

ABSTRACT: “NEW HAMPSHIRE MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON”

As a natural extension of its participation and success in implementing a variety of Real Choice Systems Change initiatives, New Hampshire intends to continue its efforts to transform the community based system of support for all residents through the implementation of the **NH Money Follows the Person (NH MFP)** initiative across the state. NH will utilize the options created under the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005 to further its efforts to rebalance its community-based long-term support programs that allow Medicaid programs to be more sustainable while helping individuals achieve independence. In collaboration with stakeholders, NH will work towards reducing its reliance on institutional care while developing community-based long-term care opportunities, enabling older adults and those with disabilities to fully participate in their communities, consistent with the direction of both federal and state policy.

Specifically, New Hampshire will work to:

- Rebalance the long-term support system to provide individuals with greater choice of where they live and receive services;
- Transition eligible individuals from institutions to appropriate community settings; and
- Further NH’s strategic approach to implementing a system that provides person centered, appropriate, needs based, quality services and supports that ensures a high level of access and quality in both home and community based settings and institutions.

NH MFP will be open to all persons who have resided in a qualified institution for a minimum of six months and who express an interest to move into the community. This includes, but is not limited to; adults and children with mental illness, acquired brain disorders, developmental disabilities, Alzheimer’s disease/dementia, chronic health conditions, and physical disabilities. NH MFP will be available statewide but will be implemented in two phases beginning with the Southern, more populated regions of the state.

This proposal reflects a major shift in Medicaid policy from its historical emphasis on institutional long-term care to a system that offers greater choice for participants. The initiative will take the “lessons learned” from NH’s previous nursing facility transition grants and expand the model statewide. In year one, four outreach coordinators will be hired and located in key community sites to identify interested participants. These coordinators will work with participants through the transition process to assist them in securing the necessary services and supports to successfully transition back to the community. Ongoing coordination and provision of services and supports will be provided through community agencies following transition.

Under Money Follows the Person, NH will be eligible for Medicaid reimbursement at an enhanced federal match rate of 75% for all qualified home and community based services for one year. This enhanced match rate will assist NH in its ongoing efforts to increase the capacity for the provision of home and community based services. NH proposes to transition 10 persons in year one of the demonstration and 90 persons in each year thereafter. The demonstration is proposed to last for five years, at which time it is expected that the community based infrastructure will be adequate to support all residents who choose to live in the community rather than be admitted to an institutional setting. The demonstration is requesting a total of \$16,323,827 over the five year period; \$11,609,257 federal funds, \$2,931,228 state funds, and \$1,783,342 county funds.