

Iowa's Partnership for Community Integration Abstract

Iowa's *Partnership for Community Integration* (MFP) demonstration project will significantly improve the opportunities for individuals diagnosed with MR/DD or related conditions to receive the supports and services needed to sustain them in community settings. The project builds on the work Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME) began with their 2005 Real Choice Systems Transformation grant to enhance access to home and community-based (HCB) services. In applying for this grant, the State of Iowa is registering its commitment to accomplish the following goals:

- Rebalance the expenditures in long term care to provide improved access to home and community based services.
- Provide transition services necessary to assure consumers can successfully move from ICF/MRs to the least restrictive living environment of their choice.
- Strengthen the HCBS system with an array of services provided under Iowa's traditional MR waiver to assure the supports in place are sufficient to sustain all eligible individuals in the community of their choice.

The grant funding will be utilized to expand services beyond what is currently offered under the MR waiver, and to provide one-time services to individuals transitioning into the community from ICF/MRs. The demonstration will build on the success of the Real Choice Systems Transformation initiatives that are ongoing. Some of the improvements to the system will include:

- Expanding affordable and accessible housing opportunities. Iowa Finance Authority (IFA), a significant partner in this project, has already begun developing a web-based database of affordable and accessible housing in Iowa. The Housing Registry will assist consumers who are considering their housing options. Under MFP, Iowa Medicaid will partner with the IFA to promote expansion of the HCBS Rent Subsidy program which currently provides temporary assistance to people eligible for or receiving waiver services until they can access Section 8 or other housing assistance programs.
- Empowering consumers and families. IME will engage in targeted outreach to consumers, family members and guardians to provide them with information on the advantages of independent living. Participants in the demonstration will have access to the new Consumer Choices Option available under HCBS waivers, which provides consumers with control over individual budgets for unskilled services and other supports.
- Transition services coordination. ICF/MR residents will receive support from transition services coordinators with the training needed to address the complex process of transitioning into the community. The services of these specialists will be available to anyone wishing to transition out of ICF/MRs.

In addition to the overall impact on the long-term care service system in Iowa, the ultimate outcome at the close of the five year grant period will be the successful, sustained transition of 528 individuals from ICF/MR settings into integrated communities. The total proposed budget for this project \$64,130,167.