disabilities” is designed to accomplish three goals that include: (1) Rebalancing the long term care system so individuals have a choice of where they live and receive services; (2) Transitioning individuals from institutions who want to live in the community; and (3) Promoting a strategic approach to implement a system that provides person centered, appropriate, needs based, quality of care and quality of life services, and a quality management strategy that ensures the provision of, and improvement of such services in both home and community-based settings and institutions.

The ultimate outcomes of these goals is to provide more information and opportunities for individuals and families to alternative choices to institutionalization; transitioning greater numbers of people into community based options; improving quality management; and developing better options of care. To meet these goals, the District proposes to develop a Community Development Plan that refines government and community roles, coordinate government and community health service delivery and housing demand across four disability populations (Elderly, Individuals with physical disabilities, individuals with mental illness, and individuals with Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities), and re-design government infrastructure to facilitate access to home and community based services, reducing institutionalization.