

Money Follows the Person Demonstration Nursing Facility Initiatives

Money Follows the Person (MFP) in Maryland helps Medicaid eligible residents transition from an institution to community living by increasing outreach in institutions and decreasing barriers to transition. New efforts under MFP include peer outreach and supports, options counseling, peer mentoring, and flex funds.

Peer Outreach and Supports staff are organized/assigned by facility; the same peer(s) will likely work with the same nursing facilities. The peers perform two main duties: outreach and on-going support. Outreach is provided to all residents of the facility, not just Medicaid-eligible residents. Peers are not assigned to contact specific residents and work in the facility as a whole. Their activities may include meeting with family and resident councils, building relationships with nursing facility staff, or going door to door to visit residents in the facility. Peers have flexibility in performing outreach activities with the outcome directed towards informing residents about the home and community based service options.

The on-going peer support activity is available upon resident request and will be provided one-on-one with a peer building a relationship with the resident, establishing trust, etc with the goal of moving toward community transition. Peer support is similar to peer mentoring, but will only take place in the nursing facility. An example of peer support is accompanying the resident when options counseling is provided.

Options Counseling (formerly Program Education and Application Assistance) provides detailed information about Medicaid and other home and community based services. It is available to nursing facility residents, regardless of Medicaid eligibility, who are interested in transitioning to the community. Once a referral is made, an employee from the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) and/or the Centers for Independent Living (CIL) meets with the individual(s) and their representative(s) to educate them on the medical, financial and technical eligibility criteria as well as the transition process and probable time frames. The Application Assistance portion, however, is only available to LTC-Medicaid eligible individuals who would like to proceed with the transition. A person does not have to meet MFP eligibility to receive application assistance.

Peer mentoring is an MFP service intended to support MFP participants with community integration. MFP peer mentoring includes an assessment of support needs, development of a person-centered, individualized goal plan with regular goal review, and incorporates individual interaction in the community, drop-in centers, telephone support, and group training and activities. Peer mentoring can begin in the nursing facility prior to an individual's transition, but it should not begin until housing in the community has been identified for the resident; the provider will only be reimbursed if the MFP individual successfully completes a transition. Peer mentoring can continue for 365 day after transition, provided the individual remains an MFP participant throughout that time.

Flex Funds are only available for MFP Demonstration participants and they are used to assist at the time of transition. This service includes one-time only flexible funds of up to \$700 to pay for transition related costs such as an initial supply of groceries when they transition, for transportation that will allow an individual to attend housing interviews and run errands related to the transition and to allow provision of needed goods or services that are not otherwise available.



Money Follows the Person Demonstration Overview

Program Purpose

Money Follows the Person Demonstration Program was authorized by Congress as part of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. The intent of MFP is to:

- Increase the use of Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) and reduce the use of institutionally-based services
- Eliminate barriers and mechanisms in State law, State Medicaid plans, or State budgets that prevent or restrict the flexible use of Medicaid funds to enable Medicaid-eligible individuals to receive long-term care in the settings of their choice
- Strengthen the ability of Medicaid programs to assure continued provision of HCBS to those individuals who choose to transition from institutions; and,
- Ensure that procedures are in place to provide quality assurance and continuous quality improvement of HCBS.

Eligibility Criteria for Money Follows the Person

- At least 90 days of institutional stay (excluding Medicare rehab stays) and at least one day paid for by Medicaid.
- Moving to a house or apartment, owned or leased by the individual or a family member, or a group home where no more than 4 unrelated individuals reside.
- Signed MFP consent form