

Project Abstract

Pennsylvania has in place a well-developed process to transition persons from facilities to home and community based settings. The MFP Demonstration Program will allow the state to move forward more quickly on rebalancing goals while, at the same time, investing in activities that will result in long - term benefit to the system. It is anticipated that the proposed activities and investments will be further detailed during the pre-implementation phase, if Pennsylvania is selected by CMS to receive a Money Follows the Person award. The pre-implementation phase will include a purposeful stakeholder process to ensure that the operational protocol supports the goals and objectives of the Commonwealth in a manner that is responsive to stakeholder input.

Pennsylvania is requesting a total of \$94,042,400 in federal funding to implement the Money Follows the Person Demonstration Program as described in this proposal. Pennsylvania intends to pursue a statewide, cross-age, cross-disability strategy with a goal of transitioning 2600 consumers over the demonstration period. Included in the demonstration program are consumers from nursing facilities, state MR Centers and state hospitals. The anticipated enhanced match earned from this activity will be used to support enhanced community based programs as well as sustained system improvements:

MFP Director to lead, manage and coordinate the multi-system approach to ensure achievement of demonstration goals and success of long term strategic system improvements. **Statewide Housing Coordinator** to provide leadership in developing a housing strategy and to engage the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, the Department of Community and Economic Development and other state and federal agencies around efforts to increase the availability of affordable, accessible housing. The Housing Coordinator will collaborate with and build upon the work being accomplished with Pennsylvania's CMS Housing Grant. **Housing Coordinators** to assist state and local staff who work with transitioning consumers to identify housing resources at the local level as well as to build capacity to effectively work with public housing authorities, private developers, and property managers, local housing options teams and, thus providing an immediate resource to help achieve MFP goals while building system capacity to work with the harder to serve population. **Transition Consultants** to provide training and technical assistance to state and local staff who work with transitioning consumers around difficult transition cases, thus providing an immediate resource to help achieve MFP goals while building system capacity to work with the harder to serve population.

Restructuring and Investing in Community Based Programs to reduce reliance on institutions and increase the availability of home and community based settings. This component may include changes to waiver programs and/or operational policies and procedures to promote consistency across waivers and fill gaps in services. For example, evaluation of policies around home modification and provision of services and supports to help in transitioning, such as, peer counseling and mentoring. This component also includes the development of a sufficient and appropriate continuum of service options through a strategic rightsizing initiative.

Education/Information Strategy aimed at consumers, families/caregivers, medical professionals and other critical path entities regarding the availability of Home and Community Based Services as an alternative to institutional care.