

## **Abstract**

North Dakota's Money Follows the Person Demonstration will develop services to assist people who want to transition from institutions to qualifying community living arrangements by actively identifying individuals for transition services, and strengthening transition services and ongoing community supports. ND will focus on: people with developmental disabilities and individuals residing in skilled nursing facilities.

ND has established a strong single-point-of-entry and case management services to support community living of persons with developmental disabilities and recently launched an Independence Plus waiver for that population. ND also instituted a bed buy-out program, and also has a moratorium on new nursing facility beds, and a single budget line item for long-term care services, however, challenges remain. These include the lack of coordinated transition services for institutionalized persons and a fragile caregiver infrastructure in sparsely populated rural areas.

ND goals are: increase the use of home and community-based services (HCBS); eliminate barriers that restrict the use of Medicaid to enable people to receive support for long-term care services in a setting of their choice; increase the Medicaid program's ability to support HCBS; and ensure quality assurance procedures are in place for individuals receiving Medicaid HCBS.

The state is requesting \$8.7 million over five-years to transition 110 individuals from institutions to community settings. Outcomes include a statewide nursing facility transition service involving Independent Living Centers; improved identification of people seeking transition services; enhanced transition coordination; flexible funding to address one-time transition costs including service coordination, housing modifications and deposits, durable medical equipment and furnishings; and the coordination of community support services to sustain transitions and better address transportation and socialization needs.