

U.S. House and Senate Notification
Tuesday, February 22, 2011

To: Congressional Health Staff

From: Amy Hall, Director, Office of Legislation
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Re: Affordable Care Act Supports States in Strengthening Community Living

States will see significant new federal support in their efforts to help move Medicaid beneficiaries out of institutions and into their own homes or other community settings now and in the near future, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced today. The Affordable Care Act provides additional funding for two programs supporting that goal, the Money Follows the Person (MFP) demonstration program and the Community First Choice (CFC) Option program.

Today, Secretary Sebelius announced thirteen States would together receive more than \$45 million in MFP grants to start that program in their States, with a total of \$621 million committed through 2016. In addition, HHS has proposed rules to allow all States to access a potential of \$3.7 billion in increased federal funding to provide long-term services and supports through the CFC program.

- **Money Follows the Person:** The Affordable Care Act extended the MFP demonstration program (which was set to expire in fiscal year 2011) for an additional five years. The 13 States receiving awards today (see list and award amounts via the attached HHS press release) join the 29 States and the District of Columbia already operating MFP programs. Together, these States will receive more than \$45 million in the first year of the awards, and more than \$621 million through 2016. The MFP program provides individuals living in a nursing home or other institution new opportunities to live in the community with the services and supports they need.
- **Community First Choice Option:** The Affordable Care Act created the Community First Choice (CFC) Option, which shares and supports many of the MFP demonstration program goals. The new CFC option will give States additional resources to make community living a first choice, and leave nursing homes and institutions as a fall back option. Starting in October, this option will allow States to receive a six percent increase in federal matching funds for providing community-based attendant services and supports to people with Medicaid. Over the next three years—through 2014—States could see a total of \$3.7 billion in new funds to provide these services. The CFC proposed rule, posted today, describes the details of this program and solicits public comment.

The CFC proposed rule is available at http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2011-03946_PL.pdf and will be published in the Federal Register on Thursday. Once this proposed rule is published on Thursday, the rule can also be viewed via the National Archives website

(http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/frcont11.html and click on Thursday, February 24, 2011).

If you have questions about this notification, please contact the CMS Office of Legislation.

Thank you.