

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Long Term Services and Support Open Door Forum
Moderator: Jill Darling
April 19, 2022
2:00 pm ET

Coordinator: Welcome and thank you for standing by. Today's call is being recorded. If you have any objections, you may disconnect at this time. All participants are in a listen-only mode until the question-and-answer session of today's conference. At that time, you may press star 1 on your phone to ask a question. I would now like to turn the call over to your host, Jill Darling. You may begin.

Jill Darling: Great. Thank you, (Jordyn). Good morning and good afternoon, everyone. I'm Jill Darling in the CMS Office of Communications. And welcome to today's Long-Term Services and Support Open Door Forum.

Before we get into the agenda, I have one brief announcement. This Open Door Forum is open to everyone, but if you are a member of the press, you may listen in, but please refrain from asking questions during the Q-and-A portion of the call. If you have any inquiries, please contact CMS at press@cms.hhs.gov.

And for our topic today, we have Martha Egan who will speak on the overview of a press release "The HHS to provide 110 million to strengthen safety net for seniors and people with disabilities through the Money Follows the Person Program." Martha?

Martha Egan: Great. Thank you, Jill. And again, my name is Martha Egan, and I am a Technical Director in the Division of Community Systems Transformation. And we are a division in the Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group.

And I'm going to talk about, or provide an overview of a recent announcement on two really very exciting Money Follows the Person demonstration opportunities. One, a Notice of Funding Opportunity. And the second one is some changes to the MFP or Money Follows the Person supplemental services.

So, let's begin with the Notice of Funding Opportunity. For the Money Follows the Person demonstration, this is a longstanding grant-funded program that supports state Medicaid programs with helping Medicaid beneficiaries who live in institutions to transition to the community. And it also gives people with disabilities and older adults more choice in deciding where to live and receive long-term services and support.

Currently, there are 34 states that participate in the program and two states are in the process of reactivating their programs as a result of the reauthorization of the MFP program that was included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.

We recently released a Notice of Funding Opportunity or NOFO to provide up to \$5 million per state or territory to any state or territory not currently participating in the program. So, what the NOFO does is it makes funds available for 16 months planning phase, with an anticipated start date of September 1, 2022. And these funds will support initial planning and capacity building activities to help a state or territory to implement the MFP program.

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And funds can be used for a range of activities, including for things like developing community transition programs, for establishing partnerships with community stakeholders, conducting an HCBS, home and community-based services, system assessment and gap analysis, for establishing or enhancing Medicaid HCBS quality improvement programs, for recruiting, transition coordination, and other HCBS providers, and for procuring technical assistance.

Successful applicants will also have the opportunity to submit an MFP supplemental budget amendment in fiscal year 2023 to request funding for an HCBS transitions and program implementation phase during which states will be eligible for funding at an MFP enhanced match rate for community transition services that can support eligible individuals to transition from institutions to community living, 365 days of home and community-based services for eligible individuals post-transition, and also for administrative and personnel costs to support the state or territories' participation in MFP.

So, again, state Medicaid agencies not currently participating in the MFP demonstration may apply for up to \$5 million for planning and capacity-building activities through this NOFO no later than May 31, 2022. And the NOFO is available on grants.gov.

And CMS will be holding the second of two Webinars to provide information on this funding opportunity and to answer questions from potential applicants. And this Webinar will be held on April 27, from 1:00 to 2:00 pm Eastern Time.

Please note that registration is required, so please visit the Money Follows the Person page on [medicaid.gov](https://www.medicaid.gov) for more information on this funding

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opportunity. And on the Money Follows the person page on [medicaid.gov](https://www.medicicaid.gov), there also is a registrations link for the upcoming Webinar on April 27.

So, let's move on to talk a little bit about MFP supplemental services that was also part of this announcement. So, for states already participating in the MFP demonstrations, we also announced that we are making several changes to the scope and reimbursement rate for MFP supplemental services.

And MFP supplemental services have historically been defined as one-time services to support an MFP participant's transition to the community that are otherwise not allowable under the Medicaid program. And they have been reimbursed through MFP grant funds at a state regular FMAP rate.

But recently we notified MFP grantees that we are modifying the definition of MFP supplemental services from one-time services to short-term services to support an MFP participant's transition to the community that are otherwise not allowable under the Medicaid program.

And with this change, we did notify grantees that the extended definition of supplemental services for MFP participants includes the following. Up to six months of short-term rental assistance and associated utility expenses to bridge the gap between when an MFP participant transitions to the community and when federal, state or local housing assistance is secured.

Food pantry stocking for up to a 30-day period for MFP participants.
Payment for services and activities such as home accessibility modifications, vehicle adaptations, pre-tenancy support, community transition services, and case management prior to an individual transitioning from an institutional setting, and also other costs associated with securing a community-based

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home that are not coverable under Medicaid, such as an apartment application and administrative fees.

So, in addition, these services will now be 100% MFP grant-funded with no state share. And these changes to the reimbursement rate and scope of MFP supplemental services are effective retroactively to January 1, 2022. And we have provided additional information on these changes to MFP grantees and we will be discussing these changes directly with grantees. The notice is also available on the Money Follows the Person page on [medicaid.gov](https://www.medicicaid.gov).

Questions about these changes to MFP supplemental services or also about the NOFO that was released, these can be directed to the MFP mailbox at mfpdemo@cms.hhs.gov. And again that mfpdemo@cms.hhs.gov.

So, Jill, that concludes our discussion of the overview of the press release. So, I'll turn it back over to you.

Jill Darling: Thanks, Martha. (Jordyn), we will open the lines for Q-and-A, please.

Coordinator: Thank you. We will now begin our question-and-answer session. If you would like to ask a question over the phone lines, please press star 1 from your phones. Unmute your line, and state your name clearly when prompted. Your name is required to introduce your question. If you would like to withdraw your question, press star 2.

Again, to ask a question over the phone lines, please press star then 1. One moment as we wait for any questions. I'm currently showing no questions in the queue at this time.

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Jill Darling: All right, everyone. Well, if there are no questions, we will give you some of your time back of the day. So, we appreciate it. And if you do have any further questions or comments on the open door forum agenda, there's an email, so please utilize that, to let us know your thoughts and ideas for the future open door forums.

So, thank you, everyone, and have a great day.

Coordinator: Thank you for your participation in today's conference. You may disconnect at this time. Speakers, please stand by.

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