

Abstract

The State of Maryland proposes to implement a Money Follows the Person Demonstration Program statewide, beginning July 1, 2007 through December 31, 2011 for eligible persons who express a desire to transition to qualified community residences from nursing facilities (NF), intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded (ICF/MR), chronic care hospitals, and public institutions for mental diseases (IMD). The State is committed to transitioning a total of 5,832 individuals during the demonstration period, and is estimating that half, or 2,916, of these individuals will be eligible demonstration participants.

The State proposes to implement an aggressive identification and transition assistance program throughout the State from day one of implementation, using transition teams of professionals as well as peer counselors who have experienced institutionalization themselves to canvass facilities and identify potential individuals for transition to the community. Transition services will include, in addition to aggressive, comprehensive outreach, increased efforts to make community-based options information available to persons living in institutions, identification and follow-through with individuals expressing a desire to transition, assistance with eligibility determination process for community-based services, assistance with identifying and securing affordable and accessible housing, help with establishing a household, assistance in securing home- and community-based (HCB) services and providers as well as non-Medicaid services (food stamps, etc.), peer-counseling and mentoring prior to and after transitions, and an evaluation of nutritional needs and coordination with nutrition services.

Demonstration participants will receive a full-range of qualified HCB services and HCB demonstration, aligning with the rich service packages of existing HCB waivers to ensure that all demonstration participants will have equal access to the full range of services. In addition, the State is proposing to include supplemental non-Medicaid demonstration services, such as housing subsidies and non-Medicaid transportation services. Thus, in sum, each participant will have available a comprehensive set of services from the moment they decide they want to transition, through to a full set of supports and services. The State intends that the transition services will be "one-time-only" in nature, in that by the end of each participant's 12-month participation, the transition services will no longer be required. All participants will seamlessly transition to waiver services at the conclusion of their demonstration participation period.

The State engaged in an extensive process to gather, listen to, and incorporate stakeholder (including provider) concerns and recommendations. The State conducted two large public meetings and conducted focus groups in six institutions, and then shared two drafts of the narrative portions of the application and responded further to comments. The State is committed to the continued direct, vital participation of the stakeholder and provider communities in the implementation and decisions surrounding Maryland's Money Follows the Person demonstration program.