

## ABSTRACT

Georgia has long demonstrated a commitment to providing care systems that enable its citizens to receive compassionate care in settings that are appropriate to individual needs and independence, steadily increasing its funding for HCBS. While 27% of the State's long term care budget was expended on HCBS in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2005, by SFY 2006 that share had risen to 30%. The State, however, has reached a point where new hurdles need to be overcome. The Money Follows the Person Demonstration allows Georgia's leaders to take rebalancing to the next level.

A total of 1,435 persons will be transitioned during the five year demonstration, with an overall demonstration budget of over \$52.4 million (\$38.4 million federal; \$14 million state.) Georgia's demonstration will focus on the needs of three specific populations: aging persons; persons with developmental disabilities, and persons with physical disabilities and traumatic brain injury. The State will also address the needs of those within these populations who have mental illnesses and other thought disorders. As further evidence of Georgia's commitment to rebalancing, it will transition an additional *State-supported* 35 persons from state mental institutions, allowing their state funding to follow them to the community.

Several areas of specific need will be addressed through the demonstration, including housing, employment, and transportation. Transition Coordinators (TCs) and Peer Counselors will guide the consumer, assembling the full array of Medicaid and non-Medicaid supports needed as they move back into the community.

Key elements of Georgia's demonstration proposal are a commitment to self-direction, to quality management and continuous improvement in our delivery systems, to transparency and openness in all aspects of our demonstration, and to a seamless process for accessing services.