

Project Abstract: Louisiana Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration

In 2004, Louisiana ranked 5th in the nation in percentage of total Medicaid spending for institutional care, evidencing the state's reliance on institutions such as Intermediate Care Facilities for people with developmental disabilities (ICF/DD) and nursing facilities (NF) serving elders and adults with disabilities.¹ The state has worked to increase community-based options for citizens, including maintaining five long-term care waiver programs, as well as state plan services, offering state funded services, downsizing and converting beds in state-run ICFs/DD, and regularly increasing funding to home and community-based services (HCBS).

Real Choice System Change (RCSC) grants have assisted in these efforts. The Nursing Facility Transition Grant (2002-2006) focused on transitioning people from nursing facilities to community-based living options. The Rebalancing Initiative Grant (2004-2007) has focused on downsizing and diversification of the state's large (16+ bed) ICFs/DD. Both grants have met with barriers to decreasing utilization of and reliance on institutions due to the lack of consumer access to HCBS. In addition to barriers to access, Louisiana has recognized improvement is needed in quality management, information technology (IT), and housing for people using HCBS. These are focus areas of the state's Systems Transformation Grant (2005-2008).

This application details the state's efforts to address these issues, and others affecting rebalancing the state's long-term care system, through continued work in CMS-awarded grants, planned reform, and implementation of the MFP Rebalancing Demonstration in Louisiana. Louisiana's demonstration will assist the state to address political resistance to rebalancing, fill gaps in access to HCBS, increase community capacity by focusing on enhancement of infrastructure, and assist the state in accomplishing rebalancing of the long-term care system. The state hopes to include in the demonstration people with developmental disabilities living in ICFs/DD, children with developmental disabilities living in nursing facilities, and adults with disabilities and elders living in nursing facilities.

Louisiana is proposing a 5 year award, inclusive of up to nine months to develop the required Operational Protocol, and transition targets totaling 760 participants. Louisiana Medicaid requests \$29,148,501 in demonstration funding and \$2,705,722 in administrative funding specific to this demonstration. In receiving this funding, the state commits to the research design, monitoring, and reporting that will be mutually agreed upon with CMS.

The Louisiana MFP Rebalancing Demonstration will be administered by the LA DHH Bureau of Health Services Financing (Medicaid) in partnership with both the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) and Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS). In addition, resource commitment is offered from the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council. Other supporters include: Advocacy Center Louisiana, Families Helping Families of Louisiana, AARP Louisiana, State Area Agencies and Councils on Aging, Alzheimer's Association, Louisiana Housing Finance Agency, DHH Office of Mental Health, service providers, support coordination agencies, people with disabilities, elderly adults, advocates and community organizations. See also Letters of Endorsement.

¹ Hood, David. *Hurricanes and Health Care Reform: Can Louisiana turn a disaster into an opportunity?* Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana, Inc. Publication 309: April 2006. Page 12, Table 6.